

Delegate

Daniel Kerekes, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Yale

Expected Graduation Date: June 19, 2026

Specialty: General Surgery

My name is Daniel Kerekes, and I am a PGY-3 general surgery resident at Yale. Over the past several years I have seen firsthand the impact that legislative advocacy can have on physicians and patients, and this has instilled in me a deep passion for being a loud voice in policy discussions. I am not afraid to speak out, and I am hoping to actively represent resident issues in the HOD in 2024.

I first became involved with legislative advocacy and the AMA in medical school at Johns Hopkins. Throughout my time in Baltimore I was a member of the Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition, through which I became an opioid overdose response and education trainer, training community members to recognize overdose and administer naloxone. I joined the AMA as a first-year medical student, traveling to several meetings to defend resolutions that I helped author, and eventually being elected Treasurer of our chapter. I attended an advocacy day in Washington, D.C. in which I met with staff of Maryland's elected officials to advocate for increased GME funding. I also joined the Region 6 legislative action committee and helped provide critical feedback on regional resolutions.

In residency, my legislative advocacy efforts initially took a pause while I learned the ropes of surgical residency. Then, during my research years, I began to carry the legislative advocacy torch once again and with a deeper vigor than ever before. I completed a year-long course on advocacy and joined a harm reduction team of physicians that worked with elected state officials on designing policy related to Connecticut's response to the opioid epidemic; our team shaped harm reduction bills that were passed into Connecticut law in 2022 and 2023 decriminalizing fentanyl test strips, approving naloxone vending machines, funding three Harm Reduction Centers, and more. I joined the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and have offered oral and written testimony to the Connecticut General Assembly on several healthcare bills. I published an op-ed in the *New Haven Register* on bringing an overdose response center to Connecticut.

I also became involved again in the AMA. My first year in lab, I attended A-22 as a CSMS delegate to the RFS, and I submitted two resolutions adopted by the RFS, one of which was later adopted by the HOD. I was an RFS Alternate Delegate for I-22, and I have been an RFS delegate this year. I have attended these last three meetings from start to finish, and I actively participated in caucus and RefCom discussions at all of them. I served on an HOD RefCom for A-23, and have submitted my application to serve again for I-23.

I would be honored to continue to represent you and all residents in the AMA HOD next year.