

REPORT OF THE AMA YOUNG PHYSICIANS SECTION GOVERNING COUNCIL

AMA-YPS Report E
(November 2022)

Subject: Update on Opt-in/Opt-Out Paper Copies of Young Physicians Section (YPS) Assembly Materials (Resolution 3-I-19)

Presented by: Matthew Lecuyer, MD, MPH, Chair

Referred to: AMA-YPS Reference Committee

1 INTRODUCTION

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3 [Resolution 3-I-19, "Opt-in/Opt-Out Paper Copies of Young Physicians Section \(YPS\) Assembly](#)
4 [Materials](#),
5 asked the AMA-YPS Governing Council to move toward an opt-in/opt-out system to
6 determine distribution of printed Assembly materials. Further, this resolution asked the YPS
7 Governing Council to poll meeting attendees upon registration for the YPS Assembly to determine
8 if they would like a printed copy of Assembly meeting materials. During the online forum, it was
9 noted that a significant number of participants had concerns or were not in favor of moving to an
10 opt-in/opt-out system for printed Assembly materials. As both printed and electronic distribution of
11 meeting materials present benefits and challenges, it was important to understand the impact of an
12 opt-in/opt-out system on the section. Accordingly, YPS Resolution 3-I-19 was adopted as amended
13 and called for the YPS GC to conduct a pilot for the 2020 Annual meeting and follow up with a
14 report back to the YPS Assembly at the 2020 Interim meeting.

15 An informational report, [YPS Report H-I-20, Opt-in/Opt-Out Paper Copies of Young Physicians](#)
16 [Section \(YPS\) Assembly](#), provided an update on the status of opt-in/opt-out pilot.

17 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of related activity since November 2020 and
18 propose next steps for handling paper materials at future YPS Assembly meetings.

20 DISCUSSION

21 The pilot for the YPS opt-in/opt-out paper copies was scheduled for implementation at the 2020
22 Annual YPS Assembly Meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AMA Board of Trustees made
23 the decision to suspend the 2020 AMA Annual Meeting, which included meetings of the AMA
24 Sections. Starting in November 2020, the YPS Assembly convened virtually in conjunction with
25 each of the three Special Meetings of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD).

26 While it was initially agreed that delaying the pilot was an appropriate course of action, moving the
27 YPS Assembly meeting to a virtual platform necessitated that all activities, including distribution of
28 meeting materials would be handled through electronic means. Accordingly, all meeting materials
29 (i.e., Assembly Handbook, Report of the YPS Reference Committee, and YPS HOD Handbook
30 Review Grids) were distributed through the AMA website and other AMA communication channels
31 as appropriate.

32 Although the 2022 YPS Annual Assembly convened in-person, an effort was made to
33 promote environmental sustainability by reducing paper waste. Similar to prior meetings, YPS
34 Assembly materials were distributed through the AMA website and other AMA communication
35 channels as appropriate.

1 While the §VI. L.6 of the YPS Internal Operating Procedures notes that the Assembly Handbook
2 will be made available in electronic form in advance of the meeting, a printed handbook can be
3 made available at the YPS Assembly Meeting only on request. As in previous years, no one
4 submitted a request for a printed handbook.

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6 CONCLUSION

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8 The YPS successfully implemented four Assembly meetings where the Report of the YPS
9 Reference Committee and the YPS HOD Handbook Review Grids were provided through
10 electronic means. Additionally, the YPS Assembly meeting handbook has been distributed
11 electronically for the past 10 years. During this time, no requests for printed copies of the YPS
12 Assembly meeting handbook were received.

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14 Further, AMA Policy [**Conservation, Recycling and Other "Green" Initiatives G-630.100**](#) calls for
15 the AMA to direct its offices to implement conservation-minded practices whenever feasible and to
16 continue to participate in "green" initiatives. Minimizing paper use for YPS Assembly meetings is
17 not only supportive of AMA policy, but contributes to protecting our environment.

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19 RECOMMENDATIONS

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21 Your YPS Governing Council recommends:

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- 23 1. That the AMA-YPS continue with electronic distribution of AMA-YPS Assembly meeting
24 materials.
- 25 2. That the Sections VI. YPS Assembly Meeting (Subsections G and L) of the AMA-YPS Internal
26 Operating Procedures be updated to reflect the use of electronic distribution for AMA-YPS
27 meeting materials.

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Fiscal Note: Minimal – Less than \$1,000 to implement.