

# 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

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## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

## DISCUSSION

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

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

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

5  
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.  
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26 2. That the Sections VI. YPS Assembly Meeting (Subsections G and L) of the AMA-YPS Internal  
27 Operating Procedures be updated to reflect the use of electronic distribution for AMA-YPS  
28 meeting materials.

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