



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

September 26, 2022

Resident and Fellow Section
American Medical Association
5330 North Wabash Ave, Suite 39300
Chicago, IL 60611-5885

To the Resident and Fellow Section,

As the Co-Chairs for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Delegation, we are pleased to enthusiastically recommend reelection of Pratistha Koirala, MD, PhD for the Resident and Fellow (RFS) seat on the American Medical Association (AMA) Board of Trustees. Dr. Koirala has been actively involved in organized medicine for a decade. During this time, she has demonstrated a passion for health policy, a willingness to lend a voice to the underserved, and an unwavering dedication to the betterment of our profession and our patients. During her current term, the AMA Board of Trustees has greatly benefited from her insight, leadership, and work experiences.

We first had an opportunity to get to know Dr. Koirala when she was a medical student advocating for increased access and maintenance of privacy for minors seeking reproductive, psychiatric, and other sensitive health services. As a student in the Bronx, she saw the direct impact of social determinants on the health and wellbeing of her patients. In her residency she cares for a diverse population, including undocumented, uninsured, and underinsured patients. These experiences have reinforced her desire to make changes within our healthcare system to promote justice, equity, and access.

During her tenure in the AMA she has authored multiple resolutions to the effect, many of which have affected real world change. One such resolution sought to include pregnant women in clinical trials, an ask which was eventually written into the 21st Century Cures Act. Another resolution authored by Dr. Koirala prompted the AMA to advocate for the elimination of taxes on feminine hygiene products, which occurred in multiple states, including New York.

In addition to writing and passing policy, Dr. Koirala has served as a Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) for five years. She has served as a Reference Committee Member for the AMA HOD, as a chair for her regional Medical Student Section (MSS) Delegation, on her Regional Governing Council as a Chair and Vice Chair in both the RFS and the MSS, respectively, and as the RFS member of the AMA Political Action Committee (AMPAC) Board of Directors. Over the past year, at the current RFS member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Koirala has promoted the values of the RFS and has worked tirelessly to help drive the organization towards these ideals and to create a healthcare system that supports physicians and trainees in caring for their patients, and each other.

Dr. Koirala has also been involved with ACOG. At ACOG's Congressional Leadership Conference (CLC) in Washington DC, she met with legislators to advocate for our policy goals, including payment parity, extension of postpartum Medicaid, and expanded coverage of telehealth. Most recently, after the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, she worked with both ACOG and the AMA to support women and their access to reproductive health care. As the Board navigates the fallout of the Supreme Court decision, Dr. Koirala's expertise in obstetric and gynecologic care and experience advocating for patients most marginalized by political interference will be invaluable.

In addition to her own accomplishments, Dr. Koirala has served as a mentor to multiple medical students and residents. She is often the first to approach new members, welcome them, and help them find a home within our organizations. She has edited countless resolutions authored by some of our newest members and, as they have gained experience, she has encouraged them to seek their own leadership roles. Her willingness to teach and to foster every generation of leaders ensures a bright future for organized medicine.

We strongly recommend Dr. Koirala for reelection to the RFS seat on the AMA Board of Trustees. She carries a wealth of experience within the AMA—as an advocate, a leader, and a mentor. The RFS, the AMA, and our profession would be well served by Dr. Koirala and we hope that you join us in supporting her candidacy.

Thank you,

Nita Kulkarni, MD, FACOG
Co-Chair
ACOG Section Council

Diana Ramos, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOG
Co-Chair
ACOG Section Council