

Delegate

Aaron M. Kearney, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Northwestern University

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

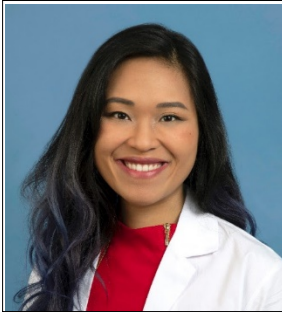
Specialty: Plastic Surgery

I am in my sixth year of a seven-year integrated plastic surgery training program at Northwestern University. It has been my privilege to have been a part of the RFS since 2019. Now more than ever, it is important to have strong advocacy for our nation's physicians in training. Corporate interests and private equity have a greater stake in medicine now than ever before, and as we witnessed with the closure of Hahnemann University Hospital, big business can have goals that put resident and fellow wellbeing in danger. Our RFS and AMA stood steadfastly behind the trainees involved and provided a great example of why it is important to have a strong advocacy organization.

As we approach the end of 2021 and finally have the end of the Covid-19 pandemic in sight, I look forward to seeing our body continuing the important work of looking out for residents and fellows across the country. In an era when most physicians in the US are employed and healthcare organizations are consolidating, it will be crucial for us to listen to the issues facing trainees in different settings and help to effect positive change with the resources we have. As the 2021-22 chair of the Illinois RFS and as someone who is endorsed by the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, I believe I have the experience necessary to be helpful with this mission. I would greatly appreciate your support of my candidacy for RFS delegate.

Delegate

Anna Yap, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: UCLA Ronald Reagan-Olive View

Expected Graduation Date: July 31, 2022

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

My journey to medicine came through advocacy and knowing that we needed to fix our broken medical system, and along the way, I found my family here at the AMA, never missing a meeting since I've started medical school. I've been a delegate to the HOD as a delegate from the MSS and RFS for multiple years and have cultivated relationships with physicians in other states and specialty societies. I've been a part of multiple campaigns in the larger HOD, elevating the status of the RFS as a powerful section that have a seat at the table when deciding our leadership. These relationships allow me to effectively advocate for the RFS and our passions and causes, and I promise to continue to do so if again elected as delegate from the RFS. It is vital that we stand together to demand better for patients and for physicians, in an age where patients are dying from lack of access and physicians are dying from moral injury. As residents, we are overworked and underpaid, and I've spent my whole resident career fighting for better working conditions and making sure our resident voices are heard. On your RFS governing council, I worked to better connect our residents, and push the AMA to stand up against police violence, after hearing that our members felt the AMA was not doing enough. I've been an author of countless resolutions and have worked with many delegations to get key pieces of policy passed. I'm active on the labor side of residency, having served on the executive board of the largest resident union in the country, and have written and passed legislation protecting residents here in California. I've been on the board of multiple organized medicine institutions and have working connections with multiple members of the larger HOD. As a delegate from the RFS, I promise to continue fighting and help mentor newer members to make sure we are an effective delegation.

Delegate

Ariel Carpenter, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of Louisville Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

Expected Graduation Date: Graduating residency in 2022, applying for fellowship 2022-2024

Specialty: Med-Peds

Involvement in advocacy and policy-making has been a large passion of mine ever since my initial involvement in the AMA at the beginning of medical school. Being a delegate representing the medical school section and most recently the resident and fellow section has allowed me to not only advocate but learn so much about the world of medicine around me. I want to continue to pursue involvement in the RFS as a Delegate so I can continue to represent our members and our patients for the upcoming year. As I further my training with a pediatric hospital medicine fellowship I plan to make advocacy a large part of my scholarly work and have been intentional with discussing this with potential fellowship programs during interviews. I would be honored to continue to represent the RFs and my state society in the coming year.

Delegate

Avani K. Patel, MD, MHA



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of MS Medical Center

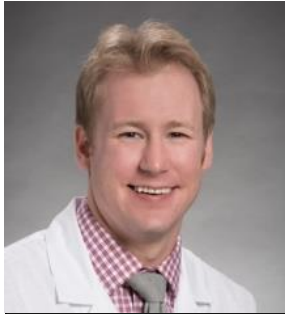
Expected Graduation Date: June 2024

Specialty: Psychiatry

I have been an AMA member since I began medical school in 2015. Over the last six years of my involvement, I've grown more as a physician-in-training, patient advocate, and person than I would have if I had not become involved with the AMA. I want to share a bit about my experience and leadership roles within the AMA and my state medical association. I am currently a AMA-SHLI Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellow. In addition, I am also serving my second term on the AMA-RFS Committee on Business and Economics (now Vice Chair) and serving my second term on the MSMA Board of Trustees, having served for two years prior as a medical student. In the past, I have been very involved with the MSS serving as Region III Membership Chair; Membership, Engagement, and Recruitment Standing Committee member; Women in Medicine Standing Committee member; and Hospitality Convention Committee member. I also served two terms on the AMA Ambassador Steering Committee and on the AMAF Communications Committee. I am also a recent graduate of the AMA Foundation Leadership Development Institute and JAMA Medical Student Leadership Group having published two JAMA articles and one manuscript accepted. I was also awarded three different awards for my involvement in advocacy and policy in addition to the physician social media movement on a state level. I have served as a delegate to the MSMA House of Delegates for the last six years. I am also very strongly involved in policy and advocacy, specifically with Scope of Practice and now recently with the #MaskUp and #VaxUp campaign. Several years ago, I co-authored a resolution on increasing tobacco tax which was accepted at the MSMA House of Delegates session and gained support from our legislators. I have also spent many years as a continued advocate for strong vaccination laws and was invited to speak by the MS Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics to share my "Prescription for Effective Lobbying" published by Merck Manuals. I engage on social media and in person along with encouraging physicians and physicians-in-training to take part in our movement. I move medicine by spearheading advocacy efforts for positive change in our state and our nation. I hope this has given you a small glimpse of my involvement with advocacy efforts, and I hope to continue growing as a leader and advocate by serving as a delegate in the RFS. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Delegate

Benjamin Meyer, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of Washington Abdominal Imaging Fellowship

Expected Graduation Date: June 30, 2022

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

I seek re-election as an RFS Sectional Delegate because I wish to continue serve together with all you as stewards of the future of medicine and as the voices of this future in our AMA House of Delegates.

My prior involvement with the AMA has provided me with some of the most enriching, rewarding experiences during my time in medical school and in residency training. My time at AMA National Meetings, including serving in the HOD previously in the Medical Student Section and as an RFS Sectional Delegate or Alternate these past four years have especially stood out, as I always return home feeling a renewed sense of purpose having collaborated with other medical students, residents, and physicians in working to achieve a better health care system. Other experiences I have had within the RFS, including serving on multiple AMA HOD and AMA-RFS Reference Committees, Chair of the RFS Committees on Long Range Planning and Business and Economics, a member on the Ad Hoc Committee on RFS IOP's, and currently as the RFS member on the AMA Council on Long Range Planning and Development all have re-enforced the importance of physician advocacy in improving public health.

I seek to use the policy knowledge I have acquired in these endeavors, along with my familiarity with the AMA, including many relationships I have built beyond the RFS within the House of Delegates, to continue make a positive impact for our section and for our nation's residents as an RFS Sectional Delegate. The CoVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented challenges for graduate medical education. Our trainees have risked their own health and welfare in service of the public. We must demand better workplace protections, protect the physician-lead health care team, advocate for relief from crushing student debt, and ensure that lawmakers take necessary and proper steps to preserve our profession and protect patient access to care. I would be honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve the section, the AMA, American physicians, and our patients.

Delegate

Breyen Coffin, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Boston Medical Center

Expected Graduation Date: June 2025

Specialty: Interventional Radiology

As an incumbent RFS Sectional Delegate, I have been honored to serve the AMA-RFS. I am passionate about advancing medicine through health policy and advocacy. Medicine is an ever-evolving field, and it is necessary that physicians take an active role in becoming leaders and advocates for shaping the future of medicine. With over six years of experience in the AMA, my prior experiences leading in organized medicine and the past 6 months serving as one of your RFS Sectional Delegates to the AMA HOD have prepared me to serve a second term as an RFS Sectional Delegate.

Since joining the AMA as a first-year medical student, I demonstrated a robust record of service and leadership at multiple levels of organized medicine. As a medical student member of New York's delegation to the AMA HOD, I advocated against expanding scope of practice and budgetary changes that would harm our patients while also representing the medical students and physicians of New York. As our RFS Delegation's Reference Committee C Review Team Leader during this past June 2021 Special meeting, I fervently championed improved resident and fellow supports during their training at the HOD reference committee hearings, at various delegation meetings, and at the HOD. Through my years of active membership in the AMA-MSS, two state medical societies, the AMA Ambassadors, and now the AMA-RFS, I have cultivated numerous connections across the country at all levels of training that will be invaluable to advocating for and supporting the members of the RFS during the AMA HOD.

My goal as RFS Sectional Delegate is to continue to be your advocate within the AMA, championing fiercely for resident and fellow interests. I want the AMA to work for you and for our AMA-RFS, and it is my privilege to represent such an enthusiastic, brilliant, creative, passionate, and diverse group of trainees. I am prepared with the experiences, passion, and ideas to guide me as an RFS Sectional Delegate so that we can strengthen our voices, our section, and our communities.

Delegate

Christopher Clifford, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Icahn School of Med at Mount Sinai

Expected Graduation Date: 07/01/2022

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

The American Medical Association's policy making process is modern day democracy at its finest. Even as a medical student, you can get up in front of hundreds of brilliant minds to state your case for a resolution. It doesn't matter your position, only that you have legitimate arguments and evidence to support. This is what continues to drive me to apply for the position of delegate for the resident fellows section (RFS).

This past annual meeting, I was fortunate enough to lead the creation of two resolutions, one that was passed in the RFS and one that was passed in the House of Delegates (HOD). The one that was passed in the HOD required written and in person testimony. Being the original author of the resolution, I was able to personally testify and fight for it's acceptance, which fortunately came to fruition. I hope to create many more resolutions while in the RFS, so being a delegate would ensure I am able to coordinate and testify on future priority resolutions for the section.

Also, I hope to be active in personally mentoring/guiding junior resolution writers through the HOD process. This mentorship is not only important for the mentee but also for continuing a culture inside the RFS of support and comradery. By prioritizing the development of junior members I hope to further strengthen our delegation, section, and future resolutions.

Lastly, I have been fortunate enough to be the chair of the Committee on Business and Economics for the RFS for the past two years, and was recently appointed for a third term. We in the committee have come up with collaborative projects that require meetings with other sections and entities inside the AMA, including the Physician Innovation Network, the Senior Physician Section, and the Organized Medical Staff Section. The title of delegate would ensure I can attend the full length of the AMA meeting and subsequently make meetings with these other entities. Our hope is that these collaborations can benefit our section's education via programming events, once in person meetings are relevant again.

Delegate

Christopher Libby, MD, MPH



Residency/Fellowship Program: Cedars Sinai, PGY-5

Expected Graduation Date: July 2022

Specialty: Clinical Informatics, Emergency Medicine

I am excited to run for the opportunity to serve the RFS as a member of the delegation representing the voices of residents and fellows throughout the country. To have a strong delegation we need a mixture of delegates who are new to the delegation and delegates who can help others find their voice. As the immediate past RFS Delegate, I eager to help ensure that new members of the delegation have a chance to make their voices known. I am committed to not only making all the delegation events, but also being prepared to advance the values of the RFS. I will also ensure that input from CCB, where I am a current councilor, is relayed to the delegation and vice versa so that we can work collaboratively to craft great policy. I look forward to bringing my experience in the RFS to the delegation to help us pass bold policies that reflect the future we want to practice in.

Organized Medicine Highlights:

- AMA Council on Constitution & Bylaws Resident/Fellow Member 2021-Present
- AMA-RFS Delegate 2020-2021
- AMA-RFS Alternate Delegate 2019-2020
- AMA-RFS Sectional Delegate 2018-2019
- AMA-MSS Chair 2016-2017
- AMA-MSS Regional Delegate 2014-2016
- CMA-RFS Vice Chair for Policy Analysis 2020-2021
- FMA Board of Governors Resident/Fellow member 2017-2019
- ACEP CEDR Committee 2018-Present
- EMRA Chair of the Informatics Committee 2019-2020

Delegate

Daniel Udrea, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Loma Linda University Health

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

Specialty: Emergency Medicine/Critical Care Anesthesia

Hello friends. My name is Danny, and I'd like to be your voice in the HOD. I seek to represent the resident and fellow section voice to promote well-being, safer duty hours, and improved access to mental health resources. In order to take care of our patients, we need the time and resources to take care of ourselves.

Delegate

Gunjan Malhotra, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Musculoskeletal Radiology Fellowship

Expected Graduation Date: June 30th, 2022

Specialty: Musculoskeletal Radiology

I am running for RFS Sectional Delegate to the AMA HOD at interim 2021. I have been involved in the AMA since my first year of medical school and an active member in the MSS and RFS since 2012. Additionally, I have been involved in the ACR and Radiology section council since 2016. My passions include representing the RFS and ACR as well as authoring resolutions. It was through my passion for resolution writing and my previous experience as RFS Vice Chair, that I helped move our section forward by spurring the creation of standing committee reports with policy recommendations. I believe our section has a wealth of ideas to bring to the HOD and I want to continue to represent our section as Delegate to help make our ideas AMA policy.

Delegate

Helene Nepomuceno, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Sunrise GME Consortium, Las Vegas, NV

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

Specialty: General Surgery

I would be honored to serve as an RFS Sectional Delegate and I respectfully ask for your vote this November. My previous experience includes over ten AMA House of Delegates Meetings, where I have participated in resolution writing and review and have deliberated on Reference Committees at the Medical Student Section, Resident and Fellow Section, and state society levels.

My priority as RFS Sectional Delegate has been to advance the voice of trainees and the needs of the patients we serve. Navigating the virtual meeting landscape has presented its own new challenges, with limitations on business and time leading to a large backlog of important resolutions to be considered. It has required tremendous coordination among groups to make sure policy proposals are being heard. I will continue to fiercely advocate for a fair, democratic process and for the resident/fellow voice.

Thank you so much for your consideration and for allowing me the opportunity to advocate for issues of importance to the RFS in the House of Delegates.

Delegate

Jerome Jeevarajan, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: UT Health Houston

Expected Graduation Date: 06/30/2023

Specialty: Neurology

Over the past year, I have been lucky to serve as a sectional delegate for the AMA Resident and Fellow Section and I am running to serve the Section again for this upcoming year. In this role, I have had the opportunity to review and comment on resolutions that are submitted by state and specialty delegations from across the AMA House of Delegates. I have given testimony through the reference committee on behalf of the RFS for items related to patient autonomy and privacy, scope of practice, etc. I am passionate about health policy and have spent many years with the AMA in various roles, most recently as the chair of the RFS Committee on Legislation and Advocacy. Resolution writing and policy creation have been my favorite places to make an impact through the years. In the Medical Student Section and now as a resident, I have also really enjoyed mentoring juniors who are interested in advocacy and eventually are diving head first into the AMA just like I did.

During this ongoing pandemic, it has been more difficult to address urgent public health threats through policy because of the virtual format of our AMA meetings and the associated resolution committee. This means that we have to work even harder than before to make sure our RFS resolutions are well-researched and bulletproof. As always, I will continue to be active in the RFS Assembly as we discuss the most important, emerging issues that need to be addressed. My sponsoring state is Texas and my specialty is Neurology, so I hope these unique coalitions will continue to be beneficial for our Section. My home state of Texas is sometimes difficult to persuade but the relationship we have developed over the past several years has been very helpful to find compromise on issues including firearm violence, pharmaceutical industry reform, and healthcare finance policy. During this upcoming year, I hope to serve you all as a sectional delegate so we can fight these public health threats and continue to use health policy to advocate for our patients and colleagues.

Delegate

Jessica Adkins, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of Kentucky

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

Over the past five years of my membership in the AMA, I've come to appreciate the strength this organization provides us in our fight to improve healthcare. We fight for better working conditions for ourselves and our colleagues, for our underserved patients like so many Appalachians in my home state of Kentucky, and for our country's healthcare system through legislation and long-term public health initiatives.

I first had the opportunity to see this process in action as a medical student advocating for policy resolutions in the MSS. When I then joined the MSS at MARC in Washington, D.C. to advocate directly to my state's lawmakers on gun violence and pharmaceutical prices, it became clear to me. This organization is a constantly evolving body, with the potential to save lives in new ways every year. I was hooked.

As a resident, I am currently serving as one of your RFS Delegates to the HOD. At the June 2021 meeting I provided testimony to the House of Delegates on behalf of the RFS in support of a resolution on racial equity in healthcare. We urged the AMA to support measures that would allow us to *prevent* racism, more securely *report* incidents of racism, and *respond* to racism in our hospitals and facilities. This year, I am submitting my own resolution in support of bereavement leave for medical students and physicians, that would provide coverage in case of the death of a loved one, the loss of a pregnancy, and more.

All of this is to say that, outside of clinical emergency medicine, policy is my passion. I will honor my commitment to attend these conferences and represent you well. I will approach each resolution and voting issue with the same compassion and focus that I try to show each of my patients. I would be thrilled to serve as your Delegate in 2022-2023. Thank you for your consideration.

Delegate

Joshua Lesko, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Naval Medical Center Portsmouth

Expected Graduation Date: June 2022

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

The Delegates are the voice of the Resident and Fellow Section in the House of Delegates. This is not something given to them lightly, because it requires the simultaneous wearing of multiple hats. When new resolutions are proposed, the delegates must know how it fits into the existing compendium, and if there are any conflicts or redundancies. When our Section advances policy in the House, the delegates must be able to build consensus by working with other delegations.

As the previous Delegate for the Section and current Sectional Delegate, I have a thorough understanding of the runnings of the Section and the House as it pertains to resolutions. I want to keep this knowledge within the delegation and serve an active role for the coming year. I know the responsibilities and am ready to keep our delegation's voice strong as a Sectional Delegate.

Delegate

Karen Dionesotes, MD, MPH



Residency/Fellowship Program: Johns Hopkins Medicine

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

Specialty: Psychiatry

The opportunity that we have as physicians to impact change within the policy of our country through the policy process of our own governing AMA House of Delegates is extremely unique. Having spent 7 years participating in lobby days with the MSS and AMA on Capitol Hill, I have experienced firsthand how important it is to our Representatives to know what the AMA's policy and voice is on health-related topics. They depend on our House policy to be up-to-date, evidence-based, and in the best interest of the public, which I feel is an integral part of our democratic House process. We are living in a time in which science and data are being questioned, and it is important now more than ever to continue to fight both for our profession and for the best interest of our patients. Policy can give a voice to those who may not typically be heard, and it is my dedication to the voiceless that continues to drive my involvement in organized medicine. I am looking forward to continuing involvement in organized medicine throughout my career and would love the opportunity to continue to represent the RFS and APA as a delegate to our AMA House of Delegates.

Delegate

Kieran McAvoy, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Medical College of Wisconsin

Expected Graduation Date: 6/30/2023

Specialty: Internal Medicine-Geriatrics

It has been an absolute honor to serve as an RFS Delegate for the past two years. I humbly request your vote for re-election.

I have been involved with the AMA, the Wisconsin Medical Society, and the American Geriatrics Society since my first year of medical school. I have served in multiple leadership positions locally and nationally. In the AMA-MSS, I was elected as the MSS Alternate Delegate and as a member of the 2017-2018 Governing Council. I also served as the medical student member on the AMA's Council on Constitution and Bylaws from 2018-2019. In both of these capacities, I strived to represent the viewpoint of the MSS fiercely and faithfully. Locally, I served as the Chair of the WMS-RFS during my intern year and am starting my second term as the RFS member of our WMS Board of Directors. As a Board member, I have been appointed to the Executive Committee as well as to the Constitution and Bylaws Task Force. Our board has been actively working on improving engagement through the creation of a membership app and initiation of our year-round policy making process.

We need both active and experienced members in our delegation to ensure the voice of the RFS is not only heard but also effective. With experience, sound strategy and utilization of connections to garner support, our goals will be achieved. I ask for your vote so that I can continue my service to our AMA and our RFS as a Delegate, proudly endorsed by the American Geriatrics Society. Thank you for your consideration.

Delegate

Megan L. Srinivas, MD, MPH



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Translational Health Policy Research Fellow

Expected Graduation Date: 6/30/2023

Specialty: Infectious Disease

Hi All! My name is Megan Srinivas. I'm an infectious diseases fellow at the University of North Carolina. I completed my internal medicine residency at Johns Hopkins Bayview Internal Medicine program in 2017. I'm also your (the RFS) representative on the AMA Council for Medical Service. I spent three years during residency as a member of the Maryland RFS, first in the role of alternative delegate and then as the President of the Maryland RFS for two years. I was a sectional delegate to the HOD for the last 6 years, representing the Maryland delegation for two years and our RFS for three. I have a long history of being an advocate for my peers and working within the policy realm. During residency, I was a part of the Maryland chapter of the American College of Physicians and sat on their state health policy committee. In college I was elected to serve on the Harvard Undergraduate Council establishing many events as well as reforming the curriculum into the current Harvard general education plan in place of the previously much-criticized core class curriculum. In medical school, I continued to be the voice of my colleagues. As a first-year representative on the student council and the first-year representative to the Iowa AMA, I co-founded the Iowa State Medical Student State Lobby Day, annually leading students to meet with legislators in regards to education and healthcare. This effort is now in its 12th year. As the elected representative to the University's Iowa's Executive Council of Graduate and Professional Students, I met monthly with the University President to address student needs. In the past, I also served for two years on the State of Iowa Board of Education, meeting monthly with former Governor Vilsack (now Secretary Vilsack) to discuss and craft education policy. I've also spent a significant amount of time working on a United States Presidential Campaign and was elected as national delegate to the 2016 Democratic National Convention in 2016. Last year I ran for the Iowa House and lost by approximately 300 votes, but I've continued to be an active policy advocate by being on the Board of Directors for both the Iowa National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Iowa Asian and Latino Coalition. Additionally, at the request of the Iowa Supreme Court, I now sit on the Iowa Access to Justice Commission, which is led by Justice Brent Appel.

As your peer, I understand the challenge of wanting to make the most of our time in training while still wanting to have an influence on the future landscape of health care in our nation. From advocacy to health policy to event planning, I have the experience to effectively mold RFS and AMA initiatives. More importantly, though, I have a persistence and motivation to address RFS needs and desires. Thank you for your consideration!

Delegate

Michael Visenio, MD, MPH



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of Nebraska

Expected Graduation Date: 2026

Specialty: General Surgery

Dear Physicians of the Resident and Fellows Section,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply as a Sectional Delegate to continue serving AMA and representing the RFS. As a longtime member of the AMA beginning as a medical student, I have been continually impressed by House of Medicine. In prior meetings, we affirmed health care as a human right, worked to mitigate an opioid crisis, acknowledged gender inequities in medicine, and more recently confronted the detrimental effects of systemic racism as a primary issue facing health care. In many cases, these issues were advocated passionately by residents and fellows, and importantly, we formed an important section of the voting constituency. With every meeting, there is a new opportunity to continue advancing access and equity in medicine, and I hope to continue being part of that momentum.

I am a general surgery resident at University of Nebraska Medical Center currently pursuing a dedicated research fellowship at Northwestern University. My research interests include minimizing health disparities in surgery, as well as studying health policies and their effects on the delivery of health care. During my research years, I have made it a priority to remain committed to and involved in organized medicine such as the AMA. During medical school, I served in various standing committees such as the Committee on Health IT and as an MSS Sectional Delegate. During residency, I have served as a chapter delegate in the RFS and as an RFS Sectional Alternate Delegate. I also remain involved with the Nebraska Medical Association and the Metro Omaha Medical Society.

As a Sectional Delegate for the RFS, I will wholeheartedly represent the voice of the RFS in the HOD and fight for issues that matter to residents and fellows. As evidenced by past meetings, representation matters, and it is important for young physicians to be heard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Delegate

Rachel Ekaireb, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of California - Davis

Specialty: General Surgery

Expected Graduation Date: June 2026

I am running to be a Sectional Delegate for the RFS because I want to help amplify the voice of the RFS in the House of Delegates, and I believe I have both the experience and passion to do this effectively. In the midst of the ongoing pandemic, the AMA is fighting a lot of important battles – from addressing health disparities and inequity among our patients, to addressing widespread burnout among physicians, to protecting access to safe and comprehensive reproductive care to defending our scope of practice. In this rapidly changing landscape of medicine, the voice of the RFS is more important than ever. We are often among the first to identify emerging issues our colleagues and patients face and bring appropriate policy solutions to the AMA. We have the ingenuity to imagine a better future of healthcare, but are also grounded in the day-to-day struggles in our hospitals and clinics and are not naïve to the reality of incremental progress. I want to be a champion for our ideals and help propel our ideas within our House of Delegates. Having served both as a delegate for the MSS and RFS for a collective 6 years now, I am adept at navigating the policy-making process and hope to pass on my institutional knowledge to newer members of our RFS delegation. I humbly ask for one of your votes for RFS Sectional Delegate.

Delegate

Ruchika Talwar, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: University of Pennsylvania

Expected Graduation Date: 6/2022 (residency), 6/2024 (fellowship)

Specialty: Urologic Surgery

Residency serves as some of the most formative years in one's medical career. In the field of urology, one must acquire both clinical and technical skill; however, in the current healthcare climate, it is evident that health policy and more practical perspectives of medical training are grossly neglected in surgical residencies. Medicine and policy are inevitably intertwined.

I was fortunate enough to both realize and gain a deeper understanding of this relationship early in my educational career. I pursued both legal studies and biology during my undergraduate studies, with a thesis in the National Development of IRB Legislation following the Tuskegee Study. In medical school, I served in leadership roles within the American Medical Association longitudinally, from the local to the national level. Within these roles, I chaired a national committee in the medical student section, made trips to Washington DC to advocate for medical students in meetings with Congressional staff, and eventually was voted to represent the voice of my peers across the country as a voting member of the House of Delegates. Now, as a resident, I have a unique perspective on the frontlines of clinical, surgical subspecialty care.

At the University of Pennsylvania, I have focused academically on quality, access, and equity in surgical care, with over 25 peer reviewed publications in this space. However, for these research endeavors to be impactful, it is imperative that we use this work to shape the structures in which physicians provide care. I have continued to serve as a trainee member of policy related committees and endeavors through the American Urological Association, co-chairing our Advocacy Summit, but am looking to further represent my specialty within the American Medical Association.

Currently, in 2019, less than 10% of practicing urologists were women; even fewer were minority females. To advocate for our patients and profession, it is imperative to have diverse representation to ensure that the field of urology, and medicine, continues to move forward. Therefore, I humbly request your support, with the endorsement of the American Urological Association, to serve the Resident and Fellow Section as a delegate.

Delegate

Sophia Spadafore, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: The Mount Sinai Hospital

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

Specialty: Emergency Medicine

My name is Sophia Spadafore and it is my pleasure to ask for your vote to continue as one of your Sectional Delegates. The role of a Sectional Delegate is representing the RFS to the House of Delegates (HOD), and it requires someone familiar with both the RFS and the workings of the HOD. I currently serve on your Governing Council as your Speaker and have been a Sectional Delegate this year, and was an Alternate Delegate the year before that. I have also served as a reference committee team lead and work as a liaison to my specialty society, Emergency Medicine. Electing dedicated and passionate Sectional Delegates is critical to getting the agenda of the RFS passed in the HOD; we need leaders who know how to advance for the priorities of the section by forming broad coalitions with other members in the house. My experience for the past five years has allowed me to work across sections, states, and specialty societies and form the relationships that assist our delegates in advocating for your policies and positions. Whether virtual or in person the most critical job of a delegate is to show up and make informed votes, and I have done this tirelessly while representing this section. I humbly ask for your vote now to continue representing the voice of trainees as a Sectional Delegate. Thank you!

Delegate

Sophia Yang, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Santa Clara Valley Medical Center

Expected Graduation Date: June 2022

Specialty: OBGYN

As a resident in a county safety net program I see first-hand how important it is for physicians to advocate for our patients in a system that symmetrically ignores and marginalizes them. As a longtime member of the AMA in the MSS and the RFS I know the importance of showing up in making our voices heard, and how we can make change. I have served on both AMA and AMA-RFS reference committees, have led review committees, and have years of experience in writing and reviewing policy, making me well positioned to serve as delegate.

Delegate

Subhan Tabb, MD, MBA



Residency Program: Texas Health Presbyterian Dallas

Specialty: Internal Medicine

Expected Graduation Date: Spring 2024

“Life is about jumping into the river, not sitting on the banks watching it float by.” These wise words from my grandfather inspired my six-year-old self to dream of one day having an impact, and they continue to serve as my guiding light to this day.

While shadowing as an undergraduate student, I encountered Mrs. G, a 63-year-old woman who suffered from Fuchs dystrophy and developed significant secondary corneal scarring. As her vision deteriorated, Mrs. G was no longer able to drive or perform basic activities, resulting in severe depression. Mrs. G received a corneal transplant, and during follow-up clinic visits, the change in her disposition was dramatic.

Service is an integral part of my life and a fundamental pillar of medicine. Throughout medical school and now in residency, I have continued to be an active volunteer in the community. From coordinating a charity banquet to raise funds for the refugee populations in Houston to helping pediatric cancer patients with arts and crafts as part of their therapy, I have found that genuine joy and fulfillment are derived from each act of kindness. Seeing the impact of corneal transplant surgery on Mrs. G motivated me to become a cornea donor. Subsequently, I organized an event called “Tunnel Vision.” At the event, participants were encouraged to wear a blindfold and use the assistance of a walking stick to navigate through a completely blacked-out maze. Once the participants found their way through the maze successfully, they were educated on corneal transplants and encouraged to sign up to be donors. My friends and I were able to sign up over 220 cornea donors over the course of one weekend.

Experiencing the impact we were able to have through coordinated efforts and how we were able to change lives in a positive manner only increased my desire to participate in ongoing service. If selected to be an RFS Sectional Delegate or Alternate Delegate, I have the opportunity to be involved on a national scale in policies that will shape not only our experience as residents and fellows but also those that will shape the future of medicine. As a member of the delegation I will bring dedication, creativity, compassion, and effective communication skills to bring impactful legislation to fruition.

Delegate

Trevor E. Cline, MD



Residency/Fellowship Program: Kaiser Los Angeles Medical Center

Expected Graduation Date: June 30th 2022

Specialty: Neurology

My name is Trevor. I am a PGY-4 neurology resident from Los Angeles, California. I humbly ask for your vote to represent the RFS as a sectional delegate. I have organizational and life experience to be an effective delegate.

In terms of organizational experience, I've been an AMA-er since MS1. I was a delegate that represented my medical school in the MSS for 4 years, as well as being part of Regional leadership as vice chair of policy in the MSS. I've served on convention committees, standing committees, assisted with elections, and written many resolutions, including a policy that attempted to overturn our AMA's opposition to single payer health care. I also served on COLA in the RFS as a PGY-3 resident. I promise to leverage this experience to effectively represent our section and write well informed policy.

In terms of life experience, I've been through the triumphs and the hardships of residency. I was selected to be one of two chief residents, but I also didn't match and went through the harrowing SOAP process to obtain my position in the first place. I have been through, and recovered from, depression that made me take time off from residency at the end of my PGY-3 year. Graduate medical education, our hospitals, and our medical system as a whole is in many ways unjust / disorganized / profit centered. Our AMA fights to change that, and I intend to use my real life victories and struggles as a delegate to shape how our organization works to improve the world of medicine.

Ask anyone that knows me in the RFS and they will tell you I loved being a delegate and threw myself into the role with all that I was. Losing sleep for 5 days in a row? That's what coffee and Coca Cola are for. Using my vacation to come to meetings? Done. Long conference calls and endlessly complicated spreadsheets? My jam. 10 simultaneous group chats? You know it!

It would be my privilege to have the opportunity to be a sectional Delegate once again. If elected, I will represent our section and fight for what is progressive and just.

No matter the outcome of this election, I can't wait to meet y'all soon! The #AMAZing family at #nerdcamp is truly the best.

Alternate Delegate

Mark A. Kashtan, MD, MPH



Residency/Fellowship Program: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Expected Graduation Date: June 2023

Specialty: General Surgery

I have worked in health care advocacy now for over decade, across three state medical societies spanning four time zones. I have served in a variety of capacities, most significantly on the Governing Council for both the Medical Student Section and the Resident and Fellows Section. What keeps me coming back year after year, meeting after meeting, is a love of health policy, of the process of working together with you, my colleagues, to try to make the world a better place for our patients. The excitement of harnessing ideas into a resolution, shepherding it through our House of Delegates and then seeing it go to work in DC or beyond fills me with joy and excitement. This is why I am running for a seat as an RFS Alternate Delegate.

In addition to policy, I believe in the importance of mentorship, of engaging and cultivating talent to make our organization stronger than any one person. I believe in building partnerships with other sections and individuals that share our values. And I believe in the role of students, residents and young physicians as stewards of innovation and progress within the AMA, providing a consistent vision of and push towards the future. As your RFS Alternate Delegate these are the pillars that will guide everything I do and hope to achieve.

Thank you,



Alternate Delegate

Daniel Ricketti MD, MBA, MS



Residency/Fellowship Program: Cooper University Hospital

Expected Graduation Date: 06/2022

Specialty: Internal Medicine

It would be a great honor to continue to be an RFS alternative delegate with the American Association of Public Health Physicians delegation. As a delegate to the House of Delegates I will take the opportunity to help advocate for adoption of policies which will help to better serve patients, students, and all physicians alike regardless of age, sex, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other social or personal characteristics.