



# AMA-Medical Student Section Delegate AAFP Student Members 2016 Annual Report

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## AAFP Student Delegates to the American Medical Association – Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS)

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### Scope of Work

The American Medical Association - Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS) is the body of representation of medical student to the AMA. It is a distinct policy-making and democratic body that also has a local presence at over 200 allopathic and osteopathic schools across the country. The AMA-MSS seeks to represent medical students, improve medical education, develop leaders, and promote activism for the health of America. As the AAFP Delegates to the AMA-MSS, our purpose is to represent the AAFP at the interim and annual meetings of the AMA and represent the student voice to the AAFP delegation. Specifically, we study policy being proposed, collaborate with other medical students in creating change that seeks the best interest of primary care physicians and our patients, speak on behalf of the AAFP, and vote on an agenda at these meetings that will benefit our field and patient care. We attended two national meetings this past year, the 2015 AMA-MSS Interim Meeting in Atlanta, GA and the 2016 AMA-MSS Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. During the AMA interim and annual meetings, students introduce policy resolutions for consideration of the reference committee which allows testimony from anyone present. The delegates from the medical schools and specialty societies are then allowed to vote on the resolutions for adoption, not for adoption, referral to the AMA House of Delegates or referral for study.

### Discussion and Actions

Throughout this past year, our key actions and discussions have focused on multiple facets of healthcare that are all in the best interest of primary care providers and the patients we serve. In November, we were able to work with fellow medical students to pass an AMA-MSS policy for a youth pipeline program. In its early stages, we hope to encourage our medical schools to reach out to the diverse communities we serve and encourage greater representation of these communities in the medical professions. Our long term hope is that this program fulfills the need for primary care providers many of these communities have. Recently, we also worked with both the AMA-MSS and the AMA House of Delegates to adopt a resolution calling for the end of the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination. Accredited medical schools already have their own clinical skills exam and the national exam similar to this one places a tremendous financial burden on medical students. Lastly, we also advocated on behalf of the AAFP regarding genetic counseling in a primary care setting. AMA-MSS members wanted to create policies that would have placed a greater demand on both the AAFP and family medicine physicians to create resources and take up the responsibility of genetic counseling for their patients. While we acknowledge the need patients have for appropriate genetic counseling and support all available resources become available for our patients, we were able to convey the great

burden this would create for our organization and the physicians it serves and we helped defeat onerous language for the benefit of family medicine physicians. There were many other items of business that we discussed, contributed to, and voted on, but these were the primary highlights and areas of focus throughout our term.

### **Future ideas for the position**

Our goals for this include writing AAFP policies into AMA-MSS format along with continuing to shift the conversation in the AMA-MSS to ensure the issues important to family medicine are being discussed at multiple levels of government and organized medicine. The AAFP is well-respected and well-represented at AMA meetings and this position allows medical students to have a strong voice for the benefit of primary care.

### **Closing remarks by Ben Meyerink**

It was a privilege to serve the AAFP and work alongside medical students, physicians, and residents to seek the benefit of family medicine and the patients we serve. While this position certainly brought about many challenges, I was able to work with many experienced physicians and residents and learn from their wisdom and knowledge to develop my policy making skills to best serve the body I represented. I gained a greater appreciation for the AAFP and its staff and leadership and I have no doubt this position will further prompt me to continue my involvement with this great organization. Without hesitation, I would recommend fellow medical students who have a passion for family medicine, public health, and health policy to strongly consider applying for this position. It was rewarding to have an impact on family medicine through my duties and I thank the AAFP for allowing me to serve in this capacity throughout the past year.

### **Closing remarks by Allen Rodriguez**

Thank you so much for the privilege of representing you, the members of the AAFP, this past year. This was a tremendously rewarding and enlightening experience, and I am more inspired than ever about the role of family medicine in the future of healthcare. The challenges that we face are daunting. We are inheriting, and expected to become leaders in, a medical system that many people say are broken. Institutions, EHRs, and specialties are silo'd, not communicating well with each other. As family medicine doctors, however, we do work well with everyone, and we're not afraid of taking-on challenging problems. We're used to being the quarterbacks for our patients, doing everything we can for them and knowing where best to direct them to get their health goals on track. We advocate for the needs of our patients. If community programs don't exist, we create them. If policies are unfair or don't exist, we write new ones. This is how we are revolutionizing healthcare and will continue to do so.

I held this position over my 2nd and beginning of 3rd year of med school and Ben held his during his 3rd and beginning of 4th and we found it very doable! Check your school calendars for availability and if this position sounds fun to you, apply! Please come ask us/email us if you have any questions and we look forward to working with you in the future!

*Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit [aafp.org](http://aafp.org).*

