



AAFP AMA-MSS Delegate 2023 Annual Report

AAFP Student Delegate to the American Medical Association Medical Student Section

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Medical Student Section (MSS) is a branch of the American Medical Association (AMA) specifically dedicated to giving a voice to medical students and allows them to advocate for the issues that matter to medical trainees. The MSS is made up of an elected governing council, regional delegates, and specialty interest delegates who meet bi-annually for an interim meeting in the fall and an annual meeting in the summer. At these meetings, resolutions for new policy are introduced, reviewed by a reference committee, debated, and voted on by the delegates. Resolutions adopted by the MSS can then be forwarded to the AMA House of Delegate (HOD) for consideration to become national public policy.

The role of the AAFP Student Delegate in the MSS is to represent students interested in the specialty of family medicine by advocating for primary care issues. AAFP student delegates work closely together to review proposed resolutions and related published AAFP policy. During MSS assembly meetings, delegates are given the responsibility of voting and testifying on resolutions in alignment with AAFP policy. Another key role of the student delegates is to present the views of the MSS to the entirety of the AAFP delegation so that priority issues can be identified and represented in the HOD. In addition, at each AMA meeting one of the AAFP student delegates to the MSS also serves as a voting delegate to the AMA HOD alongside the AAFP delegation.

Activities & Achievements

Interim Meeting November 2022

- AAFP student delegates reviewed 91 resolutions, 43 of which were extracted for discussion during Annual Meeting 2023, evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- AAFP student delegates wrote and provided testimony on resolutions related to:
 - Equity in medical education for minority students
- MSS delegates voted to immediately forward the following resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates:
 - Increased health privacy on mobile apps
 - Lack of access to abortion as a threat to public health
 - Lift restrictions on coverage and reimbursement for abortion services
- Other primary care-related resolutions forwarded to the House of Delegates for Interim Meeting 2022 included:

- Monitoring of alternative payment models within traditional Medicare
- Increasing Medicaid hearing coverage
- Supporting housing vouchers and anti-discrimination protections
- Preventing HPV and HPV-related cancers in incarcerated individuals

Annual Meeting June 2023

- The AMA's first ever hybrid meeting was a success.
- The AMA-MSS elected AAFP member Rommel Cruz Morales as Speaker for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- AAFP student delegates reviewed 106 resolutions, 42 of which were extracted for discussion during Annual Meeting 2023, evaluated for alignment with AAFP policy and voted on.
- AAFP student delegates wrote and provided testimony on resolutions related to:
 - Increasing accessibility of mental health services for students
 - Forensic evaluations for asylum seekers
- MSS delegates voted to immediately forward a resolution related to the improved transportation of hazardous chemical to the AMA House of Delegates in response to the recent train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.
- Resolutions presented to the House of Delegates with high priority to the MSS included:
 - Removal of legacy preferences as a factor in medical school admission
 - Removal of BMI as a standard measure in medicine
 - Denouncing the use of solitary confinement in correctional facilities and detention centers
 - Removal of law enforcement from disciplinary procedure in school
 - Environmental health equity in federally subsidized housing
 - New policies to respond to the gun violence public health crisis
- Other primary care-related resolutions forwarded to the House of Delegates for Interim Meeting 2022 included:
 - Strengthening competition in U.S. healthcare provider markets
 - Removal of Medicaid and CHIP criteria based on immigration status
 - Increasing access to HIV PrEP and PEP

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving as an MSS Delegate

Elizabeth and Shehani were both very grateful for the opportunity to represent the field of family medicine and medical students at the AMA Interim and Annual meetings. We learned so much about the legislative process that works to ensure that the medical field continues to evolve and grow with an ever-changing world. We got the opportunity to work with, learn from and be inspired by fellow students and family physicians across the country who are passionate about improving the lives of patients and medical professionals. During our tenure, we learned to how to effectively communicate and debate our ideas, compromise when met with opposition and find joy in the small wins. This experience will forever stay with us both and we encourage anyone interested in primary care advocacy to apply to this position.

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.