



# Resident Delegate to the AMA - HOD 2021 Annual Report

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## AAFP Resident Delegate to the American Medical Association

### Resident

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### Purpose/Scope:

The American Medical Association House of Delegates (AMA HOD) is the main policymaking body of the AMA consisting of senior physicians, resident physicians and students. The AMA HOD is a democratic congress that represents the views and interests of a diverse group of members who work together to create effective policies on health, medical, professional and government topics. The AMA HOD consists of over 500 voting delegates representing states, specialty societies and one of the ten AMA Sections including Integrated Physician Practice, International Medical Graduates, Minority Affairs, Academic Physicians, Medical Students, Organized Medical Staff, Residents and Fellows, Senior Physicians, Women Physicians and Young Physicians.

The purpose of the AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA is to represent the AAFP and its policies at both the interim and annual meetings of the AMA. I work to represent the physician-in-training voice to the AAFP delegation. I work closely with the AMA-MSS and AMA-RFS representatives to the AAFP to ensure our voices are heard. I attended two virtual meetings this past year via video conference.

### Discussion and Actions:

During this past year, some of the key issues and discussions have focused on many aspects of healthcare that affect family medicine physicians and our patients.

In the November special virtual meeting, we discussed topics primarily focused on important actions to reinforce the AMA's advocacy for patients and physicians during the pandemic. Additionally, the AMA discussed new approaches to cover more of the uninsured, racism as a threat to public health, physicians' duties on COVID-19 vaccinations, policy focusing on reducing workplace bullying in medicine, and issues regarding law enforcement's excessive use of force.

In June, the annual meeting was also held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Elections were held and the AAFP supported candidates who support primary care and whose message

was consistent with the AAFP mission and purpose. Many family medicine physicians were elected to various leadership positions, including Dr. Gerald E. Harmon who was inaugurated as the AMA President. General policy topics of this meeting included possible COVID-19 vaccine mandates, seeking aid for other countries battling COVID-19, action to help telehealth flourish post-pandemic, policy to prevent discrimination in medicine, action to make peer-to-peer prior authorization talks more effective, policy to address rural health care's complex challenges, possible solutions for resident physicians with significant financial burdens, resources needed to help patients living with "long COVID," and potential policy looking at social media networks on medical misinformation.

There were other items of business that we discussed, contributed to, and voted upon, but these were the primary highlights and areas of focus throughout this year.

### **Opportunity/Value of Serving:**

My goals for the future of this position include continuing a team-based approach between the AAFP Student and Resident representatives and the AAFP delegation to ensure our voice is being heard. Overall, my goals are to continue the AAFP's mission and well-respected reputation at AMA meetings by being efficient, pro-active members of the AAFP delegation for the benefit of the family medicine profession and patients.

It is an honor to serve as the AAFP resident delegate and to represent the resident's voice in family medicine. The future of family medicine is BRIGHT and literally depends on us. During the past year, I gained a wonderful appreciation for our AAFP leadership and all the work they do to protect our future. With consistent hard work and passion, we will improve the lives of our patients, our society, and profession. I look forward to continually working with you individually and collectively in the future to further the AAFP's mission and purpose. I encourage you to become involved in state, chapter and national AAFP positions. We need you.

Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

*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).*