



2022 Annual Report

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION RESIDENT FELLOW SECTION (AMA-RFS) DELEGATES

Resident

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Melbourne, FL
Class of 2023

Resident

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Norfolk, VA
Class of 2023

Purpose & Scope of Work

The Resident and Fellows section (RFS) is the dedicated branch of the AMA that gives a voice to and advocates for issues specifically impacting resident and fellow physicians. Functionally, the RFS operates as an autonomous “mini-AMA”, made up of an appointed body of resident and fellow delegates who elect a governing council. Together, the RFS creates resolutions at bi-annual assembly meetings (in days preceding the AMA House of Delegates Interim and Annual meetings). At these RFS assembly meetings, resolutions are introduced, debated, and voted upon to incorporate as new policy into the RFS and sometimes, resolutions are forwarded to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) to become potential policy within the full AMA.

The AAFP Resident Delegate role in the RFS is to represent family medicine and family medicine residents by advocating for primary care issues. AAFP Delegates work closely together to review AAFP policy on related RFS issues and advocate for family medicine interests. AAFP Delegates also work alongside other specialty delegates in the RFS to testify for resolutions presented at RFS meetings. A key role of the AAFP resident delegate is to bring back the views of the RFS to the full AAFP delegation so that priority issues can be identified and represented in the house of delegates. In addition, at each AMA meeting one of the AAFP Resident Delegates to the RFS also serves as a voting delegate to the full AMA HOD alongside the AAFP delegation.

Activities & Achievements

Interim Meeting November 2021

- Highlights:
 - Virtual Meeting was a success
 - Election of Family Medicine Residents to the RFS Delegate/Alternate Delegate

- Resolutions passed included those on fighting misinformation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a plan to address maternal health care inequity, protecting physician access to abortion education and training, protecting trainees from retaliation when reporting unsafe work environments

Annual Meeting June 2022

- Resolution Highlights:
 - Passing RFS resolution addressing abortion as an essential part of healthcare
 - Protecting the terms “resident” and “fellows” for physician trainees
 - Acknowledging gun violence as a human health crisis
 - Continued efforts for healthcare teams to be led by physicians
 - Encouraging resident and fellow access to on-site subsidized childcare
- Highlights:
 - In person meeting was a success!
 - Dr. York passed her own resolution at the RFS assembly meeting on increasing allopathic student and resident education on Osteopathic Manual Therapy
 - Dr. Van Pelt elected Member-at-Large for the RFS

Value of Serving as an AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA-RFS

Tisha's Lessons Learned:

It is an honor to represent the AAFP at the AMA-RFS and House of Delegates. Watching passionate physicians come together to work towards a common goal across all specialties is truly inspiring. The work is endless and the hours long, but at the end of the meeting, we have all found common ground and have come together to pass AMA policy that will shape our nation. My greatest lesson learned is the ability to find compromise when working on a resolution. It is important to remember that progress is sometimes measured in leaps, but more often steps that overtime lead up to giant bounds toward change for the greater good.

Emma's Lessons Learned:

This experience has once again solidified the importance of getting outside of my own local bubble. To me, this means engaging with residents and physicians who aren't based solely at my residency program about issues that are pertinent to both family medicine and the medical community as a whole. By seeing what issues are being discussed at the national level, both within Family Medicine and outside of it, it brings a new perspective to the issues I am seeing in my own community. It sparks new ideas on how to address problems at my program and gives me the opportunity to inform others about the work that is being done at the national level. It is always incredible to see all physician groups and specialties represented in one meeting and hear about what topics they, and sometimes what we all, are passionate about.

This meeting in particular was special because it was my first one in the last two years that was in person. Having the opportunity to meet the delegation members I had worked alongside via zoom in person was truly the icing on the cake. I feel fortunate to

have been able to represent family medicine residents, physicians and primary care at these meetings. I learned the value of speaking on behalf of those I was representing and was able to conquer my fears of speaking in front of a large group of my highly esteemed colleagues. It was also truly inspiring to see medical students and residents push the boundaries on topics being discussed at the AMA and reinforced the idea that medicine should not be a hierarchical field because when we are all represented and all work together, our best ideas are created.

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.