



AAFP Resident Delegate American Medical Assoc. House of Delegates 2020 Annual Report

AAFP Resident Delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (HOD)

Resident

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Scope of Work

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. As the AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA HOD, my purpose is to represent the AAFP and its policies at both the interim and annual meetings of the AMA. Additionally, I strive to make continual efforts 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 national meetings this past year: the 2019 AMA HOD Interim Meeting in San Diego, CA and the 2020 AMA HOD Virtual Annual Meeting via video conference.

Discussion and Actions

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

In November at the Interim meeting, we discussed topics such as addressing high drug prices with an international pricing index and other price controls, tightening regulations for vaping products and electronic cigarettes, preserving net neutrality for modern health care, ensuring access to safe and quality care for veterans, advocating federal legislation banning conversion therapy, enhancing medical education standards to improve health care for LGBTQ+ patients and training future physicians in healthcare finance.

At the time of the meeting, with the closure of Hahnemann University Hospital in late 2019, which displaced more than 570 residents and fellows, the AAFP was in support of the AMA's adoption of policy focused on ensuring that residents and fellows impacted by unexpected teaching hospital

closures are financially and professionally protected. This new policy also advocates for residents and fellows impacted by any future teaching hospital closures at no cost to those who are displaced.

In June, the annual meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to obvious limitations, little happened in terms of policy creation. Elections were held and the AAFP supported candidates who supported primary care and whose message was inline with the AAFP mission and purpose. It was an honor to support fellow family physician and AAFP member Gerald E. Harmon as the AMA President Elect. At a virtual Special Meeting of the AMA HOD, the AMA Board of Trustees supported action to address systemic racism and police brutality by releasing a statement:

- The AMA recognizes that racism in its systemic, structural, institutional, and interpersonal forms is an urgent threat to public health, the advancement of health equity, and a barrier to excellence in the delivery of medical care.
- The AMA opposes all forms of racism.
- The AMA denounces police brutality and all forms of racially-motivated violence.
- The AMA will actively work to dismantle racist and discriminatory policies and practices across all of health care.

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.

Future ideas for the position

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. I hope to continually work to keep the AAFP as one of the leaders within the AMA HOD, specifically regarding primary care issues. 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.

Closing remarks

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.