



AMA - Resident Fellow Section

Resident Delegates

2017 Annual Report

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

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Purpose & Scope of Work

As noted on the AMA website, the American Medical Association Resident & Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) “represents and advocates for resident physicians, provides essential career development resources, and educates residents about issues facing the profession.” AMA members who are in a residency or fellowship program are automatically members of the AMA-RFS. The section not only aims to pass policy resolutions advocating for improvements in healthcare and medical education, but also works to develop tools and guidance for professional and personal growth as well.

The RFS Assembly meets twice per year, a few days prior the AMA House of Delegates at the Interim and Annual meetings. During these assembly meetings, the RFS debates and adopts policies which impact the assembly itself and potentially become AMA policy as well. Policy resolutions are crafted by residents and are voted on by resident delegates at these meetings. The AAFP sends resident delegates who are members of the AMA to the AMA-RFS each year to represent the voice of Family Medicine and influence positive change for primary care.

Activities & Achievements

The fall interim meeting was held November 10-12, 2016 at the Swan Dolphin Resort in Orlando, FL. There was a wide range of policy topics discussed at this meeting, ranging from DEA involvement in opioid production guidelines to resident engagement and awareness in value-based care.

A resolution calling for comprehensive nicotine policies and individualize approaches to smoking cessations was forwarded to the House of Delegates. Other RFS resolutions adopted at this meeting which were later forwarded to the House of Delegates at the annual meeting included eliminating financial barriers for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis medications, improving drug affordability through enhanced pharmaceutical price transparency, standardized approaches for Hepatitis C treatment in incarcerated persons, and changes to state licensing boards to require disclosure of mental health history only if the illness would likely impair the physician’s practice of medicine.

Internal policies within the resident & fellow section which were debated and adopted included opposition to legislation which would restrict evidence based pain care, sufficient funding for newly identified communicable diseases, coverage and access for family planning methods, and

reimbursement neutrality within MACRA legislation. Lastly, policy regarding the sunset mechanism for RFS policies was debated.

The Annual Meeting was held June 9-13, 2017

Any Subcommittee Work:

The AMA-RFS Section is further subdivided by regions. While most regions are geographically distributed, there is also a region for all specialty representatives, Region 8. During the AMA-RFS we actively participated with these interdisciplinary Region 8 meetings, collaborating with other specialties regarding the policy issues being debated. This was a great experience to represent the Family Medicine voice among so many other specialty representatives. We could achieve productive discussions on how various policies affect field of medicine as a whole and specialty interests.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving as an AMA-RFS

Healthcare is an ever-changing profession, with many decisions regarding the practice of healthcare being made by politicians who are not trained in healthcare. It is truly an inspirational experience to be present at AMA meetings and see hundreds of students, residents, and physicians from all specialties come together in a united voice for positive changes in healthcare. Family physicians must work together and network with other specialties to produce meaningful improvements in healthcare. This year was a vital year for physicians to present a united front during the debates regarding the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act.

Despite the busy schedules and work demands a career in medicine entails, physicians have a responsibility to continue to adapt to changes in healthcare and the needs of patients. Policy development is just one unique way we can achieve this goal. Through vocalization of support for policies which lead to improvements in the primary care workforce, the groundwork is laid for the creation of a sustainable, energetic, and comprehensive Family Medicine workforce for America. Serving as an AMA-RFS Delegate allows you to feel part of the “bigger process.” Despite different specialties, at the heart all members of the AMA are “physicians.” Seeing the challenges faced by other specialties in the practice of medicine reminds us that no specialty is immune from the roadblocks facing the practice of medicine. As a delegate, you feel that in some small way you are helping knock down some of these walls.

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