



American Medical Association Resident Fellow Section 2020 Annual Report

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

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The American Medical Association Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) is the branch of the AMA dedicated to resident and fellow concerns. All AMA members who are residents or fellow are members of the AMA-RFS and represented by the RFS. This section works to represent and advocate for resident and fellow needs within the greater AMA. This is accomplished by making policy through compiling resolutions and offering testimony at formal meetings, as well as offering opportunities for networking with other physicians across the country.

As the AAFP Resident Delegates to the AMA-RFS, we represent all AAFP residents and fellows by advocating for primary care issues within the AMA-RFS. We vote on all resolutions presented at these meetings and offer testimony on resolutions that pertain to primary care.

The AMA-RFS assembly meets twice per year in the 2-3 days prior to the AMA House of Delegates Interim and Annual meetings. At the AMA-RFS assembly meetings, resolutions are introduced, debated, and voted upon to determine which policy the AMA-RFS has on a myriad of healthcare topics. Depending on the policy, the AMA-RFS may bring these issues to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) to become policy within the whole AMA; if that is the case, we pass along information to the AAFP delegation about any resolutions that will be coming from the RFS to the HOD. In addition, at each AMA meeting one of the AAFP Resident Delegates to the AMA-RFS also has the opportunity to serve as a AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA HOD.

Activities & Achievements

The most recent AMA-RFS meeting occurred November 14-16, 2019 in San Diego, CA. Twelve resolutions were discussed, spanning topics from vaping to wellness programs. Several important policies adopted by the AMA-RFS include establishing resident protections for when hospitals close and the residents are "displaced," having a minimal standard for parental leave during residency, and removing sex designation from the public portion of the birth certificate.

At the AMA HOD, your AAFP-RFS delegate was also able to offer testimony on several resolutions, including advocating for a Pass/Fail grading system during the preclinical years in medical school and banning non-FDA approved e-cigarettes. The AMA-RFS resolution establishing resident protections for “displaced” residents was also forwarded immediately to the HOD and adopted with a standing ovation demonstrating the support of the AMA for resident rights.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Annual AMA-RFS meeting planned for June 2020 was cancelled. However, the Annual AMA HOD did occur in a limited capacity. Your AAFP Resident Delegates participated in robust discussions with the AAFP Delegates to the AMA HOD regarding candidates for elected AMA positions. Of note, only one item was extracted for discussion during this meeting, and it was done by the AMA-RFS. This shows the strong involvement of the AMA-RFS within the AMA HOD and how our voices as residents and fellows can be strong forces for change within the realm of healthcare policy.

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

Serving as an AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA-RFS is an incredibly fulfilling experience. The AMA-RFS is full of extremely passionate physicians with excellent ideas on how to improve healthcare and serve our patients. This position will certainly rejuvenate you and your faith in the future of healthcare! Among the busy schedules and various tasks of residency, it is easy to lose sight of the big picture of medicine; this position helps to bring everything we do on a daily basis into perspective. We as residents can make change at a larger policy level, and we can use our own individual experiences to influence that change! Most of the resolutions brought forward within the AMA-RFS stemmed from one particular encounter that a resident had. This realization should empower all of us to seek change and pursue action when we encounter something within medicine that should be improved.

Many specialties have residencies that are longer than those in the primary care field, so there is often strong representation from specialty groups in the AMA-RFS. Acting as an AAFP Resident Delegate is an imperative position within the AMA-RFS because the primary care voice matters and needs to be at the foundation of all that the AMA-RFS and AMA HOD does!

Each of these positions allows excellent opportunities to network with physicians around the country, both within Family Medicine and otherwise. Attending an AMA meeting is an enlightening, inspirational, and humbling experience; it is possible to personally discuss GME with the President of AAFP, health equity with the President of the AMA, and resident mental health with the U.S. Surgeon General. We would both highly recommend this delegate position for any resident with a passion for health policy and a desire to be a strong voice for primary care concerns within the greater field of medicine.

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.