



# American Medical Association Resident Delegate 2017 Annual Report

---

## AAFP RESIDENT DELEGATE TO AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (AMA) HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Jerry Abraham, MD, MPH, CMQ  
USC Family Medicine Residency Program at California Hospital  
Los Angeles, California  
Resident Delegate

### **Intro:**

This report is submitted to the AAFP National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Students (NCFMRS) National Resident Congress by the AAFP Resident Delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates. It is my hope that this report serves as a resource to the NCFMRS and its participants and provides information about the AMA; our AAFP Delegation to the AMA and its activities; and a brief summary and update of health policy priorities of the AMA House of Delegates, America's House of Medicine. I hope that this report may stimulate a bidirectional conversation and help identify areas of opportunity for both future AMA and AAFP policies.

### **Scope:**

The American Medical Association (AMA) was founded in 1847 and is the largest physician organization in the United States. The AMA's mission is to promote the art and science of medicine for the betterment of the public health, to advance the interests of physicians and their patients, to lobby for legislation favorable to physicians and patients, and to raise money for medical education. The AMA also develops and maintains the AMA Code of Medical Ethics which dictates professional conduct for practicing physicians in the United States and is used around the world. The AMA also publishes the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) which has the largest circulation of any medical journal in the world. The AMA is also responsible for publishing Physician Specialty Codes which identifies physician and practice specialties. Additionally, the AMA develops and maintains the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, which is proprietary and is used by physicians for procedural billing purposes. The AMA also sponsors the Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC), which is an influential group of 29 physicians who set the value of physician labor in regards to Medicare prices. The AMA is currently one of the largest political lobbying groups in the United States and has one of the largest political lobbying budgets of any organization in the United States.

The AMA is composed of various internal groups that meet to discuss policy twice a year at the AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting and Interim Meeting. The Annual Meeting is held in Chicago, IL each June. Whereas, the Interim Meeting is set on a rotating schedule for different locations throughout the United States and is often held each November. The AMA House of Delegates is

comprised of over 1,000 Delegates and Alternate Delegates of who half represent state societies and the other half of which represent specialty societies.

The AMA is governed by a Board of Trustees and the House of Delegates has a number of established councils including: Council on Constitution and Bylaws (CCB), Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA), Council on Legislation (COL), Council on Long Range Planning & Development (CLRPD), Council on Medical Education (CME), Council on Medical Service (CMS) and the Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH). Additionally, the AMA is made up of a number of sections including: Medical Students Section (MSS), Resident and Fellows Section (RFS), Young Physicians Section (YPS), Academic Physicians Section (APS), Senior Physicians Section (SPS), International Medical Graduates Section (IMG), Women Physicians Section (WPS), Minority Affairs Section (MAS), the LGBT Advisory Committee, Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS), Integrated Physician Practice Section (IPPS), among others.

Externally, the AMA is comprised of AMA member organizations which form the Federation of Medicine. These groups include specialty societies, state medical societies, federal services, government agencies, among others. These groups have representatives, consultants, advisors and observers to the AMA. The AMA currently has around 200,000 members and representation in the AMA House of Delegates is determined by the number of AMA members in state and specialty societies.

The AAFP is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest delegation in the AMA House of Delegates with 18 Delegates and is one of the most diverse and young delegations in the AMA House of Delegates. Our Delegation includes the following AAFP Officers: AAFP President, AAFP President-Elect, AAFP Board Chair, and the AAFP EVP. The 18 member AAFP Delegation is led by a Chair and Vice Chair and AAFP Delegates are selected and approved by the AAFP Board of Directors for (3) six-year terms for a total of 18 years of service to the delegation. The Delegation now also includes students, residents and new physician members, as part of a concerted effort by our AAFP Delegation to encourage fresh new faces and increase diversity. The Delegation Chair reports to the AAFP Congress of Delegates annually. The AAFP Delegation is staffed by several AAFP Vice Presidents, Directors and senior staff members who provide tremendous support for our work at the AMA. Members of the AAFP Delegation have also served on AMA Councils and Section Governing Councils, including most recently CCB and CLRPD. The AAFP hosts a Family Medicine Caucus at the AMA for all Family Physicians who participate in the AMA from various states, specialties and sections. We currently have a number of Family Physicians serving on the AMA Board of Trustees and the President-Elect is a Family Physician as well. In June 2018, Dr. Glen Loomis, an AAFP Delegate and Chair of CLRPD, will run for the AMA Board of Trustees and the AAFP Delegation will be working actively for his successful campaign.

### **Experience:**

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. This past year, the Interim Meeting was held in Orlando, Florida on November 10-15, 2016 and the Annual Meeting was held on June 8-14, 2017 in Chicago, IL. A wide range of topics were discussed at both annual and interim meetings and as your Delegate, I have worked to advocate for our AAFP residents and medical students and to promote the policies of the AAFP in the AMA House of Delegates. Furthermore, I have worked hard to collaborate with Residents & Fellows from every specialty and every state to ensure supporters for Family Medicine across the AMA Federation and to ensure Family Medicine friendly AMA policies and advocacy efforts. As your Delegate, I work closely with all of the members of the AAFP Delegation and Delegation staff and together we work to advance the interests of AAFP members. This year, I have had the honor to successfully run a campaign in the AMA and have secured the position of Vice Speaker of the AMA-RFS Governing Council. In this role, I have helped lead the policy making body of the AMA-RFS, the Resident & Fellow Assembly, and helped advance the agenda and policy priorities of residents and fellows in medical training across the nation. I am thankful to the AAFP for their support during my year serving as Vice Speaker and look forward to continuing our AAFP priorities as the AAFP Delegate to the AMA Young Physicians Section.

It has been an honor serving the constituents of the AAFP NCFMRS these past 6 years as your representative to the AMA-MSS and the AMA-RFS. I look forward to continuing to make you proud of AAFP's work at the AMA with my service in the AMA-YPS.

Please consider applying for this position if you have an interest in organized medicine and health policy. As the AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates you have a great opportunity to be a voice for Family Medicine in the AMA. This position is a 2-year term and is best suited for a rising PGY-2.

Additionally, I urge each of you to consider joining the AMA if you haven't already done so. Our membership in the AMA matters and it increases AAFP representation in the AMA House of Delegates and as a result better advocate for our specialty, our colleagues and our patients. There is also a unique opportunity for residents who wish to become more involved in the AMA House of Delegates. The AMA-RFS has 19 Sectional Delegates that are elected by the AMA-RFS Assembly. This is another fantastic way to serve in the AMA House of Delegates and further increase representation for the AAFP in the AMA House of Delegates. In the past, I have been elected by the AMA-RFS to serve as a Sectional Delegate, which was greatly appreciated and recognized by the AAFP Delegation. This past year, Dr. Samuel Mathis successfully served as the AAFP Sectional Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates, elected by his peers of the AMA-RFS. Furthermore, it has been a pleasure working with our AAFP Resident Delegates to the AMA-RFS, Dr. Samuel Mathis and Dr. Jason Woloski these past several years. The AAFP NCFMRS has been very successfully represented at the AMA at every level and we continue to thank each of you for supporting our work.

### **AMA House of Delegates Interim Meeting 2016 November 10-15, 2016; Disney Swan & Dolphin Hotel Orlando**

The Interim Meeting was dominated by concerns about the new administration and growing concerns about a potential repeal of the ACA. Our AMA passed strong policy urging the President and Congress to preserve the principles of the ACA and maintain current levels of access to healthcare and coverage for patients. Being in Orlando, allowed us to focus on the Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting massacre and much of the educational time was dedicated to Gun Violence Prevention Research, Reducing Implicit Bias, and other strategies for addressing the gun violence injury epidemic. The 17<sup>th</sup> AMA Scientific Session was held and was a huge success. I organized the event along with the AMA-RFS Committee on Scientific Research (CoSR). We had 500 posters and over 100 oral presentations and had over 1,500 submissions, which included primary basic science, translational and clinical research by medical students (MSS), residents and fellows (RFS), and international medical graduates (IMGs).

A wide range of topics were discussed including:

- Improving MACRA and Value-based Payment Incentive Programs
- Increasing Drug-Pricing Transparency
- Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)
- Easing the Financial Burdens of Medical Student Debt
- Preserving the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program
- Supporting Team-based Healthcare Delivery, including Translator Services
- Elucidating the Benefits and Harms of Electronic Cigarettes and other Nicotine Delivery Systems

**AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting 2017  
June 8-14, 2017; Hyatt Regency Chicago**

The Annual Meeting was overshadowed by the recent attempts by the administration and Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Much of the energy at the meeting focused on ways for preserving access to healthcare and coverage for our patients. Furthermore, our AMA passed strong policy supporting the preservation of current Medicaid funding levels and opposing any cuts to the Medicaid program. There was robust educational programming regarding negotiating and understanding physician contracts as well as implications of repeal and the replacement of the ACA. Finally, there was a big focus and push to address health disparities and improving health equity, including calling on the re-commissioning of the AMA Commission to End Health Care Disparities (CEHCD). The AMA also addressed growing concerns regarding the appointment of AMA member and Orthopedist, Congressman Dr. Tom Price as Secretary of Health & Human Services and how to address any potential fall-out.

Additionally, this year the Pacific West Conference, known as the PacWest Conference; consisting of Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado; was formed. The PacWest's biggest success was the election of Dr. Barbara McAneny, an Oncologist from New Mexico, becoming the 5<sup>th</sup> woman to serve as the next President of the American Medical Association.

There were several other victories at this meeting. We advocated for:

- the Appropriate Use of LGBTQIA Language in Medical Documentation
- Commercial Exploitation of Human Trafficking of Minors
- Out-of-Network Care
- MACRA Reform and Preserving the Independent Practice of Medicine
- Skyrocketing Drug Prices
- Eliminating Tax Deductions for Direct-to-Consumer Drug Advertising
- Actions to Prevent Harmful Effects for Physicians and Patients Regarding Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
- Destigmatizing Obesity
- Improving Vaccination Rates
- Supporting for Evidence-based Environmental Statues and Regulations
- Preventing Prior Authorization Abuse by Payers
- Advocating for Payment for Medicaid Interpreter Services
- Recognizing New Psychoactive Substances as a Health Threat
- Destigmatizing Mental Health Issues in Physicians and Medical Students
- Promoting Safe Pain-Medication Prescribing and Treatment Options for Opioid-Use Disorder
- Improving Veterans Access to Health Care
- Supporting Non-Discriminatory Policies affecting Transgendered Patients
- Improving Access to Care for Refugees and Detained Immigrants
- Opposing any and all caps for Medicaid programs
- Improvements to Prescription Drug-Monitoring Programs
- Preserving the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program
- Increasing GME Funding, particularly in Underserved Communities
- Reducing the Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (SSBs)
- Aiming for a more Diverse, Culturally-appropriate Physician Workforce
- Easing the Patient Burden of Out of Network Care
- Opposing the Fragmentation of Healthcare by Retail Clinics

Once again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your voice and representative as the AAFP Resident Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. I urge each of you to please consider your memberships in Organized Medicine and join our AMA, and your state and county medical societies. Together, we are stronger!

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry P Abraham, MD MPH CMQ  
Family & Community Medicine  
ABFM Board Certified in Family Medicine since 2017

Medical Quality, Health Policy & Faculty Development Fellow  
USC-EISNER Family Medicine Center at California Hospital  
USC Keck School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine  
EISNER Pediatric and Family Medicine Center, a FQHC in downtown Los Angeles  
DIGNITY HEALTH California Hospital Medical Center

+1.832.687.3242 (mobile)  
+1.213.744.0801 (office)  
[abraham.jerry@gmail.com](mailto:abraham.jerry@gmail.com)  
[jerry.abraham@med.usc.edu](mailto:jerry.abraham@med.usc.edu)  
[jabraham@eisnerhealth.org](mailto:jabraham@eisnerhealth.org)  
[jerry.abraham@dignityhealth.org](mailto:jerry.abraham@dignityhealth.org)

USC-EISNER Family Medicine Center at California Hospital  
1400 S. Grand Ave; Suite 101  
Los Angeles, California 90015

*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).*