



American Medical Association (AMA) Resident Fellow Section (RFS) 2024 Annual Report

American Medical Association Resident Fellow Section

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The AAFP Resident Delegates to the AMA Resident Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) encompasses a broad range of responsibilities aimed at fostering collaboration and advancing the interests of family medicine from a physician in-training perspective. Specifically, we participated as voting representatives in both the AMA Resident Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) and in the AMA House of Delegates (HOD).

The AMA Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS) is a vital component of the American Medical Association (AMA), convening biannually to advocate for health policies on a national scale. At the Annual Meeting in June 2024, over 50 residents and fellows from various states and specialty societies participated, demonstrating the diverse representation within the section. Resolutions introduced by the RFS are reviewed by an internal reference committee and subsequently debated and voted upon by RFS delegates. Certain resolutions are forwarded to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD). The AMA-RFS holds approximately 35 delegate positions within the AMA HOD, a policymaking body comprising over 500 members, including medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing physicians. Similar to the AAFP Congress of Delegates (COD), the HOD serves as the AMA's primary policy-making entity.

The AMA-RFS addresses a wide array of issues including but not limited to diversity and inclusion, medical education, public health, and current health policy. The section is dedicated to voicing the perspectives and concerns of physicians in training, ensuring that their unique viewpoints are considered in the formation of healthcare policies. As AAFP resident delegates, our role included actively participating in AMA Resident Section meetings, voicing the concerns from the family medicine perspective, and contributing to the development of and voting on policies that impact

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resident education and healthcare delivery. As representatives, we are also tasked with facilitating communication between the AAFP and the AMA-RFS, ensuring that relevant information and updates are shared effectively between both organizations. Additionally, we had the unique opportunity to partake in a reference committee to review resolutions, offer testimony based on AAFP policy, and act as a voting delegate to the HOD. This year, the AMA meetings took place in National Harbor, MD in November 2023 for the AMA Interim Meeting and Chicago, IL in June 2024 for the AMA Annual Meeting. We have shared our key takeaways from our roles below.

Activities & Achievements

Interim Meeting 2023

At the AMA-RFS interim meeting in November 2023, we as a part of the RFS section reviewed 1 report and a total of 13 resolutions. Of the resolutions reviewed, we identified the following as pertinent to primary care:

- Periodic eye examinations for elderly adults with chronic systemic conditions and a baseline examination for adults above the age of 40 in addition to increased coverage for eye examinations
- Support for evaluation of healthcare reform proposals and a national unified financing healthcare system
- Studying avenues for parity in mental health and substance use coverage
- Improvement and expansion of parental leave for trainees

We testified against the resolution for baseline and periodic eye examinations for adults aged 40 and above given the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) provides inconclusive support for or against a baseline eye exam. The resolution passed with amended language after our testimony. The RFS delegates voted to immediately forward a resolution asking for a ceasefire for the Palestine-Israel conflict to the HOD which brought forward much conversation. The resolution was extracted and was deferred to the annual meeting.

Other items pertaining to the RFS section discussed during HOD included:

- Successfully advocating for updated language regarding families and pregnant persons
- Discussion regarding adopting a neutral stance on medical aid in dying. Although this was in line with our AAFP policy, the resolution was not adopted.

Annual Meeting 2024

The annual AMA meeting took place in June 2024. At this meeting, we as a part of the RFS section reviewed 9 reports and a total of 23 resolutions. Of the resolutions reviewed, the following are examples of resolution topics we identified as pertinent to primary care:

- Updated recommendations for child safety seats
- Studying the effect of US food subsidies on food access
- Support for paid sick leave
- Expand and support coverage for infertility diagnosis and treatment

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There was significant discussion regarding the impact of restrictive reproductive health policy after the Roe v. Wade reversal after a engaging presentation from the Committee on Legislation and Advocacy (COLA). We specifically brought forward discussion regarding concerns of threat to contraceptive coverage given the denial of a recent bill proposed in congress for reaffirmation of contraception access. In addition, the RFS delegates voted to immediately forward a resolution to oppose collective punishment on civilians and support agencies that provide relief to refugees to the HOD. This paralleled a vital presentation from the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI) and discussion on how to deliver health care in times of humanitarian crisis.

Other items pertaining to the RFS section discussed during HOD included:

- Successfully pushing for STEP 3/COMLEX 3 to become pass-fail and a one day examination with support for time off and the option to take in medical school following the STEP 2/COMLEX 2
- Debate regarding disaffiliation of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society due to perpetuation of racial inequities in medicine
- Upholding physician autonomy in evidence-based off-label prescribing and condemning pharmaceutical price manipulation

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on the RFS and AAFP Delegation:

We are very fortunate to have the unique opportunity to act as Resident Delegates on behalf of the AAFP to the AMA-RFS. It was incredible to see the dedication and meticulous effort that goes into crafting and reviewing resolutions, which are pivotal in shaping the future of healthcare policies. This exposure is not only educational but also empowering, as it allows us to actively participate in the legislative process and advocate for changes that can significantly impact patient care and the medical profession. We learned valuable skills such as how to craft impactful testimony and draft our own resolutions.

Additionally, working alongside seasoned members of the AAFP delegation and hearing their valuable perspectives was immensely enriching. Our interactions provided us with diverse perspectives and insights built upon years of experience. This mentorship and guidance are invaluable as we navigate our careers and develop our leadership skills within the medical community. Despite being in the early stages of our careers, the members showed genuine consideration of our opinions and fostered a supportive and inclusive environment.

Additionally, our experience taught us the critical importance of building alliances with other societies and groups that share our goals. Engaging in meaningful exchanges with our primary care colleagues in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine broadens our understanding of common challenges and collaborative solutions, ultimately strengthening our collective efforts to improve healthcare delivery.

We aim to use the knowledge and experience gained from this role to continue our work in health advocacy and to champion improvements in healthcare policy and practice.

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