Speakers’ Letter

2015 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates
June 6–10, 2015
Hyatt Regency Chicago

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following information is provided to aid your planning for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Chicago. Please note that 15 credentials rosters have not yet been returned, meaning that several delegates and alternate delegates will be delayed at registration; AMA bylaws require that every delegate be properly credentialed prior to each meeting of the House of Delegates. Responsibility for submitting credentials rests with the sponsoring society, but delegates may wish to ensure that their societies have submitted the forms.

Please call (312) 464-4463, send an email to hod@ama-assn.org or visit ama-assn.org/go/annual2015 if you have questions regarding any of the following items or questions on American Medical Association (AMA) policy. Watch the Annual Meeting website for updates to this Speakers’ Letter.

Andrew W. Gurman, MD, Speaker
Susan R. Bailey, MD, Vice Speaker

House of Delegates schedule

The 2015 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) will meet June 6–10 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The AMA-HOD will convene at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in the Grand Ballroom, and your Speakers ask that delegates be seated by 1:50 p.m. The opening session will start promptly at 2 p.m. and recess by 6 p.m.

On Sunday, June 7, the “Second Opening” of the AMA-HOD will be in session 8–8:30 a.m. to receive items of business, consider acceptance of late resolutions, and extract informational reports and items from the reaffirmation consent calendar.

Following the Second Opening, five reference committees will convene their open hearings from 8:30 a.m. to noon, with the three remaining reference committees meeting from 1:30 to 5 p.m. The order of the reference committee hearings will be determined after all on-time business is received, and the schedule will be announced on the meeting website about May 11.

Additional business sessions of the AMA-HOD will convene at 2 p.m. Monday, June 8, and 9 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9 and 10. The AMA-HOD will adjourn by noon on Wednesday. Your Speakers ask delegates to schedule departures for the afternoon of Wednesday so that they can give full consideration to the business debated that day.

Delegates and alternate delegates may request special accommodations (eg, an assistive listening device) by contacting the Office of House of Delegates Affairs by email at hod@ama-assn.org or phone 312 464-4344.

Note: All events are at the Hyatt Regency Chicago unless otherwise indicated.
Items preceded by an asterisk (*) are designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.
Handbook distribution
The initial Handbook will be posted on the Annual Meeting website by May 8 as a single large document as well as in a series of smaller documents, collated by reference committee. The Addendum will be posted about May 15, and when it is posted, the original Handbook and Addendum will be available separately along with a combined document that interleaves the Addendum with the Handbook. Like all other meeting materials, the Handbook will be posted on the meeting website. An abridged Handbook containing only the recommendations from reports and the resolve clauses from resolutions will also be available as a Word document.

Hardcopy Handbooks will be mailed by May 15 to delegates and alternate delegates who have previously received paper copies, with the Addendum scheduled to go out on or about May 22. Primary distribution of the Handbook and Addendum will be by download from the Annual Meeting website.

Registration
Registration for the AMA-HOD will be located in the Grand Foyer, which adjoins the Grand Ballroom. For security purposes, all attendees will be required to provide photo identification at the AMA Registration Desk in order to receive their credentials and other materials. Registration will open daily at 7 a.m. and run from Friday, June 5 through Wednesday, June 10.

Delegates and alternate delegates should check with their sponsoring society to ensure that their names have been submitted to the Office of House of Delegates Affairs prior to this meeting. Under AMA bylaws all delegates and alternate delegates must be properly credentialed. Individuals whose credentials have not been confirmed prior to the Annual Meeting will have to be accompanied to the AMA Registration Desk by an officer of their society in order to register.

Recording of AMA-HOD meetings
Proceedings of AMA meetings may be recorded by audiotape, videotape or otherwise, for use by the AMA. Participation in/attendance at a meeting shall be deemed to confirm the participant’s consent to recording and to the AMA’s use of such recording.

Airline and airport transportation discounts
Our AMA has negotiated discounts with United Airlines as well as with Go Airport Express, which provides ground transportation to and from Chicago airports. Visit united.com and enter ZTXM362176 in the offer code box. The discount is valid for travel 3 days prior to and 3 days after the official meeting dates. You may also call United Airlines Meetings at (800) 426-1122 and mention Z code ZTXM and agreement code 362176, but a service fee will apply.

GO Airport Express offers airport shuttle services between downtown Chicago and O’Hare and Midway Airports. Shuttles depart from the airports about every 15 minutes. Fares are $19 each way from O’Hare and $15 each way from Midway but are available only through the link on the meeting website.

Meeting attire
Your Speakers have determined that business casual dress is appropriate for the Annual Meeting, although business attire is requested for those seated on the dais during HOD business sessions. Business attire is also proper for the inaugural and dinner-dance, with formal attire (black tie) optional.

Distribution of nonbusiness items
The “not-for-official-business” bag contains campaign literature, small gifts and other informational material approved by your Speakers. It is distributed at the Opening Session. Material for distribution to the AMA-HOD in the not-for-official-business bag should be delivered to the AMA Headquarters Office at the Hyatt Regency Chicago by 5 p.m. Thursday, June 4. As a general rule, 1300 copies of items are required for distribution throughout the AMA-HOD. For campaign gifts, at least 700 items are required for distribution in the delegates’
seating area; broader distribution will require 1300 gifts. The decision as to the number of gifts is up to the candidate, but the $2,690 cap on expenditures for campaign memorabilia applies regardless.

**Opening Session and nominations**
The Opening Session will get underway at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in the Grand Ballroom. Following presentations from President Robert Wah and Executive Vice President James Madara, nominations will be open for various officer and council seats.

Candidates appearing in the *Election Manual* will have their names placed in nomination by our usual procedures. Nominations from the floor are also possible, but AMA-HOD policy requires that such nominees complete a conflict of interest / disclosure of affiliations form prior to election. Your Speakers have interpreted this requirement to mean that the form must be completed immediately upon conclusion of the Opening Session so that the form can be posted on our AMA website and ballots can be prepared for the elections. Individuals who anticipate the possibility of a nomination from the floor should contact Roger Brown (roger.brown@ama-assn.org) in the Speakers’ Office. Inquiries will be maintained in confidence.

**Elections**
Elections for officer and council positions will be held 7:30–8:45 a.m. Tuesday, June 9 in Columbus K–L and are conducted under the supervision of the chief teller, the assistant election tellers and the Committee on Rules and Credentials. The polls will close 15 minutes before convening the AMA-HOD, and eligible delegates must be in line by 8:45 a.m. in order to vote.

Only duly credentialed delegates are permitted to cast a ballot. An alternate delegate who is seated for a delegate must first be properly re-credentialed as a delegate at the AMA Registration Desk to in order to vote in an election. The change from alternate delegate to delegate must be approved by a duly authorized officer of the society in question; see bylaws 2.10.4 and 2.10.4.1. For runoff elections, paper ballots will be distributed to delegates seated in the House.

Again this year an online version of the *Election Manual* is available. In addition to complete candidate information, the online manual links to each candidate’s conflict-of-interest information. It can also be accessed on the Annual Meeting website or directly at ama-assn.org/go/candidates. The content of the online manual is unchanged from the printed version.

**Announcements of future candidacy**
Although it has been our tradition to distribute cards on the last day of the meeting, as we made known in Dallas, announcements from those intending to seek election in 2016 (and thereafter) will be posted on our AMA website at ama-assn.org/go/candidates. There will be no physical distribution of announcement materials, and a list of known candidates will be projected at the conclusion of the meeting. Members who anticipate seeking election at the 2016 Annual Meeting should submit an electronic announcement to Roger Brown (roger.brown@ama-assn.org) in the Speakers’ Office. All such “e-cards” submitted by June 5 will be posted on the website by the morning of Wednesday, June 10, before the last business session. Submissions will be maintained in confidence until posted.

**Inauguration of Steven Stack, MD**
The inaugural ceremony for incoming President Steven J. Stack, MD, will begin at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 9 in the Crystal Ballroom. A reception will follow the ceremony, starting about 6:30 p.m. outside the Grand Ballroom, with a dinner-dance in the Grand Ballroom starting at approximately 7 p.m. Tickets are required for the dinner-dance and can be purchased by completing the registration form available at ama-assn.org/go/inaugural, or contact Registration Services in the AMA’s Department of Meeting Services at (312) 464-4582. Individuals should coordinate reservations, payment and seating with their sponsoring organizations to avoid duplicate reservations. Business or formal wear are appropriate for the inaugural dinner.
Stay up-to-date with the AMA Events mobile app
Go mobile at the Annual Meeting with the AMA Events mobile app, powered by Lanyon. The mobile app will help you navigate the venue, create your own personalized agenda and find meetings of interest to you. You also can keep up-to-date with the latest news from the event via a link to AMA Wire™, social media postings and other resources. The AMA Events mobile app can be downloaded for both Android and iPhone/iPad operating systems.

While the app is available to everyone, a unique username and password—available only to attendees—will allow you to enrich your meeting experience and create your own personalized agenda, receive notifications, and provide feedback and comments on any session.

If you already have opted in to receive a username and password (for any AMA meeting in the past), there is no need to opt in again. You will receive a reminder email soon with your username and password, but please note that your AMA Events username and password are not the same as your AMA account log-in on the AMA website.

To receive a unique username and password for the AMA Events mobile app, opt in by sending an email to chip.howard@ama-assn.org. Simply include the email address you wish to use in the body of the email, and you will receive your sign-in information. You can log in with your username and password in the Settings area of the app, which on most devices is located under My Events.

Phone text messaging available at the Annual Meeting
Meeting attendees may opt-in to receive updates about the Annual Meeting via SMS phone text messaging. To sign up, send “AMAMTG” (without the quotes) to 25827. You will receive a confirmation message to your cell phone. Subscribers to this service will receive a few text messages prior to the meeting, and 3–5 messages a day during the event. Depending on your service plan, message and data fees may apply. You can opt-out of the program at any time by replying “STOP AMAMTG” to any message.

Online member forums
As mentioned in the meeting information memo, each reference committee includes an online member forum. The forums can be accessed directly at ama-assn.org/go/hodforum or via the meeting website. The site will be up no later than when the Handbook is posted, and items from the Addendum will be added as they become available. Instructions are found on the site. All members of the House with email addresses will have been sent an announcement when the online forum is launched. If you do not receive such a notice, please send an email to that effect to roger.brown@ama-assn.org.

The forums will remain open for commenting up to the opening of the House, but comments posted after Sunday, May 31 are unlikely to be captured in the summary reports that are prepared and posted on the meeting website.

CEJA has submitted another revision of the modernized Code of Medical Ethics, and comments can be submitted via the online member forum or CEJA’s open forum at ama-assn.org/go/cejaforum.

PolicyFinder
PolicyFinder is available at ama-assn.org/go/policyfinder on the AMA website. PolicyFinder is updated after each meeting of the AMA-HOD, so the current version is complete through the 2014 Interim Meeting.

Proceedings of the 2014 Interim Meeting
The draft of the Proceedings of the House of Delegates for the 2014 Interim Meeting (I-14) has been posted in downloadable format on the AMA website. Approval of the minutes from I-14 is an action item at the Second Opening of the AMA-HOD on Sunday morning.

Reports from CEJA and CSAPH
By AMA-HOD action, reports from the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs (CEJA) and the Council on Science and Public Health (CSAPH) that are intended for publication are not posted on the AMA website,
because reports will not be considered for publication in peer-reviewed journals if they are widely distributed prior to submission. For this meeting, CEJA Report 1-A-15, *Ethical Practice in Telemedicine*, is not posted nor is the joint report from CEJA and CSAPH, *Non-medical Exemptions to Immunization*. Although not online, they can be accessed in the members-only portion of the website. The executive summaries and recommendations for these reports can be accessed online by all interested parties.

**Conflict-of-interest policy**

Sponsors of resolutions are reminded that the AMA-HOD has established policy (G-600.060) calling on delegates introducing an item of business to declare any commercial or financial conflict of interest at the time the resolution is submitted and that any such conflict of interest be included with the resolution.

The Speakers have determined that this policy also applies to resolutions introduced by delegations. The sponsoring delegation must disclose the identity of any delegate or alternate delegate who has a commercial or financial interest with respect to matters addressed in the resolution. If a conflict is disclosed, the notation on the resolution will not contain an individual delegate’s name, but will state in substance that, “In accordance with House policy regarding disclosure of conflicts of interest, the delegation has notified the Speaker that one or more delegates has a commercial or financial conflict of interest with respect to the matters addressed in this resolution.” For resolutions already submitted, please notify the AMA Office of House of Delegates Affairs. A revised resolution containing the conflict-of-interest statement will be distributed.

**HOD Reference Manual**

The *House of Delegates Reference Manual: Procedures, Policies and Practices* provides comprehensive information about the AMA’s policy development process. It describes AMA-HOD procedures and may be especially helpful to new delegates, but it is a good reference for all meeting participants. Visit ama-assn.org/resources/doc/hod/x-pub/hodrefmanual.pdf to access the manual (AMA login required).

**2015 Interim Meeting planning**

The 2015 Interim Meeting will be held at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Nov. 14–17. Delegates and alternate delegates who are willing to serve on a reference committee at the Interim Meeting are asked to please contact the Office of House of Delegates Affairs by stopping in the Headquarters Office or emailing hod@ama-assn.org to let us know about your preferences for a reference committee assignment. Five reference committees will convene at the Interim Meeting:

- Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws: Ethics, bylaws
- Reference Committee B: Legislative advocacy
- Reference Committee F: AMA governance and finance
- Reference Committee J: Advocacy related to medical service, medical practice, insurance and related topics
- Reference Committee K: Advocacy related to medical education, science and public health

Insofar as possible, we rely on volunteers to serve on the reference committees, and we strive to place volunteers on reference committees of their choosing. New appointments to Reference Committee F will be made just a few weeks after the Annual Meeting adjourns.

In addition, as is our custom, we will be holding a speaker-to-speaker session, which is open to anyone interested in discussing our meeting processes. Suggestions for the agenda are always welcome and can be sent to hod@ama-assn.org.

**Meetings and caucuses**

**Meetings listing to be online**

Most meeting attendees are familiar with the multipage listing of meetings, caucuses and other events that take place during the AMA-HOD. The list will be available at the AMA Registration Desk again in June, but it will
also be posted on the meeting website about a week before the meeting commences and then updated on the day prior to the Opening Session. The meeting app will also be a valuable addition to your arsenal in staying abreast of last minute changes to the schedule, as it can be updated in real time.

**OSMAP**

The Organization of State Medical Association Presidents (OSMAP) will hold its general membership meeting from 2 to 5 p.m. Friday, June 5 in Grand Ballroom A. All state medical association presidents, past presidents, presidents-elect and executive directors are welcome to attend and participate. No preregistration is required. Following the general membership meeting, OSMAP will host a reception, beginning at 5 p.m. in Grand Ballroom B. All OSMAP members, their spouses and invited guests are welcome to attend.

Other information pertinent to OSMAP, including the agenda for the meeting, will be posted at osmapandtheforum.org in advance of the meeting. For further information regarding OSMAP, please contact Brian O. Foy, Executive Director, at bfoy11@yahoo.com or go to osmapandtheforum.org.

**Moving from time-based to competency-based medical education: Mission impossible?**

The Council on Medical Education will host a Stakeholders’ Networking Forum 3–5:30 p.m. Friday, June 5 in the Toronto Room to explore the challenges and opportunities in moving from a time-based to a competency-based system of medical education and training. The focus on the outcomes rather than the process of medical education holds great promise but also poses many challenges.

The AMA Council on Medical Education would like to engage medical education stakeholders in a discussion of this critical issue and determine how best to produce a population of physicians who have demonstrated mastery of the competencies necessary to provide the best care possible to our patients.

Featured presenters will include:

- Barbara Barzansky, PhD, Liaison Committee on Medical Education
- Daniel Gifford, MD, Federation of State Medical Boards
- Steven Haist, MD, National Board of Medical Examiners
- Stanley Hamstra, PhD, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
- Lois Margaret Nora, MD, American Board of Medical Specialties
- Mona Signer, National Resident Matching Program

Leaders from national medical organizations have also been invited to share perspectives on this issue. The council welcomes you to take part in this forum and to “think outside of the box” in addressing this issue. For more information or to reserve a seat (space is limited) please contact Karen Heins, karen.heins@ama-assn.org.

**Surgical Caucus Handbook review**

The Surgical Caucus of the AMA will be meeting from 7 to 9 a.m. Saturday, June 6 in the Comiskey Room for a combined business meeting and Handbook review session. Specialties participating in the Caucus are encouraged to send at least one representative to this meeting.

**CEJA Open House – Modernizing the Code of Medical Ethics**

The Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs will host an open house from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6 in Columbus C–D. During this informal session CEJA members will be available to answer questions about the council’s project to modernize the AMA Code of Medical Ethics.

**Obesity Caucus formed**

In June of 2013, our AMA formally adopted policy declaring obesity a disease. Last year the HOD adopted policy supporting “patient access to the full continuum of care of evidence-based obesity treatment modalities such as behavioral, pharmaceutical, psychosocial, nutritional, and surgical interventions.” Despite these momentous steps by our AMA, patients affected by overweight and obesity continue to face significant hurdles in securing insurance coverage for medically necessary treatment avenues.
To better address this issue as well as others that impact those affected by this complex and chronic disease, a new Obesity Caucus is forming and will serve as a forum for interested physician groups to collaborate about obesity issues such as insurance coverage, physician education and weight bias; discuss relevant HOD resolutions related to obesity; and develop long-term strategy to tackle obesity as partners. The American Society of Bariatric Physicians delegate, Ethan Lazarus, MD, will host the inaugural meeting of the Obesity Caucus from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 7 in Columbus E–F.

All are invited to attend and work together to improve awareness, education, prevention and treatment of this important problem and strategize on ways that our AMA can make a real difference.

**Academic Medicine Caucus**

All AMA delegates and alternates with an academic appointment are invited to attend the AMA Academic Medicine Caucus, 9:30–11 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Columbus H.

Attendees will discuss issues of mutual concern and interest pertaining to academic medicine and review the report of Reference Committee C (on medical education). Network with your colleagues and share your ideas on how the AMA can continue to provide leadership in medical education.

**Private Practice Physicians Congress**

The Private Practice Physicians Congress will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Monday, June 8 in Columbus I–J. The Congress includes primary care and specialty care physicians who share their insights into the pleasures and perils of modern independent medical practice. All AMA members, young physicians, residents, fellows and medical students are invited to join the group. For questions or comments please contact Zuhdi Jasser, MD, chair at zuhdi@jasserim.com or (602) 721-7186; Tim McAvoy, MD, vice-chair at timothymcavoy@yahoo.com or (414) 573-0751; or Barb Hummel, MD, secretary at hummelb@ameritech.net or (414) 604-0520.

**Education sessions**

Several education sessions have been arranged for the 2015 Annual Meeting, including a number that will be presented by our AMA’s sections and special groups (see below, pages 11 to 16). All Annual Meeting participants are welcome to attend the section and special group meetings and events.

The education sessions below will be offered as part of the House of Delegates meeting, but as noted, the sections are offering a number of other sessions as well, starting Thursday, June 4 and running through Monday, June 8.

Sessions that offer CME credit are indicated by an asterisk (*).

The American Medical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Medical Association designates each live activity for the maximum number of **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™** reflected with each session. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

To complete the CME activity evaluation forms and save your certificates on the AMA Online Learning Center, you will be required to use your AMA username and password, so bring that information with you to the meeting. If you have questions regarding your existing username and password or to create a username and password before attending the meeting, please contact the AMA Unified Service Center at (800) 621-8335.

Paper evaluation forms will not be available on site. Participants can claim **AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™** until July 26, 2015.
*Litigation Center open meeting*

The Litigation Center will hold an open meeting from 7 to 9 a.m. Monday, June 8 in the Grand Ballroom. The meeting will discuss current lawsuits that seek parity of benefits for mental health and substance abuse conditions under health insurance policies. In addition, the chief of staff and his attorney will explain how the Litigation Center assisted in their landmark legal victory for medical staff rights in Minnesota. There will also be an update on AMA efforts to respond to the recent but unfortunate Supreme Court decision in FTC v. North Carolina State Board of Medical Examiners. This session qualifies for 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

*The ACE effect: Accelerating change in medical education progress and impact on the continuum*

Across the continuum of medical education, there is a gap between physician training and the future needs of the health care system. Our AMA is supporting the Accelerating Change in Medical Education initiative over a period of five years to address this issue. Learn more 8–9 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Regency Ballroom D where stakeholders will receive an update about the progress of the initiative, the impact of the initiative’s innovative grant projects, and implications across pre-med, undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education and the practicing physician’s continuing medical education. The participants in this session will experience a glimpse into the transformative vision of the medical school of the future. Panelists will include:

- William McDade, MD, PhD, deputy provost for research and minority issues and associate professor of anesthesiology and critical care, University of Chicago.
- George Mejicano, MD, MS, professor of medicine and senior associate dean for education, Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine.
- David Savage, MD, University of Texas Medical School at Houston and AMA Accelerating Change in Medical Education National Advisory Panel member.
- Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, group vice president, medical education, American Medical Association.

This activity qualifies for 1 AMA PRA Category 1 credit™.

Six traits of financially prepared women physicians


The study found that women physicians have different financial concerns at different points in their lives. At one time or another, they all worry about having enough money to retire (their number one financial goal), funding their long-term health care, having the right disability insurance, paying off medical school debt, saving for their children’s college education and caring for aging parents. As family breadwinners with multiple responsibilities at work and at home, they have little time to devote to the personal finances related to these concerns. Yet just over half of them consider themselves to be financially prepared.

What sets these physicians apart? The research findings demonstrate that women physicians can be financially prepared at any age. In fact, it is more attitude and behavior—specifically 6 Traits—that are more important than age or career stage in determining retirement readiness for physicians.

1. Has a retirement portfolio that is “on-track” or “ahead of schedule”
2. Keeps a liquid emergency fund that’s adequate for current lifestyle
3. Feels financially prepared in the event of a disabling illness or accident
4. Uses a professional financial planner as a trusted advisor
5. Has an updated will, medical and end of life directives in place
6. Feels knowledgeable and confident about personal finances

Offered 8–9 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Crystal Ballroom A, this session will explore these characteristics and the strategies a physician can employ to help secure her financial future. Please join this special presentation where AMA Insurance executive Denise S. Friday, CLU, and Senior Wealth and Insurance Strategist Robin Robertson, CLU, will present the national data findings, and share insights. A Q &A session will follow.
*Turnkey Tools for Improving Hypertension Control and Preventing Type 2 Diabetes*

From 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Regency Ballroom D, learn about new and exciting ways to engage physicians and care teams in addressing two of the leading health problems in our country. The AMA’s Improving Health Outcomes team has developed easy-to-use approaches and tools for improving blood pressure control in patients with hypertension and for efficiently identifying patients with prediabetes and referring them to evidence-based diabetes prevention programs. Hear about these new approaches and tools, and learn how you can use them to assist physician practices in addressing the population health challenges of the Affordable Care Act.

Despite significant advances in diagnosis and treatment, approximately 46% of the 80 million US adults with hypertension do not have their blood pressure under control. Similarly, the prevalence of prediabetes—a significant risk factor for developing type 2 diabetes—continues to grow at an epidemic rate with current estimates approaching 29% of the US adult population. Addressing these leading health problems is a key part of our AMA’s new strategic focus on improving health outcomes. This activity qualifies for 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 credit™*.

*Council on Medical Education—Education and assessment of physician assistants: A medical model*

The Council on Medical Education will sponsor a one-hour session on the *Education and assessment of physician assistants* from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Crystal Ballroom A. AMA-HOD attendees can learn about the process of physician assistant (PA) education and the PA certification process.

The session will be moderated by Darlyne Menscer, MD, incoming council chair, and speakers will include:

- Victoria Kaprielian, MD, FAAFP, Chair of the Board, National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA)
- Dawn Morton-Rias, EdD, PA-C, President/CEO, NCCPA
- Stephane VanderMeulen, MPAS, PA-C, President, Physician Assistant Education Association

Upon completion of this session, participants will be able to:

- Clarify the educational and assessment processes for PAs.
- Describe the current certification and certification maintenance processes for PAs.
- Describe additional certification options for PAs with practice expertise in select disciplines.
- Provide input on both the educational and certification processes.

For more information or to reserve a seat (space is limited), please contact Mary O’Leary at mary.oleary@ama-assn.org. This activity qualifies for a maximum of 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 credit™*.

*Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs Open Forum*

CEJA will host its Open Forum from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Regency Ballroom C. The Open Forum will be open to all AMA members, interested non-members, other guests, and the press, and attendees are invited to introduce emerging ethical issues that may warrant attention from CEJA and inclusion in the AMA Code of Medical Ethics. Planned topics include:

- Investigating your patients online
- Cultural competence and communication

The full agenda for the Open Forum is available online at ama-assn.org/go/ceja. It provides additional information on the above topics, as well as instructions on how to submit testimony electronically. Written testimony will be given the same consideration as oral commentary.

At the conclusion of the session, participants will be able to:

- Describe why continuity of care is essential to patient well-being and satisfaction in complex health care systems.
• Recognize the core values of continuity of care and how those values should be maintained in any system of health care.
• Consider the ethical reasons why assessment of clinical competence is an essential element of patient care.
• Recognize that the ethics of providing quality care in one’s medical practice is a topic separate and distinct from the ongoing debate about maintenance of certification.

This activity qualifies for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™.

*How GOOD medical records can keep you out of court and prison*
Good records are to the physician’s benefit, as the quality of medical records can protect from liability or create problems. For example, failure to adequately document the need for certain drugs, particularly opioids, can lead to discipline by regulatory agencies, and experts recommend documentation of a patient’s refusal for treatment, particularly if the refusal may affect the quality or length of the outcomes. Join this session 10–11 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Regency Ballroom D to learn about the value and nature of records that will allow the physician to prevail when a medical liability claim arises or when accusations of wrongdoing are alleged. Included will be coverage of the National Practitioner Data Bank and keys to success in court.

Following the session, which qualifies for 1 AMA PRA Category 1 credit™, participants will be able to:
• Describe three patient outcomes that constitute medical malpractice.
• List the actions which must be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.
• Implement policies and procedures which must be followed when bad things happen to your patient.

*Surgical Caucus: Surgical quality at the grassroots*
The Surgical Caucus will be sponsoring an education session at 10 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Crystal Ballroom A. Titled Surgical quality at the grassroots: How quality collaboratives improve surgical care, the program will describe the various factors that go into developing a state quality collaborative and demonstrate how a state quality collaborative is able to improve the delivery of surgical care.

The American College of Surgeons is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American College of Surgeons designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Malpractice reform: Behind the scenes of trial attorney’s power grab in California
The California Medical Association (CMA) will be hosting this educational session from 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Regency Ballroom A. Presenters include Richard Thorp, MD, CMA Immediate Past President; and CMA CEO, Dustin Corcoran, who will address the specific challenges the CMA faced by the attempted power grab of the trial attorneys in California. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be able to:
• Summarize the process of coalition building.
• Create an adequate funding source to battle the opponents.
• Create a consistent grassroots message to rally physician members.

Everyone attending the Annual Meeting is welcome to attend. For additional information, contact Tony Campa at tcampa@cmanet.org or (916) 551-2062.
Sections and special groups

All Annual Meeting participants are welcome to attend the section and special group meetings and events. Highlighted below are various educational sessions hosted by the sections, which are followed by other section-specific activities. For information beyond the activities featured here, visit ama-assn.org/go/sections.

The Future of Networking for Military and Federally-Sponsored Medical Students
4–5 p.m. Thursday, June 4, Toronto
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

This forum for military and federally-sponsored medical students will unveil a new online communication tool, connect this diverse group of students scattered across the country, and provide increased communication, networking opportunities, and information sharing. The guest speaker will be Vice Admiral Mike Cowan, MC, USN (Ret.), executive director, AMSUS The Society of Federal Health Professionals.

Sustainable Innovation – AMA’s New Partnership with MATTER
6–7 p.m. Thursday, June 4, Toronto
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

The AMA Interaction Studio at MATTER will facilitate development of technologies to improve health care delivery, patient-physician interactions, and quality of care. MATTER’s partnership with the AMA creates an environment that will allow entrepreneurs to work together with physicians and the broader health care community to test and advance new technology to improve the way the health care system works. This mini-workshop will introduce health care technology incubators and discuss how collaboration will address public health challenges.

Payment Models and Post Residency/Fellowship Financial and Career Plan
7–7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4, Wrigley
Hosted by the Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)

This session will discuss various payment models after residency/fellowship; pros and cons; revenue, RVU, Medicare/Medicaid guidelines to get reimbursed by governmental agencies, financial transition, etc.

*Medical Staff Governance: Challenges when Integrating Employed and Independent Physicians (1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)
7:45–8:45 a.m. Friday, June 5, Crystal Ballroom B
Hosted by the Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

Physicians are increasingly entering into employment or contractual relationships with the hospitals or health care delivery systems in which they practice. Come hear a panel of experts, including a hospital CMO, an independent medical staff president, and an employed physician provide insight and knowledge about how medical staffs can successfully integrate independent and employed physicians into a unified, high-functioning medical staff.

*Physician Burnout: Approaches to Developing a Robust Medical Staff Wellness Program (1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)
9–10 a.m. Friday, June 5, Crystal Ballroom B
Hosted by the Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

Medical staff wellness committees play an integral role in supporting the health and wellness of medical staff members in order to protect patient welfare and improve patient care. This program will discuss causes of physician burnout and provide physicians with the tools they need to develop robust medical staff wellness programs.
Lessons Learned: Optimizing Physician Leadership in the Clinical Integration of Medical Practices and Hospitals (2.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)

9 a.m. – noon Friday, June 5, Crystal Ballroom A

Hosted by the Integrated Physician Practice Section (IPPS)

A physician led governance structure can foster a culture with a strong focus on patient care. This educational session will feature physician leaders from various settings, all with a record of success in creating a culture of physician leadership, including:

- Linda Leckman, MD, VP Intermountain Healthcare and CEO of Intermountain Medical Group, Intermountain Healthcare
- Lee Sacks, MD, EVP Advocate Health Care, CMO Advocate Physician Partners
- Barbara Spivak, MD, president and board chair, Mt Auburn Cambridge IPA

Following the faculty presentations, participants will divide into smaller sessions to delve deeper into the subject and network with other physicians working toward the same goals of physician-led, integrated care.

Social Media Guru Bar (Follow #AMAMTG)

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday, June 5, Regency Ballroom Foyer

Hosted by the AMA Sections & Special Group and AMA New Media

Are you getting the most you can out of social media? Once thought to be a trend, it has become a powerful tool that is not going away any time soon. Curious about using social media professionally or personally, but don’t know where to begin or how to use it more effectively? Would you like to more effectively use social media to stay informed on hot topics, implement community-level interventions, or promote awareness campaigns? Whether you are a social media novice or a maven, all AMA members are encouraged to stop by the Social Media Guru Bar with their laptops and other smart devices to obtain assistance and share best practices.

Know Your Brand: Defining Your Professional Social Media Presence

1–2:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, Gold Coast

Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

This session will discuss how to recognize and avoid ethical missteps and professional blunders, as well as how to strengthen your online brand to your advantage. Attendees will leave knowing the power they have to shape their future practice, as well as to promote public health, through the use of social media. The guest speaker will be Randa Zalman, chief strategy officer, Redstone Advertising.

Taking the Pulse of Trainees: Results from the ACGME Studies on Resident Wellness

1:30–2:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, Regency Ballroom D

Hosted by the Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) will present data on determinants of resident well-being from 2013-2014 national survey data.

The AMA’s Advocacy Efforts: Physicians’ Voice in Washington

1:45–2:45 p.m. Friday, June 5, Crystal Ballroom B

Hosted by the Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

Richard Deem, AMA senior vice president for Advocacy, will provide an update on AMA advocacy efforts on issues affecting medical staffs and on other issues of interest to physicians.
Modern Approaches to Quality Improvement  
2–3 p.m. Friday, June 5, Acapulco  
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

The program will focus on quality improvement in healthcare and specific methodologies for achieving improved quality. Presenters for this session will be Kathleen Blake, MD, MPH, vice president, AMA Performance Improvement; and Stephen Davidow, MBA-HCM, CPHQ, APR, quality improvement program manager, AMA Performance Improvement.

*Stepping Up the Pace: Moving Toward Value-based Payment (1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)  
2–3:15 p.m. Friday, June 5, Crystal Ballroom A  
Hosted by the Integrated Physician Practice Section (IPPS) in collaboration with the American Medical Group Association (AMGA)

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services (HHS) announced ambitious goals and timelines for moving both Medicare and the private sector toward value based payments. To help physicians understand the impact of these changes Stephen Ondra, MD, senior vice president and enterprise chief medical officer, Health Care Service Corporation, and Grace Terrell, MD, president and CEO, Cornerstone Healthcare, will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of moving to pay for value. The program will be co-moderated by James Madara, MD, EVP and CEO, AMA; and Donald Fisher, PhD, president and CEO, American Medical Group Association.

A Look Ahead: How Changes in Medicare will Affect You  
3–4 p.m. Friday, June 5, Gold Coast  
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, several amendments have been made to Medicare quality measures. These changes along with ongoing legislative efforts surrounding Medicare create numerous implications for how physicians will practice. This program aims to inform participants about Medicare changes and the impact upon stakeholders within healthcare. David O. Barbe, MD, MHA, AMA immediate past chair, will present.

Clinical Innovation: Technology and the Patient-Physician Relationship  
4–5 p.m. Friday, June 5, Acapulco  
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

It can be challenging to optimize critical communications between patients, physicians and entire healthcare teams in the fast-paced and stressful setting of the clinic. The importance of clear communication and strong relationships in this setting make it imperative to develop tools to improve current conditions. Join this interactive workshop to find creative ways to leverage modern technology to develop novel solutions to this problem. This session will be presented by Randa Zalman, chief strategy officer, Redstone Advertising.

An Arm and a Leg: Why New Drugs are so Costly  
5–6 p.m. Friday, June 5, Regency Ballroom A–C  
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

Pharmaceutical development in the modern era is a complex process involving myriad cost generating steps, including research and development, manufacturing, marketing and product surveillance. This multitude of steps may result in burdensome end-user costs. Come learn about the factors that affect the ultimate costs of the newest blockbuster pharmaceutical. The guest speaker will be Raymond Urbanski, MD, PhD.
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Core Competencies on LGBT Health
5:30–7 p.m. Friday, June 5, Buckingham
Hosted by the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues

Kristen L. Eckstrand, PhD, and Brian Hurley, MD, MBA, members of the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Issues, will lead an educational session to address the newly released AAMC Core Competencies on LGBT Health and how to implement them at your institutions. All Annual Meeting attendees and their guests are welcome to attend this educational session.

AMA Focus Area Update: Enhancing Professional Satisfaction and Practice Sustainability
7:30–8:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Crystal Ballroom B
Hosted by the Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS)

Learn how the AMA is working to advance health care delivery and payment models that enable high-quality, affordable care and restore and preserve physician professional satisfaction.

*American Board of Medical Specialties’ Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program: The Now and the Future (1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)
7:30–8:45 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Crystal Ballroom A
Hosted by the Section on Medical Schools (SMS)

This session features a review of the current status of the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). A reactor panel will provide additional perspectives. The first reactor will offer a case study of how one ABMS board is seeking to address concerns about its MOC program and make it more workable and transparent for participants. The second reactor will provide the perspective of young physicians, who are facing a lifetime of MOC and therefore, want to ensure that it is a fair and effective program.

Presenters include Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA, president and chief executive officer, American Board of Medical Specialties; Richard Baron, MD, president and chief executive officer, American Board of Internal Medicine; and Joshua Cohen, MD, director of education, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, Roosevelt, and St. Luke’s Hospitals, and chair, AMA Young Physicians Section Committee on Maintenance of Certification and Maintenance of Licensure.

Innovations in Resident Well-being
8:45–9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Regency Ballroom D
Hosted by the Resident and Fellow Section (RFS)

Connect with international medical associations, industry experts, and colleagues to learn the latest approaches to improving resident wellness and participate in the initiative going forward.

Social Media Guru Bar
8–11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Regency Ballroom Foyer
Hosted by the AMA Sections & Special Group and AMA New Media

Refer to earlier description on Friday.

*Physicians Leading for Quality and Safety (1.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)
8:45–10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Crystal Ballroom B
Hosted by the Organized Medical Staff Section (OMSS) in coordination with The Joint Commission and National Association Medical Staff Services (NAMSS)

This program will explore the fundamental relationship between physician leadership / engagement and improved quality and safety. The program will also describe a variety of strategies and tools that physician
leaders can use to improve quality and safety in their organizations. Finally, using an interactive group activity, the program will demonstrate how medical staff and other physician leaders can effectively leverage ordinary processes such as peer review to improve quality and safety within their organizations.

**The Impact of Sex and Gender on Health: It’s More than Just the Hormones**
9–10 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Hong Kong
*Hosted by the Women Physicians Section (WPS)*

Sex and gender are increasingly being identified as key factors to consider when diagnosing, treating, and preventing most medical conditions. Contrary to popular belief, the role of being male or female on health extends beyond the impact of sex hormones. Despite substantial research in this area, these sex- and gender-based differences are not consistently addressed in medical practice, significantly impacting the health of both women and men. Kim Templeton, MD, vice-chair of AMA-WPS, will present.

**The Growing Number of Unmatched Medical Students: Is It a Crisis? What Are the Options?**
(1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)
9–10:15 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Crystal Ballroom A
*Hosted by the Section on Medical Schools (SMS)*

This session will examine the rising number of unmatched US medical school graduates, using data from the annual Match. Reactors will contribute their perspectives on options for unmatched students and suggestions for mitigating the numbers of unmatched students in the future. These include better counseling of students as to their options as well as a more holistic approach to medical school admissions, which encompasses looking beyond the applicant’s CV, test scores, and grades to consider the whole person, including background, personal story, social qualities, and emotional intelligence. This approach may have a beneficial impact on subsequent match rates for such applicants.

Presenters include Geoffrey Young, PhD, program leader, Group on Student Affairs, Association of American Medical Colleges; Kathleen Kashima, PhD, senior associate dean of students, University of Illinois College of Medicine; and Betty Drees, MD, SMS liaison to the AMA Council on Medical Education.

**Social Media Guru Bar**
1–6 p.m., Saturday, June 6, Grand Ballroom Foyer
*Hosted by the AMA Sections & Special Group and AMA New Media*

Refer to earlier description on Friday.

**Medical Student Debt – If I Knew Then What I Know Now**
10–11 a.m. Saturday, June 6, Hong Kong
*Hosted by the Senior Physicians Section (SPS)*

The increased cost of undergraduate medical education and decreasing availability of financial aid has resulted in the accumulation of large debt for medical students. Join this engaging conversation with the Senior Physician Section Governing Council to discuss solutions to alleviate medical student debt.

**The New Science of Unconscious Bias**
11 a.m.– noon Saturday, June 6, Stetson D
*Hosted by the Minority Affairs Section (MAS)*

David Hunt, Esq., an expert on diversity and cultural competence in healthcare, will address issues of racial and ethnic disparities in health care and the legal aspects of providing culturally and linguistically appropriate care in the context of unconscious bias. He will discuss the Harvard Implicit Bias Test, a tool that helps to uncover hidden cognitive biases, which may unknowingly distort the objective evaluation and
treatment of others based upon race, gender, religion, culture, etc. Mr. Hunt will then explore behavioral steps to help interrupt some of those biases in physicians’ performance and interactions. Space is limited for this session.

*The Aging Physician: Possibilities and Perils (1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™)
Noon–1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6, Columbus K–L
Hosted by the Senior Physicians Section (SPS)

Recent surveys of physicians indicate that late-career physicians, compared to those in early- or mid-career, are generally the most satisfied and have the lowest rates of distress. Practicing medicine is often the core of the senior physician’s identity. Limiting one’s practice or retiring can challenge one’s sense of purpose and self-image and physicians frequently struggle with retiring gracefully. In this educational session, the difficulties and gratifications of the golden years will be discussed. Research on successful aging will be considered and recommendations offered.

The featured speaker is Glen O. Gabbard, MD, Clinical College of Psychiatry, Baylor College of Medicine. The moderator is Barbara S. Schneidman, MD, MPH, SPS Governing Council. Reaction panelists are Louis J. Kraus, MD, Council on Science and Public Health; David J. Welsh, MD, Organized Medical Staff Section; and Lt. Colonel Ronit B. Katz, MD, International Medical Graduates Section. The facilitator is Nancy W. Dickey, MD, former AMA president.

To Defer or Not To Defer…That is the Question (Student Loan Repayment Demystified)
1–2 p.m. Saturday, June 6, Regency Ballroom A–C
Hosted by the Medical Student Section (MSS)

Understand the basics of what you need to know and how to manage your student loans after graduation. Confused about repayment strategies, federal loan forgiveness, income base repayment, income contingent repayment, and pay as you earn? This session will help you understand all of the recent changes and what might be coming in the near future. Additionally, this session will cover at a high level how to start and set up a monthly budget once you start residency.

Social Media Guru Bar
9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday, June 7 and 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday, June 8, Grand Ballroom Foyer
Hosted by the AMA Sections & Special Group and AMA New Media

Refer to earlier description on Friday.

Busharat Ahmad, MD, Leadership Development Program
10:30–11:30 a.m. Monday, June 8, San Francisco
Hosted by the International Medical Graduate Section (IMGS)

The Busharat Ahmad, MD, Leadership Development program will feature two speakers to build efficient physician leaders and educate physicians on how to remain sustainable in a changing medical practice environment. Christine Sinsky, MD, FACP, vice president of AMA Professional Satisfaction, will present "The joy of practice; and Lisa Shah, MD, MPP, senior vice president, Practice Optimization, Evolent Health will present Loss of physician leadership: Changing role of the physician in our current environment."

Social Media Guru Bar
9 a.m.–noon, Tuesday, June 9, Grand Ballroom Foyer
Hosted by the AMA Sections & Special Group and AMA New Media

Refer to earlier description on Friday.
Medical Student Section
The AMA Medical Student Section (MSS) will hold its 12th annual Medical Specialty Showcase from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in the Riverside Exhibit Hall. Over 50 specialties represented in the AMA-HOD will be in attendance to provide an introduction to their field and offer materials to assist medical students in making career decisions. The showcase presents an excellent opportunity for students to network with residents and physicians in their desired specialty. You can help educate the next generation of physicians. If interested, visit ama-assn.org/go/specialtyshowcase.

The AMA-MSS, along with the Minority Affairs Section, will also hold a national service project on Friday morning, June 5. Inspire the next generation of physicians at the AMA Doctors Back to School™ Improving Health Outcomes Together Event. Share your passion for your profession with elementary and high school students. Everyone attending the Annual Meeting is invited to participate in this inspiring event. Bus transportation will depart at 7:30 a.m. from Stetson Avenue and return by noon.

Young Physicians Section
The AMA Young Physicians Section (YPS) holds a virtual reference committee prior to its Assembly to solicit testimony and comments on pending business. Young physician members are encouraged to submit online testimony in advance of the Assembly. AMA-YPS agenda and items of business can be found online at ama-assn.org/go/ypsmeeting.

The AMA-YPS will provide a new member orientation / parliamentary procedure briefing from 7:30 to 8 a.m. Friday, June 5 in Skyway 265. The AMA-YPS Assembly begins at 8:45 a.m. Friday, June 5 in Crystal Ballroom C. In addition to the regular business meeting, the section will be conducting elections for chair-elect, speaker and alternate delegate.

The AMA-YPS will hold its caucus at 6 p.m. Sunday, June 7 in Skyway 269, and the MSS-RFS-YPS Joint Caucus will take place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Monday, June 8 in the Crystal Ballrooms B–C.

Women Physicians Section
The AMA Women Physicians Section (WPS) business meeting and reception will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in Columbus E–F. The business meeting will include a review of AMA-HOD Handbook items as well as a presentation by Carrie Butt, assistant editor, JAMA.

Also, the AMA-WPS will be hosting its liaison breakfast and meeting for all WPS members from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Skyway 269. Participants will discuss issues concerning women physicians and their patients, topics for future AMA-WPS educational sessions and plans for the September’s “Women in Medicine” month.

Minority Affairs Section
The AMA Minority Affairs Section (MAS) will launch its annual meeting with a Doctors Back to School™ program on Friday, June 5. Volunteer physicians and members of the Medical Student Section will collaborate during this national service project to visit local elementary and middle schools in Chicago. The goal is to share their passion for their profession, encourage healthy lifestyles and encourage minority students to consider careers in medicine. Bus transportation will depart at 7:30 a.m. from Stetson Avenue and return by noon.

At 4:45 p.m., the AMA-MAS Governing Council, along with the AMA Foundation, will present the 21 recipients of the 2015 Minority Scholars Awards in Columbus K–L. Afterward, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, who serves as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, will highlight the legislative priorities and provide updates on initiatives that address health disparities. Attendees will also discuss the items of business before the AMA-HOD.

If you have questions or wish to attend any AMA-MAS events, email mas@ama-assn.org or call Craig Johnson at (312) 464-4335. You can also visit ama-assn.org/go/mas.
The AMA International Medical Graduates Section (IMGS) cordially invites all section members and their guests to attend its 18th Annual Congress, Desserts Reception and Caucus meetings.

The IMGS Congress meeting and reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in the Toronto Room. Featured speakers will be Ms. Lisa Cover, Vice President of Operations and Business Development at ECFMG, who will provide an ECFMG update; and Gamini Soori, MD, Vice Chair of the AMA’s Council on Long Range Planning and Development and a member of the Council on Graduate Medical Education, who will provide a presentation on Graduate medical education in crisis.

The AMA-IMGS 9th Annual Desserts from Around the World Reception will be held 9:30–11:00 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in the Crystal Ballroom. This tasty affair, with international flair, will feature entertainment and the fortune cookie surprise.

The AMA-IMGS Delegates Caucus review of reference committee reports will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Skyway 273.

All meeting attendees are welcome to attend any AMA-IMGS meeting or event. For more information call Carolyn Carter-Ellis at (312) 464-5397, e-mail img@ama-assn.org or visit the IMGS website for more information.

Exhibits

**AMA exhibits**
The Annual Meeting will feature multiple exhibits outside the Grand Ballroom. Stop by to provide your feedback on how the AMA can support your practice or pick up a free copy of *JAMA*. You will also have the opportunity to take advantage of AMA discounts on products and services that assist physicians both personally and professionally. Visit the exhibits to see what’s new and to learn more.

**AMA Foundation booth**
Visit the AMA Foundation booth to learn how its physician-directed charitable programs are helping people live healthier lives. Last year, thanks to its generous and loyal donors, the AMAF disbursed nearly $1 million in medical scholarships, research grants, assistance to free clinics and health education programs. Discover the impact of your gift and complete a short survey to help shape the future of the AMAF and become eligible to win an Apple Watch *Sport*. Additionally, help improve the health of Americans by making a gift to support high-impact public health and medical education initiatives. For additional information, please call (312) 464-4200.

**STEPS Forward Launch**
Our AMA’s Professional Satisfaction and Practice Sustainability unit is proud to announce the public launch of STEPS Forward. The STEPS Forward transformation series is a collection of interactive, educational online modules developed to help physicians address common practice challenges. These modules help improve efficiency and enhance patient care, physician satisfaction and practice sustainability. Each module includes: steps to implementation, case studies and downloadable tools and resources. Physicians can claim CME credit for each module. Visit the STEPS Forward booth outside of the main ballroom and go to stepsforward.org online.
Special Events

Social media guru bar
Hosted by the AMA sections and special group and AMA New Media, this booth will be available daily from Friday, June 5 through Tuesday, June 9. On Friday and again Saturday morning, the guru bar will be located in the Regency Foyer; starting Saturday afternoon, it will be located in the Grand Foyer.

Follow hashtag #AMAMTG to join the conversation and visit the booth for help in getting the most out of social media. Details are found in the section listings above.

AMA Foundation donor reception to celebrate and honor donors
The AMA Foundation Annual Donor Reception recognizes and thanks generous supporters who made a new gift or pledge in 2014. You made it possible for the AMA Foundation to provide nearly $1 million in grants and scholarships, including 48 public health awards, 34 scholarships, and 32 seed research grants. Join your colleagues from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 5 in Crystal Ballroom A to celebrate and meet Excellence in Medicine Award recipients and Minority Scholars Award winners. If you’ve not already done so, please renew your annual support today and join your friends and colleagues at this special reception.

If you received an invitation by mail, RSVP by May 30. If you did not receive an invitation, but wish to attend the event, please email amafoundation@ama-assn.org or call (312) 464-4200 to make a donation and RSVP for the reception.

Ron Davis Memorial 5K run/walk
The 6th Annual Ron Davis Memorial 5K run/walk will take place at 6 a.m. Saturday, June 6. Interested parties should meet near the motor entrance on the Gold Level in the East Tower of the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Catholic Mass
Father Dan Costello will celebrate Catholic Mass at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 in Columbus C–D.

Share your experience as a small practice physician
The Private Practice Physicians Congress (PPPC) invites you to join AMA staff in Columbus E–F for a research project aimed at conducting live interviews with practicing physicians in solo or small practice (1 to 10 physicians) settings at 9–10:30 a.m. Monday, June 8, immediately prior to the PPC meeting. AMA staff will discuss a pre-defined series of questions to help identify gaps in the practical side of patient care. Topics covered during the interview will include physicians’ challenges, current and future health care trends, real and perceived impacts of EHR and other relevant themes affecting your daily life and the lives of people around you.

If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please RSVP to giulia.merola@ama-assn.org by May 29. If you have questions or if you would like to discuss this effort, you may also call Giulia at (312) 464-5323.

Attend a financial planning seminar
From 10 to 11 a.m. Monday, June 8 in Regency Ballroom B, the AMA Foundation and AMA Insurance are co-sponsoring a financial planning seminar called Smart strategies to create a personal and professional legacy. Paul Vogel, President and CEO at Argos Partners, LLC, will discuss the important financial decisions to make in the pre- and post-retirement years, with a focus on key aspects of creating an estate plan and ideas on legacy planning and charitable gifting strategies. Mr. Vogel is a certified public accountant and a practicing attorney and works with a number of physicians to satisfy their financial planning needs. If you have questions, please email Jane.Erb@ama-assn.org.
**Dermatologists to sponsor skin cancer screening**

Join the American Academy of Dermatology, along with the Society for Investigative Dermatology, American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association and the American College of Mohs Surgery for a free skin cancer screening. While approximately one person dies of melanoma every hour, skin cancer, including melanoma, is highly treatable when detected early. To reduce the number of deaths from skin cancer, board-certified dermatologists will be providing free skin cancer screenings to catch skin cancer in its earliest, most treatable stages.

The screening will be located in Riverside Center B (near the AMA staff area) from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, June 8.

**NOTES:**
The following list is provided for your convenience. All items mentioned in the Speakers’ Letter are included along with other items that might be of interest. (Items listed in bold are official AMA-HOD sessions, reference committees or programs.)

All events are at the Hyatt Regency Chicago unless indicated by italics.

Activities offering continuing medical education credit are preceded by an asterisk (*).

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>4–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Future of networking for military and federally-sponsored medical students</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<td>Deadline for receipt of not-for-official-business items</td>
<td>AMA staff area</td>
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<td>*Medical Staff Governance: Challenges when Integrating Employed and Independent Physicians</td>
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**Thursday, June 4**

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<td>7 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-HOD registration</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
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<td>7:30–8 a.m.</td>
<td>Young Physicians Section orientation and program on parliamentary procedure</td>
<td>Skyway 265</td>
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<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Departure for Doctors Back to School event</td>
<td>Stetson Avenue Entrance</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Doctors Back to School™</td>
<td>Chicago Public Schools</td>
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<td>Social Media Guru Bar</td>
<td>Regency Foyer</td>
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<td>*Optimizing Physician Leadership in the Clinical Integration of Medical Practices and Hospitals</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
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<td>1–2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Know your brand: defining your professional social media presence</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
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<td>1–2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Results from the acgme studies on resident wellness</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom D</td>
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<td>AMA’s advocacy efforts</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom B</td>
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<td>2–3 p.m.</td>
<td>Modern approaches to quality improvement</td>
<td>Acapulco</td>
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<tr>
<td>2–3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>*Stepping up the pace: Moving toward value-based payment</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–5 p.m.</td>
<td>OSMAP membership meeting</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4 p.m.</td>
<td>How changes in Medicare will affect you</td>
<td>Gold Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Moving from time-based to competency-based education</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Technology and the patient-physician relationship</td>
<td>Acapulco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Minority Scholars Awards</td>
<td>Columbus K–L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>OSMAP reception</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–6 p.m.</td>
<td>An arm and a leg: Why new drugs are so costly</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom A–C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5–7 p.m.</td>
<td>Association of American Medical Colleges core competencies on LGBT health</td>
<td>Buckingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA Foundation donor reception</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All events are at the Hyatt Regency Chicago unless otherwise indicated. Items preceded by an asterisk (*) are designated for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 a.m.</td>
<td>Ron Davis Memorial run/walk</td>
<td>Motor entrance, east tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-HOD registration</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–9 a.m.</td>
<td>Surgical Caucus Handbook review</td>
<td>Comiskey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30–8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Enhancing professional satisfaction and practice sustainability</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30–8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>*American Board of Medical Specialties’ MOC program:</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45–9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Innovations in resident well-being</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45–10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>*Physicians leading for quality and safety</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10 a.m.</td>
<td>Impact of sex and gender on health: It’s more than just the hormones</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10:15 p.m.</td>
<td>*The growing number of unmatched medical students</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Social Media Guru Bar</td>
<td>Regency Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 a.m.</td>
<td>Medical student debt – If I knew then what I know now</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>CEJA open house on modernized Code</td>
<td>Columbus C–D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.–noon</td>
<td>The new science of unconscious bias</td>
<td>Stetson D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Medical Specialty Showcase</td>
<td>Riverside Exhibit Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon–1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>*The aging physician: Possibilities and perils</td>
<td>Columbus K–L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–6 p.m.</td>
<td>Social Media Guru Bar</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 p.m.</td>
<td>To defer or not to defer, student loan repayment demystified</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom A–C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–6 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Opening Session</strong></td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Women Physicians Section business meeting</td>
<td>Columbus E–F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30–7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>International Medical Graduates Section congress and reception</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Catholic Mass</td>
<td>Columbus C–D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–11 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-IMGs desserts from around the world</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Saturday, June 6**

**Sunday, June 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-HOD registration</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Second Opening</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.–noon</td>
<td>Reference committee hearings, morning sessions</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Social Media Guru Bar</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Reference committee hearings, afternoon sessions</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-YPS caucus</td>
<td>Skyway 269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30–7 p.m.</td>
<td>Obesity Caucus</td>
<td>Columbus E–F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday, June 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-HOD registration</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–9 a.m.</td>
<td>*Ligation Center</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Women Physicians Section liaison breakfast</td>
<td>Skyway 269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9 a.m.</td>
<td>*Accelerating Change in Medical Education</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8–9 a.m.</td>
<td>AMA Insurance: Six traits of financially prepared women physicians</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30–9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>AMA-IMGs caucus</td>
<td>Skyway 273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10 a.m.</td>
<td>*Improving Health Outcomes: Turnkey Tools</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10 a.m.</td>
<td>*Council on Medical Education: Education of physician assistants</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9–10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Interviews with physicians in solo or small practice - Reservation required</td>
<td>Columbus E–F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
<td>Social Media Guru Bar</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–11 a.m.</td>
<td>Joint caucus of AMA-MSS, AMA-RFS and AMA-YPS</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom B–C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–11 a.m.</td>
<td>*CEJA Open Forum</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–11 a.m.</td>
<td>Academic Medicine Caucus</td>
<td>Columbus H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 a.m.</td>
<td>*How good medical records can keep you out of court and our of jail</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 a.m.</td>
<td>*Surgical Caucus: Surgical quality at the grassroots</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 a.m.</td>
<td>Malpractice reform; Behind the scenes</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–11 a.m.</td>
<td>AMA Foundation &amp; AMA Insurance financial planning seminar</td>
<td>Regency Ballroom B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30–1:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Busharat Ahmad, MD, Leadership Development Program</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.–noon</td>
<td>Private Practice Physicians Congress</td>
<td>Columbus I–J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 a.m.–2 p.m.</td>
<td>AAD, SID, ASDSA &amp; ACMS skin cancer screening</td>
<td>Riverside B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–6 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>HOD business session</strong></td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Location†</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 a.m.–6 p.m.</td>
<td>AMA-HOD registration</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30–8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Elections</td>
<td>Columbus K–L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 a.m.–noon</td>
<td>Social Media Guru Bar</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 a.m.–3 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOD business session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grand Ballroom</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Inaugural, Steven J. Stack, MD</td>
<td>Crystal Ballroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Inaugural reception</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Inaugural dinner dance</td>
<td>Grand Ballroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday, June 9**

**Wednesday, June 10**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 a.m.–noon</td>
<td>AMA-HOD registration</td>
<td>Grand Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 a.m.–noon</strong></td>
<td><strong>HOD business session</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grand Ballroom</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>