

**AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES
DERMATOLOGY SECTION COUNCIL
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
November 12-16, 2021**

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On November 12-16, 2021, your AMA Dermatology Section Council (DSC) actively participated in the AMA S-21, the Virtual Special Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (HOD). The following report reflects all items pertinent to that meeting.

DERMATOLOGY SECTION COUNCIL

Dermatology is well represented in the AMA HOD by the AMA Dermatology Section Council (DSC), which includes dermatologists representing the following organizations:

- American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA)
- American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA)
- Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID)
- American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS)
- American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP)

The DSC also includes dermatologists who represent their state medical societies and the armed services. The DSC is the collective voice of dermatology; members deliberate regarding the issues before the HOD, determine a position, collaborate with other organizations to garner support for our positions, attempt to mitigate opposition prior to debate on the floor of the HOD, provide testimony when appropriate, and vote collaboratively to increase the specialty's influence.

DSC Members are as follows:

Cyndi Yag-Howard, MD	AAD Delegate, Chair
Hillary Johnson-Jahangir, MD, PhD	AAD Delegate, Vice Chair
Andrew Lazar, MD	AAD Delegate
Marta Van Beek, MD	AAD Delegate
Sabra Sullivan, MD, PhD	AAD Alt. Delegate
Adam Rubin, MD	AAD Alt. Delegate
Lindsay Ackerman, MD	AAD Alt. Delegate
Seemal Desai, MD	AAD Alt. Delegate
Jon ("Klint") Peebles, MD	AAD YPS Delegate (Young Physician Section)
Mariam Totonchy, MD	AAD YPS Delegate (Young Physician Section)
Luisa Christensen, MD	AAD RFS Delegate (Resident Fellow Section)
Gaurav Singh, MD, MPH	AAD RFS Delegate (Resident Fellow Section)
Aderonke Obayomi, MD	AAD RFS Delegate (Resident Fellow Section)
Jessica Krant, MD, MPH	ASDSA Delegate
Anthony Rossi, MD	ASDSA Delegate
Chad Prather, MD	ASDSA Alt. Delegate
M. Laurin Council, MD	ASDSA Alt. Delegate
Rachel Kylo, MD	ASDSA YPS Delegate
Erica Dommasch, MD	SID Delegate
Daniel Bennett, MD	SID Alt. Delegate
Michel McDonald, MD	ACMS Delegate
Divya Srivastava, MD	ACMS Alt. Delegate
Nita Kohli, MD	ACMS YPS Delegate
Melissa Piliang, MD	ASDP Delegate
Karl Napekoski, MD	ASDP Alt. Delegate
Billie Jackson, MD	State Society Delegate (GA)
Cindy Smith, MD	State Society Delegate (MN)

Lawrence Cheung, MD	State Society Alt. Delegate (CA)
Todd Schlesinger, MD	State Society Alt. Delegate (SC)
George Hruza, MD, MBA	State Society Alt. Delegate (MO) / ASLMS Delegate (SSS)
Brett Coldiron, MD	State Society Alt. Delegate (OH)
Elizabeth Muennich, MD	State Society Alt. Delegate (OH)
Shannon Trotter, DO	State Society Alt. Delegate (OH)
CDR Josephine Nguyen, MD	State Society Alt. Delegate (VA)
Eric Millican, MD	State Society YPS Delegate (UT)
Donald Posner, MD	State Society (LA)
Vineet Mishra, MD	American Vein and Lymphatic Society Alt. Delegate
Ricardo Mejia, MD	Intl Society of Hair Restoration Surgery Alt. Delegate
Jack Resneck, Jr., MD	AMA Board of Trustees
Christopher Shea, MD	Assoc. of Professors of Derm. Delegate (SSS)
Bruce Brod, MD, MHCI	American Contact Dermatitis Society Delegate (SSS)
Rania Agha, MD, FAACS	American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery YPS Delegate

Dermatologists Involved in AMA HOD Leadership Roles

- Jack Resneck, Jr., MD, is President-Elect of the AMA and will assume the office of AMA President in June 2022.
- Adam Rubin, MD, serves on the Specialty and Service Society (SSS) Governing Council and is running for a seat on the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws.
- Jessica Krant, MD, served on the AMA Election Reform Task Force, currently serves on the Surgical Caucus Executive Committee as Secretary of the Surgical Caucus, and chairs the Surgical Caucus Nominating Committee.
- George Hruza, MD, served on the SSS Governing Council and was appointed to the AMA Election Committee.
- Hillary Johnson-Jahangir, MD, PhD, served on the SSS Reference Committee and is an appointee to the Women's Equity and Leadership (WEL) project (a multiorganizational collaboration between the AMA, specialty organizations, and medical leadership organizations).
- Marta Van Beek, MD, PhD, serves on the AMA Council of Legislation.

AMA HOD RESOLUTIONS OF IMPORTANCE TO DERMATOLOGY

Resolution 212/221/224/225—Sequestration/Improve Physician Payments

To address the looming nearly 10% cuts to physician Medicare payments, the following resolution passed:

*RESOLVED, That our AMA will: (a) continue to prioritize and actively pursue vigorous and strategic advocacy to prevent sequester and other cuts in Medicare payments due to take effect on January 1, 2022; (b) seek positive inflation-adjusted annual **physician payment** updates that keep pace with rising practice costs; (c) ensure Medicare **physician** payments are sufficient to safeguard beneficiary access to care; (d) work towards the elimination of budget neutrality requirements within Medicare Part B; (e) eliminate, replace, or supplement budget neutrality in MIPS with positive incentive payments; (f) advocate strongly to the current administration and Congress that additional funds must be put into the Medicare **physician payment** system to address increasing costs of **physician** practices, and that continued budget neutrality is not an option; and (g) advocate for **payment** policies that allow the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to retroactively adjust overestimates of volume of services.*

Resolution 234—Permitting the Dispensing of Stock Medications for Post Discharge Patient Use and the Safe Use of Multi-dose Medications for Multiple Patients

To help eliminate medication waste, particularly upon hospital discharge, the following resolution passed:

RESOLVED, That our AMA work with the Food and Drug Administration, national specialty societies, state medical societies and/or other interested parties to advocate for legislative and regulatory language that permits the practice of using multi dose medications, such as eye drops, injectables and topical medications in accordance with safe handling and dispensing protocols that help ensure patient safety, minimize duplicated patient costs, and reduce medication waste.

Resolution 502—Advocating for Heat Exposure Protections for Outdoor Workers

To protect workers from heat and sun exposure injuries, the following resolution passed:

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association (AMA) advocate for all workers to have access to preventative cool-down rest periods in shaded, ventilated, and/or cooled areas for prevention of injury from sun exposure and heat injury as well as appropriate access to emergency services when signs and symptoms of heat exposure injury appear;

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for legislation that creates federal standards for protections against heat stress and sun exposure specific to the hazards of the workplace;

RESOLVED, That our AMA support policy change at the federal level via legislation or administrative rule changes by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that would require that workers receive health educational materials about prevention and recognition of heat exhaustion and heat exposure injury that is in the worker's primary language;

RESOLVED, That our AMA work with the United States Department of Labor, OSHA, and other appropriate federal stakeholders to develop and enforce evidence-based policies, guidelines, and protections against heat injury for outdoor workers independent of legal status; and

RESOLVED, That our AMA recognize there are particular medical conditions and medications, including but not limited to psychotropics, which increase an individual's vulnerability to the negative impacts of heat and sun exposure and advocate for recognition of this, as well as additional protections as part of any guidelines, legislation or other policies.

Resolution 505—Representation of Dermatological Pathologies in Varying Skin Tones

To address the need for greater diversity in dermatology educational materials and increase the chance for early detection of skin cancer and other dermatologic pathologies, the following resolution passed:

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association encourage comprehensive, inclusive and equitable representation of a diverse range of skin tones in all dermatologic and other relevant medical educational resources for medical students, physicians, non-physician healthcare providers and patients.

Additional resolution topics of interest from the meeting are summarized below:

Drug Pricing and Transparency

The AMA will support efforts to publish a standardized real-time prescription benefit (RTPB) tool in electronic health records (EHRs) to help patients and physicians make cost-informed decisions on prescription drugs.

Electronic Funds Transfer Fees

Health insurers are required to offer network physicians a no-charge option for electronic funds transfer, however some physicians are being inappropriately charged for those transactions. Based on actions of the AMA HOD, the AMA will advocate for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to enforce the HIPAA administrative simplification requirements and elimination of health plan fees for electronic claims or payment.

Strengthening Public Health Systems

The lack of infrastructure of the U.S public health systems resulted in delayed detection and response efforts. The AMA is committed to improving and modernizing our public health infrastructure to appropriately respond to the health needs of the community. Based on actions of the HOD, the AMA will facilitate development of an organization-wide strategy on public health to strengthen the health and public health system.

Rural Health Education and Training

Rural communities continue to face physician shortages across medical specialties, widening the existing gaps in patient care. The AMA is dedicated to addressing the rural physician workforce shortages by increasing exposure and developing training programs, eliminating health inequities, and removing barriers to access to care in the rural patient population.

Adolescent Telehealth

Telehealth utilization and services may present challenges in providing confidential care to adolescents, who need the privacy and space to discuss sensitive issues with physicians without a parent present. To address these concerns, Delegates amended existing policy encouraging physicians to recognize the unique confidentiality concerns of adolescents and their parents associated with telehealth visits and offer private spaces in a telehealth setting for a separate examination and counseling apart from others.

ONLINE RESOURCES FROM THE MEETING

Proceedings

The Proceedings from the November 2021 Special Meeting of the House of Delegates have been posted on the AMA website at [Proceedings of the November 2021 Special Meeting of the House of Delegates | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](https://www.ama-assn.org/about/proceedings). Proceedings for previous HOD meetings are also available online and can be accessed by visiting [Archive of the House of Delegates Meetings | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](https://www.ama-assn.org/about/proceedings). Updated policies can be found at <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder>.

Highlights

Additional highlights from the November 2021 AMA Special Meeting can be found here: [Highlights from the November 2021 AMA Special Meeting | American Medical Association \(ama-assn.org\)](https://www.ama-assn.org/about/proceedings)

AMA HOD Health Equity Forum

The AMA HOD Health Equity Forum featured a discussion between Heather McGhee, JD, author of *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* and AMA President-Elect, dermatologist Jack Resneck, MD. This was followed by a moderated conversation about the [AMA's Strategic Plan to Embed Racial Justice and Advance Health Equity](#) with well-known, respected equity experts and scholars.

Delegate members had the opportunity to discuss the equity plan, highlighting the importance and evolution of language and concepts, and the impact AMA has in centering equity as a strategy.

The full recording can be found here: <https://www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/special-meeting/ama-house-delegates-health-equity-forum>. Please note you must be an AMA member and have an AMA account to access this content.