The American Medical Association (AMA) held its Interim meeting of the House of Delegates (HOD) November 10-13 in National Harbor, MD. Below is a summary of that meeting, during which the Dermatology Section Council (DSC) met.

Dermatology is well represented in the AMA HOD by the DSC, which includes dermatologists representing the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA), the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association (ASDSA), the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID), the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS), American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP), the Contact Dermatology Society (CDS), the American College of Phlebology (ACP), state medical societies, the armed services, the Young Physician Section and the Resident Physician Section. The names of your DSC members are listed at the end of this document.

The DSC is the collective voice of dermatology. Members author resolutions, 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. The DSC’s success in the AMA HOD is remarkable, and is due to the stellar dedication and collaborative efforts of our DSC members and staff, as well as the much appreciated participation of our AAD President, Dr. Suzanne Olbricht.

DERMATOLOGY SECTION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
Graduate Medical Education (GME): This year, the DSC authored one resolution on GME funding. The first two resolved clauses were adopted into policy:

- That our AMA collaborate with appropriate stakeholder organizations to advocate for preservation of VHA funding for graduate medical education (GME) and support its efforts to expand GME residency positions in the federal budget and appropriations process.
- That our AMA oppose service obligations linked to VHA GME residency or fellowship positions, particularly for resident physicians rotating through the VA for only a portion of their GME training.

The third resolve, which was referred to the Board for consideration asked the AMA to oppose service obligations linked to VHA GME residency or fellowship positions, particularly for resident physicians rotating through the VA for only a portion of their GME training.

ADDITIONAL RESOLUTIONS OF INTEREST TO DERMATOLOGY

The Site-of-Service Differential
The DSC advocated in support of Medicare payment policies for outpatient services that are site-neutral, without lowering total Medicare payments. The resolution called on the AMA to 1) support Medicare payments for the same service routinely and safely provided in multiple outpatient settings (eg, physician offices, HOPDs, and ASCs) that are based on sufficient and accurate data regarding the real costs of providing the service in each setting, 2) support CMS to update the data used to calculate the practice expense component of the Medicare physician fee schedule by administering a physician practice survey (similar to the Physician Practice Information Survey administered in 2007-2008) every five years, and that this survey collect data to ensure that all physician practice costs are captured, 3) encourage CMS to both: a) base disproportionate share hospital payments and uncompensated care payments to hospitals on actual uncompensated care data; and b) study the costs to independent physician practices of providing uncompensated care and 4) collect data and conduct research both: a) to document the role that physicians have played in reducing
Medicare spending; and b) to facilitate adjustments to the portion of the Medicare budget allocated to physician services that more accurately reflects practice costs and changes in health care delivery.

**Regulating Tattoo and Permanent Makeup Inks**
The DSC testified in support of the Food and Drug Administration adopting regulatory standards for tattoo and permanent makeup inks that include, at minimum, the disclosures expected for injectable drugs and cosmetics and a mandate that this information be available to both the body licensed to perform the tattoo and to the person receiving the tattoo; and a request to study the safety of any chemical in tattoo and permanent makeup inks.

**Increasing Access to Broadband Access to Better Facilitate Telemedicine**
The DSC testified in support of increasing access to broadband internet to reduce health disparities and advocate for the expansion of broadband connectivity to all rural areas of the United States.

**Prior Authorization Relief in Medicare Advantage Plans**
The DSC testified in support of the AMA advocating for legislation that would apply the following legislative processes and parameters to prior authorization (PA) for Medicaid and Medicaid managed care plans and Medicare Advantage plans:
- Listing services that require a PA on a website.
- Notifying providers of any changes at least 45 days prior to change.
- Standardizing a PA request form.
- Not denying payment for PA that has been approved unless fraudulently obtained or ineligible at time of service.
- Defining a consistent process for appeals and grievances, including to Medicaid and Medicaid managed care plans.
- Apply these same legislative processes and parameters to prior authorization (PA) for Medicaid and Medicaid managed care plans and Medicare Advantage plans, to include:
  - Medications already working when a patient changes health plans cannot be changed by the plan without discussion and approval of the ordering physician;
  - Minimizing PA requirements as much as possible within each plan; and
  - Making an easily accessible and reasonably responsive direct communication tool available to resolve disagreements between plan and ordering provider.

**Opposition to Medicare Part B to Part D Changes**
The DSC testified in support of a resolution that called on the AMA to advocate against Medicare changes which would recategorize Medicare Part B drugs into Part D.

The DSC spoke in favor of the AMA continuing to work with impacted specialties to actively lobby the federal government to exclude Medicare Part B drug reimbursement from the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) payment adjustment as part of the Quality Payment Program (QPP). Due to the unpredictable nature of drug prices, it would be unreasonable to penalize the physician for something which they do not have control over today. The DSC expressed its support for the exclusion of Part B drugs from the MIPs scoring for payment adjustment of participating physicians.

DSC members have plans in place to introduce additional resolutions next spring at the AMA Annual Meeting.

**Representation in the House of Medicine**
In 2018, a new plan was implemented to equalize the number of AMA delegates from the states and specialty societies. As a result, the AAD lost 25% of our delegation and voice at the
HOD. If you are not an AMA member, please join now so that we can regain our full representation. Go to https://www.ama-assn.org/become-ama-member

YOUR DERMATOLOGY SECTION COUNCIL

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, Immediate Past Chair
- 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
- Klint Peebles, MD
  - AAD YPS Delegate (Young Physician Section)
- Hao Feng, MD, MHS
  - AAD RFS Delegate (Resident Fellow Section)
- Jessica Krant, MD
  - ASDSA Delegate
- Chad Prather, MD
  - ASDSA Alt. Delegate
- Anthony Rossi, MD
  - ASDSA Delegate
- Rachel Kylo
  - ASDSA RFS Delegate
- Daniel Bennett, MD
  - SID Delegate
- Erica Dommasch, MD
  - SID Alt. Delegate
- Michel McDonald, MD
  - ACMS Delegate
- Divya Srivastava, MD
  - ACMS Alt. Delegate
- Nita Kohli, MD
  - ACMS YPS Delegate
- Keena Que, MD
  - ACMS RFS Delegate
- Melissa Piliang, MD
  - ASDP Delegate
- Karl Napekoski, MD
  - ASDP Alt. Delegate
- Vineet Mishra, MD
  - ACP Alt. Delegate
- Bruce Brod, MD
  - ACDS Delegate
- Brett Coldiron, MD
  - State Society Alt. Delegate (OH)
- Rutledge Forney, MD
  - State Society Delegate (GA)
- Hazle Konerding, MD
  - State Society Delegate (VA)
- Lawrence Cheung, MD
  - State Society Delegate (CA)
- Leah McCormack, MD
  - State Society Delegate (NY)
- Cindy Smith, MD
  - State Society Alt. Delegate (MN)
- Todd Schlesinger, MD
  - State Society Alt. Delegate (SC)
- Eric Millican, MD
  - State Society Delegate-YPS (UT)
- Josephine Nguyen, MD
  - WPS Delegate (Women Physician Section)
- Ricardo Mejia, MD
- Christopher Shea, MD
  - Assoc. of Professors of Derm. Delegate
- Jack Resneck, Jr., MD
  - AMA Board of Trustees, Chair
- Georgia Tuttle, MD
  - AMA Board of Trustees