The Pennsylvania Delegation to the AMA actively represented this House at the Interim 2015 and Annual 2016 meetings of the AMA House of Delegates. This report contains a summary of our activities since our last report to this House.

RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

AMA Interim Meeting 2015 (I-15)

Three resolutions—one from this House and two authored by the Pennsylvania Delegation—were submitted for consideration at the AMA Interim meeting in November 2015:

- Defining Annual Wellness Visits as Provided by Community-based Primary Care Physicians (Resolution 15-202): This resolution called on the AMA to advocate for a clear definition of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS’) Medicare Annual Wellness Visit as one that is provided only by physicians or members of a community-based, physician-led team that will provide continuity of care to those patients. The AMA House of Delegates referred the resolution; a report is expected at the 2016 Interim meeting.

- Maintenance of Certification Advocacy by our American Medical Association: The AMA House of Delegates adopted the following: RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association oppose those maintenance of certification programs administered by the specialty board of the ABMS, or of any other similar physician certifying organization, which do not appropriately adhere to the principles codified as AMA Policy on Maintenance of Certification (AMA Policy D-275.954).

- Burdensome Paperwork for Breast Pumps: The AMA House of Delegates adopted this resolution as AMA Policy H-185.928: Our AMA will vigorously oppose unnecessary and burdensome paperwork which presents barriers to lactation support, such as prescriptions to support physiologic functions; and further, to ensure that The Joint Commission and Healthy People 2020 breastfeeding goals are met.

AMA Annual Meeting 2016 (A-16)

One resolution—authored by the PAMED Board of Trustees—was submitted to the AMA Annual meeting in June:

- Specialty Board Report Cards: This resolution called on the AMA to: 1) evaluate and prepare for distribution to the House of Delegates by the June 2017 meeting an analysis report card comparing ABIM and NBPAS to the standards codified within AMA Policy H-275.924 (AMA Principles on Maintenance of Certification); and 2) that each succeeding year the AMA evaluate and annually prepare for distribution to the House of Delegates an Analysis Report Card comparing two separate and additional specialty boards, to be selected on a rotating and inclusive basis, from those Specialty Boards operating under the auspices of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to the standards codified within AMA Policy H-275.924 (AMA Principles on Maintenance of Certification). The resolution was not adopted by the AMA House of Delegates.

Additionally, Pennsylvania signed onto a resolution authored by Florida, and adopted by the AMA House of Delegates, which called on the AMA to: 1) call for the immediate end of any mandatory, secured recertifying examination by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or other certifying organizations as part of the recertification process for all those specialties that still require a secure recertification examination; 2) continue to support requirement of CME and ongoing, quality assessments of physicians, where such CME is proved to be cost-effective and shown by evidence to improve quality of care for patients; 3) continue to
work with the ABMS to encourage the development by and the sharing between specialty boards of alternative ways to assess medical knowledge other than by a secure high-stakes exam; and 4) support a recertification process based on high quality, appropriate CME material directed by the AMA-recognized specialty societies covering the physician’s practice area, in cooperation with other willing stakeholders, that would be completed on a regular basis as determined by the individual medical specialty, to ensure lifelong learning.

DELEGATION ACTIVITY

Delegation members participated in three meetings since our last update to the PAMED House:

AMA Interim Meeting 2015 (I-15)

Pennsylvania ably represented this House of Delegates at the 2015 Interim meeting in Dallas, Texas. In addition to testifying on the myriad issues before the AMA House, highlights of the November meeting included:

- Great Lakes States Coalition reference committee reviews via teleconference prior to the Interim meeting and an onsite review on Sunday morning;
- Thorough review of the reports and resolutions during delegation caucus sessions, to include all business items submitted from the AMA sections (OMSS, IMG, YPS, RFS, MSS);
- The delegation held elections for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Delegate-at-Large and Alternate Delegate-at-Large. Dr. James Goodyear was re-elected Chair; Dr. Stephen Clay was re-elected Vice Chair; Dr. Judith Pryblick was re-elected Secretary; Dr. John Spurlock was re-elected Delegate-at-Large; and Dr. Virginia Hall was elected as Alternate Delegate-at-Large. Their terms expire December 31, 2017.

Spring Telephone Conference 2016

The delegation held its 2016 spring teleconference on April 26 to prepare for the AMA Annual meeting in June. We reviewed the Annual meeting schedule, discussed our responsibilities as host of the Great Lakes States Coalition (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania) for 2016 and learned highlights of the plans for Dr. Andrew Gurman’s inauguration as AMA President.

AMA Annual Meeting 2016 (A-16)

Pennsylvania expertly represented the PAMED House of Delegates at the AMA’s Annual meeting in June. In addition to the success achieved on the MOC issue, highlights of the meeting included:

- Joint Great Lakes States Coalition reference committee reviews held prior to the meeting via an electronic process and an onsite review during the meeting;
- Great Lakes States Coalition interviews for AMA Officer, Trustee and Council positions;
- Great Lakes States Coalition networking breakfast for delegates, alternates, and staff;
- Thorough review of the reports and resolutions during delegation caucus sessions, to include all business items submitted from the AMA sections (OMSS, IMG, YPS, RFS, MSS);
- Great Lakes States Coalition reception honoring its endorsed candidates for AMA office;
- The delegation held a special election for the Alternate Delegate-at-Large position on the Executive Committee. Dr. Virginia Hall was previously elected to serve as the Alternate Delegate-at-Large; however, due to an increase in the total allotment of delegates and alternates for 2016, she was elevated to delegate, thereby vacating the Alternate Delegate-at-Large position.

2016 – Pennsylvania Delegation to the AMA
Delegate-at-Large position. Dr. Michael DellaVecchia was elected by the delegation to fill this position with a term expiration of December 31, 2017.

- Dr. Andrew Gurman was inaugurated as the 171st President of the AMA on Tuesday, June 14—Congratulations, Andy!

RETIREMENTS FROM THE DELEGATION

The delegation has expressed its overwhelming and sincere appreciation to the members who retired at the end of 2015. The AMA recognized these individuals at the 2015 Interim meeting:

- John E. Demko (AMA Region 6 Alternate Delegate)
- Jana L. Ebbert, DO (Resident Alternate Delegate)
- Sage Green (AMA Region 6 Delegate)
- Andrew W. Gurman, MD (Delegate and Alternate Delegate)
- Diana Huang (Student Alternate Delegate)
- Evan J. Pollack, MD (Alternate Delegate)
- Thomas J. Weida, MD (Alternate Delegate)
- Bruce L. Wilder, MD (Alternate Delegate)

James A. Goodyear, MD
Chair