

## **AMA Delegation Report**

### **Annual Meeting 2015 | June 6-9, 2015**

Courtland G. Lewis, MD, Chris J. Dangles, MD and Mike Zarski, JD represented AAHKS at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA). Dr. Lewis chaired the Reference Committee G on Medical Practice.

Orthopaedics is well represented at the AMA policy-making body with nearly 50 Delegates and Alternate Delegates from both specialty and state delegations in the orthopaedic caucus. Repeal of the SGR was widely celebrated, recognizing the important next steps which must follow given the requirements of the accompanying legislation around payment methodologies and quality measurement.

Maintenance of certification received the most intense attention in the HOD, driven largely by medical subspecialties which have fairly onerous requirements coming from the ABIM as well as specialty Boards. Other areas of interest to AAHKS members included resolutions advocating that CMS rescind the 3-day hospital stay rule prior to SNF placement, out of network coverage, improving data transparency and rescission of the prohibition in physician hospital ownership. Policy directing the AMA to work against the use of Appropriate Use Criteria by payors to credential physicians was approved.

It is clear that ICD-10 will be implemented this fall. The AMA is actively supporting legislation to mitigate the downside through a moratorium on penalties for up to two years; bills to address this issue are currently before Congress. John T. Gill, MD, the chair of the Orthopaedic PAC and a Delegate for Texas, addressed the Ortho caucus regarding the PAC support of efforts to reduce penalties related to ICD-10 implementation.

Reference Committee D addressed certification for return-to-play in youth sports following concussion and policy around physician oversight of this was approved. Interestingly, despite limited data in support, a resolution promoting the use of helmets in girls' lacrosse passed the House.

The AMA announced the election of Andrew W. Gurman, MD of Hollidaysburg, Pa as President-elect. He will be the first hand surgeon to serve as president of the AMA; taking office in June 2016.

This is a time of transition for your delegation to the AMA House. Dr. Lewis will rotate off after 3 years as Alternate and 3 years as Delegate, following the long-time efforts of Dr. Norman Dunitz. Dr. Dangles will become the AAHKS Delegate. The AAHKS Board has selected Dr. Edward Tanner of Rochester, NY as Alternate Delegate. Welcome, Dr. Tanner.

Please contact Dr. Lewis, Dr. Dangles or Dr. Tanner at any time regarding issues pertinent to the work of the AMA. While there are clearly issues specific to joint arthroplasty, the advocacy by the AMA around issues important to all physicians, including AAHKS members, is clear. Within AAHKS, we strongly encourage AMA membership.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtland Lewis, MD  
Chris Dangles, MD