American Urological Association

Public Policy Council

AUA Staff Liaison Camille Chilcoat

Chair Christopher M. Gonzalez, MD, MBA

Terms of Office Chair– 2-year term, renewable once (i.e. for a maximum of 4 years), based on contract.
Member - 2-year term, renewable twice
AMA House of Delegates Reps – 2-year term (renewable), appointments determined by AUA
RUC Member (Relative Value System Chair) – 3-year term based on contract

Committee Makeup

The voting members of the Public Policy Council shall be as follows: At least one Active or Senior member from each Section of the AUA who is Chair of the Public Policy Council or its equivalent of that Section (800 rule applies), the AUA Delegates to the AMA House of Delegates, three members of the American Association of Clinical Urologists. Chairs of designated component committees shall also be voting members. Section representatives serve two-year terms (renewable twice). The Chair shall be approved by the Board of Directors for a two-year term (renewable once). Component committees include, but are not limited to: Coding and Reimbursement Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and Practice Management Committee. (AUA, Inc. Bylaws, May 2013)

The RUC member also serves as a voting member of the Council.

The Gallagher Health Policy Scholar, established by the Board of Directors in 2006 to train the next generation of AUA health policy leaders, serves as a non-voting consultant for one year (Jan-Dec) to learn the commmittee structure and health policy's role within the AUA.

The Holtgrewe Fellow, established by the Board of Directors in 2014 to train the next generation of AUA health policy leaders, serves as a non-voting consultant for one year (Jan-Dec) to prepare and educate urology residents and fellows in the legislative aspect of health policy.

Mission Statement

The Public Policy Council shall oversee and investigate governmental, private, professional and socioeconomic issues affecting the delivery of urologic care as requested by the Board of Directors. (AUA, Inc. Bylaws, May 2013)

Component Committees

Component committees include, but are not limited to: Coding and Reimbursement Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and Practice Management Committee.

Committee Meetings

In-person meetings are held at the Annual Meeting and in the Fall. Contact with committee members via conference calls and email correspondence shall occur throughout the year.

Time Commitment

Chair: 8-10 hours per week (for 50 weeks)
Member: 20-30 hours per year

Qualifications/ Responsibilities

Chair: The Chair is a compensated position (see contract).

Members: Committee members should have an interest in or be directly involved in one (or more) of the subject matters covered by the committees that report to the Public Policy Council or are part of the AUA's Public Policy and Practice Support Division's purview: Practice Management Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee and Coding and Reimbursement Committee.

Recent Accomplishments 2018

- Launched individual political giving campaign for federally elected members of Congress.
- Launched the March 12-14, 2018 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit with close to 60 content submissions from all 8 AUA Sections, 15 urologic specialty organizations, and nearly a dozen patient advocacy groups.
- Convened more than 25 patient and physician advocacy organizations at AUA headquarters to plan and implement a successful awareness campaign for Bladder Health Month.
- Nominated and served as a Bladder Health Delegate in the Rude 2 Respect Health Stigma Summit along with more than 40 patient advocacy organizations representing health conditions associated with social stigmas.
- Launched a new layout and format for the AUA2017 Patient Advocacy Hub that connected 19 patient advocacy organizations with physicians interested in collaborating to promote legislative agendas.
- Submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to recommend delay of Evaluation and Management Visits changes in the 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule.
- Met with Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, CMS and National Association of Insurance Commissioners to discuss potential solutions to address regulatory burdens impacting urologists.
- Hosted the 5th Annual Bladder Health Alliance Roundtable meeting in Washington, DC that included more than 25 patient, physician, and research advocacy partners who strategized about ways to promote conversations about bladder health conditions and improve patient care.
- Successfully advocated with other provider and patient groups to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board. Successfully advocated with advocacy partners to secure a $2 billion funding increase in 2019 for National Institutes of Health, including $100 million for prostate cancer research and $20 million for kidney cancer research.
- Hosted roundtable with commercial insurers, Medicare Administrative Contractors and the medical community to discuss issues of mutual concern such as prior authorization, telemedicine and coverage issues.
- Launched an app service for the Practice Managers' Network.
- Released a new content series on the Practice Mangers' Network with the new coding chat series.
- Expanded additional courses to be included at the Regional Coding Seminar.