Public Policy Council

AUA Staff Liaison  Camille Chilcoat

Chair  Eugene Y. Rhee, MD

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 committee 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 2019

- Successfully hosted the March 4-6, 2019 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit with nearly 250 urologists, advanced practice providers, researchers, and patient advocates.
- Submitted feedback to National Institute of Child Health and Human Development’s strategic plan.
- Met with National Institutes of Health agencies about key urologic research grants and new funding allocations specific to urology.
- Published joint statement with Societies for Pediatric Urology on Pediatric Decision Making and Differences of Sex Development.
- Developed draft legislation to address physician workforce shortage in rural America.
- Advocated to reduce the burden that prior authorization causes practices and patients.
- Presented survey data from 51 specialties to the RUC for evaluation/management (E/M) CPT codes and values were sent to CMS.
- Participated in the AMA RUC/CPT Joint Workgroup to develop new guidelines and changes to office visits in opposition to the proposed changes in E/M Services in the 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule.
- Remained in contact with US Pharmacopeia to continue collaborating for the least possible impact to medical practices as a result of USP General Chapter 800 Handling of Hazardous Drugs and Chapter 797 on sterile compounding.
- Met with NIOSH to advocate for changes to urology drugs on the List of Hazardous Drugs.
- Monitored the BCG shortage as it continues into 2020.
- Updated the 2014 Consensus Statement on Advanced Practice Providers.
- Launched 1-year pilot program that includes the incorporation of a patient advocate into the Public Policy Council’s planning and key initiatives discussion.
- Hosted the 6th Annual Bladder Health Alliance Roundtable meeting that brought together more than 25 patient, physician, and research advocacy organizations.
- Hosted the 2nd Annual Insurance Roundtable with more than 35 individuals for a full day of panel discussions and dialogue.
- Raised close to $30,000 for political giving campaign, and supported 15 separate members of Congress.