AUA and AMA Push for Graduate Medical Education

The American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates (HoD) voted to support innovative education models to address physician shortages in specialties – one of the AUA's lead legislative priorities. The policy encourages public and private payers to fund graduate medical education (GME) and increase the number of GME slots across both specialty medicine and primary care. Delegates resolved that the AMA would advocate for innovative funding for GME, including value-based funding.

**Resolution 304:** Graduate Medical Education Funding and Quality of Resident Education, introduced by the Resident and Fellow Section: The policy asks the AMA to “Explore innovative funding models for incremental increases in funded residency positions related to quality of resident education and provision of patient care as evaluated by appropriate medical education orgs such as the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.”

“[By passing this policy,] the AMA will advocate for additional GME funding for resident training to address manpower needs,” said Dr. Aaron Spitz, who leads the AUA's delegation to the HoD. “There is specific mention made to underserved specialties.”

In 2013, the AMA dedicated $11 million dollars to an initiative in which medical schools are participating to fill the gaps in medical education and help ease the physician shortages.

“In the context of trimming budgets for association memberships, some may question the relevance of the AMA – is it worth the extra membership each year? The answer is yes,” Dr. Spitz said. “Even if you do not use AMA resources on a day-to-day basis, do not underestimate its value.”

The AUA has a workgroup dedicated to addressing the urologist shortage and GME needs. This group works closely with Legislative Affairs Committee and Government Relations & Advocacy Department to review legislation pending in Congress, participate in coalition activities, and attend Capitol Hill meetings to advance this priority. To compliment these activities, the workgroup generously contributes to UROPAC, maximizing the opportunities to engage Members of Congress who support urologic issues.

“Adding the AMA voice to this issue is a strong step toward advancing change,” Dr. Spitz said.

*Make our voice stronger. Join or renew your AMA membership and designate AUA as your representative. This will allow urology to maximize our presence among all physicians- specialty and primary care alike.*