AUA Staff Liaison: Kathy Shanley, PhD

Chair: Eugene Y. Rhee, MD

Voting Terms:
- Chair: 4 years (non-renewable)
- Section Representatives and AACU: 3 years (renewable once)

Ex-Officio Positions:
- Coding & Reimbursement Chair
- Legislative Affairs Chair
- Practice Management Chair
- Research Advocacy Chair
- State Advocacy Chair
- AMA House of Delegates Reps
- Relative Value System Chair

Non-Voting Terms:
- Scholars: 1 year (Gallagher Jan-Dec and Hotlegrewe June-May)

Ex-Officio Positions:
- Science & Quality Council Chair
- Young Urologist Liaison (filled by Young Urologist Committee Chair-elect)
- Society Liaisons: 3 years (renewable once)
  - Society of Women in Urology
  - R. Frank Jones Urological Society
  - Society of Academic Urologists
  - Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction
- Patient Advocate Liaison: 1 year (renewable once)

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. Component committees include, but are not limited to: Coding and Reimbursement Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, and Practice Management Committee. (AUA, Inc. Bylaws, May 2013)

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)

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 2020

- Held hundreds of virtual meetings with members of Congress that ultimately contributed to the House’s passage of the Veteran’s Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act (H.R. 6092).
- Worked with U.S. legislators to introduce H.R. 5924, which would create a student loan forgiveness program for specialty physicians such as urologists that practice in a rural areas.
- Partnered with ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer and the Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi) to enact HB 852 specifically requiring the state of Maryland to cover a digital rectal exam and a PSA test for men between 40 and 75 years old and men who are at high risk of developing the disease.
- American Urological Association, Inc. Political Action Committee (AUAPAC) supported nearly a dozen federal candidates.
- Successfully transitioned the 2020 Annual Urology Advocacy Summit to a virtual platform, and saw the highest number of registrants to date with more than 300 attendees, including 81 medical students, residents, fellows, and young urologists; secured $175k in industry support to support the advocacy conference.
- Created and maintained telemedicine information on AUA COVID-19 Info Center for our members.
- As part of the AUA Summit, met with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to discuss burden reduction, integration of prior authorization (PA), and improving interoperability.
- Met virtually with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group Division of Practitioner Services in advance of submitting final comments on the proposed Calendar Year 2021 Medicare Physician Fee schedule. The discussion focused on proposed policies for telehealth, evaluation and management services, and valuation of specific urology services.
- Planned a second CMS meeting on burden reduction that tentatively will address concerns with prior authorization and step therapy protocols.
- Developed strategy for communicating with Blue Cross Blue Shield Association concerning a trend in denying repeat PUL procedures stating the procedure is investigational/not medically necessary.
- Provided feedback to NIDDK’s Strategic Plan.
- Successfully hosted the 3rd annual Insurance Roundtable.
- Advocated to place a Urologist-Scientist on the NIDDK Strategic Plan Workgroup.
- Launched Friends of the Prostate Cancer Care Community.
- Launched Friends of the Kidney Cancer Care Community.
- Engaged NIH Agencies in the Bladder Health Alliance Roundtable Meeting.