Public Policy Council

AUA Staff Liaison  
Kathy Shanley, PhD

Chair  
Eugene Y. Rhee, MD, MBA

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 Hotlegrew 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  
An in-person meeting is held at the Annual Urology Advocacy Summit and a virtual meeting is held in the Fall. Contact with committee members via conference calls and email correspondence shall occur throughout the year.
Time Commitment

Chair: 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 Advocacy Division’s purview: Practice Management Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, State Advocacy Committee, Research Advocacy Committee, and Coding and Reimbursement Committee.

Recent Accomplishments - 2021

- Successfully contributed to National Cancer Institute’s (NCI) Request for Information (RFI) about lowering percent effort requirements for K08 awards. NCI made the change permanent and thanked the AUA for our feedback. 25 AUA members contributed by sending RFI response letters.
- Analyzed and responded to Calendar Year (CY) 2022 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) Proposed Rule.
  - Submitted comments, held meetings with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on the rule, particularly around the clinical labor input updates.
  - Worked with likeminded societies and associations to confront the proposed 3.75% reduction to the conversion factor. Exploring long turn solutions for 2022 to stop the need for action each year.
- Held a variety of patient advocacy events over the year in partnership with AUA-led patient alliances:
  - Kidney Cancer Impact Alliance Hill Day – met with 17 offices to discuss the Kidney Cancer Research Program within CDMRP and appropriations for NIH.
  - Held three virtual events as part of the Patient Advocacy Connections Program
  - Bladder Health Alliance – held two virtual events to promote bladder health advocacy with 86 attendees.
- Worked with legislators to reintroduce federal legislation to address rural workforce shortages in urology and other specialties (H.R. 944).
- Worked with legislators to reintroduce federal legislation to establish a clinical pathway for prostate cancer care within the Veterans Health Administration (H.R. 944/S. 2720, the Veterans’ Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act)
- AUAPAC supported 17 total candidates that care about the policy issues critical to urologic specialists and the patients they serve.