AMA House of Delegates

Dr. David Wilbur
ASC Executive Board Meeting  
April 27 & 28, 2009  
Wilmington, Delaware  
Agenda Form

Agenda Item Due Date: March 27, 2009

Organization/Committee: AMA Delegate
Representative: David Wilbur, M.D.
Motion or action required:
☐ Requires Action  ☐ Discussion  X Information Only

Brief summary of meeting to include a description of any issues for consideration by the ASC Executive Board:

The interim meeting of the AMA House of Delegates took place in November 2008 in Orlando, FL. During that meeting the Pathology Section Council met to discuss issues before the HOD and to provide information of interest regarding individual society activities. As the meeting was running concurrent to the ASC Annual meeting, Drs. Wilbur and Neal split time at the AMA meeting due to concurrent activities at ASC.

The main issues of interest to the ASC at the HOD relate to ongoing resolutions regarding reimbursement for professional services and the medical "home" initiative, medical student debt and practice specialty selection, and scope of practice issues with regard to non-physician providers of professional services. The latter issue is especially germane to the ASC as the position taken by the AMA has been to "guard" professional service reimbursement, a position that may make cytotechnologist professional transformation more difficult because of potential restrictions to their scope of practice where these might overlap with current physician duties.

The deliberations of the Pathology Section Council and the AMA HOD continue to be very important for the ASC to monitor. The specific Council minutes are attached for your review.

Your delegates thank the Executive Board for continuing to support our attendance at this important "House of Medicine" gathering.
Note* - following this meeting, Dr. Neal resigned as the alternate delegate to the AMA HOD, and she has been replaced by Dr. Robert Knapp.
CALL TO ORDER
William V. Harrer, MD, Acting Chair called a meeting of the Pathology Section Council to order at 9:05 am PM, Saturday, November 8, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Rebecca Johnson, MD (CAP) (11/10 only)
Edmund Donoghue Jr., MD (ASCP)
James Caruso, MD (CAP)
William Harrer, MD (CAP)
Jean E. Forsberg, MD (CAP)
Barbara McKenna, MD (ASCP)
Beverly P. Nelson, MD (USCAP)
LoAnn C. Peterson, MD (ASCP)
Fred G. Silva, MD, II (CAP)
Susan M. Strate, MD (CAP)
Mark Synovec, MD (CAP)
David Wilbur, MD (ASC)

Guests: Thomas Bollinger, MD (ASCP)
Margaret Neal, MD (ASC)
Stephen N. Bauer, MD, FCAP (CAP)
Nicole DeMers, MD (CAP)
Patrick Hemmer, MD (CAP)
Gene N. Herbek, MD, FCAP (CAP)
Patrick R. Hemmer, MD, FCAP (CAP)
Keagan Lee, MD (CAP)
Michele Powers, MD (NAME)
Ahren Ritterhaus, MD (ASCP)
Daniel Zedek, MD (CAP)

Excused: Thomas Bonfiglio, MD (ASC)
E. Randy Eckert, MD (CAP)
Mitra Kalelkar, MD (NAME)

Staff: Jeff Jacobs (ASCP)
Jan Glas (CAP)
Pamela Johnson (CAP)
John Scott (CAP)
Melissa Stegun (CAP)
CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Donoghue began the meeting by welcoming all the Delegates, Alternate Delegates, representatives, staff and guests from the different organizations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the Pathology Section Meeting at the American Medical Association Annual Meeting were reviewed and adopted.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

The Chair and staff reviewed the list of activities of the Pathology Section Council.

YOUNG PHYSICIANS/RESIDENTS FORUM ACTIVITIES.

Dr. Zedek provided an update on activities of the Young Physicians Section and an overview of resolutions to be introduced at the meeting such as amending inaccurate medical records. Dr. Zedek and Dr. Lee introduced Dr. Nicole DeMers who was elected on November 9, 2009 to serve as a sectional delegate in the RFS for the 2008 Interim Meeting and for the Annual and Interim Meetings in 2009.

REPORTS FORM MEMBER SOCIETIES

College of American Pathologists. Dr. Harrer noted that Charles Roussel has been named as executive vice president, responsible for the daily operations of the College. He will join the College on January 5, 2009. The CAP has launched an unprecedented, multi-year, sustained mobilization campaign the transform the specialty of pathology. The CAP has been awarded the status of Accreditation with Commendation as a provider of continuing medical education for physicians by the ACCME. In July 2008, the National Quality Forum gave a time-limited endorsement to the CAP-developed breast and colon cancer reporting measures. The DoD has not made an official decision as to establishment of the JPC despite the 180 day deadline expiring in July. The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held October 11-14, 2009 at Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in the DC metro area.

American Society of Cytopathology. Dr. Wilbur presented on recent activities of the ASC, who noted that their annual meeting was taking place concurrently with the AMA meeting. Dr. Wilbur summarized current educational programs and ongoing plans to integrate emerging trends in science with clinical practice. The ASC is also continuing to chart the course for the future of cytopathology and to monitor policy changes in allied health professions. Efforts are underway to address cytology program closures. The 2009 ASC Annual Meeting will take place November 17-19, 2009 in Denver, Colorado.
**American Society for Clinical Pathology.** Dr. McKenna noted that during the 2008 ASCP Annual Meeting the organization had begun to surface those most pressing policy issues facing the field of pathology. These issues included: physician self-referral, regulatory matters involving the CDC, testing and monitoring chronic disease, workforce issues and Medicare reform. ASCP also announced the establishment of its public policy fellowship and internship program. John Ball has announced he will retire in 2010 so plans are underway to recruit for a new executive vice president.

**National Association of Medical Examiners.** Not in attendance, no report.

**United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology.** Dr. Silva reported USCAP’s Anatomic Pathology Electronic Case Series Program will be an interactive, online continuing medical educational that affords practicing pathologists with subscriptions materials to keep apprised of new developments in the diagnosis, classification, and prognosis of disease. USCAP’s 2009 Annual Meeting will be held in Boston, Massachusetts March 7-14, 2009.

**REVIEW OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Following is information on the Section Council discussion as well as final House of Delegates action in parenthesis.

**Resolution 207: 20/220 Pathway** The pathway allows for a medical resident to qualify for economic hardship deferment if he/she is employed full-time and his/her federal education debt burden is equal to or greater than 20 percent of his/her monthly income, and his/her income minus the education debt burden is less than 220 percent of the greater of the minimum wage rate or the federal poverty line for a family of two. The Council discussed that rising educational costs play a role in the choice of medical specialty and can decrease the likelihood of entering pathology and the medical field. (Adopted)

**Resolution 209. Negotiating with Insurance Carriers** The Section Council supports changes in anti-trust legislation laws to allow groups to negotiate with payers with 60% or greater market penetration. Pathologists are impacted in their negotiations with private insurance companies by such companies’ market penetration. Council supports an equitable negotiating climate with insurance companies and the pro-competitive benefits of permitting changes in anti-trust legislations need to be balanced against anticompetitive harm of monopolistic insurance companies. (Adopted)

**Resolution 212: USMLE Step 3 and Doctors of Nursing Practice Certification.** NBME is involved in certification examinations for non-physician providers. The resolution seeks to prohibit NBME from using present or past content of the USMLE Step 3 exam in the certification process for non-physician providers. (Adopted)

**CMS Report 4: Emerging Payment Methodologies** The report solicits comments from delegates and the Federation of Medicine regarding leading Medicare physician payment reform strategies under discussion by key policymakers. The AMA will
forward the testimony and comments from the Reference Committee and AMA House of Delegates discussions regarding the alternative Medicare payment methodologies outlined in the report to the Council on Medical Service for consideration in developing its recommendations for a follow-up report at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates.

**Resolution 803; Medical Home.** The AMA resolved to adopt the “Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home” of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association, and to continue to study the patient-centered medical home concept and define the role that specialists play in care delivery. (Adopted)

**Resolution 814: Competitive Bidding for Purchase of Medical Equipment.** The resolution proposes lobbying for the competitive bidding process for home medical equipment to be reinstituted by CMS and this issue has the potential to refocus CMS's abandoned efforts on instituting competitive bidding for clinical laboratory services. The Council acknowledges the value of competition in the marketplace and noted that competitive bidding may be appropriate for products such as DME but there would be concern if it is expanded and CMS reinstitutes the clinical lab demonstration. (Adopted)

**SELECTED REFERENCE COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS**

**Constitution and Bylaws**
The AMA adopted ethics policy that offers specific guidance pertaining to legally permissible contractual arrangements that provide opportunities for self-referral.

**Reference Committee B**
The AMA resolved to continue to advocate for improvements in the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI), including early education and outreach to physicians by CMS. The AMA also will advocate for the provision of confidential interim and final feedback reports from CMS to physicians on potential problems in their PQRI reporting, easier access to feedback reports, development of meaningful dispute resolution processes and the provision to the AMA of the 2007 PQRI data set file.

**Reference Committee J**
The AMA adopted a set of principles to guide in the creation of a centralized comparative effectiveness research (CER) entity. The principles state that a federally sponsored entity should be an objective, independent authority that produces valid, scientifically rigorous research; the entity should have secure and sufficient funding to maintain the necessary infrastructure and resources to produce quality CER; and that CER should be conducted using rigorous scientific methods to ensure that conclusions from such research are evidence-based and valid for the population studied. The principles also state that the processes for setting research priorities, establishing accepted methodologies, selecting researchers or research organizations,
and disseminating findings must be transparent and provide a central and significant role for physicians and researchers.

OTHER REPORTS

SSS Meeting. Dr. Peterson gave an overview of the testimony from the board and members in favor of modifying AMA policy to lighten requirements for specialty society membership. In an effort to be more inclusive, the Board made a decision to change requirements to a threshold of 25% of an organization's physician members who are eligible for AMA membership are members of AMA.

Endorsement of Candidate Policy. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Donoghue noted that a workgroup of Section Council members was convened and re-affirmed that the Section Council would not endorse candidates for leadership positions. Organizational members within the Section Council would continue to be free to do so.

NEW BUSINESS

- A report and evaluation of policies related to blood donation will be compiled for the Section Council.
- Staff to furnish the Section Council with policies governing approval of resolutions and reports and policies to reaffirm or revoke support as part of periodic review of existing policies.

ADJOURNMENT