

APMA House of Delegates Update

The House of Delegates (HOD) is the legislative and governing body of APMA and is composed of certified delegates and alternates from each component society. The HOD meets once a year to hold elections and make decisions about the strategic direction of APMA.

The APMA House of Delegates convened in person in Washington, DC, on Saturday. Guest speakers addressed the house, bearing greetings from our physician peers and messages of thanks for the work of the house.

American Osteopathic Association: Julieanne P. Sees, DO, Trustee

American Medical Association: Gerald E. Harmon, MD, President

During the meeting Saturday, several awards were presented.

- **Distinguished Service Citation:** J.D. Ferritto Jr., DPM
- **APMA Award of Excellence:** Jondelle B. Jenkins, DPM
- **Dr. Glenn B. Gastwirth DPM Leadership Award:** Marit Sivertson, JD
- **President's Award:** Alton Johnson Jr., DPM

Student recruitment was one of the many topics addressed at the 2022 House of Delegates meeting. APMA Associate Director of Young Physicians and Students Tiffany Kildale updated delegates on the more than 18 million prospective students reached through the Step Into Podiatry campaign and the long-term implications of the campaign for applications.

The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and the American Board of Podiatric Medicine were celebrated for their unwavering support of the Step Into Podiatry campaign. Component organizations contributed funding to support the continuation of APMA's student recruitment initiative, which ABPM and ABFAS met with matching grants of \$25K each, in addition to the \$25K each organization already contributed this year.

The APMA Educational Foundation kicked off its annual giving campaign during the meeting 100 individuals and components have donated a total of \$63,400 toward the 2022 campaign. The foundation is 28 percent toward its participation goal of 350 unique donors in 2022.

William Long, DPM, Chair of APMA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force, presented the final report to the house detailing the efforts of the Task Force during the past year. The mission of this task force was to explore and identify potential diversity, equity, and inclusion gaps in APMA practices, policies, and procedures that have resulted from historic inaction and silence. In working toward this mission, the group conducted a review of the various internal APMA documents and developed recommendations to be considered by the House of Delegates, APMA Educational Foundation Board, and APMA PAC Board of Directors. In addition, near the end of the task force's work together, various members submitted proposals to help guide APMA's future efforts relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion. These topics will be discussed in greater detail by the newly established Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee during the 2022–2023 administrative year.

The House of Delegates passed Policy Proposition 2-22 with multiple state component societies and affiliated organizations joining as cosponsors. The proposition made it the official position of APMA that Doctors of Podiatric Medicine have achieved parity with allopathic and osteopathic physicians in that they are physicians and surgeons qualified by their education and training; their licensing exam is comparable to licensing exams administered by NBME and NBOME; CPME-approved residency programs meet standards comparable to ACGME residency programs; and certifying boards recognized by CPME meet standards comparable to those of ABMS. The proposition further stipulates that APMA will work to ensure that DPMs are authorized by federal and state governments, hospitals, private and public health systems, and third-party payers to practice to the full extent of their education and training. It notes that parity is a collaborative effort and should include equal pay for equal services; acknowledgment of the equivalency of education and training among allopathic, osteopathic, and podiatric physicians; and public recognition of podiatric medicine and surgery as a specialty within medicine.

Leaders participated in a Townhall Forum. The following topics were covered:

- **Student Recruitment:** Sabrina Minhas, DPM, (PA Delegate) led a discussion of a proposal from Pennsylvania to address current recruitment needs at the nine colleges of podiatric medicine by having state components work with local undergraduate institutions to provide lectures and information on careers in podiatric medicine and surgery. There was also discussion of how individual podiatrists can best recruit new students to podiatric medicine and surgery. Members and non-members are encouraged to sign up for the DPM Mentor Network by clicking "Update Contact and Mentor Info" under My Account on apma.org.
- **Trustee Patrick DeHeer, DPM,** presented on psychological safety in medical education.

APMA held its annual election for officers and trustees on Sunday

President-Elect: Sylvia Virbulis, DPM

- **Treasurer:** Lawrence Santi, DPM
- **Re-elected Trustees (three-year term):** Leslie Campbell, DPM; William Long, DPM
- **Elected Trustee (two-year term):** Jane Andersen, DPM

- **Speaker of the House:** Kevan Kreitman, DPM
- **Re-elected Young Physician Trustee:** Rebecca Sundling, DPM, MPH
- **Liaison to the JCRSB:** Tyson Green, DPM

The house was then adjourned until 2023!