



Report from the 2010 AMA Annual Meeting

The Colorado delegation to the American Medical Association Annual Meeting would like to share these highlights from the five-day meeting in Chicago that concluded Wednesday. You can learn more on the AMA's Annual Meeting website by clicking [here](#).

The CMS delegation to the meeting was: CMS Delegation Chairman M. Ray Painter, MD; Vice-Chair Alethia (Lee) Morgan, MD; Delegate Sherri Laubach, MD; Delegate Jeremy Lazarus, MD; Delegate Lynn Parry, MD; Alternate Delegate David Downs, MD; Alternate Delegate Jan Kief, MD; Alternate Delegate Mark Laitos, MD (CMS President); Alternate Delegate Richert E. Quinn, MD; Alternate Delegate Brigitta Robinson, MD; and Regional Medical Student Delegate Carolynn Francavilla.

Other Colorado physicians in attendance were: Brooks Bach, MD; Jack Cletcher, MD; Katie Lozano, MD; Kathryn Mueller, MD; Steve Sherick, MD; Eugene Sherman, MD; Susan Sherman, MD; and Monique Spillman, MD.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact CMS Chief Executive Alfred Gilchrist at Alfred_gilchrist@cms.org

I. Substitute resolution regarding Medicare payment system (SGR)

The AMA House of Delegates, clearly frustrated with the continuing lack of meaningful action by Congress to fix the flawed Medicare payment system, the sustainable growth rate (SGR), passed a substitute resolution resolving the AMA to immediately formulate federal legislation for an additional payment option in Medicare fee for service.

This option would allow physicians and patients to freely contract, without penalty to either party, for a fee that differs from the Medicare payment schedule and in a manner that does not forfeit benefits otherwise available to the patient. The resolution requires legislative language to be available to AMA members no later than September 30, 2010.

The CMS delegation to AMA supported the compromise resolution. CMS delegation Chairman, M. Ray Painter, MD (Denver), stated that the resolution is in no way a retreat by CMS for meaningful payment reform, but rather “a reasonable and appropriate way to maintain access to care as payment models transition away from fee-for-service to outcomes based reimbursement.”

Dr. Painter and delegation Vice-Chair Alethia (Lee) Morgan, MD (Denver), two former CMS presidents, promptly convened the CMS delegation for a strategy session to discuss the resolution and what it would take in terms of legislative specifics and messaging to persuade the Colorado congressional delegation to support the measure, once filed as federal legislation.

There was a consensus within the delegation that the legislation should be part of a broader strategy to control cost growth and improve quality. The delegation, after consulting with the CMS Council on Practice Environment (COPE) and Council on Legislation (COL) and approval by the CMS Board of Directors, will communicate bill drafting suggestions to newly installed AMA President Cecil Wilson, MD (Florida).

II. Colorado's Lazarus Announces Candidacy for AMA President

Former CMS President and current Speaker of the AMA House of Delegates Jeremy Lazarus, MD, (Denver), announced his candidacy for President-elect of the American Medical Association. AMA rules governing conduct of candidates for President-elect officially permit campaigning to begin on adjournment of the AMA annual meeting.

When the meeting was gavelled to a close on Tuesday afternoon, the Colorado delegation and staff dispersed among AMA delegates with a flyer announcing Dr. Lazarus' campaign and the endorsement of numerous specialty societies, the Mountain States Caucus (of which CMS is a member), and the nation's two largest state medical associations – Texas Medical Association and California Medical Association.

Colorado delegation Chair M. Ray Painter, MD, who is managing the campaign, said that Dr. Lazarus' "dedication to the profession, his professionalism, and leadership skills are needed now more than ever before."

III. Gilchrist Elected to AMA Litigation Center

Alfred D. Gilchrist, CEO of Colorado Medical Society, was elected to the AMA Litigation Center's executive committee in Chicago on Monday.

The Litigation Center is the voice of America's medical profession in legal proceedings around the country. It provides physicians with legal assistance and expertise and has participated in nearly 200 cases since its inception in 1995. All 50 state medical societies and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia are members.

Membership on the 10-member Executive Committee is limited to executive directors and general counsels of member state medical societies.