

# American Medical Association

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# AMA House of Delegates

- Dermatology's representation in "House of Medicine"
- **Specialty and Service Society:**
  - **APD** is in initial **probationary** period: 2013-15
  - **Observer** (non-voting) status for 3 years
- Dermatology Section Council (**DSC**):
  - AAD, SID, ASDS, ACMS, ASDP: **voting** members in AMA House of Delegates
  - US Army, US Navy, several state dermatology organizations
  - Currently 33 members

# Dermatology Section Council: Collective Voice of Dermatology

- Members deliberate issues before HOD
- Determine positions
- Collaborate with other organizations to garner support for our positions
- Attempt to mitigate opposition before floor debates
- Provide testimony when appropriate
- Vote collaboratively to increase Dermatology's influence

# Resolutions

## Introduced by DSC

- DSC introduced three resolutions for consideration by AMA House of Delegates
- Well received and thoughtfully considered by entire HOD, representing more than 120 specialties and every state nationwide

# Resolution 207

- Called for AMA to support regulatory changes to improve **access to compounded or repackaged medications for in-office use**
- FDA considers as “**compounding**”:
  - Buffering of lidocaine
  - Dilution of corticosteroid for intralesional injection
  - Reconstitution of lyophilized powders
- After significant debate and collaboration with other specialties, **resolution adopted by HOD**

# Resolution 505

- Advocated for FDA to increase speed to update **prescription product labels** as new evidence becomes available
- **Evidence-based standards** or **peer-reviewed medical literature** add to legacy information contained in official drug labeling statements to guide drug administration and use
- Challenge of obtaining **insurance coverage** or **access from pharmacies** for prescription medications used off-label
- Support for evidence-based use of **neurotoxin products** as **multi-use vials**
- **Resolution adopted by HOD**

# Resolution 702

- Advocated for preserving MDs' **access to in-office administered drugs, and insurance coverage** for patients who are physically unable to self-administer
- Injectable biologic medications for psoriasis/psoriatic arthritis
- **Resolution adopted by HOD**

# Cost of Drugs

- DSC co-sponsored one of several resolutions, which were combined into one resolution by Reference Committee and then **adopted by the HOD**
- **AMA will advocate** with key stakeholders to:
  - Identify and promote adoption of **policies to address high and escalating costs of generics**
  - Support legislation to ensure **fair and appropriate pricing of generics and educate Congress** about adverse impact of generic drug price increases
  - Develop methods to **increase choice and competition in development and pricing of generics**
  - Increase **price transparency** for generics
- HOD is awaiting report from AMA Council on Medical Service, investigating increasing prices of brand-name and generics; will review at AMA 2015 Interim Meeting

# Price Transparency

- **DSC supported** CMS Report on price transparency
- DSC offered **amendment**:
  - **Remove clause encouraging MDs to develop fee schedules** to communicate cost of professional services to individual patients
  - Concern: too **onerous** for smaller practices
  - **Reference committee modified report** to include less prescriptive language
- **Adopted report** included provisions to encourage:
  - Physicians to **communicate** cost information to individual patients, taking into account insurance status, etc.
  - Price and quality **transparency**
  - Safeguards to ensure **accuracy and relevance** of pricing information
- AMA will request Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to expand Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Look-Up Tool to include hospital outpatient payments

# Maintenance of Certification

- DSC supported several resolutions advocating American Board of Medical Specialties to **develop fiduciary standards** for member boards, consistent with AMA policy
- Report was **adopted**, and encouraged ABMS to adopt more **transparent** process
- Additional resolutions and reports that were adopted:
  - AMA to work to ensure that ABMS member boards **avoid attempts at restricting legitimate scope of practice** of board-certified MDs
  - Assessments should be used to guide MDs' **self-directed CME study**.
  - Specific content-based **feedback** should be timely provided
  - Should be **multiple options** available to structure assessments to accommodate different learning styles
  - AMA to work with ABMS to ensure **members** are **kept abreast of requirements and key deadlines**
  - AMA to work with ABMS to **streamline and improve Part III of MOC exam**

# Many thanks to Dr. Andrew Lazar!

- Chair of Dermatology Section Council
- Outstanding leadership
- Superb documentation of very complex deliberations of AMA meetings and DSC discussions

