The most recent American Medical Association (AMA) annual meeting just concluded and was held June 10-14, 2017, in Chicago, Illinois. This was a productive meeting that dealt with many issues pertinent to the practice of medicine. The highlights of this meeting are outlined below:

- The new AMA President, David Barbe, MD, a family physician from Missouri, was inaugurated.
- This meeting continued AMA discussions and focus on healthcare reform and addressing components of the ACA worth retaining for our patients as well as improvements in regulatory relief that would help us all. In particular, the AMA came out strongly in favor of protecting Medicaid.
- Other areas garnering a lot of attention at this meeting were maintenance of certification and licensure, electronic health record issues, physician burnout, prescription drug costs, veterans’ healthcare, immigration ban concerns, and issues around opioids.
- This was our first meeting as part of the newly formed PacWest conference (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, California, Guam, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, and Arizona). Dr. Burgess currently serves as one of the five leaders of our group. We were able to add Idaho wine to the traditional California wine tasting event! We also had success in getting two candidates from our group elected to the AMA Board: Barb McAneny, MD as President-Elect and Ryan Ribiera, MD as Resident Member. This merger has been a lot of work, but provides us with a larger infrastructure to help with moving policy forward and advancing our candidates for office within the AMA.
- The AMA has three main focus areas: 1) improving the practice of medicine, 2) transforming medical education, and 3) improving patient health with a focus on type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Please peruse the AMA website, www.ama-assn.org, for a variety of tools around these issues. We believe you'll find this resource alone worth your AMA membership dues!
- The AMA continues to support all forms of the practice of medicine (independent, employed, academic, etc.) and has a variety of caucuses and forums addressing issues pertinent to each.
- Leaders from all the state and specialty societies were present to discuss and vote on these issues and many other leaders were present to offer testimony.
- The AMA will continue to have an online forum prior to each meeting where any member can offer testimony. We will send out notification with more information about this prior to each meeting and encourage you to participate to have your voice heard and provide your unique perspective on the issues you are concerned about.
Representing the Idaho Medical Association were: AMA Delegate A. Patrice Burgess, MD; AMA Alternate Delegate Vicki Wooll, MD; and AMA Young Physician Representative Zach Warnock, MD.

Unfortunately, neither of us will be able to attend the IMA annual meeting this year, which is a first! Dr. Wooll will be in Washington, DC and Dr. Burgess will be in San Diego with her son at Comic Con. This is Dr. Wooll’s last report (for now) as AMA Alternate Delegate as she has decided to focus on other national advocacy activities. Dr. Burgess has a tradition for six years of going to Comic Con with her son as it is very special to him and this is the first year it has conflicted with the IMA meeting. We look forward to seeing the outcome of the meeting and advocating for Idaho’s physicians in whatever way we can!

We invite you to review what the AMA is working on and advocating for on our behalf and either maintain or reconsider your membership status.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Patrice Burgess, MD, AMA Delegate
Vicki Wooll, MD, MPH, AMA Alternate Delegate

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