

2022 ANNUAL REPORT ADVISORY BOARD

Summation of 2022 Activities and Accomplishments:

I. Strengthening Communications, Engagement, and Outreach

The Advisory Board's mission is to protect, promote, and preserve the interests of the individual practitioner of dermatology by:

1. Providing a forum for AAD/A members to present policy proposals for consideration by the AAD/A Board of Directors; and
2. Serving as a conduit of information between the AAD/A Advisory Board, the represented societies, and the AAD/A Board of Directors; and
3. Disseminating information on AAD/A policies and other issues vital to AAD/A members' patients and practices.

Advisory Board members serve as important communication, policy, and membership links between the Academy and the regional, state, and local dermatologic societies. To better fulfill the mission, the Advisory Board and its Executive Committee continue to strengthen member outreach and engagement through increased communication and solicitation of feedback on important policy issues and organizational changes. The Executive Committee meets via conference call monthly to discuss issues pertinent to dermatology. In addition, members receive monthly newsletters that bring awareness to important information about Academy developments and current state, legislative, and regulatory policy issues. Members are advised to share the monthly updates with their state and local societies, and to alert the group to any issues that may benefit from involvement by the Advisory Board.

II. Annual and Innovation General Business Meeting

Annual Meeting

The Advisory Board now holds a General Business Meeting (GBM) biannually in conjunction with the AAD Annual and Innovation Academy Meeting. The General Business Meeting features speakers with expertise in a variety of topics to keep representatives informed and engaged in Academy priorities and relevant state-level issues that affect dermatology, and to provide dermatologic societies the platform to share information about advocacy with the Advisory Board. The agenda featured guest speakers and focused on Academy initiatives, candidate elections, resolutions, and the unity of dermatology as a specialty.

The forum began with an update from the Advisory Board Chair, Dr. Andrew Weinstein, who shared the status of the Summer 2021 Resolutions:

- American Board of Dermatology's Code of Conduct asked that the AAD oppose the creation of a Code of Conduct by the American Board of Dermatology,

beyond that presently included in Section 3 of the Bylaws of the American Board of Dermatology, that may adversely affect AAD members.

- Outcome: After discussion at the November Board of Directors' meeting, Andrew Weinstein, MD, FAAD, Advisory Board Chair, withdrew the resolution from consideration at this time to collect additional supporting materials.
- Opening Opportunities for all Dermatologists – No More Closed Panels Proposed Motion asked that the AADA redouble their efforts to support and advocate for the private practice of dermatology through fair reimbursement rates and inclusive panels regardless of practice type, because divergent payments and closed panels continue to exist, for new dermatologists.
 - Outcome: The Board of Directors adopted this resolution.
- The Advisory Board Executive Committee worked on updating the Advisory Board Organizational and Operational Guidelines and the amended document will be presented at the March 28, 2022, AAD/A Board Meeting.

He then introduced Dr. James Schiro, Chair of the Reference Committee to present the recommendations for the 2022 Annual Meeting Resolutions for consideration by the Advisory Board. After the resolutions were presented, Dr. Weinstein introduced Dr. George Hruza to present the SkinPAC update. After the SkinPAC updates the guest speakers began their presentations.

The first presentation featured Dr. Jane Grant-Kels, on the topic of autonomy. Dr. Grant-Kels began by clearly defining the difference between patient and physician autonomy. She then laid out the issues currently impacting physician autonomy, these include:

- The increasing number of physicians working for organizations run by non-physicians,
- The US government, as well as public and private health insurers, enforcing certain requirements, regulations, and restrictions that impact physician discretion on how to treat patients
- Having to work in an increasingly corporatized medical system.

Physicians increasingly feel that they are losing their autonomy, creating increased dissatisfaction amongst physician, as well as a loss of motivation, and depression. She states that the number one reason physicians report they are losing their autonomy are prior authorization and insurance companies telling them how to practice medicine, when they are trained to be independent thinkers and to critically analyze problems. Dr. Grant-Kels then analyzed the positive and negative potential impacts the AAD ethics pledge may have on member physicians regarding physician autonomy.

The last presentation featured Dr. Steve Daveluy, speaking on the topic of measure development. Dr. Daveluy began by describing the mission of the Performance Measurement Committee, which states that, to the extent possible, identify gaps in care, recommend topics for evidence-based clinical guidelines for areas where measures are needed, develop quality performance measures for dermatology, promote their implementation in various internal and external programs, and evaluate their effectiveness in promoting care. He then goes on to define measure as a tool that

provides information about how well a practice is doing in managing different areas of a patient's treatment and care. Measures assess areas such as process, outcome, structure, efficiency, cost/resource use, etc. It is important to collect meaningful data that can be used to inform ways healthcare delivery can be improved. Dr. Daveluy then goes through the process of measure development and how they are used. They are used in MIPS Measures, Qualified Clinical Data Registry (QCDR) Measures and DataDerm. Next, he spoke about the passage of MACRA in 2015 which replaced SGR, preventing a 21% increase in reimbursement, and provided information on participating in MIPS, and reporting options for paper-based practices. Lastly, he explains MIPS scoring and provided the AAD measure portfolio which included the status of measures in DataDerm for 2022. There were 31 measures for MIPS reported,

- 19 MIPS measures,
- 12 QCDR measures,
- 18 of 31 are dermatology-specific measures for MIPS reporting
- 6 outcome measures

Innovation Meeting

The Advisory Board convened a virtual Innovation Academy Reference Committee Hearing held August 17 and General Business Meeting held August 24. The agenda focused primarily on the consideration of mid-year resolutions. We anticipate that future Reference Committee Hearings and General Business Meeting will be held in person and that the virtual format will be sunsetted.

III. Annual and Innovation Meeting Resolutions

A primary activity of the Advisory Board is to deliberate policy resolutions presented by individual members of the Advisory Board, dermatologic societies, or other individual Academy members. Resolutions adopted by the Advisory Board go to the Board of Directors for consideration and potential adoption as Academy policy. With the opportunity to submit resolutions twice a year, more work is done year-around to ensure that relevant information is being shared with the Board of Directors in a timely manner. The Advisory Board continues to find creative ways to increase member involvement in the resolution process, since it is through this process that members can contribute to the formulation of Academy policy positions, identify trends affecting dermatology, and help develop and support advocacy efforts.

The docket of 2022 resolutions encompassed a wide array of ongoing concerns, new ideas for recurring problems and original proposals designed to shape the AAD/A policies in the coming years. The Advisory Board proposed several relevant policies, summarized below:

Annual Meeting Resolutions

- Transparency Pertaining to Policy Issues Raised by Certifying or Licensing Bodies or other Organizations: The Advisory Board approved with amendments a

resolution requiring the AAD/A Board of Directors (BOD), including officers and executive director, to adopt a standard of transparent communication to be applied to all discussions of the business of the Academy. This is to the effect that what is known by one member of the AAD/A BOD must be known by all members of the AAD/A BOD. This resolution was withdrawn by the author on the floor.

- Publish Historical Administrative Regulations and Governance Policies Online: The Advisory Board approved with an amendment, that the AAD/A will publish historical Administrative Regulations (AR) and Board Governance Policies (BGP) online at aad.org as redlined documents, demonstrating the changes in the updates. The amendment is that this will occur from this point going forward and will be posted in the members only section of aad.org. This resolution was presented to the Board of Directors May 21, 2022, and they did not adopt this resolution. They stated that there is already a process in place to request this information.
- Modernizing Education and Governance for the American Academy of Dermatology/Association (AAD/A): The AAD/A Board of Directors (BOD) should move expeditiously to have a simultaneous virtual streaming of the educational meeting of the AAD/A for both the winter and summer meetings. The BOD should also move to allow official business meetings of the various committees of the AAD/A with their members of privilege to be conducted both in person and virtually at the annual and innovation academy meetings. This could allow the AAD/A to engage more national and international attendees via a virtual format that allows for more participation at a premium price for its high-quality educational value. The Advisory Board did not approve this resolution.
- Dermatologists Treating Skin Conditions in all Skin Tones: A resolution requiring the AAD to formulate a strategy to correct marketing campaigns or public statements made by companies and brands that misrepresent the qualifications of board-certified dermatologists and the extensive training undertaken to ensure patient safety. This is in line with the AAD's mission to uphold the expertise of board-certified dermatologists in treating skin conditions in all skin tones. The Advisory Board approved this resolution. This resolution was presented to the Board of Directors on May 21, 2022, and they adopted the resolution.
- Inquiring and Collecting Individual Members' Personal and Private Information by AAD Leadership: The Board of Directors should cease inquiring about its members' immutable inherited characteristics or physical status such as one's biological genitalia and reproductive organs; and sexual preferences. In 2021 and 2022 the AAD conducted member satisfaction surveys that included questions related to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). The presence of these questions did not seem to have a discernable impact on the overall response rate. The Advisory Board did not approve this resolution.

- Avoid Supporting Racism and Discrimination: The resolution requiring the AAD/A to sunset the diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative was withdrawn.
- Non-Discrimination Based on COVID-19 Vaccination Status: This resolution called for the Board of Directors to designate that the AAD/A will not host meetings in locales that discriminate based on vaccination status and will not condone discrimination of members based on vaccination status. It is not feasible for the location of the annual meeting and innovation academy to be moved to an alternate city within a few months or even a year of the meetings, the meetings are planned upward to 5 years in advance. The Advisory Board did not approve this resolution.

Innovation Meeting Resolutions

- CMS Digital Quality Measurement Calculation Tool (MCT): The resolution states that the AAD/A opposes the CMS Digital Quality Measurement Program and will work with other organizations to challenge it. The program has the potential to allow for misuse of data and interference with the physician-patient relationship by future implementation of algorithm-based clinical decisions. The AAD will enlist other medical organizations to advocate for the creation of specialty specific qualified clinical data registries modeled on DataDerm to serve as the digital measurement calculation tool for the submission of physician generated quality data to CMS and other payers. The Advisory Board approved with amendment. This resolution was presented at the Board of Directors Meeting on November 5, 2022. They adopted the first resolve of the resolution and rejected the second.
- Cigna Modifier 25: A resolution in which the AAD/A issues official opposition to the Cigna Modifier 25 policy on both environmental and economic grounds and states that we will work with state societies to oppose this at the State level. Dermatologists use Modifier 25 more than any other medical specialty. More than 50% of dermatology E/M services require appending of Modifier 25 for appropriate insurance reimbursement. The Advisory Board approved this resolution. This resolution was presented at the Board of Directors Meeting on November 5, 2022. The Board adopted the resolution opposing a proposed Cigna modifier 25 policy (which would require the submission of clinical notes to support billing of E/M codes with a procedure) on both environmental and economic grounds.
- Subspecialty Certification in Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology: A resolution in which the AAD advocates for parity in grandparenting that would allow non-American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology (AOBD) certified osteopathic dermatologists based on equivalency of residency training to sit for the subspecialty certification examination in Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS) and be certified should they pass. Also, if it not possible for American

Osteopathic Board of Dermatology certified Dermatologists to sit for the Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery examination of the ABD, the AAD will then advocate for equivalency of the AOBDC certificate of added qualification in Mohs surgery to the MDS certification. The Advisory Board approved the resolution with amendment. This resolution was presented at the Board of Directors Meeting on November 5, 2022. The Board of Directors adopted the first resolve of this resolution and sent the second resolve back to the Advisory Board for further wordsmithing.

IV. Elections:

The Advisory Board elected the following members at the 2022 Annual Meeting:

- Shani Francis, MD, Advisory Board Nominating Committee Member Representative.
- Reena Jogi, MD, won a four-year term on the Advisory Board Executive Committee.
- James Schiro, MD, won a two-year term on the Advisory Board Executive Committee.

V. Activities for 2022:

The Advisory Board Executive Committee is committed to advocating on behalf on the full Advisory Board membership through the continued efforts listed below:

1. Encourage Advisory Board members to share the monthly newsletters and report back to their state societies the status of the resolutions.
2. Update the Advisory Board Organizational and Operational Guidelines. The updated guidelines can be accessed [here](#).
3. Increase communications with the AAD/A Board of Directors throughout the year.
4. Encourage Advisory Board members to attend the Legislative Conference and help represent states that have no member representation present at the conference.
5. Encourage cross-communication among the various representatives, including state societies, Executive Directors, Advisory Board representatives, state representatives, and legislative committee chairs.
6. Improve coordination of activities of the Advisory Board and the State Society Relationships Committee to increase participation on the Advisory Board by AAD members from state and local societies.
7. Raise awareness of and increase involvement in the resolution process.
8. Encourage Advisory Board members to bring alternates or younger state society members to shadow them, as an opportunity to learn about the Advisory Board and potentially be the representative for their respective society in the future.