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3 Title: Creation of a Fellowship Distinction within our American Medical Association
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5 Introduced by: Jeanne Lee, Jonathan Li, Gunjan Malhotra, Vadim Rosin, Brian Yagi, and Andrew
6 Zureick for the Medical Student Section
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8 Original Author: Andrew Zureick
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10 Referred to: Reference Committee C
11
12 House Action: **DISAPPROVE**
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15 Whereas, a number of professional, national medical societies have provisions to award
16 dedicated physician members with a “Fellowship” distinction and title, and
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18 Whereas, such a Fellowship distinction does not exist within our American Medical Association
19 (AMA), and
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21 Whereas, we propose here an AMA Fellowship distinction, which would allow nominated AMA
22 members to be designated as a “Fellow of the American Medical Association,” and to add the acronym
23 “FAMA” or “F.A.M.A.” to his or her surnames (e.g., John Smith, M.D., FAMA), and
24

25 Whereas, some specialty societies have a variety of minimum eligibility requirements for their
26 Fellows, ranging from attendance at a certain number of national meetings or years of membership
27 required (e.g., the American Academy of Neurology [AAN] requires attendance at five AAN meetings and
28 seven years of membership for “FAAN” eligibility) to significant involvement within the organization
29 (e.g., the American Society of Clinical Oncology [ASCO] tracks leadership and activity within ASCO using a
30 point system for “FASCO” eligibility)^{1,2}, and
31

32 Whereas, some specialty societies use the Fellowship title as a membership category rather than
33 a distinction (e.g., the American College of Surgeons has recognized over 80,000 Fellows [“FACS”] since
34 the 1980s, only requiring board certification and one year of practice, and the American College of
35 Physicians [ACP] requires two years of membership, board certification, and some sort of enrichment
36 activity beyond clinical practice, but a majority of ACP physician members hold the title of “FACP”)^{3,4},
37 and
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39 Whereas, some specialty societies require a competitive nomination process and
40 recommendations from other Fellows (e.g., the American Society for Radiation Oncology recognizes only
41 30 physicians per year with the title of “FASTRO,” and the British Medical Association [BMA] awards a
42 Fellowship to “only few people each year in recognition of their notable and distinguished service to the
43 BMA and the medical profession,” with nominations resulting from votes by individual sections of the
44 BMA subsequently being reviewed by a higher governing body)^{5,6,7}, and
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46 Whereas, a few specialty societies with “Fellowship” titles for many of its members also offer an
47 even higher distinction, “Mastership,” including the American College of Physicians (“MACP”) and the
48 American College of Cardiology (“MACC”)⁸, and

49 Whereas, medical fellowship titles of this sort are not limited strictly to specialty societies, as
50 health care executives can hold titles in the American College of Medical Practice Executives (“FACMPE”)
51 and the American College of Physician Executives (“FACPE”), among other organizations⁹, and
52

53 Whereas, a similar resolution was introduced to the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) over a
54 decade ago (A-04, Res. 608), but the scope of that resolution resonated more with the creation of a
55 new, very large membership category for most AMA physician members (like ACS/ACP) rather than a
56 distinction to recognize involvement and membership in the AMA or to recognize contributions to
57 health policy (in a similar light to either the AAN/ASCO models or the ASTRO/BMA models cited
58 above)^{10,11}, and
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60 Whereas, given a much smaller-scale approach compared to what was outlined in A-04 Res. 608,
61 the accompanying fiscal note for implementation of this resolution should be very significantly reduced,
62 as the envisioned scope here is to recognize a few hundred members at most per year^{10,11}, and
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64 Whereas, the Fellowship distinction would be purely for prestige and sentimental value, and not
65 be accompanied by any monetary award, and
66

67 Whereas, the AMA Board of Trustees would be asked to determine how many members to
68 recognize as AMA Fellows each year and what minimum eligibility requirements would be appropriate
69 (e.g., four years of AMA membership and attendance at five AMA national meetings), and
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71 Whereas, AMA staff would be asked to create a web page with details for the F.A.M.A.
72 nomination process and eligibility requirements, to create an application document, and to make
73 several announcements in the AMA media outlets at the time of the first call for nominations, and
74

75 Whereas, upon meeting eligibility criteria, individuals could submit applications for the
76 Fellowship distinction to their AMA Sections, state medical societies, AMA councils, AMPAC, and other
77 organizations represented within the AMA House of Delegates, and
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79 Whereas, staff within these groups (if choosing to participate) would review applications, and
80 then forward names of those they deem qualified and deserving of the title to the AMA Board of
81 Trustees for affirmation, such that the Board of Trustees and AMA staff are not required to undertake a
82 rigorous application review process, and
83

84 Whereas, recognition of AMA Fellows could be added to existing yearly programming at Annual
85 and Interim meetings for other awards and scholarships, and after the first or second year, would likely
86 generate enough interest to be self-sustaining and require minimal extra advertisement, and
87

88 Whereas, one suggested schema regarding how many AMA members to recognize as Fellows is
89 as follows: five Fellows per year from each of the 10 AMA sections, three Fellows per year from each of
90 the 53 state and U.S. territory medical societies, one Fellow per year from each of the seven AMA
91 Councils, and 84 Fellows per year from the 128 other organizations (e.g., AMPAC, specialty societies,
92 Navy, Air Force) represented within the AMA, totaling 300 per year, or any variant or multiple on this
93 principle, and
94

95 Whereas, the AMA Foundation and the AMA Board of Trustees present several awards and
96 scholarships at the Annual and Interim HOD meetings, but this Fellowship distinction would differ than
97 the 12 existing AMA awards because none of these awards specifically recognize AMA involvement or
98 contributions to health policy and organized medicine^{12,13}, and

99 Whereas, the “FAMA” distinction could appear at the forefront of a physician’s CV, business
100 card, university website, Doximity profile, etc., showcasing membership of and service to the AMA, and
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102 Whereas, the “FAMA” distinction could be lifelong, and would unify AMA members across many
103 disciplines working to advance the medical profession through health policy; therefore be it
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105 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
106 AMA to establish a process whereby the AMA Board of Trustees recognizes a cohort of nominated AMA
107 members annually for significant service to the AMA and/or organized medicine, with each recipient
108 distinguished as a “Fellow of the American Medical Association”; and be it further
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110 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
111 AMA, should an AMA Fellowship distinction be created, to encourage each recipient of its “Fellow of the
112 American Medical Association” distinction to use the title "FAMA" or "F.A.M.A." after his or her surname
113 and medical degree; and be it further
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115 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
116 AMA, should an AMA Fellowship distinction be created, to annually solicit nominations for its “Fellow of
117 the American Medical Association” distinction on behalf of our AMA Sections, State Medical Societies,
118 AMA Councils, AMPAC, and other organizations represented within our AMA House of Delegates, with
119 nominees required to meet appropriate eligibility criteria to be determined by the Board of Trustees;
120 and be it further
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122 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
123 AMA, should an AMA Fellowship distinction be created, to recognize its inaugural class of AMA Fellows
124 at the 2017 AMA Annual House of Delegates meeting.
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127 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ American Academy of Neurology (2015). “Become a Fellow (FAAN).” Available at <https://www.aan.com/membership/become-a-fellow/>.

² American Society of Clinical Oncology (2015). “FASCO: Award and Eligibility Information.” Available at <http://www.asco.org/about-asco/fasco-award-and-eligibility-information>.

³ American College of Physicians (2015). “ACP Fellowship.” Available at <https://www.acponline.org/membership/fellowship/>.

⁴ American College of Surgeons. (2015) “About ACS.” Available at <https://www.facs.org/about-ac>.

⁵ University Hospital of South Manchester. (2014) “BMA Fellowship for UHSM Consultant.” Available at <http://www.uhsm.nhs.uk/news/Pages/jain.aspx>.

⁶ British Medical Association. (2015) “Awards and honours.” Available at <http://bma.org.uk/bmahonours>.

⁷ American Society for Radiation Oncology. (2015) “Thirty outstanding ASTRO members named Fellows.” Available at <https://www.astro.org/News-and-Media/News-Releases/2014/Thirty-outstanding-ASTRO-members-named-Fellows.aspx>.

⁸ American College of Cardiology. (2016) “The Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (FACC) Designation.” Available at <http://www.acc.org/membership/about-membership/the-facc-designation>.

⁹ Medical Group Management Association (2015). “ACMPE.” Available at <http://www.mgma.com/education-certification/acmpe-overview>.

¹⁰ American Medical Association. (2004) AMA Annual Meeting 2004, Resolution 608, “Creation of a Fellowship Status within our American Medical Association.” Available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/meetings/public/annual04/608a04.rtf>.

¹¹ American Medical Association. (2004) “Reference Committee F Report, AMA Annual Meeting 2004.” Available at http://www.ama-assn.org/meetings/public/annual04/refcomf_annot.doc.

¹² AMA Foundation. (2015) “Awards.” Available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/ama-foundation/our-programs/awards.page>.

¹³ AMA. (2015) “AMA Awards – Criteria.” Available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/about-ama/awards/about-ama-awards-program/criteria-ama-awards.page>.