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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
May 2014

A new cycle of elections has come and with it a new board of directors for CAL/AAEM will take their positions starting July 1st.

The board has been busy protecting and striving to achieve the missions of CAL/AAEM.

One of these is to improve the quality and promote the integrity of the practice and management of emergency medicine in the State of California, and it seems to face constant threat. Most recently, the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) repeal threatens the practice of emergency medicine. California Medical Association (CMA) leaders met with key members of the California Congressional delegation, urging them to come to an agreement on how to fund the SGR. A bipartisan bill to permanently repeal Medicare’s fatally flawed SGR formula and reform the Medicare payment system (H.R. 4015/S. 2000) has been presented to Congress.

April saw the Legislative Leadership Conference in which California physicians met with our elected officials and heard from Governor Jerry Brown and Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom.

I encourage you to become active and to stay active in organized medicine. Be a voice to be heard by our legislators. Call AMA’s Grassroots Hotline at (888) 434-6200 to be connected with your members of Congress in Washington. You will be asked to enter your zip code and select your representative. Your local
congressional representative can be identified using your local ZIP code. Express opinions to California Senator Barbara Boxer, California Senator Dianne Feinstein, House Republican Whip Kevin McCarthy (found at ZIP code 93309), and House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (found at ZIP code 94103).

Email federal legislators with the AMA's “Fix Medicare Now” website at FixMedicareNow.org.

I’d like to welcome the Highland Hospital Emergency Medicine Residency Program to the growing ranks of residency programs who have joined CAL/AAEM. They join noteworthy programs David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, LAC+USC, Stanford University Hospital, UC San Diego Medical Center, UC San Francisco, and UC Irvine, who are all 100% Residency Program members. Remember that the 100% residency program membership is FREE. If your program has not joined, contact us at www.calaaem.org to join today!

Sincerely,

Lisa Mills, MD FAAEM
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