

Fourth Quarter, 2018



In Charlotte at the most recent quarterly meeting of the AASM board of directors, we reviewed reports from our committees and task forces, and we discussed ongoing projects of importance to the membership.

This report summarizes key decisions made at the meeting and highlights other recent AASM initiatives.

Compensation Survey

The Board approved the [2018 AASM Physician Compensation Survey report](#), which is now available on the AASM website as a members only resource. I am incredibly grateful for the participation of hundreds of AASM members, who helped make this the largest national salary and compensation survey of sleep physicians and advanced practice providers. I hope that it will be a useful resource for all sleep medicine practitioners, helping us better quantify our value.

PAP Guideline

The Board approved both the Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Adult Obstructive Sleep Apnea with Positive Airway Pressure and the companion systematic review paper. I anticipate that the manuscripts will be published in the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine* in the first quarter of 2019. These papers required an enormous amount of work from an expert task force of AASM members led by Dr. Susheel Patil, and I appreciate their diligence and commitment to this project. We also received valuable feedback from numerous members

and other stakeholders during the public comment period, and external reviewers provided additional insight that helped shape the final drafts. This collaboration produced a final product that will be an important reference for our field.

New Sleep Disruptors Course

The Board approved a proposal for “Sleep Medicine Disruptors,” a new course that will be held at the AASM national office and livestreamed on Friday, March 29, 2019. I am excited that this is the first [AASM course](#) that will give you the option of attending the event in-person or registering for the livestream. The course will complement Sleep Medicine Trends by focusing on disruptive innovations and changes that are impacting the practice of sleep medicine. Topics will include consumer sleep technology, artificial intelligence, big data and precision medicine. These disruptions have already begun to affect the sleep field, so it is important for us to be prepared to respond.

HSAT Position Statement

The Board approved an updated version of the AASM position statement on the Clinical Use of a Home Sleep Apnea Test (HSAT), clarifying that advanced practice providers play an important role in the provision of HSATs for patients with suspected obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). The updated statement will be published in the Dec. 15 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*. vital to the advancement of the AASM vision of achieving optimal health through better sleep.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Board approved a [diversity and inclusion statement](#) that was drafted by the AASM Diversity and Inclusion Task Force led by Dr. Lourdes Del Rosso. It affirms that diversity is an important component of the AASM

mission to improve sleep health and promote high quality, patient-centered care for all people.

SDB Summit

In November the AASM hosted the [Sleep-Disordered Breathing Collaboration Summit](#), which brought together 35 representatives from 14 medical societies, nurse practitioner associations and patient advocacy groups to discuss strategies to improve the diagnosis and treatment of OSA. I thank the Planning Committee led by Dr. Ilene Rosen for organizing this important event, and I hope that the summit will be a springboard for ongoing collaboration that will promote the expansion of high quality, patient-centered care for OSA. We are preparing a summit report that will summarize the topics and ideas discussed by the participants.

AMA House of Delegates

Finally, I am pleased to report that we expect the AASM to regain a seat in the American Medical Association (AMA) House of Delegates in June. I thank our physician members who joined the AMA or renewed your membership to help us surpass the required count of 1,000 dual AASM/AMA members. Having a delegate will enable the AASM to represent and amplify the voice of sleep physicians when important policy decisions are considered, and it will allow us to share the perspective of sleep specialists during reimbursement discussions that are unique to sleep medicine.

I thank you for your support as an AASM member, and I encourage you to [renew your membership](#) for 2019 before the Dec. 31 deadline. Your support is vital to the advancement of the AASM vision of achieving optimal health through better sleep.

Douglas Kirsch, MD
President

Report of the Committees

Accreditation Committee

Alexandre Rocha Abreu, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Accreditation Committee identifies potential concerns with accreditation standards and recommends courses of action to the board of directors. The committee will recommend to

the board of directors' accreditation status for all forms of accreditation.

Update: The committee is reviewing the Standards for Accreditation to simplify requirements that have a limited bearing on the quality of a sleep center. Recommendations will be submitted to the Board of Directors in January.

Artificial Intelligence in Sleep Medicine Subcommittee

Cathy Goldstein, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Artificial Intelligence in Sleep Medicine subcommittee is responsible for looking at advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) within the sleep medicine field. The subcommittee will provide information that is relevant to our members on how AI will affect them.

Update: The subcommittee has made progress on the development of a position statement on AI in sleep medicine.

Coding and Compliance Committee

Fariha Abbasi-Feinberg, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Coding and Compliance Committee evaluates potential concerns related to existing codes in CPT, HCPCS Level II (DME codes), and code evaluations as determined by the Relative Value Scale Update Committee [RUC] and makes recommendations to the board of directors.

Update: The committee is evaluating all Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Local Coverage Determination (LCD) sleep study policies due to member feedback about challenges with reimbursement for negative sleep studies. The committee will be contacting the MACs to identify the most appropriate mechanism for requesting revisions to LCDs so sleep medicine professionals can code symptoms for negative sleep studies in order to receive reimbursement.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

Lourdes Del Rosso, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force evaluates how well the AASM does in fostering a welcoming environment for all members. The task force assesses the current AASM membership to identify underrepresented groups, detect any barriers to

diversity and inclusion, and recommend strategies for improvement.

Update: The task force drafted a [diversity and inclusion statement](#), which was approved by the Board of Directors and is now on the AASM website. To help assess the current level of diversity within the AASM, the task force is urging all members to complete the new questions in your [member account](#). To do so, click “Edit Profile,” answer the new questions under “Diversity and Inclusion Data,” and click “Update Account.”

Education Committee

Tomasz Kuzniar, MD, PhD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Education Committee proposes and develops educational programs, initiatives and products that meet the educational needs of the AASM membership and their patients.

Update: The committee has completed an initial set of four [provider fact sheets](#) to equip primary care providers and colleagues in other specialties with key information regarding some of the most common sleep disorders. The committee also developed the [Sleep Health and Wellness Resource](#), a FREE, interactive program to help medical students, residents and fellows explore the importance of sleep.

Innovative Fellowship Model Implementation Presidential Committee

David Plante, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Innovative Fellowship Model Implementation Presidential Committee will provide oversight and monitor the progress of the ACGME Advancing Innovation in Residency Education (AIRE) proposal and oversee its implementation if approved.

Update: The committee has completed the development of proposed part-time and blended models for the ACGME Advancing Innovation in Residency Education (AIRE) initiative. The committee is finalizing the application process for the sleep medicine fellowship programs that are interested in participating if the pilot programs are approved by ACGME.

Lifelong Learning Development Committee

David Goldstein, MD - Chair

Mandate: The Lifelong Learning Development Committee develops educational resources related to

lifelong learning in the field of sleep medicine, including the sleep medicine in-training examination and maintenance of certification (MOC) products.

Update: The committee is reviewing and revising the 2018 sleep medicine in-training exam (SMITE) to ensure that it aligns with the revised [ABIM Sleep Medicine Certification Examination Blueprint](#) and the [MOC Examination Blueprint](#).

Payer Policy Review Committee

Neeraj Kaplish, MD - Chair

Mandate: The Payer Policy Review Committee develops and maintains resources based on AASM publications for payers to use when establishing sleep specific policies.

Update: To provide payers with a resource to help align their policies with evidence-based guidance, the committee finalized a [Template Policy on Diagnostic Testing for Obstructive Sleep Apnea](#). The committee also continues to develop [guideline scorecards](#) to evaluate how effective payer policies are at establishing appropriate coverage for diagnostic sleep testing services. The committee also is sending letters to payers that have not yet revised their hypopnea scoring criteria to include arousals, encouraging them to align their criteria with the [AASM position statement](#).

Public Safety Committee

Indira Gurubhagavatula, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Public Safety Committee identifies various occupations and populations that are a safety risk due to sleep deprivation and sleep disorders, and it develops strategies to advocate for and promote improved regulatory oversight, employer awareness, and employee and public safety.

Update: The committee [submitted comments](#) in response to an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), “Hours of Service of Drivers.” The committee also is working on a position statement about sleep and physician burnout, and it has assembled a collaborative writing group, including representatives from the AAN, ACOEM, CHEST, and the SRS, to develop a position statement on OSA in the transportation industry.

Scoring Manual Editorial Board

Rich Berry, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The mandate of the Scoring Manual Editorial Board is to review the AASM Manual for the Scoring of Sleep and Associated Events on an annual basis and recommend necessary updates to ensure it is current with AASM practice parameters, clinical guidelines and policies while addressing the evolution of technology.

Update: The editorial board continues to review the scoring manual and will submit any proposed changes to the Board of Directors in July 2019.

Sleep Medicine Fellowship Directors Council (SMFDC) Steering Committee

Ian Weir, DO - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate:

Facilitate information exchange/access: Develop and facilitate an annual forum for Program Directors at the SLEEP meeting. Manage existing content and develop new content as needed for AASM Choose Sleep website.

Implement strategies to strengthen the quality and increase the number of individuals entering sleep medicine fellowships: Implement strategies from the Strategic Plan/Future of Sleep Medicine plan to strengthen the pipeline.

Administration of Sleep Medicine Match: Support the Match and ensure that all programs adhere to the All-In Policy.

Develop and distribute materials that assist programs in meeting ACGME requirements: Develop evaluation tools and facilitate monthly webinars for sleep medicine fellows. Facilitate three Faculty Development Workshops each year at the SLEEP meeting.

Update: The committee is developing a fellow boot camp course to prepare incoming sleep medicine fellows with the baseline skills and knowledge needed to excel during their fellowship year. The free course will be offered at the SLEEP meeting in June. The committee also is continuing the free [sleep medicine fellows webinar series](#).

Sleep Technologist and Respiratory Therapist Education Presidential Committee

Scott Williams, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Sleep Technologist and Respiratory Therapist Education Committee recommends and develops educational content that is critical for sleep technologists and respiratory therapists working in AASM-accredited sleep facilities.

Update: The committee is planning an educational track for SLEEP 2019 for sleep technologists and respiratory therapists, and it is planning to develop resources to help sleep technologists prepare for their registry exams.

Technology Presidential Committee

Seema Khosla, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Technology Committee monitors and evaluates emerging and evolving technologies that impact the practice of sleep medicine, including both patient-focused and practice-focused technologies. This committee is responsible for developing educational resources for members that include best practices for the use of these technologies.

Update: The committee continues to assess consumer sleep technology devices and is developing an online resource to help members understand the appropriate roles and limits of emerging technology in sleep medicine.

Young Physicians Presidential Committee

Reena Mehra, MD - Chair

2018/2019 Mandate: The Young Physicians Presidential Committee supports the growth of the field of sleep medicine by providing feedback, generating ideas and developing resources that make the field of sleep medicine more attractive to young physicians in the field.

Update: The committee is monitoring the progress of the inaugural [Mentor Program](#), and it is developing a Sleep Elective Toolkit, which will help attract young physicians and medical students to the field of sleep medicine.