

## May 2018



In mid-April the board of directors met in Philadelphia for its quarterly meeting, and then AASM leaders made the short trip to Washington, D.C., to [advocate on Capitol Hill and promote sleep research](#) through a series of strategic meetings and events. It was a productive week, and it is my privilege to provide a brief update on the important

decisions made during the board meeting. Additional updates are described in the committee summaries that follow my report.

### Committee Appointments

First and foremost, I thank the members who made this a record-setting year for our call for committee volunteers. I am so appreciative of these members' enthusiasm and widespread desire to get more involved. In response we expanded some committee rosters and created a new Diversity and Inclusion Task Force; however, we simply didn't have enough openings to appoint everyone who volunteered. I want each of our members to know that we value your input and participation, and we are developing new opportunities for member engagement, including the creation of new Sleep Team Assemblies for non-physician members of the AASM. More details about these initiatives will be provided in the coming months. Building a sense of community and ensuring that all our members feel welcome will continue to be priorities for the AASM in the year ahead.

### AIRE Proposal

The AASM Innovative Fellowship Model Implementation Presidential Committee has finalized two proposals, one for a part-time model and one for a blended model, for the Advancing Innovation in Residency Education ([AIRE](#)) pilot program initiated by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Should the proposal be approved by ACGME, it will require significant resources to fund the additional fellowship slots for the pilot programs. Recognizing that this is a timely opportunity to collaborate with our fellowship programs to expand the pathways into the field of sleep medicine, the AASM made a \$4 million commitment over 5 years to support the pilot implementation.

### OSA Outcome Assessment Tool

The board of directors also approved funding of approximately \$1 million for the development and validation of a patient-reported outcome tool for obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). This decision was based on an assessment of the strengths and limitations of existing tools by an AASM task force. (The resulting paper was approved for publication in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*.) We believe that this tool will benefit the field by helping us demonstrate the value of treating OSA.

### Collaborative Care

One of my priorities as president has been to challenge our board of directors to strategize how we can improve our collaboration with other specialties and advanced providers to improve access to quality care for the millions of people in the U.S. who have undiagnosed OSA. To gather input from key stakeholders, the board of directors approved funding for a Sleep-Disordered Breathing Collaboration Summit, which will be hosted by the AASM in November. The summit will build upon the feedback that we will gather from attendees during the discussion group, "Models of Collaborative Care to

Diagnose and Manage Obstructive Sleep Apnea,” which will be held on Monday, June 4, during SLEEP 2018.

## CMS Advocacy

As president I frequently hear from members who are frustrated with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) coverage policies for OSA. Common topics of complaint include the adherence requirements for PAP therapy and the criteria for scoring hypopneas. These frustrations are shared by the board of directors, who approved the scheduling of an in-person meeting with CMS staff to discuss these and other concerns. Several AASM representatives will be traveling to CMS headquarters for this meeting on June 6.

## New Leadership

The board officially ratified the results of the 2018 AASM leadership election. I thank all of the members who voted, and I congratulate the following individuals:

- Kelly Carden, MD, MBA, president-elect
- Raman Malhotra, MD, secretary/treasurer
- Jennifer Martin, PhD, director-at-large (second term)
- Eric Olson, MD, director-at-large (second term)
- Anita Valanju Shelgikar, MD, MHPE, director-at-large
- Timothy Morgenthaler, MD, Nominating Committee representative

## Other Decisions

- Approved for publication a position statement addressing the scoring of hypopneas with arousals and respiratory event-related arousals when interpreting sleep studies
- Approved for publication the Clinical Practice Guideline on the Use of Actigraphy for the Evaluation of Sleep Disorders and Circadian Rhythm Sleep-Wake Disorders
- Approved the formation of an Alternative Payment Models Task Force
- Approved the formation of a task force to assess the potential suitability of AASM quality measures for testing and validation

To provide more details about these and other initiatives, I have submitted a special article that will be published in the June 15 issue of the Journal of Clinical

Sleep Medicine. As I conclude this final quarterly report as the 2017-2018 AASM president, I thank you for your support during the past year, and I welcome Dr. Douglas Kirsch, whose term as the 2018-2019 AASM president will begin on Monday, June 4, during the AASM General Membership Meeting at SLEEP 2018 in Baltimore. I hope you will join us there to hear more about recent initiatives and learn about our plans for the year ahead.

*Ilene M. Rosen, MD, MS*  
President

## Report of the Committees

### Accreditation Committee

*Alexandre Rocha Abreu, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Accreditation Committee identifies issues 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 has continued to review accreditation, reaccreditation, and expedited accreditation applications. The [Standards for Accreditation have been updated](#), and the sleep facility [accreditation process has been streamlined](#).

### Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee

*Cathy Goldstein, MD - Chair*

**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 continued to work on drafting a position statement about AI in the field of sleep medicine.

### Coding and Compliance Committee

*Fariha Abbasi-Feinberg, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Coding and Compliance Committee evaluates issues 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 has continued to update the [Coding FAQs on the AASM website](#), reviewing and updating the responses and drafting new FAQs related to dental sleep medicine. The committee also has been reviewing and editing the [AASM Coding Education Program \(A-CEP\)](#) modules.

## Education Committee

*Lourdes Del Rosso, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Education Committee proposes and develops educational programs, initiatives and products that meet the educational needs of the AASM membership and their patients. The committee also reviews submissions for the Young Investigator Research Awards and ASMF High School Video Contest.

**Update:** The committee is developing fact sheets as a resource for non-sleep physicians to inform them about use in understanding the connection between obesity and sleep disorders. A subcommittee is developing an interactive webpage that will allow medical students to answer survey questions about their personal sleep habits in the context of wellness. The committee also reviewed 123 abstracts for consideration as part of the AASM Young Investigator Awards and reviewed 43 short videos submitted for the AASM Foundation's ["Make Time to Sleep" High School Video Contest](#).

## Health Policy Strategy Presidential Committee

*Chris Lettieri, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Health Policy Strategy Presidential Committee identifies emerging health policy, payer and legislative priorities and recommends initiatives to the board of directors.

**Update:** The committee completed its goals with the submission of a prioritized health policy agenda to the October 2017 board of directors meeting. We thank chair Chris Lettieri, MD, and committee members Jose Chocano, MD, Alexander Boris Gelfer, MD, Rahul Kakkar, MD, Bimpe Omobomi, MD, and Emerson Wickwire, PhD, for their time and contributions. The board of directors has begun [increasing its advocacy efforts](#) based on some of their findings and recommendations.

## Innovative Fellowship Model Implementation Presidential Committee

*David Plante, MD - Chair*

**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.

**Update:** The committee has developed two draft proposals for a part-time sleep medicine fellowship training model and a blended model. They are waiting on additional feedback from the certifying boards. The AASM board of directors approved a budget of up to \$4 million to support the implementation of the pilot programs if they are approved by the ACGME.

## Lifelong Learning Development Committee

*John Park, 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 products.

**Update:** The committee authored all new content for the 2018 AASM Sleep Medicine In-Training Exam (SMITE), which was offered during the month of March. The committee also wrote new content for the existing Insomnia MOC Self-Assessment exam. Next the committee will write new content for two existing MOC Self-Assessment Exams: Hypersomnia and Parasomnias.

## Membership Presidential Committee

*Khurshid Khurshid, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Membership Presidential Committee supports the activities of the AASM Membership Department by providing feedback regarding membership benefits, serving as AASM social media ambassadors, and providing recommendations for the AASM Fellow Member program.

**Update:** The committee reviewed and approved one pending fellow application submission.

## Occupational Sleep Wellness Presidential Committee

*Indira Gurubhagavatula, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Occupational Sleep Wellness Presidential Committee engages various occupations and populations who are at risk for sleep deprivation and provides education on the effects of sleep deprivation and fatigue management strategies.

**Update:** The committee completed a Sleep and Truck Driving Safety fact sheet, and its [ridesharing position statement](#) was approved by the board of directors and published in JCSM. Committee [comments](#) also were submitted in response to an FMCSA request for input on a proposed survey to inquire about CMV driver commuting practices.

## Payer Policy Review Committee

*Neeraj Kaplish, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Payer Policy Review Committee develops recommendations from AASM guidelines for payers to use when establishing policies.

**Update:** The committee developed a template policy on diagnostic testing for OSA as an additional resource to send to payers to help them align their policies with the AASM clinical practice guideline. The committee also has completed or nearly completed the scoring process for 17 more [private payer](#) guideline scorecards and will be reaching out to these payers for feedback before posting the scorecards on the AASM website.

## Scoring Manual Editorial Board

*Rich Berry, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The mandate of the Scoring Manual Editorial Board is to review and update the *AASM Manual for the Scoring of Sleep and Associated Events* on an annual basis to ensure it is current with AASM practice parameters, clinical guidelines and policy, and addresses the evolution of technology.

**Update:** The new version of the Scoring Manual (version 2.5) was [launched online on April 2](#). All AASM-accredited sleep facilities will be required to implement the new rules in Version 2.5 by Oct. 1, 2018.

## Sleep Technologist and Respiratory Therapist Education Presidential Committee

*Scott Williams, MD - Chair*

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

**Update:** The committee has planned the inaugural Technologist Track that will debut at SLEEP 2018 in Baltimore. The committee reviewed and updated content for the new resource, [An Introduction to Sleep Disorders](#). A subcommittee helped develop the new [Electrode Placement Video](#) and reviewed the companion Skin-to-Screen ebook.

## Technology Presidential Committee

*Seema Khosla, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Technology Committee monitors and evaluates emerging and evolving technologies that impact the practice of sleep medicine. This includes both patient-focused technologies 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's [consumer sleep technology position statement](#) was approved by the board of directors and published in JCSM. The committee also has completed the framework for an online resource that will help sleep medicine professionals assess emerging consumer sleep technology, specifically apps and wearables.

## Young Physicians Presidential Committee

*Reena Mehra, MD - Chair*

**Mandate:** The Young Physicians Presidential Committee supports the growth of the field of sleep medicine by providing feedback and ideas for improving sleep medicine training programs and developing resources that are attractive to young physicians in the field.

**Update:** The committee has finalized 41 matches for the [AASM Mentor Program](#). A “Mentor Mixer” will be held for them at SLEEP 2018.

In April the board of directors approved committee appointments, mandates and goals for the 2018 – 2019 program year. These appointments will begin in June. Updated committee mandates and goals will be included in the next President’s Report.