

September 2018



In Chicago 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 and initiatives of importance to the membership.

- **Sleep Medicine Trainee Member** - for those who are in a sleep medicine training program
- **Sleep Team Member** - for nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, sleep technologists, respiratory therapists, office/center managers, medical assistants, and other professionals in the sleep field
- **Retired Member** – for individuals who are 65 years of age or older and working zero hours per week
- **In-Training Member** – for medical students, residents and others in formal training (formerly “Student Members”)
- **Affiliate Member** – for those who are ineligible for other categories (formerly “Affiliate – Industry”)

Revised Bylaws

Among the items that we discussed was a proposed revision of the AASM bylaws, the document that defines the governance structure of our organization and outlines the essential rules and procedures for our operations. The board of directors periodically reviews the bylaws to ensure that they remain accurate, are aligned with organizational best practices, and support the overall strategic direction of the AASM.

After careful consideration and thoughtful discussion, the board of directors approved the amended and restated bylaws. Following the conclusion of our board meeting, the bylaws were presented to the eligible voting membership and were adopted by 96 percent of participating members. I am grateful for each of our members who took the time to review the changes and cast a vote. The [updated bylaws](#) are now available on the AASM website.

Membership Categories

The most significant update to the bylaws is to the AASM [membership categories](#). Three new categories have been formed, one was renamed, and one was restructured:

The age requirement for Emeritus Members also was lowered from 70 to 65 years to make this prestigious membership category more accessible for eligible members.

New Assemblies

The revised bylaws also allow for the establishment of other member groups for individuals who have similar professional backgrounds or shared interests. The formation of the first of these groups, the Sleep Team Assemblies, has been approved by the board of directors. These four Assemblies will be:

- Advance Practice Provider Assembly
- Dental Assembly
- Sleep Psychologist Assembly
- Sleep Technologist/Respiratory Therapist Assembly

We envision that the Assemblies will provide more opportunities within the AASM for member engagement and networking. The AASM will be launching the Assemblies soon and will provide you with complete details.

Compensation Survey

Finally, the board of directors also reviewed a preliminary draft of the 2018 AASM Physician Compensation Survey report. We had a tremendous response to last spring's survey, with 883 members participating. I am incredibly thankful for the physicians and advanced providers who helped us make this the largest national salary and compensation survey for the sleep field. The board of directors provided feedback to ECG Management Consultants, the independent third-party administrator of the survey, and I anticipate that we will soon have a final report that will be ready to share with the membership.

I thank you for your support as an AASM member, and I encourage you to renew your membership for 2019 when our renewal season opens Oct. 1. 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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Develop resources to educate accredited facilities on understanding and implementing the accreditation standards.
2. Assist in the review of accreditation applications submitted to the AASM.
3. Evaluate the accreditation and reaccreditation standards in order to simplify requirements that have limited bearing on the quality of a sleep center.

Update: The committee is reviewing the accreditation standards to simplify requirements that have a limited bearing on the quality of a sleep center.

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Develop a position statement on artificial intelligence within sleep medicine.
2. Review Inter-scorer Reliability data sharing agreements and provide approval recommendations to the Executive Committee.
3. Determine methods of sharing Inter-scorer Reliability data with Industry.
4. Evaluate and provide recommendations on certification programs for machine learning algorithms.

Update: The subcommittee is developing a position statement on AI and machine learning 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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Continue to monitor issues related to the sleep medicine family of codes in the HCPCS Level II and at the CPT and RUC levels.
2. Identify opportunities for creating new codes for sleep medicine. This should include a review of all AASM clinical practice guidelines and ICSD-3.
3. Prioritize a list of potential new CPT codes for which to develop CPT code proposals.
4. Develop resources for members to educate them on how to properly comply with various rules and regulations (e.g., Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), navigating the 3% and 4% hypopnea rule).
5. Update and maintain coding and compliance FAQs on AASM website.

6. Respond to member inquiries specific to the areas of coding and compliance.
7. Continue to monitor APMs and revisit and update prior AASM work on APMs.

Update: The committee has completed the review and editing of all [AASM Coding FAQs](#), and they reviewed and edited the [AASM Coding Education Program \(A-CEP\)](#) modules, which are now available in the AASM online store.

NEW: 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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Assess the current level of diversity within the AASM membership and among AASM leadership (e.g., Board of Directors, committee chairs, event faculty).
2. Identify underrepresented groups in the AASM membership and note any barriers that may hinder diversity and inclusion.
3. Identify any barriers that may deter members in underrepresented groups from serving in leadership roles within the AASM.
4. Submit a comprehensive report to the Board of Directors summarizing the task force's findings and recommending strategies to address the identified barriers that prevent a welcoming environment for all members.

Update: The task force had its inaugural meeting at SLEEP 2018 and is starting its work by analyzing current AASM member demographic data.

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Review all AASM education products to identify any content gaps and update them to ensure alignment with current standards and guidelines.
2. Develop a series of educational resources for approved sleep medicine partners outlining a model of care for diagnosing and treating sleep disorders.
3. Review content of enduring AASM on-demand materials to ensure they meet ABIM MOC requirements.
4. Review submissions for the Young Investigator Research Awards and AASM High School Video Contest.

Update: The committee has developed a Medical Student Wellness Resource that will be ready to launch soon, and they reviewed and updated the [AASM slide sets](#).

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Monitor the progress of the ACGME AIRE proposal.
2. Adapt resources for the implementation of the ACGME AIRE proposal, as necessary.
3. Oversee implementation of AIRE proposal if approved by ACGME.

Update: The committee has received feedback from ACGME and the internal medicine, psychiatry and neurology, and pediatric certification boards. Both AIRE proposals – one for a part-time model and one for a blended model – are being finalized for submission to 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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Update the sleep medicine in-training examination to ensure that it accurately reflects the content areas of the sleep medicine certification examination and has relevant and correct questions.
2. Update existing MOC self-assessment exams to ensure they align with current standards and guidelines.
3. Evaluate question performance in MOC self-assessment exams and replace poorly performing questions to ensure a high-quality learning experience.
4. Develop references and/or rationale for questions in the AASM item bank where they are currently absent.

Update: The committee continues to work on updating the sleep medicine in-training examination and the MOC self-assessment exams.

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Develop a list of clear, concise and relevant recommendations based off the Clinical Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Adult Obstructive Sleep Apnea with Positive Airway Pressure for payers to use when establishing policies.
2. Develop a model template policy for positive airway pressure therapy based upon the clinical practice guideline.
3. Communicate with payers to encourage correct interpretation and adoption of AASM recommendations.
4. Create and maintain public online scorecards to show committee assessments of which AASM publications are followed and which are not by selected insurers according to their published policies at specified time points.
5. Track and review member concerns specific to payer policy issues and respond as necessary.

Update: The committee continues to review and score payer policies, producing [guideline scorecards](#) that are posted on the AASM website.

NEW: 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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Identify and prioritize various occupations and populations that are a safety risk due to sleep deprivation and sleep disorders.
2. Identify key stakeholders for potential collaboration, including federal agencies, professional societies, trade groups and safety advocates.
3. Monitor regulatory agencies' actions related to sleep health and safety and provide them with timely input from the AASM by drafting letters, public comments, editorials and/or position statements.
4. Collaborate with stakeholders in developing protocols that address sleep and safety.

Update: The committee is assembling a collaborative writing group, including representatives from the AAN, ACOEM, CHEST, and the SRS, to develop a Screening for OSA in CMV and Rail Operators Position Statement.

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Review the current Scoring Manual and submit recommendations for changes to the January 2019 Board of Directors meeting.
2. Update the FAQ section on the AASM Scoring Manual webpage as needed.
3. Provide clarification of the scoring rules where possible.

Update: The editorial board continues to assess potential changes to the Scoring Manual while developing responses to FAQs.

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 steering committee is developing the 2018/2019 fellowship webinar series and is looking into additional opportunities to help program directors and fellows.

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Develop an educational track for SLEEP 2019 for sleep technologists and respiratory therapists working in AASM-accredited sleep facilities.
2. Evaluate the AASM's current educational resources for sleep technologists and respiratory therapists and recommend online educational resources to fill any gaps.
3. Review the A-STEP educational curriculum to ensure that it is relevant and comprehensive to

- prepare entry-level sleep technologists for employment in an AASM-accredited sleep facility.
4. Develop resources to help sleep technologists prepare for their registry exams.

Update: The committee reviewed and updated the content for the new AASM resource, [An Introduction to Sleep Disorders](#), and they completed content development for the new [Electrode Placement video and Skin-to-Screen ebook](#).

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Develop a strategy for continued monitoring and evaluation of emerging and evolving technologies that impact the practice of sleep medicine.
2. Identify and prioritize these technologies based on how impactful they are to the practice of sleep medicine.
3. Develop educational resources for members that include best practices for the use of the highest-prioritized technology.

Update: The committee is evaluating and assessing consumer sleep technology devices for the development of an online resource for members.

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.

Goals for 2018/2019:

1. Develop resources that will attract young physicians to the AASM and field of sleep medicine.
2. Develop resources that will help young physicians transition into practice.

3. Monitor and assess the performance of the mentorship program and suggest revisions based upon feedback.
4. Develop a toolkit to educate young physicians on opportunities for involvement within the AASM.

Update: The committee is working on ongoing materials for the Mentor Program and is discussing ways to encourage young physicians and medical school students to consider a career in sleep medicine.