

MSS Social Issue Task Force Meeting Agenda
Sep 16, 2005
TMA Building, May Owen Conference Room, 10th floor
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

- I. Welcome & Introductions Marte Martinez, SITF Chair

- II. **Action:** Conflict of Interest

- III. **Action:** Copyright agreement

- IV. **Action:** Approval of SITF meeting minutes (May 13, 2005)

- V. Chapter Reports (oral)

- VI. Grand *Rounds* – story ideas/submissions for next issue

- VII. Childhood obesity summary

- VIII. Sharing expenses

- IX. TMA-MSS community service project ideas (Winter Conference)

- X. AMA conference project

- XI. Other Business/Events/News
 - A. Upcoming deadlines
 - B. Upcoming Medical Student State/National Meetings
 - 1. AMA-MSS Interim Meeting 2005 (Dallas): 11/3 – 11/5
 - 2. TMA-MSS Winter Conference 2006 (Austin): 2/4 – 2/5

- XII. Adjournment

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY
OF THE TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

When acting as representatives of Texas Medical Association, members shall exercise the utmost good faith in all transactions touching upon their representation. In their dealings with and on behalf of the association they are held to a strict rule of honesty and fair dealing between themselves and the association.

If a matter involves a member acting as a representative of Texas Medical Association that in any way could give rise to conflict of interest for that member, then that member must physically withdraw from the situation so as not to participate in any discussion or vote regarding that matter. If that member does not self identify in such situations, then any member or executive staff member may make known the conflict to the chair of the meeting at the earliest opportunity. If there is any question as to whether a conflict exists, the matter shall be put to a vote of the appropriate component of the association.

At the discretion of the external entity or TMA component involved, the member who has withdrawn may provide information to the group in the same manner as any person requested by the group.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees February 27, 2004
Adopted by the House of Delegates May 14, 2004

EXPLANATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Definitions

(The following is intended to be illustrative rather than exhaustive):

- A. "Interests"--the following are examples of financial and business "interests":
1. Sales to or purchases from the Association by a board, council or committee member, either individually or through a company or other entity in which that person has a substantial interest;
 2. Loans to or from the Association by a board, council or committee member directly or through a substantially owned entity;
 3. Other interests in a related business or profession which might conflict with the policies of the Association;
- B. "Direct" or "Indirect"--The meaning of "direct" interest is clear enough, but "indirect" has a wide range of meanings. Examples of "indirect" interests are:
1. Where a board, council or committee member owns a substantial share of a company but has put the ownership interest in that person's spouse's or another's name;
 2. Where the spouse or another relative owns a company which sells goods or services to the Association.
- C. "Substantial"--Where the outside interests consist of ownership (direct or indirect) of an entity doing business with the Association, a "substantial" conflict means 5% or greater ownership of the other business.

Activities that Might Cause Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest may be considered to exist in those instances where the actions or activities of an individual on behalf of the Association also involve (a) the obtaining of an improper personal gain or advantage; (b) an adverse effect on the Association's interests; or (c) the obtaining by a third party of an improper gain or advantage. Conflicts of interest can arise in other instances. While it is impossible to list every circumstance giving rise to a possible conflict of interest, the following will serve as a guide to the types of activities which might cause conflicts and which should be fully reported to the Association.

1. Gifts, Gratuities and Entertainment

Direct or indirect acceptance by an individual (including members of that person's family) of gifts, excessive or unusual entertainment, or other favors from any outside concern which does or is seeking to do business with the Association. This does not include the acceptance of items of nominal value which are of such a nature as to indicate that they are merely tokens of respect or friendship and not related to any particular transaction or activity.

2. Investments--Financial Interests

- a. Holding by an individual, directly or indirectly, of a substantial financial interest in any outside concern from which the Association secures goods or services (including the service of buying or selling stocks, bonds, or other securities).
- b. Competition with the Association by an individual, directly or indirectly, in the purchase or sale of property or property rights or interest.
- c. Representation of the Association by an individual in any transaction in which the individual or a member of his family has a substantial financial interest.

3. Inside Information

Disclosure or use of confidential information for the personal profit or advantage of the individual or anyone else.

Conflicts of Interest

Scenario 1

A TMA member is serving as a TMA representative in a group which includes both physicians and non-physicians. As a result of the activities of this group, a decision on a vendor of services for the group's ultimate goal must be made. At the time of selection of a vendor, the TMA member has a significant financial interest in one of the proposed vendors. This interest is not widely known among the group's members.

The Conflicts of Interest policy would apply as follows:

The TMA member should withdraw from the meeting so as not to participate in any discussion or vote regarding the selection of a vendor. If the TMA member does not self identify, then any TMA member or executive staff member may make known to that group's chair the TMA member's financial interest in the vendor. If there is any question as to whether a conflict exists, the matter should be put to a vote of the appropriate component of the association.

At the discretion of the group, the TMA member who withdrew from the meeting may provide information to the group in the same manner as any person so requested by the group.

Conflicts of Interest

Scenario 2

A TMA member is serving on a TMA council. The member also serves on the board of trustees of his or her state specialty society. The state specialty society has taken a position on a scope of practice issue of high concern to that group of specialists. The TMA council on which the member serves also is considering TMA policy on the same issue for the purpose of making a recommendation to the House of Delegates.

In order to comply with the Conflicts of Interest Policy, that member should withdraw from the meeting so as not to participate in any discussion or vote regarding the TMA position on scope of practice with respect to that specialty society position. If the member does not self identify, then any TMA member or executive staff member may make known to the chair the member's service on the state specialty society board of trustees. If there is any question as to whether a conflict exists, the matter shall be put to a vote by the council. Should the council vote that the member has a conflict of interest on the scope of practice issue, then the member should withdraw from the discussion (leave the room) and not vote.

At the discretion of the council, the member who withdrew from the meeting may provide information to the council in the same manner as any person so requested by the council.

Conflicts of Interest

Scenario 3

A TMA member is serving on a TMA board, council or committee (hereinafter, “board”). The member also serves on the board of trustees of an endorsed entity. The TMA board has an agenda item before it which directly affects the endorsed entity (e.g., proposal for a royalty payment, proposal regarding underwriting or rate setting by the endorsed entity, or a proposal concerning operations).

In order to comply with the Conflicts of Interest Policy, that TMA board member should withdraw from the meeting so as not to participate in any discussion or vote regarding the TMA position on any matters directly affecting the endorsed entity. If the TMA board member does not self-identify, then any TMA member or executive staff member may make known to the chair the TMA board member’s service on the board of trustees of the endorsed entity. If there is any question as to whether a conflict exists, the matter shall be put to a vote by the board. Should the board vote that the TMA board member has a conflict of interest on the issue directly affecting the endorsed entity, the TMA board member should withdraw from the discussion (leave the room) and not vote.

At the discretion of the board, the board member who withdrew from the meeting may provide information to the board in the same manner as any person so requested by the board.

Conflicts of Interest

Scenario 4

A TMA member is serving on a TMA board, council or committee (hereinafter, “board”). The member also serves on the board of trustees or in an executive capacity with ABC health insurance company (hereinafter, “ABC”). The TMA board has an agenda item before it which directly affects ABC (e.g., proposal for a royalty payment by ABC, proposal regarding payment practices by ABC, or litigation with ABC as a plaintiff, defendant or as amicus curiae).

In order to comply with the Conflicts of Interest Policy, that TMA board member should withdraw from the meeting so as not to participate in any discussion or vote regarding the TMA position on any matters directly affecting ABC. If the TMA board member does not self-identify, then any TMA member or executive staff member may make known to the chair of the board the TMA board member’s service on the board of trustees or in an executive capacity with ABC. If there is any question as to whether a conflict exists, the matter shall be put to a vote by the board. Should the board vote that the TMA board member has a conflict of interest on the issue directly affecting ABC, the TMA board member should withdraw from the discussion (leave the room) and not vote.

At the discretion of the board, the board member who withdrew from the meeting may provide information to the board in the same manner as any person so requested by the board.

COPYRIGHT AGREEMENT

It is acknowledged that I am either a member of Texas Medical Association or a consultant to a Texas Medical Association committee. In my role as a volunteer I may become, from time to time, engaged in projects which involve copyrighted materials such as guidelines, pamphlets, brochures and educational materials. I agree that the Texas Medical Association holds all rights to copyright such materials and that ownership of all such materials belongs to Texas Medical Association.

Signature

Title/Organization (if applicable)

Name of TMA Committee

Date

**Approval of Minutes
(May 13, 2005)**

**Texas Medical Association
Medical Student Section
TexMed 2005
Social Issues Task Force Meeting
May 13, 2005**

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Greg Stanley, 2004 – 2005 Chair
The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm.
- II. The conflict of interest statement was acknowledged.
- III. The minutes from the previous meeting, were not reviewed but will be emailed to all attendees.
- IV. Chapter Service Reports:
 - A. BAYLOR is working to encourage Houston physicians to be role models. They hosted a picnic and invited physicians to attend. Frisbees and give-aways were on hand to increase participation. The chapter also held a debate over cover the uninsured week and invited Dr. Rohack to participate on behalf of the AMA. They are currently looking for a final service project to complete their year.
 - B. HOUSTON held a service project at a local museum on obesity. They ordered fat to use as an example of unhealthy living. The Texas Children's Hospital was also on hand to talk about the importance of nutrition.
 - C. TEXAS TECH chapter hosted a Brown Bag Luncheon on Childhood Obesity. They also sponsored a Hard Hats for Little Heads event at the local Health Fair. There they gave away 80 helmets.
 - D. A&M held a Health for All event in several of the rural surrounding towns including Hard Hats for Little Heads and the STAT program. Their chapter also spoke at middle schools about the effects of smoking. There was also a large participation at the TMA's First Tuesday event. Currently the school is working with Dr. Rohack to create a new Medical Economics program.
 - E. SAN ANTONIO has plans to participate in the Hard Hats for Little Heads Program as well as Habitat for Humanity. The chapter has held one fund raiser and has plans to hold another. They are currently working with the residency program to host a large service project.
- A. Greg Stanley presented Hard Hats information and informed the participants on Bicycle Safety Month.
 1. Passed out fliers to each school.
- V. Finally the task force divided up into two groups to discuss possible service project ideas multiple chapters could utilize. The group decided to implement a listserv the group could use to discuss and brainstorm ideas over. Janie and Brad offered to send out the first several emails to get the group started.
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm

Chapter Reports

Baylor

Heidi Hullinger (MSII)

To get all of our first-years involved right away, we kept our calendar full for our first month of school. We had our kickoff meeting on the first day of school, complete with all of the new AMA logo materials and video — which had us getting sentimental even after multiple viewings!

Later in the month, we worked with Covering Kids and Families. Following a training session, we went out into the community over a weekend to sign up uninsured families for health insurance. After learning about the best plans to cover the uninsured at our last year's events, it was great to actually take steps to do something about it this year!

Toward month's end, we held our yearly mixer with UT-Houston and the Harris County Medical Society. This is always a huge success, with lots of food and fun had by all; it certainly made for a great way to unwind after the hectic first month of classes!

Now we're looking forward to future projects, keeping up our chapter's work of the previous year and trying to live up to our national Chapter of the Year award. Our upcoming plans include participating in TMA Summit 2005, organizing a road race with our local student organization as a community service project, and hosting monthly evening forums with interesting speakers on a variety of topics. We can't wait to see you all at the summit!

Texas A&M

Robert Bour (MSII)

The Texas A&M chapter of the TMA-MSS had a terrific spring, and we're planning for a busy fall.

On April 5, almost three-quarters of our M1 class, along with solid representation from the other classes, participated in TMA's First Tuesdays program, lobbying at the state Capitol for increased graduate medical education funding. This was the first lobbying trip for most of us, and we found it extremely educational.

During the spring, medical students in STAT (Stand Tall Against Tobacco) made classroom visits to all Bryan-College Station seventh graders, educating them about the reality and risks of tobacco use. In the fall, STAT will host assemblies at each of the middle schools, introducing new seventh graders to the program and giving them a real-life perspective from a cancer survivor.

In April, Health Circus went to Navasota, where students provided free services to more than 50 people. Services included blood pressure and glucose checks for adults, healthy child screenings and immunizations for the kids, and the distribution of general information regarding locally available health and community services. Health Circus will travel to Madisonville and Caldwell this fall to provide similar services in those communities.

On July 26, we hosted our annual recruitment luncheon, where we signed up 100 percent of the first-year class for TMA membership and 96 percent for AMA membership. We look forward to working with the first-year students in all of our upcoming events.

On Aug. 18, we launched our semester-long, student-taught lunchtime elective course, "The Economics of Health Care," as part of our commitment to providing balanced education on key issues facing the future of medicine. We believe that education is fundamental to the development of effective physician-leaders, and we are excited to have this opportunity to contribute. We will provide complementary brown-bag sessions covering the current policy initiatives associated with recently discussed economic principles.

TCOM

Joseph Oberdorfer (MSII)

New Officer

Our chapter was very fortunate to have Melissa McFadden (MSII) as our vice president. She is a motivated individual and passionate about organized medicine. Regrettably, she was unable to complete her commitment to the chapter for reasons her fellow officers respect. As a result, our chapter has appointed a new vice president. Dianna Yip (MSII) has taken on the task of coordinating all of our community service projects for next year. We are very happy to have her as our new officer.

AMA Phone-o-thon

AMA Delegate Margaret Seater (MSII) and chapter President Joseph Oberdorfer (MSII) organized our May 31 resident AMA/TMA membership drive. Seventeen volunteers assembled to call graduating fourth-year medical students to urge them to renew their AMA and TMA resident memberships. This event fulfilled our obligation to a pilot program aimed at increasing TMA and AMA membership among our fourth-years.

With just two hours of work, we renewed five AMA and six TMA memberships. We plan to stay in touch with the fourth-year medical students through December and to hold another phone-o-thon this semester. The phone-o-thon is a new idea, never attempted by another TMA chapter. We are optimistic that our efforts will become the standard for resident recruitment.

New Student Orientation Mixer

On July 26, the Tarrant County Medical Society (TCMS) and our chapter sponsored a new-student mixer for the incoming TCOM class of 2009, organized by Nicole King and Debbi Spencer of TCMS and chapter President Joseph Oberdorfer. We were pleased to have Drs. Floyd, Perugini, and Marc Hahn introduce the new students to the medical community and emphasize the importance of becoming involved with organized medicine.

The night was a wonderful opportunity for the students to meet with health professionals and their new classmates. The turnout was wonderful, getting our recruitment drive off to a nice start with 55 TMA and 43 AMA memberships. More than 100 students attended.

2005-06 Committee Members

This year, 15 chapter members will serve on a TMA committee or council.

- Travis Bias (MSII), TEXPAC Board of Directors (Rep)
- HelenMari Williams (MSII), TMA Foundation Board (Rep)
- Rosaline Sharifi (MSIV), Council on Health Service Organizations (Alt Rep)
- Andrew Jeb Frost (MSII), Council on Legislation (Alt Rep)
- Tina Philip (MSIV), Council on Medical Education (Rep)
- Derrick Lai (MSIII), Council on Scientific Affairs (Alt Rep)
- Tuong-An Bui (MSIV), TEXPAC Candidate Evaluation Committee (Rep)
- Andrea Wiens (MSII), Committee on Continuing Education (Alt Rep)
- Ryan O'Neill (MSII), Committee on EMS and Trauma (Alt Rep)
- Macy Whitley (MSII), Committee on Infectious Diseases (Rep)
- Margaret Seater (MSII), Committee on Infectious Diseases (Alt Rep)
- Christine Lam (MSIII), Committee on Patient-Physician Advocacy (Rep)
- Jasmin Ignatius (MSIII), Committee on Patient-Physician Advocacy (Alt Rep)
- Nashila Abdul Rahim (MSIII), Committee on Physician Health and Rehabilitation (Rep)
- Elizabeth George (MSIII), Committee on Rural Health (Alt Rep)

In addition, the following TCOM students received special appointments:

- Brad Lancaster (MSIII) — special appointee to the TMA Board of Trustees
- Prateek Chaudhary (MSIII) — TMA-MSS chair
- Juls Trinh (MSIII) — TMA-MSS AMA alternate delegate, Region 3
- Travis Bias (MSII) — AMPAC Student Advisory Board

Community Service Projects

We are planning four community service projects for the fall: a Hard Hats for Little Heads program, a free health screen, a volunteer event at a local nursing home, and a Habitat for Humanity event.

TMA Recruitment Breakfasts

The emphasis of our recruitment drive this year is helping our classmates understand how current issues will affect the health of the medical profession in the future, and what organized medicine can do about it. We believe this will convince more TCOM medical students of the importance of active TMA and AMA membership.

To accomplish this, we will provide our fellow classmates a bagel breakfast once a month starting in August. During these breakfasts, we will introduce current medical issues and, hopefully, persuade our classmates to join TMA and AMA.

UT-San Antonio

Tom Pillion (MSII)

The San Antonio chapter of TMA/AMA welcomes the incoming class of 2009 and is pleased with the number of new students who have joined TMA this year. I congratulate the officers for their work over the summer and during orientation to bring about such positive results.

I also thank TMA Board of Trustees Chair William W. Hinchey, MD, for taking time to speak at our first TMA meeting. He not only provided the incoming students a good overview of what TMA does, but also demonstrated his commitment to the future of Texas medicine by making himself so available to the students. Many of the students expressed their interest in becoming involved with TMA, and we hope to provide ample opportunities for them as the year progresses.

Coming up this month, TMA will sponsor a residency fair, hosting programs from around Texas. We welcome and thank those programs that have decided to come and hope their recruitment efforts are fruitful. Next month, TMA will be sponsor a blood drive here at the science center, and we invite all students and faculty to participate. Also in September, we hope to send a good number of students to TMA Summit 2005, and we look forward to seeing you there.

UTMB

J'Cinda Bitters (MSII)

The UTMB chapter has enjoyed eight weeks off for the summer but is back at work preparing for the upcoming first-year class to join the school on Aug. 29. In the meantime, Community Service Chair Rachel Lindenborn (MSII) has been hard at work with a local Catholic elementary school to begin our anti-obesity campaign, CLEAN, which stands for Children Learning about Exercise And Nutrition. The principal is very excited about the program, and we at UTMB are asking the community service chairs of other organizations on campus to get involved with a focus on what their group does (i.e., the Running Club will talk about appropriate stretches before and after exercise).

Recruitment Chair Adam Richter (MSII) has been coordinating with the various orientation planning committees to make sure AMA/TMA has a table at each organization fair, and is eagerly anticipating our recruitment meeting on the first-year's first class day. Fund-raising Chair Jackie Powers (MSII) is preparing for our October fall book sale. Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Heil (MSII) executed the purchasing of our chapter's new AMA/TMA t-shirt, which all the officers designed together.

Legislative Affairs Chair Nikki Liburd (MSII) will send bimonthly Legislative Update Announcements to the first- and second-year classes to remind them how hard their AMA/TMA works to secure their futures and the safety of their future patients. Vice President Clarisa Garcia (MSII) plays an instrumental role in co-programming and networking with other student organizations so that our service projects have the greatest impact possible. Several UTMB students were appointed to TMA council positions, and we are very excited for them. We are excited to receive a new class, and we continue to make our chapter strong.

UT-Houston

Chirag Patel

The UT-Houston chapter looks forward to an exciting 2005-06 school year! After sending two officers to the TMA annual meeting at TexMed in Grapevine in May and one officer to the AMA annual meeting in Chicago in June, we can't wait to implement all that we have learned about further strengthening our chapter. We are proud to be named the TMA Chapter of the Month for August 2005 by the TMA-MSS Executive Council. We look forward to working together with the Baylor chapter on volunteering, advocacy, and recruitment. With the 2005 AMA interim meeting taking place nearby in Dallas Nov. 3-5, we will make a push to get as many chapter members as possible to attend.

Volunteering: On June 14 and July 30, 10 UT-Houston TMA members volunteered at the McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Science. Continuing our project on childhood obesity, we educated children and parents about nutrition and healthy lifestyles during the free family Thursday afternoons. In addition, we gave presentations in both English and Spanish on the epidemic of childhood obesity, providing an invaluable service to the community.

For the upcoming school year, we will continue volunteering at the museum and also hold a community service project on domestic violence called These Hands Are Not for Hurting. First, at a chapter meeting, a physician who treats domestic abuse victims will conduct a mock patient-physician encounter with an actual victim of domestic violence, who is now a nurse. We will provide our members a pocket resource card on domestic violence, and then hold a public education event in the community on the issue of domestic violence. The Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine will sponsor this project.

Advocacy: We have organized the second year of our "Cultural Humility in Medicine" elective series for our MS1 and MS2 students. This year, we were fortunate to partner with seven other student groups (Family Practice Student Association, American Medical Student Association, American Medical Women's Association, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, National Network of Latin American Medical Students, Association of Internal Medicine Students, and Texas Geriatrics Interest Foundation) and the UT Health Science Center at Houston's McGovern Center for Health, Humanities, and the Human Spirit.

We also have added a new topic this year: physically disabled patients. Other topics are understanding our personal biases; African-American patients; Latino patients; Southeast Asian patients; lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered patients; homeless patients; elderly patients; and patients with different religious beliefs. We have made headway on institutionalizing cultural competency into our school's basic science curriculum through "Introduction to Clinical Medicine," a course for MS1s.

We will also have a talk on Sept. 27 (graciously sponsored by the TMA's Physician Oncology Education Program) on screening for smoking cessation, presented by staff from the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service program at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) and Joel Dunnington, MD, one of our chapter's faculty sponsors and professor of radiology at MDACC.

Recruitment: As a result of our sending out recruitment letters as part of the admissions mailings this spring, we received 35 AMA/TMA applications from the 218 incoming students, prior to orientation! On Aug. 10, we will have a table at the student activities fair, and with the help of TMA and Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) staff and funds from AMA for refreshments, we expect to attain high levels of TMA and AMA membership. Our school is participating in a new AMA incentive program this year, whereby students have the option of receiving a complimentary Stedman's medical dictionary or gross anatomy dissector toolkit as a thank-you for joining AMA.

On Sept. 23, new UT-Houston and Baylor students will converge on the lawn in front of the Jesse H. Jones Library building for the HCMS Student Mixer. In addition to serving as an additional recruiting event, the annual mixer gives the students an opportunity to mingle with each other and meet faculty from each school.

Other Business, Events, News

AMA Coming to Texas!
MSS Interim Meeting
Nov. 3-5, 2005
Dallas, Texas



The 2005 Interim Meeting of the AMA-MSS Assembly will be held November 3-5, 2005 at the Wyndham Anatole, 2201 Stemmons Freeway, in Dallas. The MSS is planning the programs for this meeting and we welcome your ideas...[submit your ideas now!](#) Bookmark this site, as it will be updated frequently as new information becomes available.

Registration: The registration deadline to receive an Assembly Meeting Handbook is **September 29th**. In order to receive a handbook, you must register by this deadline. Please provide the mailing address where you will be in mid-October, when the books will be mailed. [Register now!](#)

Hotel Reservations: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Wyndham Dallas Market Center (2015 Market Center Boulevard) for the MSS Interim Meeting. This hotel is 1-1/2 blocks from the Wyndham Anatole, where the MSS Assembly Meeting is being held. The meeting rates are below (plus 15% tax). In order to receive these rates, you must reserve your room by **October 7**. Reserve your room [online](#).

\$99 Single
\$109 Double
\$119 Triple
\$129 Quad

Airfare Discounts: The AMA has a special discount agreement with United Airlines, not available to the general public. [View details](#).

Delegate Registration and Credentialing Information: Delegates may pick up their badges at the registration desk outside the Assembly Ballroom on Thursday, November 3 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Delegates may also pick up their badges at the registration desk after 7:00 a.m. on Friday and Saturday mornings. Be sure to have your school ID when registering. The line at the desk may be long so arrive as early as possible. Be sure to complete the [emergency contact form](#) (Word, 24KB), print it out, and bring to the meeting...this will save time in the registration line. In order to vote on MSS resolutions and in the MSS Governing Council elections, you must be credentialed by the MSS Credentials Committee each morning that you intend to vote. You must have your registration badge before you can be credentialed.

Research Poster Award: The AMA-MSS, in association with an educational grant from Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative, will be holding the 4th Annual MSS Research Poster Award at the upcoming Interim Meeting in Dallas on November 3-5, 2005 (exact date/time TBD). Members of the AMA Council on Scientific Affairs, as well as local medical school faculty, will judge the posters and the winner will receive a trip to the AMA National Advocacy Conference and Leadership program in Washington, DC on March 11-14, 2006. The deadline for abstracts is **September 18, 8 p.m. CDT**. [Submit your abstracts now!](#)

National Service Project: The MSS will be holding a community service event in Dallas focusing on our National Service Project, "[Healthy Lifestyles to Reduce Obesity.](#)" If you are interested in participating, please contact [Shubhada Hooli](#), MSS At-Large Officer.

Leadership Positions: The MSS is accepting applications for the positions of [Chair-Elect](#) (Word, 30KB) and [AMA Trustee](#) (Word, 33KB). The deadline for applications is **September 29**. The applications must be received by this deadline to be included in the Assembly Meeting Handbook. You will have a chance to interview these candidates during your Region Meetings on Friday, November 4. Elections for these positions will be held on the morning of Saturday, November 5 in the Assembly Ballroom.

Questions: If you have additional questions, feel free to contact the Department of Medical Student Services at (800) AMA-3211, ext. 4746 or e-mail mss@ama-assn.org