



Connecting Physician Families for Healthier Communities.
The AMA Alliance LINK - your link to national news and member resources.
March 2019

The LINK is the electronic resource and newsletter for all members of the medical family. Below are updates with the latest news from State and National Alliance leaders. Share The LINK with everyone in your Alliance! As co-editors for 2018-19, we welcome your input! Please contact us with questions, comments, and articles. Debra Brownstone and Kirby Sheridan - link@amaalliance.org.

The President's Update

By: Cami Pond
AMA Alliance President
president@amaalliance.org

March stands for springtime and with it, new growth and new beginnings!

It is the time of year when many state Alliances are installing new officers. It comes with new opportunities to make a difference. This new beginning starts with a foundation that comes from our rich history shared with physician spouses and partners across the country. Each leader brings their own gift to the table, building upon the good works of those who came before them.

I will continue to install officers across the country at their annual meetings; it is truly an honor to do so. Every time I prepare for these events, I am reminded of the great volunteer efforts that go into our organization.

At national, we are working hard on expanding our national initiatives. We have partnered with the national PTA to address the opioid crisis and are developing a preventative educational PowerPoint for use in schools. We will debut this project at our 2019 AMA Alliance Annual Meeting this June in Chicago. Please join us!

Today is a good day to take time to shift gears in organizational activities, see a new viewpoint and, filled with the satisfaction of the past year's accomplishments, look ahead to the future.



Cami

What an Effective Leader Does

By: Pat Troy, IOM, CAE
AMA Alliance Executive Director
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Over the years as an association manager and board member, I have worked with thousands of leaders in a wide variety of organizations. Some accomplish much in their tenures, while others accomplish little or, worse yet, leave the organization in a state of disarray. Yet, I have never met a leader who had anything but the best of intentions.

There are some behaviors that seem to be characteristic of an effective leader.



1. Keeps focused on the big vision and the mission.
2. Fosters strong connections.
3. Appoints good people and trusts them.
4. Tackles hard problems.
5. Creates synergy and seizes opportunities.
6. Has a positive mindset.
7. Is respectful of others.
8. Gives praise generously.
9. Keeps commitments.
10. Sticks with the timeline and is personally accountable.

These are simple things, but easier said than done. In your mind's eye, envision the converse of each of the above and you will know what behaviors to avoid. However, to be successful it takes more than not doing the problem behaviors. You should exemplify excellence.



Apply now for the 2019 AMA Alliance Awards

Deadline is March 30

By Clara Sumeghy, AMAA Awards Chair
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Now is the time for your Alliance to shine! Show off your Alliance's accomplishments by applying for an AMA Alliance award. Don't be shy about it; you can even apply for multiple awards!

This year's awards cover three categories:

- Health Awareness Promotion (HAP)
- Legislative Education Awareness Promotion (LEAP)
- Social Media

To be eligible, your projects must have been executed between March 16, 2018 and March 15, 2019. Applications are done online. Simply go to the "Members Only" section of our website, select "Programs" followed by the "Awards" category, and follow the simple instructions. The applications are identical for the three award categories. The deadline for award applications is March 30, 2019. Should you have any questions, send them to admin@amaalliance.org.

Importantly, the submission of your projects gives your fellow Alliance members the opportunity to learn from your successful projects and potentially adapt them to their local needs.

Thinking ahead to the upcoming Annual Meeting in Chicago ...

There will be more opportunities for your Alliance to shine during the June 8-11, 2019 Annual Meeting by sharing your successes with fellow Alliance members. Indeed, if in the past your Alliance has won an AMAA award, it will be beneficial for your colleagues to see those projects once again. You can showcase your County and State projects, current and past, in short video or PowerPoint presentations using your laptop. Or, if you prefer, a tri-fold or poster presentation would also be accepted. And remember to bring along relevant materials to hand out to members. Contact admin@amaalliance.org for more details.

Want to Get Involved?

By Mary Beth Ellison, AMA Alliance President-Elect
president-elect@amaalliance.org

Looking for a few good men and women...

Are you interested in seeing what it is like to serve the Alliance at the national level?

Do you have a skill set that our volunteer organization could use?

Do you want to enhance or share your leadership skills?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions we would love to have you look into the AMAA a little further. Please fill out our [Willingness to Serve form](#). I am looking forward to having passionate, excited members, full of ideas, working on all our committees next year. We are a volunteer organization, so yes, you do make a difference. If you prefer you can contact me at president-elect@amaalliance.org. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Observing Physician Family Day 2019

By: Michael Kelly, State & Affiliate Relations Chair
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It has been pointed out that this year, Physician Family Day, August 31st, falls on Labor Day weekend, and planning Physician Family activities then could be difficult. Not to worry at all. Alliances may choose to observe Physician Family Day at any time during the year that it fits into your schedule. So, observe ahead, and be sure to let us at the AMA Alliance know when and what you are doing.

NEW Website – take a look!

By Racheal Kunesh, Director, Member Council II, Communications
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Your AMA Alliance leadership, along with Next Wave Group, have worked to bring a fresh new face to the AMA Alliance website. The website, which was launched in late January, is designed to allow for easy navigation to quickly learn about the AMA Alliance - our history, strategic plan, leadership, communications, programs and events. Look for pictures of real Alliance members in action!

Check out our shiny new website by clicking [here](#). Feel free to share the website with other members of the physician family – we would love for them to learn more about the Alliance and join us!

1 in 3 Doctors Say Prior Authorization Has Led to a Serious Adverse Event

By Beth Irish, AMAA Liaison to AMA Council on Legislation (COL),
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It just keeps getting worse. That's a major finding of an [AMA survey](#) of 1,000 practicing physicians who were asked about the impact *prior authorization* (PA) is having on their ability to help their patients.

PA, a health plan cost-control process, restricts access to treatments, drugs and services. This process requires physicians to obtain approval prior to the delivery of the prescribed treatment, test or medical service in order to qualify for payment. Traditionally, health plans applied PA to newer, expensive services and medications. However, physicians report an increase in the volume of prior authorizations in recent years, to include requirements for drugs and services that are neither new nor costly.

The vast majority of physicians (86 percent) described the administrative burden associated with prior authorization as "high or extremely high," and 88 percent said the burden has gone up in the last five years.

The AMA has taken a leading role by creating collaborative solutions to right-size and streamline prior authorization and help patients access safe, timely and affordable care, while reducing administrative burdens that pull physicians away from patient care.

This survey was conducted online in December 2018. Participants were physicians who practice in the United States, provide at least 20 hours of direct patient care and complete PAs during a typical week of practice. Forty percent of participants were primary care physicians, and 60 percent were in other specialties.

Physicians in the survey reported processing an average 31 PAs per week, with this PA workload consuming 14.9 hours—nearly two business days—of physician and staff time.

To access the full report:

<https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/sustainability/1-3-doctors-say-prior-authorization-has-led-serious-adverse>

What Can the AMA Alliance Do to Help IMG Families?

By Meeti Nigam, Chair AMA Alliance IMG section
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One in six US health care workers are immigrants. The challenges of leaving your home country and family are very apparent. What can the AMA Alliance do to help IMG families?

The healthcare community is a melting pot of cultures with people from different backgrounds and values coming together to help patients. Unfortunately, behind the veil of hard work and dedication required to become a successful healthcare provider, there is the unnoticed sacrifice that members make to come to the United States. They have all left their loved ones to seek a better opportunity. This is true across the country. According to a new research letter published recently in the [Journal of the American Medical Association](#), about one out of six medical professionals is foreign-born. They often fill health care jobs in rural or underserved communities, places that have a harder time attracting US born medical school graduates.

The AMA Alliance is working to bridge the diversity gap and promote kinship among different communities from many different countries. Efforts include providing a platform for IMGs to become a part of the AMA Alliance community and form lifelong bonds, helping healthcare providers become accredited and, importantly, promoting people of different backgrounds to leadership positions. We hope that you, as the existing member, can help us in these efforts by continuing to support not only the Alliance but your local IMG families and helping them feel more welcomed. Through the challenges of the ever-changing medical climate, it is important that we all come together to help each other. If you have any questions or further ideas about becoming involved, please feel free to contact me, Meeti, at Nigammeeti@Gmail.Com.

AHEI Invites You to 6th Annual Party With A Purpose

By Danita Horne, Alliance Health Education Initiative (AHEI) Vice Chair
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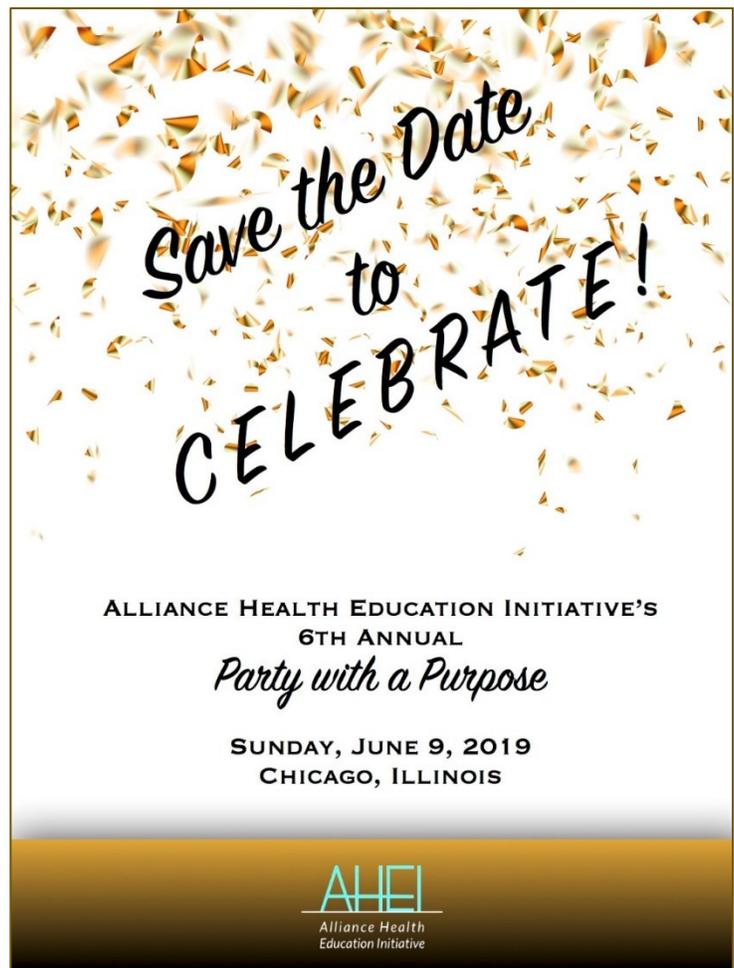
Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 9th and plan to attend the 6th Annual Party With A Purpose at the Hyatt Centric Chicago Magnificent Mile Hotel. This is the Alliance Health Education Initiative's (AHEI) largest annual fundraiser which raises funds for community health education grants.

The details are being finalized, but it is a night you will NOT want to miss. It will be an evening of fellowship, and a night to celebrate good times. Good times always involve food, fellowship, family and friends and AHEI wants to send you away with auction items that will help you celebrate those GOOD TIMES and make lasting memories. Don't forget to bring your credit card or checkbook, and be prepared to have fun and to be generous.

The schedule for the Annual Meeting is always very tight and Sunday night is often set aside to gather with friends, fellow Alliance members and state delegations. Please strongly consider using this night to celebrate together at Party With A Purpose. If for some reason you cannot attend, please consider making a monetary donation in lieu of your presence.

AHEI welcomes your donation to **support healthy communities**. You may make a contribution online at any time.

<http://alliancehei.org/contributions/>



FIND YOUR TRIBE!

By Donna Baver Rovito, Editor, *Physician Family*
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Did you know that there's a place on Facebook where physicians, medical students, their spouses and partners and other members of their families can connect and share?

It's called Physician Family COMMUNITY, hosted by Physician Family Media and the AMA Alliance, but it's open to everyone in the family of medicine, regardless of membership in other organizations! It's a closed group and we vet members to ensure they're really connected to the family of medicine.

Check it out here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PhysicianFamilyCOMMUNITY>.

All members may post - although political and controversial topics are a no-no. In past months we've had fascinating conversations about kindness, physician burnout, Wausau, Wisconsin, love, women in medicine, physicians on social media, the professional lives of physician partners and more. We've supported a member whose husband was stricken with a sudden illness and another who was far away from a loved one who died.

Our partners, Dads Married to Doctors, the Married to Doctors podcast, author Megan Sharma and the Advocates for the AOA have shared resources and information of vital importance to physician families.

It's a really cool place to hang out with other people who "get it." Join Physician Family COMMUNITY today!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PhysicianFamilyCOMMUNITY>.

ONLINE ACADEMY IS THERE FOR YOU!



Need some tips on leading a meeting?

Communicating with legislators? Dealing with a difficult person? Attracting new members?

Visit the Online Academy at amaalliance.org. Sign in and pull down to Online Academy under the Affiliate Resources tab for a variety of topics from communication to strategic planning. Articles will be added over time, so check back!





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2018-2019

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