

President's Column

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This summer has been off to a busy and exciting start for my family. With three graduations, many end-of-year projects and performances, travel for work and a long-delayed family vacation, we are looking forward to a more relaxing summer schedule in the next couple of months. The end of the school year, the beginning of summer and the start of internships - it is a time of transitions. I hope that you all get to enjoy some time to relax this summer, even if we all have to worry about the next COVID variant and how to get all those under-5 vaccinated!

On the topic of transitions, there is one more person who is leaving our board and our chapter that I would like to thank and acknowledge. **Dr. Tashya Whitehead** will be stepping down as South Valley Member-at-Large as well as the Early Career Physician Representative. We are grateful to Dr. Whitehead for all of her work and we wish her well in the next chapter.



I recently met with some staff from the CMA and SF-Marin Medical Society, and was reminded that the best way for the AAP and our chapter to fulfill our mission of advocating for children and those who care for them is to partner with our colleagues in other organizations who have complementary goals and missions. As you all know, we are part of AAP-CA for statewide advocacy, and we work closely with the CMA to advocate for pediatricians and those who care for kids. One of our colleagues, **Dr. Heyman Oo**, is the president-elect of the San Francisco-Marin Medical Society, and I look forward to working with her to support our members here in Marin and San Francisco. I would welcome a connection with any of our colleagues who are working with other county medical societies - we can all benefit from these collaborations.



I also recently had lunch with my friend and colleague **Dr. Jack Resneck**, who was just inaugurated as the president of the AMA. Some of you may have the same history with the AMA as I did. I was a member in medical school but gave up my membership because I felt that the AMA's mission and actions didn't align with my values. After a conversation with Jack a few years ago, I realized that he and other leaders within the AMA were consciously trying to change the organization and find ways to support physicians while

advancing equity, fighting against laws and policies that affected our ability to care for patients and advocate for them, and focus on physician wellness and workforce development. I re-joined the AMA and I look forward to the collaboration between the AMA and the AAP in areas where we have shared goals. I'd like to share a few paragraphs from Dr. Resneck's inauguration speech as an example of what he envisions for his organization. If you're interested, click [here](#) to watch a video of his speech.

The COVID pandemic has broadened awareness of longstanding health inequities, as the nation observed appalling adverse outcomes for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and other historically marginalized communities. It brought to light the institutionalized systems that have perpetuated racism and gender discrimination in medicine for as far back as we want to look. The AMA has not always been on the right side of history. But we have an enormous capacity to reduce harm and advance equity, and that begins with reckoning openly with our past mistakes -- making space for healing and transformation.

I am immensely proud of our House of Delegates and our Board of Trustees for their commitment to a more just and equitable health care system ... work that is grounded in science and evidence and is the foundation for the more equitable future we all seek. I'm proud of the leadership of our Center for Health Equity. I'm optimistic because their efforts are not siloed, but are becoming embedded across AMA teams focused on medical education, advocacy, science, publishing, litigation, chronic disease, and innovation.

Today, we work to elevate and prioritize the voices of physicians over purveyors of disinformation. Today, we fight in legislatures and in court to keep politicians from inserting themselves into our exam rooms, and dangerously criminalizing evidence-based care, including contraception, abortion, and gender-affirming care. Today, we are intentionally and deeply committed to the work of health equity and racial justice. And today, for our nation's physicians who have bravely responded to a historic call without hesitation, we are a focused, science-based, nimble, influential, and powerful ally. We will always have doctors' and patients' backs.

I've written in the past about how I value the relationships and collaboration with my friends and colleagues in our chapter. I also value the relationships our chapter has with other organizations that support and advocate for children and those who care for them. I know that together we can do more to advance the health and well-being of children and communities, as well as those of us who care for them in so many ways.