

Rebecca Patchin, M.D., Chosen as Chair-Elect of the AMA Board of Trustees

*By Kenneth Y. Pauker, M.D., Chair, CSA Legislative and Practice Affairs Division,
Associate Editor*

The remarkable Rebecca Patchin, M.D., proudly claimed by the CSA as one of our very own, has evinced an amazingly persistent buoyancy. Continuing her remarkable ascent in organized medicine, she became Chair-Elect of the AMA Board of Trustees at the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago in June 2008.

Rebecca, a Detroit native, earned her first degree—an Associate of Science in Nursing—at age 20 in California. Two years later, she had a BSN, and over the next 13 years she was a nurse in the ICU, ER, and OR; a nurse manager; and an educator of both nurses and physicians. But Medical School at Loma Linda beckoned, and Rebecca found a home there, followed by internship in internal medicine, residency in anesthesiology, fellowship in pain management, and then faculty at the very same institution for the past 14 years.

She began her journey at the AMA as a Delegate to the Medical Student Section in 1986, the same year she became a Delegate to the CMA. During her Residency in Anesthesiology, she became involved with the CSA in 1992. In each of these organizations, she was immediately recognized as a leader, and ascended through a veritable cornucopia of leadership positions. Just a few of the most notable include: CSA Board of Directors, myriad CSA committees, Vice-Chair LPAD, CSA and ASA Delegate; numerous ASA committees and reference committees; CMA Trustee, many CMA committees, Vice Chair and Chair of the CMA Council on Legislation, reference committees for the CMA; first elected to AMA Board of Trustees in 1988 as a medical student, and in 2003—as the first anesthesiologist so elected—member of many and Chair of several AMA committees including the Council on Medical Education, Task Force on Medical Liability Reform, and Membership; Secretary of AMA Board of Trustees.

In addition, she was president of the Riverside County Medical Association, and served on the Boards of Directors of CALPAC, Children's Spine Foundation, California Society of Industrial Medicine and Surgery, California Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, and Project K.IN.D. She has been a commissioner of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Care organizations, and the Joint Commission.

Rebecca Patchin, M.D. (cont'd)

Rebecca is a valued speaker and spokesperson for the “new AMA.” Sceptic that I am, given the history of how the AMA has behaved during my professional career, I was won over when I heard Dr. Patchin’s keynote presentation, “We Are Stronger Together,” at the ASA Legislative Conference in Washington a couple of years ago. Rebecca helped me to understand this “new and improved” AMA in a way that I had not previously considered. I signed up for the AMA right after, and told her what she had done, at least for me. Moreover, on multiple occasions, Rebecca has been extremely helpful to me personally, and I’m no novice in this area, in her distilling some very complex national medical political issues into their nitty-gritty essentials, helping to clarify subtle complexities, assessing political realities.

Congratulations, Rebecca.

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