

# Rebecca Patchin, M.D., Elected to the AMA Board of Trustees

*By Marie Kuffner, M.D., Past President, CMA*

*Dr. Kuffner is a professor of anesthesiology at UCLA. As a past president of the California Medical Association, she has been an ardent and effective advocate and spokesperson for the physicians of California.*

*—Stephen Jackson, M.D., Editor*

**T**he specialty of anesthesiology has indeed been blessed by the election of Rebecca J. Patchin, M.D., to the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association (AMA). Dr. Patchin is the first anesthesiologist to have gained entrance into the inner sanctum of this important decision-making entity for American Medicine—a most noteworthy accomplishment!

Dr. Patchin's candidacy was proudly sponsored by the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and was enthusiastically endorsed by the California Medical Association (CMA). For the ASA, a relatively small specialty society (eight delegates in a 525 Delegate AMA House), it was an especially sweet victory. Never in our history at the AMA had we run a candidate for such high office. To have succeeded the very first time speaks to the timeliness and quality of Rebecca's candidacy and the incredible work of the campaign team.

Rebecca J. Patchin actually started on this journey in the late '60s in Angwin, California, where she began the study of nursing. After eleven years as a critical care nurse she entered medical school, graduating from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1989. Following her residency in anesthesiology, she stayed on at Loma Linda to complete a fellowship in pain management. Today Dr. Patchin is double boarded, in full-time private practice of pain management and anesthesiology in Riverside, California, and is an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology at Loma Linda.

From the time Rebecca was a medical student she was involved in organized medicine and recognized as a leader. The following represents just the highlights of a long history of involvement.

Starting in 1987, Dr. Patchin co-chaired the CMA Committee of Medical Student Representatives (MSS), was a counselor on the CMA Governing Council, and a year later was selected for a one-year term as Student Trustee on the AMA Board of Trustees. In 1989 she received the Sandoz Award for Outstanding Achievement.

During her residency, Dr. Patchin was a delegate in the Resident Component of the ASA. She served as a Resident Representative on the CSA Board of

## **Rebecca J. Patchin, M.D.–Cont’d**

---

Directors, Resident member on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and as Resident Trustee on the Board of Trustees of the CMA. From 1993 to 1995 Rebecca was President of the California House Officers Medical Society, and in 1994 she received the Glaxo Achievement Award.

Following her residency, Dr. Patchin continued to be very active in organized medicine. In the CSA she is Vice Chair of the Legislative and Practice Affairs Division. Within the CMA, she has served as Chair of the Committee on Health Professional Licensure, currently chairs the very important CMA Council on Legislation and is President-elect of the Riverside County Medical Association.

At the national level, Rebecca was elected to the AMA Council on Medical Education in 1996 and re-elected in 2000 as chair. Representing the ASA, she is a delegate to the AMA House of Delegates and recently served on the Committee on the Organization of Organizations. She has been Chair of the Liaison Committee on Specialty Boards, and today she is Chair of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education where she has been a member since 1997.

As California anesthesiologists, we are very fortunate to have Rebecca’s presence on the AMA Board. She brings with her a comprehensive background in medical education, medical training, and the practice of medicine and anesthesiology, as well as a unique insight into the many and complex socio-economic and legislative issues facing us in this state and nationally.

Clearly, the years of participation and leadership at all levels of organized medicine, reflecting a balance of both specialty and state as well as local and national medical interests, have prepared our distinguished colleague for the decision- making that she will encounter.

Election to Trustee of the AMA is a very competitive process. What Rebecca has accomplished was no easy task! She succeeded because she is uniquely qualified. Rebecca J. Patchin, M.D., has a strong sense of purpose, is passionately committed to organized medicine, and as we have seen in the past, she will work diligently to represent her fellow physicians.

Congratulations Rebecca... we are thrilled with your well-deserved victory!