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newsletter
 of the american
 medical student
 association

wrap-up:

AMSA's 58th Annual Convention

March 12–16, 2008
 Houston, Texas

AMSA's 58th Annual Convention got right to the heart of its host city: Houston. The nation's energy capital and fourth-largest city is a public health hot spot, and attendees heard about the toxic effects of industry, the city's response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and called for health care for all on the steps of City Hall.

The convention focused on social justice through its theme, "health care (r)evolution," and a variety of speakers and sessions supported the mission: Students and allies rallied for universal health care; former pharmaceutical representatives spoke to packed audiences; clinical sessions gave students hands-on opportunities; and faculty and students were recognized for excellence in teaching, activism and research.

health care (r)evolution

WED / March 12

Dr. Jill Stein walked her audience through the connections between global climate change and public health.



Juan Parras, a Houston environmental activist, led attendees on a tour of Houston's ship channel and the environmental challenges there.



Jerome Ringo, president of the Apollo Alliance, explained the path that took him from the petrochemical industry to environmental advocacy.



awards



LGBT Health Achievement

Medical students at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine were recognized for their efforts to promote awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) health issues and concerns.



Paul R. Wright Award for Excellence in Medical Education

The University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine has implemented one of the strictest policies governing pharmaceutical marketing to its students.



National Golden Apple

Dr. Paul Lyons (right), associate professor at Temple University School of Medicine, was nominated by Jenny Chiang (center).

CONVENTION

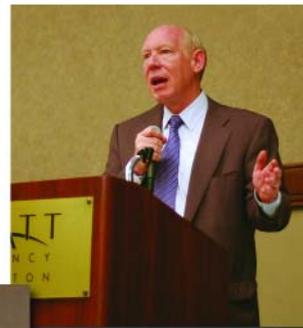
keynote speakers



Dr. Catherine DeAngelis decried pharmaceutical industry influence on research and the peer review process.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former surgeon general, called for greater attention to public health and leadership.



Houston's Mayor Bill White welcomes attendees to the city.



Dr. David E. Persse, the physician director of Houston's emergency services, explained the pitfalls of emergency response through Houston's experience during hurricanes Rita and Katrina.



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas) urged supporters of universal health care to remain strong, and Dr. Thomas Horvath (right), chief of staff at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, explained the mission of providing direct care as a government agency.

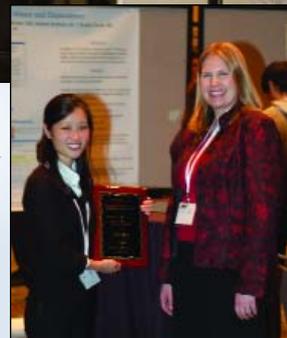


THUR / March 13

Dr. Tao Lee (right), creator of the *First Aid* series, explains how students can adapt to working on the wards, while a panel (below) of students and physicians answers questions about preparing for boards.



The Poster Session brought students together over research and hors d'oeuvres. Four projects were recognized, including Joann Kang's (holding plaque).



Ten women were recognized at the Raising Our Voices reception for their leadership in medicine, including (left to right) Drs. Evangeline Franklin, Kim Templeton, Pamela Davis and Carmen Zorrilla.



rally

FRI / Rally

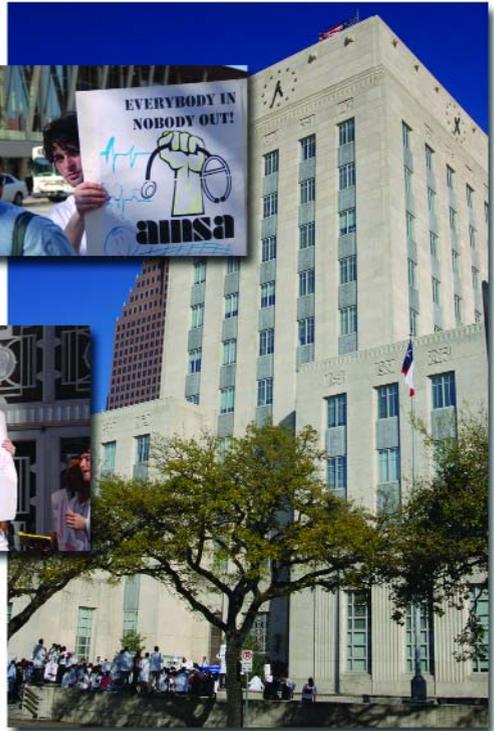
On Friday, AMISA marched on Houston's City Hall and held a rally for universal health care in conjunction with local leaders and community activists, including the Service Employees International Union.



← **Maria Jimenez**
Central American Resource Center (CRECEN)



Flávio Casoy
AMISA's Jack Rutledge Fellow



← **Peter Brown**
Houston City Council Member

CONVENTION

FRI / March 14



At the **Residency Fair**, students met program representatives and learned about their post-graduate options.



In the **Registration** area, attendees, speakers and exhibitors signed in for five days of programming.

SAT / March 15

Dr. Gurkirpal Singh (right), former consultant to Merck on Vioxx, explained how his relations with the company went downhill. Dr. Kenneth Thompson (below) described the disparities in our mental health care system.



At the Med Fair, premedical students met with medical school representatives.



In the Exhibit Hall, attendees learned about programs, services and products tailored to their needs.

SUN / March 16



Dr. Joycelyn Elders receives an AMSA sweatshirt from outgoing National President Dr. Michael Ehlert.



2008-2009 AMSA Leadership: New leaders include (left to right): Premed Trustee Tej Nuthulaganti, Secretary John Brockman, Vice President of Internal Affairs Lauren Hughes, Vice President of Programming Paige Hatcher, Director of Student Programming Rebecca Sadun, Jack Rutledge Legislative Director Mary Carol Jennings, Vice President of Membership Joel Salinas, President Brian Hurlley and Alumni and Resident Trustee Dr. Teresa Everson.



Dr. Casey KirkHart helps distribute National Physicians Alliance coffee mugs to attending fourth-years.