

# MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING MEDICAL EDUCATION



**May 6-8, 1955:** Fifth Annual Convention held at Chicago's Hotel Sherman. This was the first convention to offer programming in addition to the House of Delegates.



**1950:** The Student American Medical Association (SAMA) is founded under the American Medical Association (AMA).

**January 1952:** First issue of the *Journal of the Student American Medical Association* was published.

**December 1956:** The *Journal of the Student American Medical Association* was renamed *The New Physician*, to reflect the addition of intern and resident affiliate members.

**1967:** Stanford University's chapter submitted a formal proposal to withdraw from SAMA. Overall, SAMA members were no longer content with mirroring the beliefs and practices of the AMA.



**1968:** At the 18th Annual Convention, SAMA announces its philosophical as well as its financial independence from the AMA. SAMA was now a completely independent and student-run organization.

**1972:** National president became a full-time position.

**1974:** The SAMA Foundation established the Center for Applications of Psychological Type, furthering the development and use of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator.



**1975:** AMSA elected Laurel Cappa, medical student at Case Western Reserve University, as its first female president.

**1975:** The AMSA Foundation established the Center for Physician Development at the University of New Mexico to augment the development of socially responsible physicians.



**1975:** The organization officially changed its name to the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) at its 25th Annual Convention. It was almost called the American Student Medical Alliance.



**1977:** Paul R. Wright was named executive director of both AMSA and the AMSA Foundation. Prior to that he had served as staff director of community health programs and executive director of the AMSA Foundation.

**1984:** The AMSA Foundation launched the National Health Service Corps Health Promotion Disease Prevention Project, which ran for 12 years and placed over 2,100 health professions students in underserved communities to conduct specific projects on behalf of the community while exploring careers in medically underserved areas.



**1990s:** By the early 1990s, AMSA's Annual Convention attracted an average of 1,000 attendees.

**1986:** AMSA purchased its first national headquarters in Reston, Virginia.

**1986:** The AMSA Health Education Assistance Loan program "HEAL Deal" provided medical students the first discounted loan rates.

**1986:** With the help of the Pew Memorial Trust and the "We Are the World" Save Africa Rock Group, AMSA developed the first international consortium of medical schools for exchanging and training physicians in Nigeria and Ghana.



**1994:** AMSA purchased its current national office building in Reston, Virginia.



**December 27, 1951:** SAMA holds its First Annual Convention, at Chicago's Sheraton Hotel.



**1954:** SAMA officially became financially independent when SAMA President Robert Rakel presented a check to the AMA for repayment of start-up costs.

**November 1957:** Membership dues were 4 cents/month.

**1962:** The SAMA Foundation was established to promote the organization's educational agenda as well as to better public health, integrate medical education and research activities, and help students finance their medical education.

**1968:** SAMA's Joint Commission on Medical Education was formed. Composed of medical students and educators, the commission proposed numerous reforms and model curricula to make medical education more responsive to community needs.



**1969:** The SAMA National Student Health Project was founded, giving students the opportunity to work in Appalachia, urban and rural community clinics, migrant health centers, Native American communities and other medically underserved areas.

**1972:** SAMA helped establish the Physician National Housestaff Association, the nation's first professional organization for medical interns and residents.

**1970:** SAMA leaders testified in support of legislation establishing and later expanding the National Health Service Corps.

**1970:** SAMA helped introduce the original Family Practice Act of 1970 and testified on its behalf on Capitol Hill.

**1978:** The organization relocated the national office from Chicago, Illinois, to the Washington, D.C., area.

**1978:** AMSA sent the first delegation of medical students to the People's Republic of China after being invited by the Chinese Medical Association.

**1985:** Sharon Scanlon is appointed the first legislative affairs director.



**A Lobbyist for Physicians-in-Iran**  
 Beleguared Congress every known interest group heard of—has someone p Hill. But, until recently, ically advocating on its b ing. That changed last sum Student Association hired lobbyist to represent the c ing. Scanlon, whose title is legislative director, left the iversity Medical School for the halls of Congress after

**1989:** The Washington Health Policy Fellowship Program commenced, reinforcing AMSA's commitment to providing medical students with unique health policy learning opportunities.



**1992:** AMSA's Generalist Physicians-in-Training Project began developing a community-responsive physician work force and increasing the number of medical school graduates entering primary care fields.

**1995:** AMSA rallied together in a grass-roots effort to save the National Health Service Corps.

**1995:** AMSA helped convince the National Resident Matching Program to change the Match algorithm in favor of students.

**1997:** In order to unify AMSA's activist efforts, AMSA transitioned from a task force structure to standing committees. These would later be re-named Action Committees.



**2001:** The organization established the Jack Rutledge Fellowship for Achieving Universal Health Care and Eliminating Health Disparities, in honor of an inspiring past AMSA president. The director of student programming was also added this year. Both positions became full-time student office staff.

**2001:** AMSA was instrumental in writing and introducing federal legislation that would limit resident work hours. The Patient and Physician Safety and Protection Act of 2001 was introduced by Senator Jon Corzine and Representative John Conyers.

**October 2003:** The National Resident Matching Program agreed to a proposal set forth by AMSA to increase student choice and negotiating ability in the Match. Specifically, residency programs are now required to disclose, prior to the ranking deadlines, the actual contracts to applicants. This took effect with the 2005 Match.



**March 2005:** AMSA purchased a house in Washington, Virginia, and named it the Paul R. Wright Retreat Center. The house is located on 33 acres of land bordering the Shenandoah National Park and will be used to host AMSA-sponsored think tanks, leadership institutes and electives for future physicians.

**2010:** AMSA celebrates 60th anniversary.

**2006:** Paul R. Wright retired, after serving as AMSA's executive director for almost 30 years.

**2004:** First Annual SeaCover, a study tour in Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver, British Columbia, launched to provide medical students the opportunity to compare the U.S. and Canadian health-care systems.



**2002:** AMSA launched its nationwide PharmFree campaign to educate medical students on the influences of the pharmaceutical industry and empower them to make unbiased, informed decisions.

**2002:** The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, a division of the National Institutes of Health, awarded a \$1.2 million grant to the AMSA Foundation to integrate complementary and alternative medicine into the current health professions education.

**AMSA CONTINUES TO DEVELOP SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE PHYSICIANS AND TRANSFORM THE CULTURE OF MEDICINE**