American Medical Student Association conference, titled *Answering the Call: A Physician's Toolkit* was held in Chicago, Illinois on October 23-25. Three students represented the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Medicine: Shilpa Parthasarthy, Ricki Shah, and Andrew Spencer. The conference had over 200 students in attendance. Several keynote presentations, numerous breakout sessions, and a residency fair were held. Some of the most notable are explained below.

With the state of the nation’s healthcare at this point in time, Northwestern invited congresswoman Jan Schakowsky to speak about the impending healthcare reform bill currently making its way through Congress. She brought up many ideas, while answering many questions. With a clear desire to get this bill passed, she stated that this bill will lay down the architecture, upon which many improvements can be made. The bill is not perfect, but will open up access of care to many more Americans and is a step towards more efficient medicine as a whole.

One session was that given by Tod Chambers, an Associate Professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities and of Medicine. He went over some ethical dilemmas between the patient and physician. One dilemma was the sexual relationship between a patient and physician. The physician is in a place of power over the patients, so a physician should never participate in a sexual relationship with a patient, and if one does occur, the physician should sever the professional relationship if planning on continuing the personal relationship. Another issue brought up was that of gift giving by patients to their doctors. The stance given was that physicians should always be accepting of gifts.
from their patients, up to a certain level. Whether it be cookies, homemade crafts, dinner, or items. The patients feel that they are getting their healthcare for free and want to show their appreciation for their doctor's services.

Another session was that given by Dr. Christopher Leptak. As an MD/PhD from the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), he went through the drug approval process and working as a physician for the FDA. He went over how the FDA is set up much like a hospital, being split up into different divisions based on specialty. These divisions are made up of physicians, researchers, statisticians, chemists, and others. As a team, they review the research from pharmaceutical companies and the phases of drug approval.

The conference was very worthwhile, not only for just those students in attendance, but UMKC-SOM also. This was a multi-region conference attended by numerous medical schools from many states. Intriguing topics were presented, discussions were held, and ideas brought up. The information gained will be brought back and shared with fellow students and staff alike.