Kush Tripathi and Andrew J. Spencer

AMA-MSMA Annual Meeting

St. Louis, Missouri - March 25-28, 2010

On March 25-March 28, 2010 Andrew Spencer and I (Kush Tripathi) went to the 152nd Annual Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) Convention. We drove down to St. Louis Thursday afternoon, after a four hour car ride we arrived at the St. Louis Renaissance Airport Hotel. We met up with the other UMKC students: Nikoo, Sandeep, Kathleen, and Seo-Hyun. We all registered for the conference and made our way to the Kansas City Metromed hospitality suite. Once we settled in, all the students went to the Old Spaghetti Factory for dinner. Once we got back to the hotel we stopped by the Council meeting and headed to our hotel rooms.

Friday, March 26th we all woke up at 7:00 AM to attend the 32 booth exhibition and breakfast. Following we went to the MSMA House of Delegates opening session. The program consisted of the president’s welcome speech, introduction to the board, presidents from other states or regions, and an introduction to the twenty-five resolutions that were presented. As the Medical Student Section (MSS) we presented a resolution written by Sandeep Krishnan, regarding AMA introducing an ‘opt out’ program whereas physicians’ prescription information will not be sold to pharmaceutical companies as a default. Afterwards, we went to Reference committee meetings in which we presented the MSS resolution to the board in an effort to get our resolution passed. After a half hour debate, we gained a lot of physician support because many believed it was the ‘right’ thing to do as well as the fact that it was morally correct. So despite the grave financial consequences that would result if this resolution passes nationally, the board
decided to close the debate stating that they were really proud of the students for writing the first ever MSS presented resolution.

We had some time until the student meeting so we went to Emporer’s Palace to eat lunch. Next we went to the student meeting where we talked about the year’s past events and held elections. UMKC will be very well represented this next year: Kathleen holds the position of alternate delegate, Nikoo holds the position of Chair, Kush (I) holds the position of secretary, Andrew holds the position of treasurer. After this, we went to the UMKC SOM alumni reception. We met many former students and current faculty from our own school, as well as students from other medical schools in the state.

On Saturday March 27th we explored some of St. Louis during the morning and afternoon because all of the specialties were holding their own meetings. In the evening, all of the UMKC students attended the inauguration of the new president of the MSMA, Lent C. Johnson, III, MD. After this we attended the MSMA presidential reception. At this reception, we met and talked to physicians from all over the state and took pictures with Mrs. DeFeo.

Sunday March 28th we attended the MSMA House of Delegates. During this, the speaker presented the recommendations on the resolutions presented earlier in the weekend. Most of the resolutions passed without objection. When it came to the medical students’ resolution, many doctors stood up to speak on the issue. Many were pro, but many more spoke in con of the resolution. In the end, the resolution was passed and will go onto the national meeting in June. This was the first resolution that was presented to the MSMA by the medical student section. It is great that it was passed onto the National AMA meeting 2010.