

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 5, 2007

DULUTH PHYSICIANS HELP SET AMA POLICY

MINNEAPOLIS - John Van Etta, M.D., who specializes in internal medicine at St. Luke's Internal Medicine in Duluth, and Gail Baldwin, M.D., who is a family practitioner in Duluth, represented Minnesota physicians at the American Medical Association Annual Meeting, June 23-27 in Chicago.

As members of the Minnesota delegation, Dr. Van Etta and Dr. Baldwin participate in the development of AMA policies on health care issues, and at the state level, take part in policy development through the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA) Board of Trustees.

The AMA took action on three Minnesota resolutions. The AMA resolved to support efforts to develop national data that will make it possible to monitor the prevalence of diabetes among youth by type; encourage physicians to be more aware of type 2 diabetes in children and promote resources and information about the prevention and treatment of this growing public health threat. Res. 418 Dysmetabolic Syndrome and Type 2 Diabetes in Children was adopted as amended.)

The AMA also resolved to study and develop recommendations regarding the national scope of the problem of psychiatric bed availability and its impact on the nation's emergency and general medicine resources, working with the American College of

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Emergency Physicians, the American Psychiatric Association, the National Association of EMS Physicians, the American Ambulance Association, and others. (Res. 714 Access to Psychiatric Beds and Impact on Emergency Medicine was adopted as amended.)

In response to a Minnesota resolution asking the AMA to explore possible restrictions on direct-to-consumer advertising for sleep medications and establish a dialogue with drug manufacturers and others in order to encourage modification of the current aggressive marketing tactics for the use of these drugs, the AMA reaffirmed its existing comprehensive policy on direct-to-consumer advertising. (Res. 514, Sleep Medication)

Resolutions adopted by the AMA House of Delegates become the official policy of the AMA and guide its actions.

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