

## COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC SOCIETIES

In late March 2008 the AAHSL CAS representatives prepared a summary report on the CAS Spring meeting held in New Orleans and shared this with the AAHSL membership via the listserv. The Spring CAS Meeting focused on Enhancing Academic Values in a Time of Change and Opportunity. CAS representative Logan Ludwig briefed the CAS Administrative Board on the NIH Public Access Policy.

Other Recent CAS activities and initiatives include:

- Work on CAS and AAMC administrative restructuring continues.
- Joanne Conroy, M.D., appointed AAMC's new chief health care officer as of October 1.
- CAS sponsored sessions at the AAMC Annual Meeting include:
  - "Complying with the NIH Public Access Policy: Faculty, Institutional , and Academic Society Perspectives"
  - "Financing Continuing Medical Education: Evolving Questions, Evolving Models"
  - "The Baby Boomer Time Bomb"
- CAS issued a progress report on changes to the USMLE in March 2008. Plans are to eliminate the first step of the exam's three sections and integrate basic and clinical concepts throughout all examination components rather than segregating the basic science content in Step 1. Live exams should be implemented by 2012.
- In February, 2008, AAMC and the AAU (Association of American Universities) issued a joint report calling on all medical schools and major research universities to develop and implement institutional financial conflicts of interest (COI) policies within the next two years, and to refine standards for addressing individual financial COI. "Protecting Patients, Preserving Integrity, Advancing Health: Accelerating the Implementation of COI Policies in Human Subjects Research,"
- AAMC "Industry Funding of Medical Education" report has urged all medical schools and teaching hospitals to adopt policies that prohibit drug industry gifts and services to physicians, faculty, residents, and students, and to curtail the involvement of industry in continuing medical education activities.
- "Leadership News and Items of Possible Interest" is regularly provided to CAS representatives by Anthony Mazzachi, AAMC Senior Assoc. VP for Biomedical and Health Sciences Research. Reaction to posting of this information on the AAHSL listserv has been highly positive.

Respectfully submitted,

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