

Annual Meeting Preliminary Program: President's Message



By reading this message online, you already have participated in one of many changes to our annual meeting—one that nicely illustrates this year's theme, "Stewardship and Service." Having a "green" preliminary program goes beyond a better use of resources and saving a few trees. It also reflects that the Internet has become your preferred method for registering for meetings, learning about AAMC activities, and accessing association resources.

As you read this preliminary program, I think you also will find that we have taken to heart your suggestions for ensuring the meeting better serves your needs. Responding to your suggestions from last year's annual meeting evaluation forms, we have created more opportunities to interact with colleagues in discussion forums and have built greater flexibility into programming venues.

Your recommendations, for example, led us to change our traditional Monday format in two ways. First, we will hold a single plenary session featuring a nationally recognized speaker on Monday. We are pleased that the Honorable Tom Daschle will join us to talk about national health insurance trends.

Following Mr. Daschle's remarks, we will host our series of named lectures,

which will be delivered by thought leaders on topics of interest to a broad cross-section of meeting attendees. Smaller, interactive discussion sessions will follow these presentations.

In another break with the past, we are leaving a portion of the meeting up to you! With many issues related to our mission areas quickly changing, we decided to test "meetings on the fly" (what we hope will represent collaboration at its best), where you, our members, can convene a meeting on a topic of interest to you. Rooms and sign-up sheets will be available for you and your colleagues to meet on any topic you like.

We also have added an "Academic Medicine Film Festival" to the annual meeting's Saturday night schedule. Here, you will be able to choose among short documentaries of particular interest to you, and we have found two provoking films from which you can choose.

Two annual meeting traditions will remain the same. The first is our Sunday afternoon leadership forum, which this year features Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick as keynote speaker. The second tradition that remains the same is our Tuesday political spotlight. Joining us this year will be MSNBC political analyst and Pulitzer Prizewinning columnist Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post, and American Enterprise Institute scholar and CBS News election analyst Norm Ornstein. I invite you to keep checking our Web site for the latest news on presenters and session topics: www.aamc.org/annualmeeting.

In the interim, and as the national debate over health care reform takes on even greater momentum, I hope you will think about "stewardship and service" within the larger context of our mission: to improve the health of all.

I look forward to seeing you in Boston at our 120th annual meeting!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darrell G. Kirch".

Darrell G. Kirch, M.D.
President and CEO
AAMC

