

June 22, 2016

Dr. Yag-Howard testifies before American Medical Association

Dermatologist Cyndi Yag-Howard, M.D., F.A.A.D., owner of Yag-Howard Dermatology Center in Naples, gave testimony on June 14 to the policymaking body of the nation's largest medical organization during its annual meeting in Chicago.

Speaking as a delegate from the American Academy of Dermatology, her amendment to a resolution before the American Medical Association's House of Delegates encouraged the AMA to work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to minimize administrative barriers that discourage or prevent non-VA physicians without compensation from volunteering their time to care for our nation's veterans.

"The administrative barriers to providing care are overwhelming and prohibitive," she said.

Yag-Howard recounted her frustration in trying to volunteer at an advanced dermatologic surgery clinic at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa, that was located 2.5 hours away from her home.

"I had to take two tests, get fingerprinted, have a physical exam, get bloodwork, go through a final vetting process, and travel back and forth from Naples to Tampa multiple times before -- one year later -- I could see my first patient," Yag-Howard said, noting that the clinic had to close until some future date because the volunteer faculty physician had a difficult time overcoming all of the administrative barriers.

The Delegates unanimously approved the amendment to the resolution, which focused on ways to get more physicians leading VA care teams to give veterans the best care possible.

"I just want to give back to veterans for their service in whatever way I can, but having to meet hurdle after hurdle was disheartening for me and continues to be for many other non-VA physicians who are also trying to volunteer.

Cyndi Yag-Howard, M.D., F.A.A.D., has been in business for 18 years and is the owner and operator of Yag-Howard Dermatology Center located at 1000 Goodlette-Frank Road in Naples, offering a full range of cosmetic and medical treatments for men and women. Dr. Yag-Howard is a highly regarded, board-certified dermatologist and dermatologic surgeon specializing in facial aesthetics and skin-cancer surgery. She lectures nationally on surgical techniques for best cosmetic outcomes and techniques that combine art with medicine.

As a thought leader in her field, Dr. Yag-Howard was included in the “Distinctive Women of 2016 in Southwest Florida” by *Distinctive Women*, an international publication serving Canada and the U.S. The women were honored for the positive impact they are making in their respective communities, as well their commitment to succeed and change the world.

For more information about the Center, call (239) 529-3376. Online at yhderm.com.

(<http://www.naplesnews.com/participate/384004301.html>)