



# MMS House of Delegates


## Who is the House of Delegates?

Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) House of Delegates (HOD) serve as an important communications, policy, and membership link between the MMS and grassroots physicians. Each delegate is a key source of information on policies, activities, and programs of the MMS.

The HOD is the policymaking body of the MMS and has the authority to establish two general types of policy: health policies and directives. Health policies are statements of philosophy, based on professional principles and scientific standards. These policies define what the Society stands for as an organization. Directives are action items that articulate a strategy for accomplishing an objective and/or activate the Society's health policies. Please visit [www.massmed.org/hod](http://www.massmed.org/hod) for more information.



## Contact Us

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MASSACHUSETTS  
MEDICAL SOCIETY

## How do I prepare?

Delegates receive all resolutions and reports for an upcoming meeting, plus any other business before the House, in the *Delegates' Handbook*. MMS members can view this information in the members-only area of our website, under "Annual and Interim Meetings."

## When are the meetings?

The HOD meets twice a year — in the spring and fall — for two days. These meetings typically take place in December and May.

## Delegate Meeting Attendance Requirement

District-elected delegates are strongly encouraged to attend all HOD meetings and are required to attend at least two sessions of the HOD in two consecutive years in order to be eligible to serve a third consecutive year.

## What can I expect at the HOD meetings?

At its first session, the House determines whether to accept any late items of business and hears informational updates from various presenters. After this, the reference committees meet to begin hearing testimony on the resolutions/reports for action. During its second session, the House considers, discusses, and votes on each reference committee's report.

## What happens after the meeting?

The Board of Trustees prioritizes and assigns resolutions or reports from the House to committees for implementation or report back. A report is provided to the House upon completion of each item.

## How can I get more involved?

### SERVE ON AN MMS REFERENCE COMMITTEE

Reference committee members serve for one year, at both the Interim and Annual Meetings of the HOD. Each reference committee is composed of five members and two alternates who hold open hearings on the resolutions and reports assigned to the committee by the speaker.

### SUBMIT A RESOLUTION

Any member of the Society can ask the House to consider an item of business. Those items, called resolutions, are drafted and submitted prior to each House meeting.