



## 2008 AMA Foundation Leadership Award Recipients

### Leadership Awards

#### Medical student recipients

##### **Taniqua Necole Alexander** **Harvard Medical School**

Taniqua Alexander is currently a fourth-year medical student and is pursuing residency training in obstetrics and gynecology. Her interests include the clinical and social outcomes of pregnant and parenting teenagers and their children, as well as substance use during pregnancy. Ms. Alexander dedicated her undergraduate work to exploring these issues as a psychology major at Yale University and was recognized by *Essence* magazine's "Top Ten Incredible College Women" contest for her display of leadership and innovation. Since arriving at Harvard Medical School in 2004, Taniqua has served as vice president of her school's chapter of the Student National Medical Association and is an active member of the main committee on admissions. She has worked in western Kenya with HIV/AIDS orphans and spearheaded a successful children's shoe drive to give back to the Maseno community in Africa.

##### **Hans C. Arora** **Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine**

Hans Arora is currently in his third year of the MD/PhD program at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (NUFSOM) in Chicago. At present, his research involves the use of nanoparticles for cancer drug delivery. He is a native of Bethesda, Md., and attended Pennsylvania State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering in 2005. He currently serves as the chair of the AMA Medical Student Section (MSS) Region 2 delegation and chair of the AMA-MSS Membership Retention and Recruitment Committee, and is a member of the AMA Political Action Committee student advisory board. On the local level, he is an alternate delegate to the Illinois State Medical Society House of Delegates as well as co-chair of the Chicago Medical Society Medical Student District. He enjoys being involved with his peers in a variety of settings including the Northwestern Outdoor Adventure Club, the Dance Interest Group, the NUFSOM curriculum committee, and a cooking club at the medical school, which he co-founded. He is hoping to pursue a career in radiation oncology and possibly public service.

##### **David A. Braun** **Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

David Braun, a second-year MD/PhD student and the first Sanford Bluestein, MD, Scholar at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University with a degree in molecular biology and certificates in applications of computing and engineering biology. He currently serves as the chair of the membership committee, a member of the executive council and is the Mount Sinai Institutional representative for the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA). In November 2007, Mr. Braun was the initiator and chair of the organizing committee for the APSA New York Symposium, which was attended by more than 130 MD and MD/PhD students representing nearly 30 different institutions. Mr. Braun is also the chief clinic manager for the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership, a student-run clinic that provides free comprehensive medical care to the uninsured. For the past year, he has served as the co-president of the Mount Sinai Chapter of Physicians for Human Rights. His central goal is to help ensure that the enormous promise of translational medicine will be effectively delivered to the community and society at large.

##### **Brittney Culp** **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at Amarillo**

Brittney Culp is a third-year medical student pursuing a career in dermatology. She also has an interest in bioethics and medical humanities as well as health policy. Over the last year, she has served as the chair of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) Medical Student Section (MSS), the chair of the AMA Medical Student Section (MSS) Committee on Medical Ethics and the vice president of the Dermatology Interest Group Association (DIGA). She has also been the student representative to the TMA Board of Councilors, and the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine at Amarillo delegate to the AMA-MSS. She will serve as the AMA-MSS Region 3 delegate and the DIGA president for 2008 to 2009. After building a practice in Texas and continuing research in dermatology, she will consider public office as well.

##### **C. Rory Goodwin** **Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine**

Rory Goodwin is a sixth-year MD/PhD candidate who seeks to pursue a career in academic neurology or neurosurgery. Mr. Goodwin is a neuroscience graduate student investigating treatment strategies for malignant brain tumors and has received awards for his research including a United Negro College Fund/Merck Science Dissertation Graduate Fellowship. His interests include health disparities and mentoring underrepresented minority youth. As a medical student, he co-founded the Brotherhood Alliance for

Science and Education, a mentoring program for minority males in the Baltimore City School System. He currently serves as the 2007–2008 national president for the Student National Medical Association and a W. Montague Cobb/National Medical Association Health Institute Technical Advisory Panel ad hoc member.

**Edward D. Gometz**  
**University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine**

Ed Gometz is a third-year medical student currently completing his clinical clerkships. He has a background in international development and global health and has research interests in HIV/AIDS and diseases endemic in the developing world. Mr. Gometz is a founding member of the Hopkins Biotech Network, a national student-run organization that promotes education, career development and networking in the field of biotechnology. While in medical school, Mr. Gometz has been an active leader in the AMA, spearheaded an innovative new internship program with Abbott Laboratories, and helped organize a medical mission to distribute recovered medicine and medical supplies from the U.S. to rural areas of Peru.

**Stephanie Hu**  
**Harvard Medical School**

Stephanie Hu is a third-year medical student at Harvard Medical School. Leadership and community service have been integral components of her life. As a college student, she served on the steering committee for a free clinic for more than four years and, in her senior year, founded a traveling free clinic that currently provides free basic health care, screening services and education to impoverished communities in rural China. The program reached more than 2,000 people in its inaugural year. As a medical student at Harvard, she works closely with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to bring cancer screening and education to underserved populations in Boston.

**Jennifer R. Jenkins**  
**University of Wisconsin School of Medicine**

Jennifer Jenkins rose from homelessness in her 20s to become a medical student at the age of 30. In her fourth year of medical school, she took a leave of absence to return to the streets, becoming the first International Street Medicine Fellow with Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh. There, she treated the homeless living on the streets, under bridges and in back alleyways of Pittsburgh. She continues to be devoted to the well-being of the underserved, and lends her personal experiences as hope for all who have obstacles in the face of their dreams.

**Jennifer Kruse**  
**Mayo Medical School**

Jennifer Kruse is a third-year medical student. She is particularly interested in issues related to health care access and affordability. She hopes to be involved in health care reform that will lead to systemic change. A sampling of the activities Ms. Kruse has been involved in include coordinating a holiday project to help local families in need, co-founding a student organization that plans and organizes medical missions to Haiti, initiating a student outreach clinic in Rochester, Minn., serving as co-president for the Mayo Medical School AMA chapter, serving as vice president for the national American College of Preventive Medicine Medical Student Section and teaching first-year medical students pathology, as well as developing additional curriculum for the course. She was recognized by the American College of Preventive Medicine as a “Future Leader in Preventive Medicine.”

**Jennifer McEntee, MA**  
**University of Oklahoma College of Medicine**

Jennifer McEntee is a fourth-year medical student applying for a position at an internal medicine/pediatrics residency program. She is also receiving her master's in public health with an international focus from Tulane University. Ms. McEntee decided to transfer to Oklahoma University (OU) for her clinical years. During her second year of medical school at Tulane-Houston, she was instrumental in initiating a tutoring program for New Orleans children displaced to Houston by the hurricane. After transferring to OU, she quickly assimilated and was elected vice president of the student body. She is currently working with medical students, the administration and community leaders to create an alliance with local charity clinics where medical students can use recently acquired knowledge and skill sets to help provide health care to the underserved. Ms. McEntee has also participated in education and medical outreach endeavors internationally in East Africa, South Africa and Peru. She plans to continue her work in the community with the underserved both domestically and internationally by incorporating her interests and passion in education and public health into her medical practice. She hopes to provide quality health care that embodies the healing and growth of mind, body and spirit.

**Travis Meyer**  
**Penn State University College of Medicine**

Travis Meyer is a second-year medical student at Penn State University in Hershey, Pa. He has been active in revitalizing his local chapter, and is involved in his county and state societies. He is currently the chair of the AMA Medical Student Section Region 6 delegation, and serves as vice chair of the communications task force. He is also the medical student representative on the One Health Initiative Task Force—a collaborative effort between veterinary medicine, human medicine and public health for the improved health of all.

**Joseph T. Nezgoda, MBA****University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School**

Joseph Nezgoda is in his final year of a combined MD/MBA program at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J. He has been actively involved in the AMA, having served as chair of his medical school chapter, state and region. He has also served two years on the board of trustees of the Medical Society of New Jersey and three years as a delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. Mr. Nezgoda has also served as an elected official to his town council, winning in an open election against an incumbent. With a great interest in humanism in medicine, he created and directed his school's medical humanities elective, and has been recently inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He has conducted research at the Naval Research Laboratory and the National Institutes of Health. Mr. Nezgoda is a graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in economics, and has studied abroad in both Florence and Belgium. He will continue his training in ophthalmology at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary in New York, N.Y.

**Edward Sheen****University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine**

Edward Sheen is a fourth-year medical student at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He has served as the student trustee on the board of trustees of the California Medical Association (CMA), co-chair of the CMA Medical Student Section, chair of the AMA Medical Student Section Committee on Legislation and Advocacy, and on the boards of several community organizations. He earned his MBA in 2007 from Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was president of the public management program. His other experience includes working at the White House in the Office of Management and Budget, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Blue Shield. Next year Mr. Sheen will attend Harvard School of Public Health and then pursue his residency training in internal medicine. His focus includes Medicare, the uninsured, chronic disease, unmet medical needs and medical education. Mr. Sheen is committed to serving the most vulnerable patients and helping to build a more equitable, effective and innovative health care system.

**Lorene Atkins Temming****University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill**

Lorene Atkins Temming, originally of Charlotte, N.C., is a second-year medical student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is passionate about reducing disparities in health care and outcomes for underserved populations. Over the past two years, Ms. Temming has helped plan and lead "Project Health Bridges," a research and service project that provides health screenings for immigrant populations in North Carolina and in Guanajuato, Mexico. Ms. Temming is also the director of a student-run outreach project that provides diabetic screenings, health fairs and mobile free care in the Chapel Hill community. She was recently named a June C. Allcott Fellow in Medicine based on her sustained record of excellence and commitment to community service.

**Kevyn To****State University of New York at Syracuse, Upstate College of Medicine**

Kevyn is a third-year medical student and member of the Diversity Task Force Council at State University of New York (SUNY) Upstate College of Medicine in Syracuse, N.Y. He is the founder of the SUNY Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (LGBT) Co-Operative of Upstate/University Hospital, a campuswide organization dedicated to advancing the quality of LGBT patient care through education and physician sensitivity. In the past two years, he has played a pioneering role in the development, planning and introduction of the LGBT curriculum in the College of Medicine at SUNY Upstate.

**Leadership Awards****Resident and fellow recipients****Joanna L. Drowos, DO, MPH****Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine, family practice residency**

Joanna Drowos, DO, is a third-year family practice resident who is planning for a career in public health and health policy. She was board-certified in preventive medicine/public health in 2006, is currently in her final semester of an MBA in health care administration at Florida Atlantic University and is completing a health policy fellowship in 2008. Dr. Drowos is an active participant and leader in several medical organizations including the Florida Medical Association (FMA) residents committee, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians residents committee and the American Osteopathic Association's membership bureau. Her community involvement includes participating in the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute and serving on the leadership boards of both Hadassah and the Young Leadership Division of the Broward Jewish Federation. As a medical student, Dr. Drowos received the Government and Public Policy Award, the Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Public Health Student, the FMA Sanford Mullen Award for outstanding community service and the 2002 Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine Student of the Year.

**Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD**  
**Massachusetts General Hospital Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care**

Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, is a third-year resident in anesthesiology at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School who is pursuing a career in medical informatics and health care policy, in addition to his clinical practice. His research interests include bioinformatics and the application of information technology to increase patient safety in the operating room environment. Dr. Ehrenfeld has served on numerous boards including the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Illinois State Medical Society, the University of Chicago and Haverford College. He is a founding member of a nonprofit organization, Doctors and Lawyers for Health Care Reform, which seeks to unite physicians and attorneys for the purpose of developing creative solutions to the current medical liability crisis. Dr. Ehrenfeld was recently awarded a prestigious research fellowship grant from the Foundation for Anesthesia Education and Research and will be joining the faculty of Harvard Medical School following his residency training.

**Awori Hayanga, MD**  
**University of Michigan, general surgery residency**

Awori Hayanga, MD, is a fourth-year general surgery resident at the University of Michigan. He took a year off in his residency after being awarded a joint Alfred Sommer and World Health Organization World Alliance for Patient Safety Scholarship to pursue a master's in public health with a focus on health policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He is the 2007 recipient of the American College of Surgeons Resident Leadership Award. Dr. Hayanga is the co-founder of the Ruben J. Williams Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization extending the scope of African surgical enterprise, networking and collaboration.

**Kristin K. Martin, DO, MS**  
**Plaza Medical Center, general surgery residency**  
**Fort Worth, Texas**

Kristin Martin, DO, MS, is currently a general surgery intern in the department of surgery at University of North Texas Plaza Medical Center. She completed her dual medical and graduate degree training at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences. During medical school, she held numerous state and national positions including the national medical education and research representative for osteopathic students, member on the Society for Osteopathic Medical Educators steering committee and was elected class president at her medical school. She also received the American Osteopathic Association President's Memorial Leadership Award for outstanding leadership and service in the osteopathic profession. Dr. Martin continues to pursue a career that incorporates clinical practice with her interests in research and public service. She is dedicated to providing a voice for the underserved and to other health care disparities. Her involvement in numerous community and advocacy efforts, which range from volunteering in health care clinics to lobbying Congress, reflects her "lead by example" approach to leadership. Dr. Martin hopes to use her prior training gained as a American Federation for Aging Research scholar at Harvard Medical School to focus on issues involving medical care for the elderly. Her ultimate goal is to develop a large medical center dedicated to clinical practice and research on issues of aging.

**Thandeka N. Myeni, MD**  
**Howard University Hospital, ophthalmology residency**  
**Harvard School of Public Health, MPH candidate**

Thandeka Myeni is currently a student at the Harvard School of Public Health. Her interests include health care disparities, health care access and eliminating needless blindness in underserved communities both domestically and internationally. As a medical student she served in various leadership roles in organizations such as the Student National Medical Association, Students for Community Involvement, and the Obstetrics and Gynecology Student Interest Group. After discovering her passion for ophthalmology she has volunteered and coordinated eye care screenings in Georgia and Washington, D.C.; and in 2006 she lobbied on Capitol Hill for the Vision Care for Kids Act. She is currently actively involved in the Harvard University chapters of Unite for Sight, Women in Leadership Group, African Health Forum and the Black Student Health Organization.

**Hridayesh Singh Nat, MD**  
**Easton Hospital, internal medicine residency**

Hridayesh Nat, MD, is a third-year internal medicine resident at Easton Hospital in Easton, Pa. Dr. Nat graduated from Saint Petersburg State Medical Academy, Russia, where he created and chaired a student governing council. He is considered a catalyst for the research activities at Easton Hospital. He has made 27 presentations at the state and national level, for which he won five research awards. His efforts led to the creation of a research environment at a community hospital, which increased the number of presentations fivefold within one year. He is a delegate member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and serves as a resident representative on the Pennsylvania Medical Political Action Committee. Dr. Nat also served on the AMA poster symposium committee for the AMA-RFS fourth annual Research Poster Symposium, where he reviewed abstracts in the competition. He has been actively involved in teaching fellow residents about the importance of research and organized medicine at all levels of training.

**Claudia Reardon, MD**  
**University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, psychiatry residency**

Claudia Reardon, MD, is a second-year psychiatry resident who plans to pursue a career in community psychiatry, caring for people with severe and persistent mental illness. As a medical student at the University of Wisconsin, she helped run a free psychiatry clinic for the homeless mentally ill. As a resident, she now serves as the resident representative on the Wisconsin Psychiatric

Association board of directors and as a Wisconsin delegate to the AMA. Through both positions she has been significantly involved in mental health advocacy. Additionally, she serves as resident liaison to the University of Wisconsin Psychiatry Student Interest Group.

**Tovah Gitel Rosen, MD**  
**Schneider Children's Hospital, North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System, pediatrics residency**

Tovah Rosen, MD, is a second-year pediatrics resident who is planning to balance a career in pediatrics with an interest in public health. As a pediatrician, she is particularly interested in issues that affect all children, with an emphasis on children in foster care. As a medical student, Dr. Rosen was awarded an Icahn Fellowship that provided her with the opportunity to study and pursue clinical research in the field of child abuse. She also helped educate high school teenagers in the Bronx, N.Y., about the dangers of underage drinking, and co-founded an organization to promote designated driving through incentive programs. Since her first year of medical school, Dr. Rosen has been involved with the AMA at numerous levels, and currently serves as an alternate delegate from the Resident and Fellow Section to the AMA House of Delegates.

**Neeral Shah, MD**  
**Lahey Clinic Medical Center, gastroenterology fellowship**

Neeral Shah, MD, is a third-year gastroenterology fellow at Lahey Clinic Medical Center and hopes to pursue a career in hepatology. He finished his residency in internal medicine and was chief resident at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. During his residency, he started his involvement with Somos Amigos, a program to provide health care to an underserved, remote village in the Dominican Republic. Currently, Dr. Shah is active in organized medicine and is the chair of the Resident and Fellow Section for the Massachusetts Medical Society.

**Diana R. Shiba, MD**  
**University of California, San Diego, Department of Ophthalmology**

Diana R. Shiba, MD, is a second-year ophthalmology resident at the Shiley Eye Center at the University of California, San Diego. She is heavily involved in medical advocacy via the Ambassador Advocacy Program with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, served as a delegate to the AMA House of Delegates from California and co-authored the resolution adopted at the last AMA meeting on the issue of economic hardship loan deferment for residents. She currently serves as the one resident member on the board of trustees for the California Medical Association and on the board of trustees for the California Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Shiba is also active in the community, providing free ophthalmology consults with "Volunteers in Medicine," a national organization of 50 clinics offering medical care to the working uninsured, and of note, was one of the first volunteer doctors on scene at Qualcomm Stadium during the San Diego fires. She is currently undergoing training as a member of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team, San Diego (DMAT CA-4) deployable under the National Disaster Medical System with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**Tobie-Lynn Smith, MD**  
**Christus Santa Rosa, family medicine residency**

Tobie-Lynn Smith, MD, is a third-year family medicine resident. She is currently the resident member of the American Academy of Family Physician's board of directors, as well as the resident representative to the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Board of Delegates. She is active in her county medical society as member of the commissions on legislative affairs and on public health and has plans to continue these interests by pursuing a career in public health and health policy. Her interests in public health include advocating for access to care for underserved populations and community health programming to address health care disparities.

**Shannon Marie Stinson, MD**  
**Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, emergency medicine residency**

Shannon Stinson, MD, is a third-year emergency medicine resident who plans to pursue a career that integrates health care policy, public education and medical management. Her interests include obesity and underserved populations. Since the early days of her medical school career, she has been actively involved in organizations such as the AMA and the American College of Emergency Physicians, attaining leadership roles that fostered insight into the critical role physicians play in shaping health care policy. Dr. Stinson intends to pursue a master's in medical management, alongside her clinical work, to foster a better understanding of the intricacies of the practice of medicine and provide a framework from which to help shape health care policy. In addition, she hopes to research, develop and institute public education programs with the goal of improving the well-being, health and overall education of patients around the world.

**Eddie Joe Turner, MD**  
**Baylor College of Medicine, Northwest Family Medicine Residency Program**

Eddie J. Turner, MD, is a second-year family medicine resident whose ambition is to become a leader in health policy. His interests are in minority health and health care disparities. Specifically, he is interested in the diversification of the U.S. medical work force. Dr. Turner is founder and editor of *Diversity Medicine*, a magazine designed to mentor minority undergraduate students and encourage them to choose medicine as a career. He has volunteered with numerous community outreach programs, including TarWars, an anti-smoking campaign for kids, HIV intervention and prevention, the Health Careers Opportunity Program, and the National Youth Leadership Forum. Dr. Turner was also the founder of the Health Professions Mentoring Program at LeMoyne-Owen

College. As a medical student, he was a member of the American Academy of Family Physician's board of directors. During residency, he has served on the Texas Medical Association's Committee on Physician Distribution and Health Care Access, as well as its Council on Socioeconomics and currently serves as chair-elect of its Resident Fellow Section executive council.

## **Leadership Awards**

### **Early-career physician recipients**

**C. Bob Basu, MD, MPH**  
**Baylor College of Medicine**  
**Houston**

C. Bob Basu, MD, is a board-certified plastic surgeon who specializes in breast reconstruction and microsurgery, reconstructive body contouring after weight loss, and cosmetic surgery. With a strong interest in health policy and advocacy, he currently represents his specialty as an alternate delegate in the AMA Young Physicians Section and is a member of the AMA Plastic Surgery Caucus. He serves on the steering committee of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) Young Physicians Section as the vice chair of the advocacy subcommittee. He has participated in advocacy events such as the ASPS Washington-Fly-In and is working to increase participation of young plastic surgeons in upcoming grassroots and national advocacy events. Dr. Basu also serves on both the ASPS Instructional Course Committee—Breast Surgery Subcommittee and the Committee on Patient Safety. Locally, he frequently works with local community groups and cancer care providers to increase patient awareness of contemporary options for breast restoration following cancer treatment. Dr. Basu is a clinical faculty member of Baylor College of Medicine.

**Jun Ratunil Chiong, MD, MPH**  
**Loma Linda University School of Medicine**  
**Loma Linda, Calif.**

Jun R. Chiong, MD, a cardiologist, is an associate professor of medicine at the Loma Linda University. He also serves as the medical director of the Advance Heart Failure Program. Prior to his move to California, he was actively involved in the Florida Department of Health "We Care" program. He also co-founded the Legacy of Care charity clinic serving migrant workers in the state. With his interest in research and passion to narrow health disparities, he pursued and obtained a Masters of Public Health in public health practice. After his fellowship, he also received two Young Investigator awards. He now serves as a steering committee member for the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Chiong considers it a great honor to receive the 2008 AMA Foundation Leadership Award.

**Melissa W. Costello, MD, FACEP**  
**University of South Alabama College of Medicine**  
**Mobile, Ala.**

Melissa W. Costello, MD, is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, Ala. She has been active with the AMA since starting in the AMA Medical Student Section in 1996. She is currently serving her second term as the state chair for the Young Physicians Section of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) and sits on the MASA Council for Medical Education. She serves the American College of Emergency Physicians as an alternate councilor for the Tactical Emergency Medicine Section and sits on multiple committees for the University of South Alabama. She currently serves as medical director for the regional air medical program in Mobile and works with the FBI SWAT team in Mobile and with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Medical Assistance Team, and the Urban Search and Rescue team, a regional asset also part of FEMA.

**Frank D. Dumont, MD**  
**Family Medical Clinic, Estes Park Medical Center**  
**Estes Park, Colo.**

Frank Dumont, MD, is in his eighth year of general internal medicine practice in the mountains of Colorado. He is a member of the board of directors for the Colorado Medical Society and serves on the society's executive leadership committee. He continues to represent local physicians on the Larimer County Medical Society's board of directors and served as the president for the organization in 2005. He recently represented Colorado as a delegate to the AMA Young Physician Section for the 2007 AMA Interim Meeting. His particular interests are health care reform and the balance between representation and leadership in organized medicine.

**Edbert Hsu, MD, MPH**  
**Johns Hopkins Department of Emergency Medicine**  
**Clarksville, Md.**

Edbert Hsu, MD, is an emergency medicine faculty member at Johns Hopkins University. Combining his international health background with a special interest in disaster medicine, he has worked on emergency medicine program development and disaster preparedness around the world. In recent years, he has led statewide efforts to enhance hospital pharmaceutical preparedness for public health emergencies. Dr. Hsu is the director of training and serves on the leadership group of the Office of Critical Event

Preparedness and Response. Currently he is a co-investigator with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center for the Study of Preparedness and Catastrophic Event Response, an associate editor for the *AMA Journal of Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, and works closely with the National Disaster Life Support Educational Consortium™.

**Michael Flanagan, MD**  
**Anesthesia Consultants Medical Group, Southeast Pain Management Center**  
**Dothan, Ala.**

Michael Flanagan, MD, is a graduate of Wake Forest University (WFU) and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine. During his anesthesiology residency at WFU, Dr. Flanagan was named a Glaxo-Wellcome Resident Scholar. He completed a pain management fellowship at WFU where he served as chief pain fellow and was named a Wyeth-Ayerst Pain Fellow Scholar. Dr. Flanagan is currently a board-certified anesthesiologist and pain management physician who serves as co-director of the Southeast Pain Management Center in Dothan, Ala. This is the region's only multidisciplinary pain clinic, which had more than 15,000 patient visits in 2007. In addition to his commitment to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of chronic pain, Dr. Flanagan has a long history of participation in organized medicine at the local, state and national level to promote access to care and preserve the patient-physician relationship. He has served as chairman to the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) Young Physician Section (YPS), a MASA YPS delegate to the AMA, and MASA secretary-treasurer. He remains active in the recruitment and retention of young physicians at the county and state level while currently serving as the Alabama alternate delegate to the AMA, a MASA District 2 Counsellor and the vice president of MASA.

**Robert F. Melendez, MD**  
**Eye Associates of New Mexico**  
**Rio Rancho, N.M.**

Rob Melendez, MD, is a full-time, comprehensive ophthalmologist in private practice and is pursuing an MBA degree at Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque. Dr. Melendez was selected to the "2007 NM Business Weekly 40 under 40 List" of movers and shakers under the age of 40 in New Mexico. He is a co-founder of the Chief Resident Leadership Forum, now in its fifth year. Currently, he is the secretary/treasurer for the New Mexico Academy of Ophthalmology and section chief of ophthalmology for Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Melendez is very involved in the American Academy of Ophthalmology, where he was selected to the Young Ophthalmologist Committee and co-authored a paper entitled "Perceptions of recent ophthalmology residency graduates regarding preparation for practice." He plays an active role in teaching and mentoring medical students as a volunteer assistant clinical professor at UNM. Dr. Melendez has been married for nearly 16 years and loves playing basketball with his three children.

**Srinivas B. Mukkamala, MD**  
**Otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeon**  
**Flint, Mich.**

Bobby Mukkamala is in his seventh year of practice as an otolaryngologist in Flint, Mich. Flint is Dr. Mukkamala's hometown, where he returned after completing his residency at Loyola University in Chicago. He is in solo practice and shares his office with his wife, Nita, an ob-gyn. He is involved in several nonprofit corporations as well as county, state and national medical societies. In the Michigan State Medical Society he has served as chair of the Young Physician Section, as well as serving on the board. His community work includes serving on the board of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and several other nonprofit groups that have civic engagement as their primary mission. Dr. Mukkamala has also been recently appointed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm to serve on the Michigan Board of Audiology.

**Gregory L. Roslund, MD, FAAEM**  
**St. Joseph Regional Medical Center**  
**South Bend, Ind.**

Gregory L. Roslund, MD, is an emergency physician at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend, Ind., whose interests include cancer support, medical education and clinical research. He serves on the executive board of Imerman Angels, a one-on-one cancer support service connecting cancer fighters with cancer survivors. Dr. Roslund has directed the outreach committee since the organization's inception. He also precepts the Emergency Medicine Elective at Indiana University College of Medicine—South Bend and maintains an interest in research. His study on anti-emetic use in pediatric gastroenteritis received the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine award for Best Resident Presentation in 2007 and was recently published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

**Shetal Shah, MD**  
**State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine**  
**Syosset, N.Y.**

Shetal Shah, MD, is an assistant professor of neonatal medicine at the State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Medicine and the author of *Passport to Illness*, a book describing his medical experience in developing countries, particularly India where he cared for newborns in conjunction with the Fulbright Scholar Program. He designed and patented a monitor for inter-hospital transport of preterm infants focusing on how imparted impulse causes inflammation. Dr. Shah has published studies outlining the use of the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) as a vehicle for public health, administering influenza and pertussis vaccine to NICU parents in order to prevent transmission to their preterm infants. He has authored resolutions calling for mandated

offering of these vaccines to new parents while in the hospital. He is the author of 35 peer-reviewed publications and in 2007, was named by Massachusetts Institute of Technology and *Technology Review Magazine* as one of the “most innovative” young physicians. Dr. Shah graduated magna cum laude from Princeton University, received his MD from Cornell University and completed his residency and neonatal fellowship at Duke University Medical Center and New York University School of Medicine.

**Débora H. Silva Diaz, MD**  
**University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine**  
**San Juan, P.R.**

Débora Silva, MD, is an associate professor in the department of pediatrics and the curriculum office director at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine. Her interests range from emergency room pediatrics, to curriculum reform, to clinical skills and faculty development. She directed the Clinical Skills Development Office from 2001 to 2005. During those years she implemented clinical skills curriculum reform and the use of standardized patients in different levels of the curriculum. In 2005 she became the curriculum office director and is now involved in the expansion of the faculty development program and the development of a “residents-as-teacher” curriculum.

**Marianna V. Spanaki-Varelas, MD, PhD**  
**Henry Ford Health Systems**  
**Detroit**

Marianna V. Spanaki-Varelas, MD, is a senior staff neurologist at Henry Ford Health Systems in Detroit and associate professor of neurology at Wayne State University. Dr. Spanaki practices neurology with an emphasis in epilepsy. She organizes an annual symposium on women’s issues in neurological disorders and holds a leadership position in the clinical neurophysiology program, affiliated with Henry Ford Health Systems, developing curriculum. At the state level, she serves on the International Graduates Council (as a delegate), State Legislation and Governments Affairs committee, and Women’s Council of Michigan State Medical Society. She is also on the medical advisory board of the Michigan Epilepsy Foundation. Dr. Spanaki is leading an effort to introduce legislative changes to Michigan driving law as it pertains to physicians’ immunity from third-party liability. At the national level, Dr. Spanaki is on the Scientific Program Committee of the American Epilepsy Society. Dr. Spanaki is currently pursuing an executive MBA at the University of Tennessee.

**Asha P. Subramanian, MD, MPH**  
**Community of Hope Health Services**  
**Kensington, Md.**

Since 2006, Dr. Subramanian has been the medical director at Community of Hope (COH) Health Services in Washington, D.C. Prior to this role, she served as the assistant director, and then director, of the Division of Community Health at Georgetown University, as well as the program director for the Community Health Center Director Development Fellowship at Georgetown University Department of Family Medicine. During this time, Dr. Subramanian worked extensively with all levels of Georgetown medical students, family medicine residents and fellows, including developing a health literacy curriculum and directing seminars and an elective on underserved care and community health. Most recently, Dr. Subramanian has provided leadership at COH, a “New Start” federally qualified health center, to develop a strong infrastructure and strategic vision to both double the number of visits at COH, as well as begin planning for a second site expansion. As medical director, Dr. Subramanian also maintains an active family medicine practice which includes interests in underserved care, prenatal care and health literacy. She has also won several teaching and other awards.

**Jack W. Tsao, MD, DPhil**  
**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences Department of Neurology**  
**Bethesda, Md.**

Jack Tsao, MD, is a commander in the U.S. Navy and associate professor of neurology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the nation’s military medical school, where he is responsible for medical student education, patient care, and clinical and basic science research. Dr. Tsao is an active volunteer for the American Heart Association. He established a program to improve community stroke awareness and early detection and response by both victims of stroke and the emergency medical system in Jacksonville, Fla., and helped implement thrombolytic therapy for acute stroke at several military hospitals. He has been a mentor in the Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum of the American Academy of Neurology and is a principal investigator for amputee research at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Dr. Tsao and his colleagues recently completed a treatment trial of mirror therapy for phantom limb pain and have integrated this therapy into the routine rehabilitation care for amputees.

## **Leadership Awards** **Established physician recipients**

**Satya P. Ahuja, MD, FACP, FASN**  
**Fresenius Medical Care Dialysis Unit**  
**Chicago**

Satya P. Ahuja, MD, is a practicing nephrologist and a partner with Associates in Nephrology, which provides renal consultation services and dialysis to patients in need in the Chicago metropolitan area. From 1999 to 2000, he served as president of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin, the largest ethnic medical association in the United States, where he worked very hard to involve more physicians of Indian origin and other international medical graduate physicians into mainstream organized medicine—especially the AMA. He used leadership abilities, contacts and resources to establish a charitable clinic in an underserved Chicago neighborhood, consistent with his vision of “health care for all” and with the AMA’s campaign for the uninsured and underinsured. With the support of Dr. Ahuja and many others, the clinic has been available for services to many who would otherwise go without health care.

**VijayaLakshmi Appareddy, MD**  
**Tri-State Psychiatric Services**  
**Chattanooga, Tenn.**

Vijaya Appareddy, MD, was sworn in as a member of the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities at a ceremony at the White House in 2002. Over the years, she has held leadership positions in several medical organizations. She was the chairperson of the board of trustees of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. Dr. Appareddy’s passion is to find ways to increase access to medical care for everybody and reduce the number of uninsured in this country.

**Raakesh Chandra Bhan, MD, FCCM, FACA, FCCP, FACP**  
**Battle Creek Health System**  
**Battle Creek, Mich.**

Raakesh C. Bhan, MD, specializes in critical care medicine and works with critical care pulmonary medicine in Battle Creek, Kalamazoo and Marshall, Mich. He is medical director of the critical care unit of the Battle Creek Health System. He has served as the chief of medical staff and as the chairperson of the department of medicine. Currently he is chairperson of the credentials committee and the critical care committee, and serves as a member of various committees at the Battle Creek Health System. He has been president of the Calhoun County Medical Society. He is a board member with the YMCA and the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center. Dr. Bhan has initiated the Keystone Project in the critical care unit of the Battle Creek Health System. His goal is to reduce medical errors, morbidity, complications and length of stay in the critical care units. The rate of the use of ventilator-associated pneumonia and bloodstream infections have been reduced significantly under his guidance.

**Meena Chintapalli, MD, FAAP**  
**A thru Z Pediatrics**  
**San Antonio**

Meena Chintapalli, MD, landed in the United States on March 30, 1976. Working in San Antonio, Dr. Chintapalli focuses on research involving experience-based early synaptic proliferation, which creates the pathways for biosocial behaviors and academic achievement. Dr. Chintapalli is interested in integrating this brain research not only in clinical practice but also in schools, Head Start programs, educational institutions and community initiatives involving parenting education. By educating entities such as the U.S. Department of Education, Parent Child Incorporated, Pediatric Training Programs and the judicial system about this research, she hopes that nationwide reforms will be enacted to help all children. She also believes that physicians should take the lead in supporting free clinics in local communities, which will bridge the gap of disparities in the health care system.

**Steven H. Dayan, MD, FACS**  
**Dayan Facial Plastic Surgery**  
**Chicago**

Steven H. Dayan, MD, is a board-certified facial plastic surgeon in Chicago who, over the past nine years, has built a thriving clinical practice while maintaining strong academic and community ties. A clinical assistant professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, Dr. Dayan is a frequently requested speaker and has more than 45 medical publications to his credit, including two books. His clinical research company, DeNova, has participated in more than 20 studies including multiple Phase 3 U.S. Food and Drug Administration trials. His educational efforts extend beyond his chosen field to the community where he has started Enhance Educational Foundation. Through this not-for-profit organization, Dr. Dayan serves as a preceptor, teacher and mentor to inner-city students from the Chicago public schools. In 2006 and 2007, Enhance Educational Foundation provided more than \$65,000 in scholarship funds to deserving students.

**John C. Fleming, MD**  
**Family physician practice**  
**Minden, La.**

John Fleming, MD, is a family physician from Minden, La. He has served in a number of leadership positions during his medical career, including president of the Minden Medical Center medical staff, president of the Webster Parish Medical Society and president of the Board of the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians. He wrote a book last year, “Preventing Addiction: What Parents Must Know to Immunize their Kids Against Drug and Alcohol Addiction,” and was selected as the 2007 Louisiana Family Physician of the Year. He is currently running for the open congressional seat in the 4<sup>th</sup> District.

**Asit (Ash) Gokli, MD, MMM**  
**St. Mary Mercy Hospital**  
**Livonia, Mich.**

Ash Gokli, MD, is the vice president and chief medical officer of St. Mary Mercy Hospital, and a member of Trinity Health, in Livonia, Mich. He is an avid student of leadership and believes in inspirational, collaborative and servant leadership. Through innovation, change management, Six Sigma and Lean Process Improvement methodologies, he has aligned the medical staff and had breakthrough improvements in quality, efficiency and customer service. These efforts have yielded health grants and Solucient awards for St. Mary Mercy Hospital. He is actively involved in advocacy at the local, state and national levels, as well as diversity and inclusiveness initiatives at the system level. He serves on several community boards and is involved in projects to improve health access for the poor and underserved.

**Christopher M. Guerrero, MD, FAAFP**  
**Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center**  
**Chicago**

Christopher M. Guerrero, MD, a family physician for more than 25 years, is a founding member of the Global Medical Foundation, an organization of health care professionals dedicated to providing medical treatment in underprivileged areas of the world. Having begun his career as a rural health physician in the Philippine Public Health Service, Dr. Guerrero moved to mobilize the resources around him in Chicago to serve humanity. Many of the physicians with whom he has worked over the years were trained in medicine outside the United States and, like him, possess firsthand knowledge of global health problems. Together, the Global Medical Foundation has served the humanitarian needs of the people in 12 countries, on three continents, including 10 medical missions that Dr. Guerrero has personally led to his home province in the Philippine Islands.

**Mahesh C. Gupta, MD**  
**Internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology**  
**Corona, Calif.**

Mahesh C. Gupta, MD, of Corona, Calif., is a seasoned leader who strongly believes in protecting the integrity of the medical profession. In the 1980s, he along with other physicians successfully lobbied U.S. Congress for the passage of legislation for international medical graduate physicians. As president of his medical society, he created a forum to deal with uninsured patients. As a philanthropist, Dr. Gupta has demonstrated his leadership in raising funds to aid victims of natural calamities around the world.

**Stephen Lee Hines, MD**  
**Methodist Dallas Medical Center**  
**Dallas**

Stephen Lee Hines, MD, is a full-time faculty member for the internal medicine residency program at the Methodist Dallas Medical Center. In his current position, he serves as medical director and the first full-time outpatient attending physician of the continuity teaching clinic at the Golden Cross Academic Clinic at Methodist Dallas Medical Center. In this role, he defines clinic policy, creates educational modules, establishes community outreach initiatives and serves as physician liaison to the board of the Golden Cross Foundation. Dr. Hines transitioned to his current full-time teaching role in 2004 after 21 years of private practice and service in a clinical faculty position at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

**Theodore Andrew Kastner, MD, MS**  
**Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance Inc.**  
**Montclair, N.J.**

Theodore Kastner, MD, of Montclair, N.J., is board-certified in four specialties: pediatrics, developmental and behavioral pediatrics, neurodevelopmental disabilities, and medical management. He holds appointments at the New Jersey Medical School University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he is an associate professor of clinical pediatrics, and the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, where he is an associate professor of clinical medicine. Dr. Kastner is an international authority on the health care concerns of people with developmental disabilities. For the past 10 years, he has served as the founder and president of Developmental Disabilities Health Alliance, the largest provider of community-based health care, mental health and care management services to persons with developmental disabilities in the United States, currently serving more than 4,200 persons. Dr. Kastner has been a recipient of many awards and honors, has served as a consultant to numerous national organizations and agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice, has presented at more than 200 conferences and training workshops, and has authored more than 100 publications in the field of developmental disabilities.

**Narendra R. Kumar, MD**  
**Otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeon**  
**Saginaw, Mich.**

Narendra R. Kumar, MD is a practicing otolaryngologist from Saginaw, Mich. He is an executive committee member of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin and is very active in the professional and socio-political arenas at the state and national levels.

**Samuel Lin, MD, PhD, MBA, MPA, MS**  
**United States Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Rockville, Md.**

Samuel Lin, MD, retired as rear admiral, assistant surgeon general and deputy assistant secretary for health, for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 1994. He next retired as executive director for Federal Medical Affairs, the Pharmacia-Upjohn Company in 1999. Since then, he has been a medical affairs consultant for various concerns/organizations, including the American Medical Group Association (AMGA). He also serves as AMGA's alternate delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. His interests range from issues of quality care, to results-based reimbursement, to underserved populations, to legislative policy and health administration. As a medical student in 1971, he was one of five students who convinced the AMA House of Delegates to provide a voting seat for students. While in federal service, he served in senior DHHS organizational and leadership roles within Indian Health Service, Office of International Health, Intergovernmental Affairs, National Center for Health Services Research and Office of Minority Health. He co-founded four Asian Pacific American health advocacy, policy and community organizations.

**Nick J. Paslidis, MD, PhD, MHCM**  
**Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care**  
**Little Rock, Ark.**

Nick J. Paslidis, MD, is the CEO of the Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Arkansas' quality improvement organization, and maintains his physician practice through periodic work in community health centers and nursing homes. During his more than 11 years as medical director of a group of rural community health centers in Arkansas, Dr. Paslidis developed a keen interest in quality care. He has also been instrumental in convening diverse medical providers and organizations in collaborative efforts to improve quality of care for the people of the state of Arkansas. He was recently named to the Governor's Roundtable on Health Care by Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe. Dr. Paslidis has received several awards in recognition of his leadership and innovation, including the Governor's Gold Award for leading a family-friendly company, Excel Leadership Scholarship Award from the National Association of Community Health Centers and the Medical Economics Physician "Going the Extra Mile" Award.