

2009 Leadership Award Recipients

Medical student recipients



Robert Evan Accordino, MSc
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Robert Accordino, a medical student at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University with a degree in psychology and certificates in music and theatre. In addition to being a member of Phi Beta Kappa, he received a Master of Science degree from Oxford University in experimental psychology where he was supported by Fulbright and Rotary Ambassadorial scholarships. During medical school, Mr. Accordino founded and has served as the executive director of Music for Autism, a 501c3 organization that aims to improve the quality of life, education and clinical care of individuals with autism, particularly those in underserved areas. For his work with the charity's sister organization in the United Kingdom, Mr. Accordino was honored by Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, for his "service to individuals with autism and their families." He has served as his class' representative on the executive curriculum committee and founded the Class of 2010 Clinical Medical Education Focus Group at Mount Sinai. At Princeton, he served as chair of the student health advisory board. Mr. Accordino hopes to pursue a career in academic pediatrics with a focus on advocacy, clinical research and medical education.

Stephanie Lyn Andrus

State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Stephanie Andrus is currently completing her medical degree and MBA at the State University of New York at Buffalo and is planning to pursue a career in pediatrics. She has been a leader in her community, serving as the student coordinator for a free medical clinic in downtown Buffalo, N.Y., and developing a program to educate children about healthy living. Her advocacy efforts have focused on topics from reducing childhood obesity to improving the quality of and access to medical education.



Manisha Bahl
University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine
Harvard School of Public Health

Manisha Bahl grew up in Chico, Calif., and is currently taking a leave of absence from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) School of Medicine, where she is a fourth-year medical student, to pursue a master's in public health with a focus in health care management and policy at the Harvard School of Public Health. Manisha graduated as a member of Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University. At UCSF, she served as the vice president of the Associated Students of the School of Medicine, and as the coordinator of the UCSF Homeless Health Clinics. She has a strong interest in research, having completed projects at UCSF, Stanford University, the National Institutes of Health, the Weizmann Institute of Science and the California Department of Public Health. Manisha hopes to be involved in shaping health care policy, as her experiences with preventive health outreach, free clinics, veterans' health care, and local and statewide advocacy have underscored the importance of easy access to care.

Richard A. Brucker

Tulane University School of Medicine

Richard Brucker, a second-year Tulane University medical student, is currently developing a program to provide first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillator (AED) training, and AEDs to various community settings around New Orleans, La. He also helps run a tuberculosis and flu clinic at Ozanam Inn Homeless Shelter, is co-president of Tulane Physicians for Social Responsibility student chapter and is the vice president of the Tulane Jewish Medical Student Organization. As a first-year medical student, Brucker saw the need for educating the many homeless individuals in New Orleans on the free and low-cost health care that is available to them. In response, he created a resource guide and a Web site (www.nolafreehealthcare.com) targeted to health care providers and community leaders so that they can convey up-to-date information about free and low-cost medical assistance. The Web site also provides physicians and patients a quick way to see if their prescription drugs are covered under Wal-Mart's or Target's \$4-prescription program.



Enrico Castillo

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Enrico Castillo is a third-year medical student at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (UPSOM). Born and raised in rural, southwestern Virginia, he graduated from the University of Virginia with a focus on Filipino-American literature, and his current interests lie in health disparities and mental health care for underserved minority populations. He is currently on a research sabbatical through UPSOM's National Institute of Mental Health Research Fellowship Program, focusing on depression care in African-Americans and psychiatrist communication. He has been a member of the AMA Medical Student Section's Minority Issues Committee since 2006, serving both as chair and vice chair, and he

has organized national and local minority health seminars on African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic/Latino-American, Native Hawaiian, women's, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender health. Upon graduation, he hopes to pursue a career in cross-cultural psychiatry.

Erica Dommasch

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Erica Dommasch is a fourth-year medical student at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, N.J. She has served more than two years on the board of trustees of the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ), two years as delegate and alternate delegate to the AMA House of Delegates, and as chair of her local AMA chapter. Recognizing the impact that medical students will have on the future of health care, she helped found the MSNJ Medical Student Section and also worked to formally integrate health policy education into her medical school's curriculum. Ms. Dommasch is a summa cum laude graduate of New York University with a degree in psychology. She enjoys traveling, and has studied abroad in Paris and has participated in medical outreach endeavors in Kenya. At present, she is at the University of Pennsylvania completing a year of clinical and epidemiological research in dermatology.





Jamie S. Eng
Chicago Medical School

Jamie Eng is a fourth-year medical student who seeks to pursue a career in emergency medicine. Her interests include clinical research that focuses on the impact of protocol-driven, pre-hospital care on patient outcomes in the emergency department. Ms. Eng is a Baltimore native, and she received a bachelor's degree in marine biology from Eckerd College, as well as a master's degree in physiology from the University of Hawaii. Prior to medical school, she directed a number of clinical research studies focusing on the systemic inflammatory response in coronary bypass patients, and the correlation with post-operative mortality. Since entering medical school, Ms. Eng served as vice president of her class for three years, a member of the planning committee for the university's Service Learning Council, a third-year clerkship representative for emergency medicine, a student member of her medical school's strategic planning committee, and as co-chair of the planning committee for the Miles for Smiles Charity 5k race. She also implemented the Faculty-Student Advising Program, a student-driven group providing guidance, support and advice to fellow students. She is honored to be the 2008 recipient of the AOA Ashley Evans Professionalism Award. Ms. Eng has also traveled extensively, both for leisure and service. Her most recent trip was a medical expedition to India's Himalayan region, providing health care to Tibetan refugees and remote villagers.

Hayley M. Fischer
Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University

Hayley Fischer is a second-year medical student pursuing a career in pediatrics. Her interests include expanding access to health care domestically and abroad, and community service. Ms. Fischer spent last summer in Bolivia, where she worked to improve access to health care in a rural community outside Cochabamba. While working through a self-designed fellowship in Costa Rica during her undergraduate years, Ms. Fischer also initiated public health education classes for Nicaraguan refugees. She currently serves in various leadership roles, including the AMA chapter chair to the Brody School of Medicine, representative to the Pitt County Medical Society Board of Directors, and member of the North Carolina Medical Society Communications and Membership Advisory committee. She has been instrumental in revitalizing her local AMA chapter, initiating longstanding service projects in the community and coordinating more than 250 hours of community service for her AMA chapter members.



Jason Franasiak
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Jason Franasiak is a fourth-year medical student who will be pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology with a focus on women's health policy. He is particularly interested in screening protocols and their implementation in an international setting. As a medical student, Jason founded Building Tomorrow: Destination Kampala at the University of Virginia. The organization seeks to raise funds and awareness for school buildings in Kampala, Uganda. In addition, he served as president of the University of Virginia School of Medicine and the University of Virginia chapter of American Medical Student Association, advocating for fellow medical students on a local and national level.

Felicity L. Kelly

University of Texas at Houston Medical School

Felicity Kelly is a third-year medical student at the University of Texas at Houston Medical School. During her time as a medical student, she founded a service organization that teaches science lessons to first-grade, inner-city children. She also founded an initiative to help indigent patients obtain health care access within the county. She has been an active leader in multiple organizations through her medical school career including the Texas Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the Student National Medical Association, National Network of Latin American Medical Students, Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association and others. She hopes to continue to work in the public health sector and to educate patients on pertinent health care topics.



Nicholas Ovanda Meo

Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Nicholas Meo is a second-year medical student at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He serves as director of the East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership, a free health clinic for the uninsured. In this role, he has expanded access to mental health services and supplemented care with several innovative medical education programs. His main interest surrounds chronic disease management in medically underserved populations. Nicholas is a Medical Student Training in Aging Research Scholar and recently completed the Summer Institute for Medical Students at the

Betty Ford Center.

Abimbola Adebisi Obafemi

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–New Jersey Medical School

Abi Obafemi is a fourth-year medical student pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery and academic medicine with the hope of combining her passions for teaching, research, musculoskeletal medicine and community service. As president of the AMA chapter at her medical school, Abi revived the group and inspired a spirit of advocacy, excellence and volunteerism. Abi is also a National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Training Program scholar. Born in Nigeria and having traveled extensively, Abi is interested in international health and hopes to create and lead a program for American orthopedic surgeons to travel to other countries and train local doctors in advanced limb-saving techniques.



Gina M. Porter

University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Medicine

Gina Porter of New Orleans is in her fourth-year of the combined bachelor's degree/medical degree program at the University of Missouri–Kansas City (UMKC) and is pursuing a career in academic urology and reproductive medicine. Her interests lie in health care disparities, underserved populations, and minority retention and recruitment in medicine. Gina serves as a trained AIDS peer educator and uses motivational monologues to raise awareness about HIV-testing and sexually transmitted diseases to Kansas City-area students. Gina currently serves as the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) National Voter Registration Drive coordinator, SNMA Region Political Advocacy liaison, SNMA chapter president, UMKC Medical Student Advisory Committee Community Service co-chair, UMKC Class vice president, UMKC Student Success Committee on academic structure/transition co-chair, Kansas City Free Health Clinic Youth Advisory Committee member, UMKC Minority and Retention Committee member and Hospital Hill Diversity Council member.

George Salloum

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

George Salloum is a second-year medical student interested in developmental and pediatric medicine. He hopes to be involved in academic medicine and community outreach programs throughout his career. For two years he has coached Special Olympics and was in charge of the Student-2-Student program for K–12 students that educates students about the human body and dangers of drugs. George has also been recognized as a Distinguished Graduate at Air Force Commissioned Officer Training.



Loren Riskin

Duke University School of Medicine

Loren Riskin is a fourth-year medical student at Duke University. She is researching the interrelated effects of technology advancement, health outcomes research and health policy. Through an undergraduate education in ethics at Wellesley College, a medical education at Duke and a research fellowship with the Stanford Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluations, Loren has brought together experts in technology, outcomes research and policy, in order to develop models and publish data that address current health care technology and policy needs. As a member of the Healthcare Advisory Committee for the campaign of Barack Obama, then the

Democratic presidential candidate, Loren gained unique insight and further opportunity to contribute. She has traveled extensively for both business and pleasure, including medical hospice work in South Africa and medical innovation work in Vietnam. In addition to her research, Loren is currently pursuing a career in academic anesthesiology.

Resident and fellow recipients

Jaspal Singh Ahluwalia, MD, MPH

The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, preventive medicine residency

Jaspal Ahluwalia, MD, is a third-year preventive medicine resident and a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps who seeks to use his public health and medical training to bridge the gap between clinical practice and population-level health. Over the past several years, his broad ranging interests have led him to engage in innovative and exciting projects in Bhutan, Kenya, Cameroon, and Thailand. He is a prolific researcher producing many abstracts, manuscripts, and book chapters on various topics which include international public health, local community environmental interventions, veterans' rural health, and hospital quality improvement. In addition, he is currently serving as the president of the resident physician section of the American College of Preventive Medicine.



Alexander Ding, MD, MS

Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School Department of Radiology

Alexander Ding, MD, is a second-year resident in radiology who has held numerous leadership positions in organized medicine at the local, state and national level and is currently the chair-elect to the Massachusetts Medical Society Resident and Fellow Section. He has served in the AMA House of Delegates since his second year of medical school, holding the distinction of having represented two different states—California and Massachusetts. He has testified before the U.S. Department of Education on behalf of the AMA and has lobbied Congress and state legislatures for

control of medical educational debt. Dr. Ding holds a master's in public health and has a strong interest in health care policy and public health, having been involved in such work at the World Health Organization and in the British National Health Service. He has published research on defensive medicine, tobacco taxation policy, and physician payment and behavior.

Sabesan Karuppiyah, MD, DFM

Bronx Lebanon Hospital, family medicine residency

Sabesan Karuppiyah, MD, is a chief resident at Bronx Lebanon Hospital and plans to pursue a career in faculty development that integrates health care policy and management. He is currently the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) alternate resident delegate to the AMA Resident and Fellow Section (RFS), as well as the resident representative to the New York State Academy of Family Physicians board of directors. He currently serves as an AMA-RFS alternate delegate to the AMA House of Delegates and is president of the Bronx Lebanon residency chapter of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Resident Teacher Award, AAFP's Tomorrow's Leader Award and the AAFP Foundation Resident Research Grant Award. He has volunteered with many community outreach programs including TarWars, an anti-smoking campaign for kids, Bronx Lebanon Mobile Health Clinic, an annual breast cancer screening for uninsured women and the Annual Sports Medicine Teaching Day at Burke Rehab. Dr. Karuppiyah serves on Bronx Lebanon Hospital's graduate medical education and curriculum development committees. He has a special interest in caring for underserved populations afflicted with HIV.



Christoph I. Lee, MD

Stanford University School of Medicine, diagnostic radiology residency

Christoph Lee, MD, is currently in his third year of radiology residency at Stanford University School of Medicine after previously earning his medical degree from Yale University and his bachelor's degree from Princeton University, graduating cum laude for both. He is active in national public health advocacy and education efforts in regard to CT radiation risks, having authored multiple original research articles and commentaries concerning such risks in major peer-reviewed journals. At the community-health level, Dr. Lee previously helped implement the Healthcare for the Homeless Program in St. Louis and helped lead a free clinic for migrant farm workers in Connecticut. At the national and international level, he served as project manager of a global tuberculosis initiative for Ralph Nader in Washington, D.C., and as an analyst for a prominent national health care policy research and consulting firm. Dr. Lee plans to pursue a career in health services and policy research with a focus on clinically effective and cost-effective utilization of medical imaging.

Beth Lawson Loney, MD

Wesley Medical Center, family medicine residency

Beth Loney, MD, is a first-year family medicine resident with ambitions to practice full-spectrum family medicine in underserved, rural Kansas. Her interest in underserved populations began during a public health trip during her first year of medical school to sub-Saharan Africa. She returned three years later to provide medical care to those of the Copperbelt and Southern provinces of Zambia. Additionally, during her fourth year of medical school she served as a board member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. During her tenure, she aided in the re-branding of the academy and helped shape current policy regarding national installation of the patient-centered medical home.





Andrew Carl Miller, MD

State University of New York Downstate Medical Center/Kings County Hospital Center, emergency medicine and internal medicine residency

Andrew Miller, MD, a graduate of Saint Louis University and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, is currently a fourth-year resident in a combined five-year emergency medicine and internal medicine training program in Brooklyn, N.Y. He seeks to pursue a career in pulmonary and critical care medicine. Dr. Miller's research interests include immune modulation in critical illness, and he is currently co-investigating an international pleural tuberculosis study. He has performed medical relief work in Pakistan after the major South Asian earthquake in 2005 and in the Dominican Republic during Hurricane Noel in 2007. He has co-investigated four grant-funded projects including one supported by the World Health Organization, and has authored articles in over 60 publications during residency. He also reviews and edits numerous journals, and has been invited to lecture internationally in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Dr. Miller received the 2008 Emergency Medicine Residents Association National Leadership Excellence Award.

Rosalyn T. Nguyen, MD

Harvard Medical School/Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, physical medicine and rehabilitation residency

Rosalyn Nguyen, MD, is a fourth-year physical medicine and rehabilitation resident who is pursuing a career in hospital administration, public health and disabilities advocacy. Dr. Nguyen graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine in 2005, where she had been the medical staff coordinator of the free clinic for two years, as well as co-president of the Stanford chapter of the American Medical Students Association (AMSA) and an associate trustee on the national board of AMSA. During residency, she was chief resident of the Harvard department of physical medicine and rehabilitation. She has received the Unsung Heroine Award from a local community group, the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and the Partners in Excellence Award for Leadership and Innovation. She holds leadership roles in several community and medical organizations and is active in Massachusetts Medical Society and AMA committees.



Anathea C. Powell, MD

New York University School of Medicine, general surgery residency
National Cancer Institute, surgical oncology research fellowship



Anathea Powell, MD, is a general surgery resident at the New York University School of Medicine and is currently completing a three-year surgical oncology research fellowship at the National Cancer Institute. Her academic interests are in endocrine and general surgery and her policy interests are in bringing essential surgical services to underserved populations in the United States and abroad. She has worked extensively with underserved populations through volunteer work in college and medical school, as well as during her three years as an emergency

medical technician prior to attending medical school at Boston University. Dr. Powell's involvement with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) is extensive; she serves as a resident liaison member to several college committees and is a member of the Advisory Council for Operation Giving Back, the volunteerism section of the ACS. To further the national discussion about the importance of surgical resident volunteerism and international training, she has surveyed residents in her own program and nationally, resulting in two published articles to date in prominent, peer-reviewed journals.

Christian Charles Shults, MD

Washington Hospital Center, general surgery residency

Christian Shults, MD, is a fourth-year general surgery resident pursuing a career in cardiothoracic surgery. Spurred into action by the growing obstacles physicians face while caring for their patients, Dr. Shults decided early in his career to become active in health care policy reform. His efforts have been focused on increasing issue awareness and activism among physicians. Dr. Shults is currently serving as chair of the AMA Resident and Fellow Section Legislative Advocacy Committee and sectional delegate to the AMA House of Delegates. He also serves on the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Health Policy Steering Committee and the ACS Governing Committee on Chapter Activities.



Karen Marie Winkfield, MD, PhD

Harvard Medical School, Harvard Radiation Oncology Program



Karen Winkfield, MD, is a third-year resident in the Harvard Radiation Oncology Program who hopes to gain greater understanding of the sociocultural values that contribute to disparities in cancer outcomes. Her goal is to develop a platform for discussion that will enable accurate and timely dispersal of clinical information in the black community, address cultural barriers to accessing and accepting appropriate cancer care, and encourage policymakers to invest in initiatives designed to address inequalities in the health care delivery system. As a medical student, Dr. Winkfield developed the Medical Scientist Training Program Annual Scientific Symposium to serve as a venue for students at Duke University to showcase their research. She

also served as president of the Student National Medical Association and the American Medical Women's Association chapters, after founding the Duke branch of the latter. In 2008, Dr. Winkfield was elected to serve as the education and career development officer for the Organization of Minority Residents and Fellows at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Early career physician recipients

Noel N. Deep, MD, FACP

General internist, Antigo, Wis.

Noel Deep, MD, is a general internist in Antigo, a rural, north-central Wisconsin community, and is very active in organized medicine. His many leadership roles include chief of staff and member of the board of trustees at Langlade Hospital. He holds numerous positions at the state and national levels, including chair of the Wisconsin Chapter American College of Physicians Young Physicians council, delegate from the ACP to the AMA YPS and the AMA HOD and a delegate to the Wisconsin Medical Society HOD. He is the first recipient of the Kenneth Viste, Jr., MD, Young Physician Leadership Award from the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation and the Young Internist of the Year Award from the Wisconsin chapter of the ACP. He is also one of the first recipients of the ACP National Leadership Enhancement and Development Certificate Award. With an interest in advocacy issues, health care reform and medical education, Dr. Deep has helped establish scholarships for hospital and clinic employees to pursue medical education and has also contributed to local organizations and charities.





Apurv Gupta, MD, MPH

Caritas Norwood Hospital, Norwood, Mass.

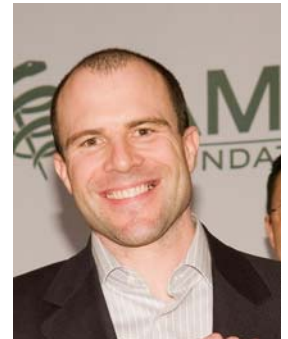
Apurv Gupta, MD, currently serves as interim vice president of medical affairs at Caritas Norwood Hospital (CNH) in Norwood, Mass., overseeing clinical process redesign, quality improvement, regulatory compliance and professional practice standards for more than 400 physicians. As medical director of the hospitalist program at CNH and CEO of Hospitalist Partners, he has developed a model hospitalist system focused on improvement and outcomes. Dr. Gupta is past president and current board of trustee member of the Indian Medical Association of New England, a 30-year-old

organization dedicated to physician education, charitable health care projects and professional networking. He is also co-chair of the Boston Chapter of Akshaya Patra USA, a charitable organization providing food to 1,000,000 underprivileged children a day throughout India, and serves on a number of committees at the state and national level. Dr. Gupta completed his internal medicine residency from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, his medical degree and bachelor's degree from a combined medical program at Brown University School of Medicine, and a master's in public health with a concentration in health care management from Harvard University School of Public Health.

Ryan Jense, MD

University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Wash.

Ryan Jense, MD, works as a clinical anesthesiologist at the University of Washington and has an interest in growing the global health care work force and strengthening the overall global health care capacity that he considers essential to the health and prosperity of humanity. He has a passion for improving global health care systems and contends that U.S. academic resident physician training programs should play an integral role in this process. By linking the global health energies of academic institutions, current non-governmental organizations and governmental organizations, he believes the United States can lead the global health charge through the formation of a sustainable resident physician global health corps that would serve in an educational, research and clinical capacity throughout the low- and middle-income countries of the world.



Peter Byung-Hoon Kang, MD, FAAP

Children's Hospital Boston and Harvard Medical School

Peter Kang, MD, a pediatric neurologist, is director of the EMG Laboratory at Children's Hospital Boston and assistant professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. His clinical and academic activities focus on neuromuscular disorders in children. His non-academic interests have evolved to include medical-financial issues affecting physicians, patients and the community. He serves as chair of the ad hoc committee on medical student debt reduction at the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS), a member of the committee on finance at the MMS, a member of the board of directors of the MMS and Alliance Charitable Foundation and president of the Suffolk

District Medical Society. He has presented lectures at the Child Neurology Society Annual Meeting and the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition.

Shilpen Patel, MD

University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Wash.

Shilpen Patel, MD, is an assistant professor at the University of Washington in the department of radiation oncology. His interests lie in access to health care and in correcting health care disparities. He currently serves on the board of Equal Rights Washington, which advocates for the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. His current work involves creating an oncology screening clinic for indigent patients.

