



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMA FOUNDATION NAMES MINORITY SCHOLARS AWARD RECIPIENTS

Thirteen outstanding students receive \$10,000 scholarships to help ease cost of medical school

(CHICAGO) – In an effort to promote diversity and help with the rapidly rising cost of medical education, the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation has presented 13 outstanding medical students from across the country with \$10,000 Minority Scholars Awards.

The awards recognize scholastic achievement, financial need and personal commitment to improving minority health among first or second-year students in groups defined as historically underrepresented in the medical profession. Less than seven percent of U.S. physicians fall within these groups, which include African American/Black, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native and Hispanic/Latino.

“This program not only provides high impact scholarships to alleviate soaring medical student debt, it also recognizes outstanding individuals who excel in academics, community service and leadership,” said Barney Maynard, MD, AMA Foundation President. “These award recipients have made the commitment to pursue the elimination of health care disparities, and they will be on the forefront of this issue as we seek solutions to health inequalities.”

As the philanthropic arm of the American Medical Association, the AMA Foundation has made it a priority to help medical students handle the rising cost of their education. On average, future physicians graduate approximately \$158,000 in debt, and in many cases the debt load is much higher. A large debt burden may deter many from practicing in underserved areas of the country or practicing primary care medicine.

The Minority Scholars Awards are given in collaboration with the **AMA Minority Affairs Consortium**, with support from **Pfizer Inc.** The **National Business Group on Health (NBGH)** partially supports one scholarship in honor of the late Ronald M. Davis, MD, Past-President of the AMA. This specific Minority Scholars Award is granted to a minority medical student who has an interest in becoming a primary care physician.

The 2011 recipients:

Erica Alvarez, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine
Kali Cyrus, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine
Ana Elizabeth Iten, UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program
Laurence James, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Alison Lima, University of Massachusetts Medical School
Sheena McDaniels, Rush Medical College
Lindsay Morgenstern, Mayo Medical School
Shariska Petersen, Charles Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program
Coridon Quinn, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth
Vanessa Sarfoh, University at Buffalo School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Brett Thomas, Florida State University College of Medicine
Estell Williams, University of Washington School of Medicine

The recipient of the **NBGH Ronald M. Davis, MD Memorial Scholarship**:

Gabriel Moreno, Wayne State University School of Medicine

The AMA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation, is committed to improving the health of Americans through philanthropic support of quality programs in public health and medical education. Visit www.amafoundation.org.

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