Desiray C. Bailey, MD: Advocating for the LGBTQ community

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Staff News Writer
The AMA “Members Move Medicine” series profiles a wide variety of doctors, offering a glimpse into the passions of women and men navigating new courses in American medicine.

**On the move with:** Desiray C. Bailey, MD, a retired anesthesiologist in Seattle, Washington, who is also an Alternate Delegate for GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality and a GLMA representative to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee at the AMA.

**AMA member since:** 2012.

**What inspired me to pursue a career in medicine:** I didn’t have any role models for a career in science in the early 70’s, but as I did my clinical training for medical technology as a senior in college, I discovered that I really liked working with patients in a hospital setting. And so, I decided to become a physician.

**How I move medicine:** My passion is advocacy for underserved populations, especially the LGBTQ communities. I represent GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality at the AMA to help shape policy and education, and improve access to competent health care. I also try to inspire other physicians to get involved in the work.

**Career highlights:** I was a clinical anesthesiologist for almost 40 years, and a hospital chief of staff for 18 years. I advocated for competent and equitable care for LGBTQ patients in my workplace and for a safe environment for LGBTQ physicians, other staff, and employees. I received the Group Health Physicians Corporate Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2013. I am on the GLMA Board and was previously the President for two years. I was GLMA’s first delegate to the AMA House of Delegates in 2013 and am currently GLMA’s representative to the LGBTQ Advisory Committee and GLMA’s Alternate Delegate to the HOD.

**Advice I’d give to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine:** Never underestimate yourself!

**How I give back to the community:** I give back to the community by my extensive volunteer work with organizations whose missions I embrace—advocating for competent and equitable care for LGBTQ communities.

**Aspect of my work that means the most:** When I practiced as an anesthesiologist, it meant a lot to me to be able to reassure patients with calm, competent, and compassionate care in and out of the operating room. Since retirement, I have been gratified by the ability to advocate for patients in impactful ways.
My hope for the future of medicine: I hope for a future where discrimination and prejudice no longer hinder the ability of all people to get safe, competent, and accessible health care.

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