

2019 MAS Annual Meeting highlights

Events

The Minority Affairs Section (MAS) hosted a “Mentoring Mixer for Under-Represented in Medicine (URM) Medical Students,” on Thursday, June 6. The networking event served as an opportunity to expand professional networks, create mentoring relationships, meet peers, and share success stories among physicians, residents and medical students who are considered under-represented in medicine, including African Americans, Latinx and Native Americans.

On Friday morning, June 7, MAS Governing Council members visited Lindblom Math & Science Academy on Chicago’s South Side to promote careers in medicine as part of the MAS Doctors Back To School program.

On Saturday, June 8, MAS held its business meeting, which featured a moderated panel discussion on the intersection of workforce diversity and health equity. The moderator was the AMA’s Chief Health Equity Officer, Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH. Panelists included Audra Davis, PsyD, the managing partner of The Exeter Group consulting firm, and Joseph Gaspero, CEO & co-founder of the Center for Healthcare Innovation.

U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams also delivered remarks regarding health equity and related efforts in the Department of Health and Human Services to eliminate disparities in the HIV epidemic, the opioid crisis and end-stage renal disease.

After the business meeting, MAS co-hosted a reception with the AMA Women Physicians Section.

Policy

MAS sponsored seven resolutions that were considered by the AMA House of Delegates:

1. **Res. 008** Preventing Anti-Transgender Violence
2. **Res. 009** References to Terms and Language in Policies Adopted to Protect Populations From Discrimination and Harassment

3. **Res. 319** Adding Pipeline Program Participation Questions to Medical School Applications
4. **Res. 420** Health Care Accreditation of Correctional, Detention & Juvenile Facilities
5. **Res. 613** Language Proficiency Data of Physicians in AMA Masterfile
6. **Res. 614** Racial and Ethnic Identity Demographic Collection by the AMA
7. **Res. 616** TIME'S UP Health Care

Elections

The MAS Governing Council elected new officers for the 2019-2020 term.

Siobhan Wescott, MD, MPH was elected chair of the section. Dr. Wescott served as vice chair for the past year and is the Association of American Indian Physicians representative on the MAS Governing Council. Her specialties in medicine are pediatrics and public health.

Earlier this year, the Indians into Medicine (INMED) program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences welcomed Dr. Wescott as the program's new assistant director.

Dr. Wescott formerly taught in the Department of Public Health at North Dakota State University in American Indian Public Health. She is from the Athabascan Tribe and hails from Fairbanks, Alaska.

She earned a medical degree from Harvard Medical School, a Master of Public Health degree from the UCLA School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts degree in government from Dartmouth College.

Fatima Cody Stanford, MD, MPA, MPH was elected vice chair of the section. Dr. Stanford is an obesity medicine physician scientist, educator and policy maker at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

She is a national and international sought after expert in obesity medicine who bridges the intersection of medicine, public health, policy and disparities.

Dr. Stanford earned a medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine, a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, and a Master of Public Health from Emory University.