Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship
Program purpose

Started in 2021, in collaboration with the Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI) at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), the Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship is an educational initiative to empower physician-led advocacy that advances equity and removes barriers to optimal health for marginalized and minoritized people and communities.

The fellowship will mobilize physicians to be part of the next generation of advocacy leaders, driving meaningful policy and structural changes that produce equity and justice in the communities they serve.

About the fellowship

The AMA-SHLI Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship is a unique, first of its kind post-doctoral fellowship designed to enhance physicians’ advocacy leadership skills to improve health outcomes and advance health equity in the areas they serve or may serve.

Using an anti-racist, equity-centered learning framework, the fellowship will provide a mentoring and training platform that will equip participants with the foundational skills, tools and knowledge to engage in institutional and political health advocacy. This will involve exploring several critical topic areas, including:

- Upstream (action-based) models of advocacy that address social and structural drivers of health
- Structural, cultural, political, and historical analysis of the production of inequities
- Sector and resource engagement required to improve community health and well-being

The implementation of the Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship aligns with the AMA’s strategic approach to collaborate with stakeholders to eliminate health inequities by pushing upstream and creating pathways for truth, reconciliation, and healing to remove obstacles in patient care. Under Morehouse School of Medicine’s vision of leading in the creation and advancement of health equity, SHLI aims to be the leading transformational force for health equity in policy, leadership development and research.

Application process

URL: https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/health-equity/medical-justice-advocacy-fellowship

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If you seek to advance health equity in your community, apply for the fellowship. The fellowship is an open competition. The application process opens Feb. 14 and closes March 14, 2022. To be considered, all required documents must be submitted by the deadline:

- An online application with professional profile, candidate interest short-essay and demographic profile questions
- Curriculum vitae
- Three recommendation forms* from professional leaders, community-based leaders and organizers and others with demonstrated knowledge/experience of the applicant’s efforts towards advancing health equity.

*Note: After the applicant’s application and references are received, AMA-SHLI will send a recommendation form via e-mail to the references listed. All forms must be completed by the recommender for the application to be complete. Recommendations are due on March 21, 2022 at 11:59 pm Eastern.

**Application essay questions**

There are three essay sections as part of this application. The questions are noted for reference, should the applicant prefer to work on this prior to the final application submission.

1. What is your previous experience with health equity-based training? (Select all that apply on the application) How did this training influence your current practice? (250 word limit)
2. What potential impact(s) does your participation in this fellowship have on the communities in which you serve? (250 word limit)
3. How did you get here? (250 word limit) What was that turning point in your life that made you do the work you are doing now? (250 word limit)

Full application packets are due by **Monday, March 14, 2022 at 11:59 pm Eastern**. Recommendation forms are due by **Monday, March 21, 2022 at 11:59 pm Eastern**.

A committee of leaders from AMA and SHLI will review the application packets and select the finalists. Finalists will then be invited for a virtual interview with AMA and SHLI leaders.

Apply for the fellowship.

**Program eligibility**
The fellowship is open to all physicians and residents who have a demonstrated interest in health equity and health advocacy.

Note: Internships and graduate assistantships will not count towards the professional experience requirement.

Fellowship dates


Fellowship requirements

The fellows will participate in a three-day virtual learning intensive at the beginning of the fellowship and will subsequently engage in monthly learning sessions with a multidisciplinary, multisectoral group of nationally-renowned experts, scholars, researchers and current and former policymakers across all levels of government. Monthly sessions will be held virtually with three in-person learning experiences scheduled during the fellowship.

The fellows will also meet in-person or virtually for learning experiences. In-person experiences will be in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Chicago, Illinois.

Note: This is subject to change depending on extraneous factors impacting travel and large group in-person gatherings.

Taking a sabbatical is not required during the fellowship. AMA membership is not required for the fellowship.

Required convenings, meetings and time commitment

Virtual instructional webinars/meetings

- **Frequency:** Every third Friday of the month from noon–2 p.m. Eastern
- Three-day fellowship intensive in Sept. 2022
- Monthly convening from Oct. 2022–May 2023
- Regular mentor engagement
Note: On months when there are in-person convenings, you will not meet virtually for that month.

Full day commitments

- **Sept. 2022**: Inaugural Convening for Fellows
- **Winter/Spring 2023**: Convening Fellows in Washington, D.C. (Date will be posted when available)
- **June 10–14, 2023**: Convening Fellows for the AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting (Chicago)
- **Nov. 11–14, 2023**: Convening Fellows for the AMA House of Delegates Interim Meeting (Maryland)

Monthly health equity project and learning session preparation effort

- Approximately 3 to 6 hours monthly doing preparation work for class preparation (i.e. readings, group work, etc.) and project development & implementation all done on your own time.

Stipend and CME credit

Participating fellows will receive a stipend of $15,000* for their participation in the program and would be eligible for up to 28 CME credit hours.

*Note: Receipt of full stipend is contingent upon program participation and completion.

Program benefits

- Engagement with like-minded professionals to generate and exchange solutions towards a more equitable and healthier communities.
- Connection with health equity experts and leaders for learning and mentorship opportunities.
- Flexible, blended learning solutions that may be incorporated into the clinical schedule.
- Knowledge and skill development to establish better trust among patients and serve as patient advocates.
- Partnership with AMA and SHLI on their respective commitments to transform health inequities through a social justice lens.

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View the inaugural cohort

Learn more about the 12 outstanding physician leaders of the inaugural cohort of AMA-SHLI Medical Justice in Advocacy Fellowship.

View the 2021-2022 AMA-SHLI Medical Justice in Advocacy fellows.

Contact

For additional information regarding the fellowship, please contact shlifellowship@msm.edu.