AMA in the News: February 2021

AMA in the News covers media coverage and mentions about the American Medical Association. Find articles recognizing our efforts in health care, advocacy, medical education and improvements in public health. Read coverage on the achievements of our leadership and the members of the AMA community.

AMA health equity fellowship to address SDOH, health disparities
PatientEngagementHIT, Feb. 26, 2021

A new AMA health equity fellowship aims to empower physicians to address the social determinants of health that lead to racial health disparities.

HHS nominee Becerra awaits votes after weathering two confirmation hearings
Medscape, Feb. 25, 2021

The American Medical Association ultimately endorsed Becerra, in part because of his backing of the Affordable Care Act and his work on eliminating Medicare’s sustainable growth rate while in Congress. (Free registration is required to view content.)

The U.S. has lost 500,000 lives to COVID-19. Now Americans face a serious crossroads in the pandemic
CNN, Feb. 23, 2021

The American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association and the American Nurses Association also pleaded for Americans to help quash the pandemic.

"With new, more contagious variants of the virus circulating throughout the U.S., now is not the time to let your guard down and scale back on the measures that we know will work to prevent further illness and deaths—wearing masks, practicing physical
distancing and washing hands," a joint statement said.

**Supreme Court to hear cases on abortion referrals and immigration**

*New York Times, Feb. 22, 2021*

Several states, the American Medical Association and others sued to challenge the measure, and federal appeals courts in San Francisco and Richmond, Virginia, issued conflicting decisions. Such splits often lead to Supreme Court review. (Free registration is required to view content.)

**AMA, Morehouse launch fellowship program to tackle health inequities**

*Becker's Hospital Review, Feb. 22, 2021*

The American Medical Association and Morehouse School of Medicine’s Satcher Health Leadership Institute in Atlanta have created a physician fellowship program that will focus on addressing the causes of health inequities, the organizations said Feb. 22.

**AMA and Satcher Health Leadership Institute launch health equity fellowship program**

*Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, Feb. 22, 2021*

The American Medical Association (AMA) and the Satcher Health Leadership Institute (SHLI) at Morehouse School of Medicine have established a new post-doctoral fellowship program that aims to prepare physicians to address health inequities.

**AMA removes public display of founder because of racist past**

*CEO Update, Feb. 18, 2021*

The American Medical Association has removed a display of its founder, Nathan Davis, from public view at its Chicago headquarters, and it has renamed an award carrying Davis’ name because of his role in excluding women and Black physicians from the organization.
Businesses, public health organizations form alliance to strengthen COVID-19 response
Fierce Healthcare, Feb. 18, 2021

Health Action Alliance will also coordinate virtual events and training sessions with health experts and communications professionals to further enhance educational opportunities, according to the announcement. The alliance is teaming with a number of health care groups including the American Medical Association and America's Health Insurance Plans to facilitate this effort.

New 'Release the Pressure' campaign spotlights need for Black women to prioritize heart health
ESSENCE, Feb. 18, 2021

Stephanie Johnson, AMA vice president of communications and product strategies, wants every Black woman in America to boldly and unapologetically place self-care at the top of their to-do list as an act of self-love. "You cannot function at your best for your family, your job, your friends, your church and community if you don’t give yourself your best first," Johnson told ESSENCE.

AMA removes founder's monument over past discriminatory actions
Modern Healthcare, Feb. 17, 2021

The American Medical Association has removed a public display of its founder and taken his name off of one of its most prestigious annual awards as the organization seeks to reconcile its past discriminatory practices as part of its efforts to address systemic racism as a public health threat. (Publication subscription is required for full or unlimited access.)

"Father of AMA' demoted for discriminatory actions
Medscape, Feb. 17, 2021

The American Medical Association (AMA) announced its decision to remove a bust of
Nathan Davis, MD, widely known as the "father of the AMA," from the organization's headquarters, and to strip Davis's name from one of the association's annual awards, in a push to hold AMA leaders accountable for their discriminatory actions. (Free registration is required to view content.)

**American Medical Association removes founder's monument from HQ**
*Crain's Chicago Business*, Feb. 17, 2021

In a moment of cultural reckoning, the Chicago-based organization's CEO acknowledges the role "the father of the AMA" played in allowing racism and sexism to pervade the medical profession. (Publication subscription is required for full or unlimited access.)

**AMA removes bust of founder from public display over racist past**

In an attempt to come to terms with an intolerant past, the American Medical Association has removed a bust of their founder from AMA headquarters in Chicago, citing a history of racism that CEO and executive vice president James Madara, MD, said no longer reflects the organization's values.

**An urgent mental health crisis: Health workers facing immense psychological toll from pandemic**
*ABC News*, Feb. 16, 2021

Susan R. Bailey, MD, AMA president, told ABC News in a statement: “Acute stress among physicians, which was already significant before the pandemic, has increased dramatically for many physicians during the last several months as the pandemic has brought new challenges and exceptional demands.”

**Broad coalition of health industry groups calls for Obamacare expansion**
The coalition is composed of eight powerful industry groups, including America’s Health Insurance Plans, the American Medical Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It released a detailed set of proposals on Wednesday morning, including an increase in the federal subsidies available to help people afford coverage and a three-year re-establishment of the generous match in federal funding to states to entice more of them to expand their Medicaid programs. (Free registration is required to view content.)

**Employers can play a bigger role in making sure Americans get COVID-19 vaccines**
*USA Today*, Feb. 5, 2021

AMA Chief Health Equity Officer Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH, contributed to this op-ed.

**Major medical groups urge Americans to get COVID vaccine**

The vaccines are safe, effective and will help end the pandemic, according to the American Hospital Association, American Medical Association and American Nurses Association.