Inspiration Award honoree listings, last names A-H

Somalee Banerjee, MD, MPH

"My dream to work in global end-of-life care is seen, understood, and supported by Dr. Banerjee. She has concretely helped me both academically and personally. It is inspiring to see an early career woman of color leading and supporting trainees in a way that’s uplifting, including in global health. My best teachers see potential that I didn’t see in myself, and I am grateful for Dr. Banerjee’s generosity."

Nominated by Joy Liu, MD

Dacia Boyce, MD

"Dr. Boyce is a Women’s Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) Scholar who is an inspirational internist who is committed to making the world a better place through wellness and equity."

Nominated by Susan T. Hingle, MD
Yvette Calderon, MD, MS

"Dr. Calderon has spent her entire career working to advance diversity, inclusion, and health equity and increase the pipeline of underrepresented persons in medicine. In her previous role as Dean of Diversity... she mentored medical students to help them take advantage of all opportunities available to them... As Chair of Emergency Medicine, she leads the Faculty Diversity Council... Here she ensures that our faculty represents the diversity of the patients we serve."

Nominated by Erick Eiting, MD
Kimberley H. Chan, MD, MPH

"Dr. Chan was selected as a Women’s Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) Scholar. She is a passionate innovator of programs and services that enrich the lives of patients and promotes the well-being of providers."

Nominated by Lee Beers, MD

Chwen-Yuen Angie Chen, MD

"Dr. Chen is an inspirational and accomplished clinician-advocate, educator, and mentor. Her deep expertise in legislative advocacy, paired with a strong sense of social justice and clear guiding philosophy empower her community engagement on behalf of vulnerable patients and health professionals."

Nominated by Tiffany Leung, MD

Patricia D. Chico, MD

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"Dr. Chico is a practicing family physician and team member with a nonprofit, community-based health center. She has served in leadership roles at a number of federally qualified health centers and is highly committed to increase and improve the level of education residents receive in health equity on a longitudinal basis throughout their training. She is also working to end coercive contracting practices in medicine--especially supporting women of color who are often most impacted."

Nominated by Julie Wood, MD

Ruth Chiang Kao, MD

"Dr. Chiang Kao was selected as a Women’s Wellness through Equity and Leadership
(WEL) Scholar. She believes every child deserves individual care and attention so that they may reach their full potential and live a full life, and she strives to actualize this globally for children in poverty."

Nominated by Lee Beers, MD

Noelia Carolina Del Castillo Salazar, MD

"Dr. del Castillo is a Women’s Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) Scholar who is changing the profession through her commitment to improving maternal mortality outcomes. She is an inspiration."

Nominated by Susan T. Hingle, MD

Brandi Kaye Freeman, MD, MS
"Dr. Freeman is dedicated to eradicating health inequities that impact vulnerable populations through improving the quality of health care delivery. She also focuses to enhance the health and well-being of minority communities through her numerous national leadership roles in the NMA and Women’s Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) Alliance.”

Nominated by Priscilla M. Mpasi, MD

Micaela Godzich, MD

"As the director of an academic coaching program for medical students, Dr. Godzich is passionate about training a medical workforce that is representative of the communities it
serves and has demonstrated a strong commitment to caring for uninsured and underinsured patients throughout her career, providing full-spectrum care in rural and urban health care settings.”

Nominated by Margot Savoy, MD

Raghav Govindarajan, MD, FAAN

"As an M1, I lacked research experience and confidence. But, Dr. Govindarajan pushed me to be bold. He consistently helped me discover new research interests and encouraged me to apply for awards and conferences. He wants to see his students succeed and goes out of his way to help. I have never had a mentor that is as kind, selfless, and uplifting as he is."

Nominated by Seung Ah Kang (student)

Anna Haemel, MD

"Dr. Anna Haemel is an exemplary physician and mentor, who has taught me the importance of balancing a busy family while also practicing in the field she loves. She has gone above and beyond for her patients, advocating for those with complicated conditions."

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Michael A. Hanak, MD

"As associate CMO, Dr. Hanak makes sure his female colleagues are treated equitably. As a leader in organized medicine, he helps elevate women physicians through the leadership track. He is a steadfast HeForShe ally and truly deserving of recognition."

Nominated by Joanna Bisgrove, MD

Aline Hansen-Guzman, MD
"Dr. Hansen-Guzman spent her career providing care to underserved and diverse patient populations in rural areas. She helped found the rural training track, prepare family medicine residents to practice in rural areas, and increase access to high-quality primary care. She also recognized a need for the LGBTQ+ community in her area. She founded NeCO Pride, which has a presence in schools, social service organizations, law enforcement and local community college creating safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people."

Nominated by Margot Savoy, MD

Marilyn Heine, MD, FACEP, FACP, FCPP

"Dr. Heine is a brilliant clinician, masterful communicator, and tenacious advocate. She is
a diligent and tireless spokesperson for physicians. She provides excellent patient care while educating and inspiring her colleagues to act on advocacy issues. As a former Council on Legislation Chair, she digested complex legislative guidance and distilled it into salient points. She’s sincere in her desire to help her fellow human, whether a colleague encountering an obstacle, or a patient needing complex care."

Nominated by Maya Babu, MD

"Marilyn Heine, MD is an excellent mentor and sponsor. She was a champion for me when I was a resident interested in becoming active in the AMA. Dr. Heine coached me on how to effectively present and engage with other AMA physicians. She is a compassionate leader, who listens thoughtfully and inspires others to advocate for our profession."

Nominated by Asma Khan, MD

Deneen M. Hendrick, DO

"Deneen is passionate about changing the face of healthcare through initiatives focused on increasing access and inclusion of URiM, BIPOC and other marginalized students by enlarging existing pathways to medical careers. She is a powerful voice in transforming the process of medical school admissions and education."

Nominated by Priscilla M. Mpasi, MD
Amanda Irmen Higginson, MD

"Dr. Higginson was selected as a Women's Wellness through Equity and Leadership (WEL) Scholar. She is an inspiring people connector who promotes a positive growth experience at critical transitions in medicine by building a network of support and resources."

Nominated by Lee Beers, MD

Susan T. Hingle, MD

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"A tireless champion for women in medicine, she encourages, prods, mentors her colleagues and has done so for years. I first met her when on the Board of Governors [BOG] of the American College of Physicians. She was BOG Chair, an elected position (showing the respect her colleagues had for her). She continued to support and promote her colleagues, men and women alike, after she left this leadership position..."

Nominated by Banu Symington, MD