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AMA Foundation Names Minority Scholars Award Recipients

Twenty-one outstanding medical students receive scholarships to help increase physician workforce diversity and reduce health care disparities

(CHICAGO) – The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation presented 21 outstanding medical students from across the country with [Minority Scholars Awards](#) in an effort to promote diversity, encourage the elimination of health care disparities, and alleviate the high cost of medical education. This year marks the eleventh anniversary of this scholarship program.

The awards recognize scholastic achievement, financial need, and commitment to improving minority health among first or second-year students in historically underrepresented groups in the medical profession. Less than 9 percent of U.S. physicians fall within these groups, which include African American/Black, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, and Hispanic/Latino.

As the philanthropic arm of the American Medical Association, the AMA Foundation has made it a priority to help medical students handle the rising cost of their education. On average, future physicians graduate approximately \$176,000 in debt, and in many cases the debt load is much higher.

The Minority Scholars Awards are given in partnership with the AMA Minority Affairs Section (MAS), and are partially supported by the generosity of Pfizer Inc. The National Business Group on Health helps supports one scholarship in honor of the late Ronald M. Davis, MD, Past-President of the AMA, which is granted to a minority medical student who has an interest in primary care. Additional support is provided by the AMA MAS Governing Council and other generous donors.

New cardiology scholarship awarded

Last year the AMA Foundation and the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) partnered to create a scholarship that will promote diversity in medicine, encourage commitment to eliminating health care disparities, and support future cardiologists, while helping to alleviate medical student debt.

The Dr. Richard Allen Williams & Genita Evangelista Johnson /Association of Black Cardiologists Scholarship recognizes a first- or second-year African-American medical student with an expressed interest in cardiology. This scholarship, which is a part of the Minority Scholars Award program, was awarded for the first time in 2014.

2015 scholarship recipients:

Sherifatu Abu, Tufts University School of Medicine

Janetta Arellano, University of Washington School of Medicine

Baaba Blankson, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Bethany Carlos, Medical University of South Carolina

Evelyn Escobedo Pol, PRIME-UCLA, David Geffen School of Medicine

Dagoberto Estevez Ordonez, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Amber Gardner, University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix

Kenyetta Givans, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Jasmine Holmes, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Jose Miguel Juarez, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Nadia Kamagate, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

Kendrick Kennedy, Medical University of South Carolina

Imani McElroy, Charles R. Drew University/David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Karen Mendez, New York Medical College

Emeka Okafor, The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine
Maria de Fatima Reyes, Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California
Franklyn Rocha Cabrero, University of Illinois College of Medicine
Isabelle Sanchez, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine
Mary Tate, Harvard Medical School
Jorge Torres, The David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA
Denise Kimbrough, Medical University of South Carolina - Dr. Richard Allen Williams & Genita Evangelista Johnson /Association of Black Cardiologists Scholarship

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The AMA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation, is dedicated to advancing public health and medical scholarship. Visit www.amafoundation.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) to join the AMA Foundation in improving the health of Americans.

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