

MAS Governing Council Members (2020 – 2021)

Fatima Cody Stanford, MD, MPH, MPA, At-Large Representative (Chair)
Michael Knight, MD, National Medical Association Representative (Vice Chair)
M. Natalie Achong, MD, At-Large Representative
Oluwabukola "Bukky" Akingbola, AMA Medical Student Section Representative (Co-Chair, Engagement Committee)
Sam Arce, MD, National Hispanic Medical Association Representative
Claudia Lopez, MD, AMA Resident & Fellow Section Representative
Priscilla Mpasi, MD, AMA Young Physicians Section Representative (Co-Chair, Advocacy Committee)
Luis Seija, MD, Delegate to the AMA House of Delegates (Co-Chair, Advocacy Committee)
Siobhan Wescott, MD, MPH, Association of American Indian Physicians Representative (Immediate Past Chair)

Strategic Planning

The Minority Affairs Section (MAS) Governing Council (GC) conducted strategic planning meetings over the summer and confirmed three key strategic objectives:

1. To improve engagement and communications with members and external audiences;
2. To improve diversity in medicine among URM; and,
3. To develop and activate impactful policy on issues of relevance to minority patients and physicians who are underrepresented in medicine.

The GC also revised the structure, objectives, and tactics of its committees. Over the next year, the Engagement Committee will explore opportunities to strategically and collaboratively engage with the section's strategic partners in ways that will improve diversity in the medical profession and improve minority health for Black, Latinx, and Native American communities. This work will include reviewing the section's twenty-year-old Doctors Back To School Program™, particularly considering in-person restrictions imposed as a result the COVID pandemic. In late October, the Engagement Committee met with key partners and other stakeholders who on this The Advocacy Committee will focus on revamping the section's resolution development and House of Delegates Handbook review processes in advance of AMA Annual and Interim Meetings.

In addition, the section is collaborating with the BOT's Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues through a special workgroup to educate AMA members on intersectional health and medical issues that impact LGBTQ and minority health, such as the rise of violence against transgender people of color, homophobia in minority communities, and racism in LGBTQ communities. The workgroup is planning its an informational webinar in conjunction with the AMA Center for Health Equity's "[Prioritizing Equity](#)" YouTube series in early 2020.

Two GC members serve as liaisons with the AMA Foundation, as part of the Foundation's review of its scholarships and related processes. Additional information and outcomes are expected by June 2021.

AMA Special Meetings – November 2020: Section Business Meeting and House of Delegates

On November 8, 2020 at 1 p.m., MAS will host its Business Meeting virtually ([click here for agenda](#)). In addition to GC member and staff reports, the section will host, "Post-election policy perspectives of medical society leaders on the future of minority health." The panel discussion, moderated by MAS Chair, Dr. Fatima Cody Standford, will feature the presidents of the Association of American Indian Physicians, the National Hispanic Medical Association, and the National Medical Association. Immediate-Past AMA President Dr. Patrice Harris will also join the panel. Immediately following the discussion, MAS will host, "The Doctor's Lounge," an informal networking event for physicians and medical students participating in the Business Meeting.

For the November 2020 Special Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD), MAS is introducing two resolutions and is exploring co-sponsorship opportunities prior to the HOD meeting:

- [Resolution # tba: Support of learner & trainee participation in peaceful demonstrations and other forms of public advocacy](#) (PDF)
- [Resolution # tba: Racial essentialism in medicine](#) (PDF)

Activities

On October 26, the section hosted a webinar on the “Political Determinants of Health.” Keynote speaker Daniel Dawes, JD introduced the political determinants of health theoretical framework; pre-election perspectives on national health policy; minority health policy; and health equity. Mr. Dawes is the director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

During the first week of October, the Minority Affairs Section sponsored this year’s virtual [Leadership Summit on Health Disparities](#), hosted by the [National Minority Quality Forum](#), which was attended by over 800 health professionals. AMA President Dr. Susan R. Bailey offered remarks on behalf of the AMA. AMA staff and members served as subject matter experts during several sessions.

On October 3, the section led the AMA’s sponsorship of the 4th Annual Symposium on Latinx Health, hosted by the [Medical Organization for Latino Advancement](#).