
Women Physicians Section (AMA-WPS)

Member At-large

Name

Aleesha Shaik

Credentials

MD, MPH

Pronouns

She/Her



Statement of interest

It has been an honor serving as the RFS Representative on the WPS Governing Council for the past four years. I have also had the rare privilege of being elected as Chair of the WPS for the last two years. During these terms, I worked with the other members of my incredible GC to create new initiatives that I am hoping to continue to develop as your Member-at-Large.

It has been my priority to increase member engagement in our uniquely large Section. In my first term, I helped to start the enormously successful Annual Speed Mentorship Program, which is now in its third year and continues to expand. To promote additional mentorship and make our meetings more accessible for first time attendees, we started the WPS Buddy Program. As Chair, I have made it a priority to keep members updated about Section news and events through my monthly Chair's Corner, which also features a different WPS member in each issue. I launched the WPS GroupMe to increase the sense of community and engagement within the Section. This year, we also began a monthly virtual discussion on books, podcasts, etc about women's experiences in leadership and lessons we can each apply. Most recently, we are excited for the first cohort of members of the Growing the Reach and Representation of Women Leaders standing committee.

As Member-at-Large, I would like to help further develop the GRROWL committee and explore other opportunities for member engagement with your input. Thank you for your consideration.

Diversity statement

One of the many reasons that I am proud to be a part of the AMA today is its increasingly diverse membership and how that has been reflected in leadership positions. However, as a 5' 3", 28-

year-old, Indian-American woman, I recognize that we still have some work to do. It is the differences in our lived experiences combined with our shared vision of moving medicine forward and advocating for our patients (and each other) that makes us a stronger body, one that truly represents the nation's physicians.

I was not born in the United States; as I grew up here, I yearned to feel more "American," searching for ways to fit in. It was only after I fully embraced and appreciated my Indian culture, the Hindu ideologies of my mother, the Muslim beliefs of my father, and my own western-influenced childhood that I was able to identify as American, for it is this amalgamation of different beliefs and vibrant cultures that makes us unique.

In addition to an increase in representation of cultural and religious diversity, we also need diversity in educational backgrounds and disciplines. After completing a public school education in my youth, I went on to obtain a Bachelor's degree in French and Molecular and Cellular Biology. (In fact, I now speak six languages.) In addition, I completed my MPH training in health policy prior to residency, developing a passion for social determinants of health and caring for the underserved. My experiences enable me to contribute multifaceted perspectives.