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## **Minority Affairs Section (AMA-MAS)**

Resident and Fellow Section Representative to  
the AMA-MAS Governing Council

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### **Name**

Andrew Clermont

### **Credentials**

M.D.

### **Pronouns**

He/Him

### **Statement of interest**

The meaning and impact of diversity was unappreciated in my life until I was met with its absence. Growing up in a community heavily influenced by Afro-Latino culture provided me with the constant reminder that the answer to life was as varied as the number of people who lived it. It provided the small but constant impetus to re-evaluate what I thought was fact. After starting my clinical rotations in medical school, the ideology I came into contact with was homogenous. There was only one answer, one way to live, and frank confusion when faced with a patient who did not fit that ideal of life. Most concerning was that living in an absence of diversity seemed to blunt my own past experience with adapting and accepting the values of others. I admittedly took that diversity I was raised with for granted. The benefit of diversity is easy to look over. I am interested in getting more involved in diversity projects and immersing myself in the ideologies and values of others, with the hope that I will continue to learn how others approach the answer to life.

### **Diversity statement**

Unlike what is commonly thought, new ideas are not fluid. The first few ideas we are introduced to shape the framework with which we approach life and make decisions. New ideas clash and fall against that framework, being labeled as incorrect. Diversity is one of the mainstays to combating this. Exposing oneself to the intensity and reality of a living person's experience introduces the volatility necessary to disturb our personal and very comfortable framework. The benefits of being repeatedly exposed to this results in the willingness to critique one's own ideas and to not take any idea at face value. The ability to leave this framework and to fully evaluate

new ideas provides us the opportunity to take the wisdom and learned experiences of others to live a life that is more suited towards ourselves and to best serve the needs of others that is comparatively free of our internal biases. Diversity in ethnicity, faith, and ideology is what has shaped humanity's successes and ingenuity. Actively investing in the diversity in all of these fields is necessary for a community that is built on critical thought, evidence-based medicine, and so closely related to the care of other human beings. Because it is important to challenge and build on our understanding of "life", just as it is important to challenge and refine the knowledge of our predecessors in science.