



Resident and Fellow Section (AMA-RFS)

Vice Chair

Name

Dayna Jill Isaacs

Credentials

MD, MPH

Pronouns

She/Her

Statement of interest

My journey in medicine and community advocacy began with street medicine volunteering and working at a Federally Qualified Health Center.

However, my passion for public health transformed into a steadfast philosophy after May 23, 2014, when a tragic mass shooting just blocks away from my apartment claimed the lives of six members of my UC Santa Barbara community. This pivotal moment solidified my lifelong commitment to population health beyond the clinic walls and serves as a perpetual source of reflection.

Throughout the years of my MD/MPH, I found my second home in organized medicine, where I have been privileged to serve in various capacities and collaborate on 25+ policies alongside inspiring colleagues. Noteworthy highlights include prompting an AMA statement that led to a Biden Executive Order targeting unserialized firearms and authoring an AMA report that led to California's ban on the diagnosis of "excited delirium," which has historically been misused to justify excessive use of force by law enforcement.

During internal medicine residency, I also discovered community within the Committee of Interns and Residents as a Regional Vice President. My most gratifying achievement was helping to establish housestaff fertility benefits across the UC system. In July, I embark on hematology/oncology fellowship at UC Davis, where I am eager to partner with patients as their unwavering advocate and to engage in clinical research that mitigates health inequities.

I kindly ask for your vote for a second term as Vice Chair to continue championing housestaff and collaborating with leaders like you.

Diversity statement

As a physician advocate, researcher, and educator, I am deeply committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging across all facets of my work. My path through medicine and public health has been shaped by partnering with marginalized and minoritized communities.

At the core of my philosophy lies the fundamental belief in health care as a human right, reinforced through my street medicine experiences. My first exposure was partnering with Peruvian physicians on a brigade in Pamplona, Peru through mobile clinics, street rounds, and development projects. Building on this foundation, I then volunteered with Santa Barbara Street Medicine and co-founded Sacramento Street Medicine. I received training in trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and holistic care. I plan to continue street medicine as a hematologist/oncologist.

Moreover, by working in clinics that serve our community regardless of ability to pay, my patients have taught me invaluable lessons about health equity and social justice. I worked as a Medical Assistant at a Federally Qualified Health Center and co-led Clínica Tepati during medical school. Additionally, I successfully advocated for a new 5,000-member UC Davis Health Medi-Cal contract. I am honored to currently serve as a primary care physician at the West L.A. VA, humbled by the progress and resilience of my patient panel, comprised of low-income veterans.

These formative experiences have equipped me with a public health lens that guides my approach to always meet others where they are. I strive to fortify this perspective through lifelong learning with colleagues, patients, and community members.