

## UMAS Governing Council Members (2025 – 2026)

**Chair, Alternate Delegate:** Josephine Fowler, MD, MBA, MSc, At-Large Member

**Vice Chair:** LeeAnna Muzquiz, MD Association of American Indian Physicians Representative

**Yolanda Lawson, MD**, National Medical Association Representative

**Judith Flores, MD**, National Hispanic Medical Association Representative

**Luis Seija, MD**, HOD Delegate

**Joshua Carrasco, MD, MPH**, At-Large Member

**David Ortiz, MD**, AMA Young Physicians Section (YPS) Representative

**Ida Vaziri, MD**, AMA Resident & Fellow (RFS) Section Representative

**Yasmin Alamdeen Shahzada**, AMA Medical Student Section (MSS)  
Representative

**Staff:** Ava Hawkes, UMAS Section Lead, AMA Marketing & Member Experience (MMX)

[ava.hawkes@ama-assn.org](mailto:ava.hawkes@ama-assn.org)

## Liaisons to UMAS from our AMA Board of Trustees

**Bobby Mukkamla, MD**, AMA President

**Toluwalase A. Ajayi, MD**, AMA Board Chair-Elect

**David Welsh, MD**, AMA BOT Member

## UMAS Standing Committees

- As of August 2025 during our Section's strategic planning process, UMAS leadership began actively working to reactivate standing committees within our Section. Should you be interested in learning more about available opportunities on UMAS standing committees, please reach out to AMA-UMAS staff at [ava.hawkes@ama-assn.org](mailto:ava.hawkes@ama-assn.org) or the UMAS Section inbox at [umas@ama-assn.org](mailto:umas@ama-assn.org).

## UMAS Strategic Priorities

- To improve diversity in medicine among underrepresented physicians and medical students.
- To develop and activate impactful policies on issues of relevance to minoritized patients and physicians who are underrepresented in medicine.
- To improve engagement and communications with AMA members and external audiences.

## Report on UMAS Activities: June – November 2025

### **UMAS Name Change**

Through the use of online open forums prior to HOD handbook deadlines, UMAS' business, or assembly, meetings during our bi-annual HOD meetings, the convening of the Health Equity Caucus, ad-hoc or town-hall style meetings, standing committees, two annual opportunities to submit resolution proposals for GC consideration, and opportunities to provide comment or testimony virtually or in-person, UMAS membership is afforded ample opportunities throughout the calendar year to initiate dialogue with Section leaders and meaningfully contribute to the business of UMAS.

A recent example of such processes at work during A-25 is the Section's name change from the Minority Affairs Section to the Underrepresented in Medicine Advocacy Section; throughout the years-long process to ensure that our Section's name aligns with both our foundational mission and values, Section membership was encouraged to participate and contribute via the channels and opportunities referenced above.

### **Underrepresented Leader-to-Leader Opportunities**

During and since A-25, UMAS has partnered with allied sections – such as YPS, RFS, MSS, LGBTQ+ Section, etc. – to facilitate leader-to-leader events for underrepresented physicians and students. In addition to partnering with allied sections, UMAS also coordinates such opportunities with our external URiM partners such as the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP), National Medical Association (NMA), National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), Association of Native American Medical Students (ANAMS), the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA), and the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

During I-25 on Friday, 11/14, UMAS is partnering with MSS on a speed mentoring event and a work group on American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) issues and policy before our HOD. The UMAS is also partnering with the LGBTQ+ Section on an Underrepresented in Medicine Mixer on Friday evening.

Such mentorship and networking events serve as impactful opportunities to engage AMA leadership – from AMA Board of Trustees to various section governing council leaders – as underrepresented physician and student members of our AMA. Through such events, lasting relationships are built that will foster environments for increased collaboration on our shared health equity goals and organizational objectives to increase diversity in medicine.

## **Summer 2025**

- UMAS leadership and staff participated in the annual convenings of the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP), held in Seattle, Washington, as well as the National Medical Association (NMA) held in Chicago, IL.
  - Highlights include:
    - AAIP: Dr. Siobhan Wescott, former UMAS Chair, was honored as the Physician of the Year during the AAIP's 53<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting! Additionally, timely and exciting updates were shared about the progress being made in the rollout of an Indigenous-led medical school. To learn more, visit the coalition's webpage here: <https://www.isomhealth.com/>
    - NMA: Dr. Roger A. Mitchell was sworn in as the NMA's 126<sup>th</sup> president. See his press release here: <https://nmanet.org/uncategorized/dr-roger-a-mitchell-jr-installed-as-126th-president-of-the-nma/>
      - The UMAS has the privilege of having Dr. Yolanda Lawson, the NMA's penultimate past president, serving as our NMA representative to the UMAS Governing Council.
      - Lastly, in partnership with the AMA Foundation, the Center for Health Equity (CHE), and the NMA, UMAS leadership and staff participated in a number of URiM receptions and welcome events as a kick-off to the NMA's annual meeting in Chicago.
- This summer, UMAS facilitated a special election to fill two vacancies on the UMAS Governing Council – the YPS representative seat and the RFS representative seat.
  - Following Dr. Junaid Farooq's resignation at the conclusion of A-25 from their role as the YPS representative, the UMAS held a special election which resulted in the election of Dr. David Ortiz.
  - Following Dr. Joshua Carrasco's resignation at the conclusion of A-25 from their role as the RFS representative, to run for a vacant At-Large member seat on the UMAS Governing Council, the UMAS held a special election which resulted in the election of Dr. Ida Vaziri.
  - As this special election was facilitated to fill vacancies on the UMAS Governing Council, the above elected members will serve and fulfill the remainder of their respective seat's current term. Both the RFS and YPS representative seat current terms are through June 2026. As such, these seats will be on the UMAS ballot during our standard spring elections in 2026.
  - As both Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Vaziri will have served less than one year by filling these vacancies, they are eligible to serve their maximum of two terms on the UMAS Governing Council.
    - YPS term: three-year term
    - RFS term: two-year term



## UNDERREPRESENTED IN MEDICINE ADVOCACY SECTION (UMAS)

### UMAS-YPS Representative Report

- Each of the three AMA Sections (i.e., MSS, RFS, and YPS) represented on UMAS' Governing Council endorse their respective representatives, who are elected by the UMAS membership via electronic ballot. Such endorsements are delineated on the UMAS' electronic ballot.

### **2025 Interim Meeting (National Harbor, MD)**

For a detailed meeting agenda and UMAS program, please visit our Section's landing page here:

<https://www.ama-assn.org/member-groups-sections/underrepresented-medicine-advocacy-section-umas>

UMAS sponsored three resolutions for introduction at I-25:

#### **Prime sponsored resolutions (2)**

- **"Support Permanent Funding and Expansion of Native Hawaiian Healthcare"**
  - RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association supports federal policies that uphold the federal trust obligations to improve the health of Native Hawaiian communities by strengthening access to comprehensive, culturally informed, and physician-led health care; and be it further
  - RESOLVED, that our AMA supports stable, long-term federal funding and infrastructure for Native Hawaiian health care programs to ensure continuity of care, workforce development, and equitable access to services across all islands; and be it further
  - RESOLVED, that our AMA supports the expansion of Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems, including additional sites, mobile clinics, transportation support, workforce development, and culturally grounded health services that integrate traditional Indigenous healing alongside physician-led care; and be it further
  - RESOLVED, that our AMA encourages collaboration with Native Hawaiian organizations, leaders, and communities to ensure that federally supported health care initiatives are responsive to local needs, culturally respectful, and community-driven.
- **Protection of Medicaid Beneficiaries' Private Health Information from Immigration Enforcement**
  - RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association amend H-315.966 "Patient and Physician Rights Regarding Immigration Status" by addition and deletion to read as follows:
    - Our AMA supports protections that prohibit U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or other law enforcement agencies from utilizing information from medical records, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), or other health program data, including but not limited to Emergency Medicaid and related immigrant-specific programs, to pursue immigration enforcement actions against patients who are undocumented for immigration enforcement purposes (Modify Current HOD Policy); and be it further



## UNDERREPRESENTED IN MEDICINE ADVOCACY SECTION (UMAS)

### UMAS-YPS Representative Report

- RESOLVED, that our AMA work with interested parties to educate physicians and patients about existing privacy protections and available legal remedies to safeguard confidential health information, particularly for immigrant and mixed-status families. (Directive to Take Action)

#### Cosponsored resolutions (1)

- **MSS: Federal Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School**
  - RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support efforts to address the historical injustices and ongoing health impacts of Indian boarding schools

To become a member of the Underrepresented in Medicine Advocacy Section (UMAS), please register here:  
<https://ama.jotform.com/252545741324152>



**UNDERREPRESENTED IN MEDICINE  
ADVOCACY SECTION (UMAS)**

UMAS-YPS Representative Report