Herbert W. Nickens Awards

Future Leaders of Academic Medicine—Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship and Medical Student Scholarships

Honoring individuals who assist medical schools in achieving their diversity objectives and eliminating health care disparities

Learn Serve Lead 2015: The AAMC Annual Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2015
4:30 – 5:45 pm
Baltimore Convention Center—Key 7 and 9–10
Association of American Medical Colleges
Diversity Policy and Programs

Norma Poll Hunter, PhD
Senior Director, Human Capital Portfolio

For information about this event or the awards, contact:

Angela R. Moses
Diversity and Inclusion Senior Specialist

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Call for Nominations

2016 Herbert W. Nickens Awards

Accepting Nominations January 1–May 6, 2016

Honoring individuals who assist medical schools in achieving their diversity objectives and eliminating health care disparities
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Special Acknowledgments

The AAMC would like to acknowledge the members of the Herbert W. Nickens Award Selection Committees. Thank you for generously contributing your time and energy to the selection of the recipients among so many deserving candidates. This award would not be possible without your support.

We would also like to acknowledge the continued dedication of Dr. Patrice Desvigne-Nickens. Her unwavering support of the award recipients is a true testament to the importance of equality in health care and Dr. Nickens’ vision of the future of healthcare in the United States.

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

— DeAnn Hollis
About the Herbert W. Nickens Award

Dr. Herbert W. Nickens’ work inspires others today just as much as when he was alive. Nurturing and supporting the aspirations of underrepresented minorities (URMs) was a driving factor in his efforts to increase the numbers of URMs in the medical workforce. This program book recognizes individuals for their contributions to underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in medicine and supports the efforts being made to advance diversity and health equality in our medical institutions.

Herbert W. Nickens, MD, MA, was the founding vice president of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Division of Community and Minority Programs, what is now the Diversity Policy and Programs (DPP) unit. Dr. Nickens’ passionate leadership contributed greatly to focusing national attention on the need to support underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities in medicine. His efforts resulted in a multitude of programs and initiatives that advanced the career development of minorities in medicine. Dr. Nickens’ untimely death on March 22, 1999, was a significant loss to academic medicine.

Herbert W. Nickens: Life and Career

Born on December 28, 1947, in Washington, D.C., Herbert W. Nickens attended John Burroughs Elementary School, Taft Junior High School, and St. Johns College High School before matriculating at Harvard College, where he received his AB degree in 1969. He earned his MD as well as a master of arts degree in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1973 and earning the university’s History of Medicine Prize.

1973 – Dr. Nickens received the Philadelphia Medical Society’s Kenneth Appel Award and the Laughlin National Psychiatric Endowment Fund Award.

1974 – Dr. Nickens interned at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia and then completed one year of residency in psychiatry at Yale University.

1975 – Dr. Nickens returned to the University of Pennsylvania as a resident and a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.

1978 – Dr. Nickens was named assistant professor and director of psychiatry emergency services at the University of Pennsylvania.

1979 – Dr. Nickens accepted an additional position of faculty assistant to the president and the provost at the University of Pennsylvania.


1985 – Minority Students in Medical Education: Facts and Figures was created.

1985 – Dr. Nickens was named director of the Office of Policy, Planning, and Analysis of the National Institute on Aging, a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), after serving as deputy chief of the Center on Aging of the National Institute of Mental Health at NIH. Dr. Nickens contributed substantively to a landmark federal report, the eight-volume Report of the Secretary’s Task Force on Black and Minority Health: A Summary and a Presentation of Health Data With Regard To Blacks. An in-depth investigation of disparities in key health indicators, the report was released on October 16, 1985, by then U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler, and is often referred to as the “Heckler Report.”
Prior to joining the AAMC, Dr. Nickens was the first director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He also served as director of the Office of Policy, Planning, and Analysis of the National Institute on Aging, a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and was deputy chief of the Center on Aging of the National Institute of Mental Health at NIH.

Dr. Nickens received his AB in 1969 from Harvard College and an MD and MA (in sociology) from the University of Pennsylvania in 1973. He served his residency in psychiatry at Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania. At the University of Pennsylvania, he also was a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar and a member of the faculty of the School of Medicine.

The AAMC established the Herbert W. Nickens Memorial Fund to continue advancing Dr. Nickens’ lifelong commitment to supporting the educational, societal, and health care needs of racial and ethnic minorities. The fund supports an annual Nickens award, a faculty fellowship, and five student scholarships.
Agenda

4:30–4:35 pm  **Opening Remarks**

Welcome and Introduction  
Marc Nivet, EdD, MBA  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

4:35–4:50 pm  **Keynote Speaker**

Speaker:  
Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD  
Director  
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

4:50–5:00 pm  **Introduction of NMF Awards**

Presenters:  
Esther R. Dyer, MLS, DLS  
President and CEO  
National Medical Fellowships  
Joy L. Jones, PhD  
Director  
GE-NMF PCLP  
National Medical Fellowships

**Award Recipients:**  
**Franklin C. McLean Award**  
David Paul  
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

**William and Charlotte Cadbury Award**  
Milele Bynum  
University of North Carolina School of Medicine

5:00–5:45 pm  **Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship and Medical Student Scholarship Awards Presentations**

Presenter:  
Marc Nivet, EdD, MBA  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)
Award Recipients

Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship
Jed D. Gonzalo, MD, MSc
Assistant Dean for Health Systems Education
Penn State College of Medicine

Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarships
Jessica Buck
Weill Cornell Medicine

Maximilian J. V. Cruz
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Jaire Saunders
University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine

Mary Tate
Harvard Medical School
Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD
Director
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD, is director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He oversees the institute’s $270 million budget to conduct and support research, training, research capacity and infrastructure development, public education, and information dissemination programs to improve minority health and reduce health disparities. NIMHD is the lead organization at NIH for planning, reviewing, coordinating, and evaluating minority health and health disparities research activities conducted by NIH institutes and centers.

Dr. Pérez-Stable’s expertise spans a broad range of health disparities disciplines. His research interests have centered on improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations, advancing patient-centered care, improving cross-cultural communication skills among health care professionals, and promoting diversity in the biomedical research workforce.

Recognized as a leader in Latino health care and disparities research, Dr. Pérez-Stable has spent more than 30 years leading research on smoking cessation and tobacco control policy in Latino populations in the United States and Latin America.

Prior to becoming NIMHD director, Dr. Pérez-Stable was a professor of medicine and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). He also was director of the UCSF Center for Aging in Diverse Communities, which is funded by NIH’s National Institute on Aging, and director of the UCSF Medical Effectiveness Research Center for Diverse Populations, which addresses issues for African Americans, Asians, and Latinos in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular disease, aging, and reproductive health.

Dr. Pérez-Stable was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine) in 2001. He earned his BA in chemistry from the University of Miami and his MD from the University of Miami School of Medicine. He completed his primary care internal medicine residency and research fellowship at UCSF.
Herbert W. Nickens Award

The AAMC established the Herbert W. Nickens Award in 2000 to honor the late Dr. Nickens and his lifelong concerns about the educational, societal, and health care needs of racial and ethnic minorities. The award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to promoting justice in medical education and health equities for people in the United States.

Dr. Nickens believed that a multidisciplinary approach is needed to address inequities in health. Because of this, nominees may come from a wide range of fields, including medicine, dentistry, education, law, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and social and behavioral sciences.

Ana E. Núñez, MD
Professor of Medicine
Drexel University College of Medicine

An expert in the intersection of health disparities with sex, gender, and cultural identity, Ana Núñez, MD, tirelessly and selflessly leverages her expertise to improve health equity in her community of Philadelphia and across our nation.

“Ana Núñez knows that unless we can connect with community in the context of culture, we cannot move toward health equity,” says David Satcher, MD, PhD, director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and former U.S. surgeon general.

Connecting with community is a specialty of Dr. Núñez, professor of medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine. In 2011, she founded Philadelphia Ujima, a collaborative approach with the community to improve individual and group health by focusing on fitness and nutrition, preventive care, and chronic condition management. Named after a Kwanzaa principle meaning “collective work and responsibility,” the program endeavors to grow the number of “activated patients”—people who are prepared for their doctors’ appointments, aware of their current health status, and engaged in improving their own health and in helping their neighbors do the same. The program has reached more than 17,000 Philadelphians and continues to grow.

An expert in the role of sex and gender on health and health care, Dr. Núñez has trained generations of medical students in cultural competence, and her innovative curricula have been shared across the country for trainees at all levels, including as part of Healing Health Disparities at Harvard University, and lauded by the Institute of Medicine as exemplary for reducing bias in health care delivery. She has also served as a test question reviewer for cultural competence and sex/gender medical education at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

Dr. Núñez serves as mentor to, adviser of, and advocate for countless underrepresented individuals in medicine, including more than 120 medical students, through the Women’s Health Senior Pathway program. She has also been instrumental in several pipeline programs, including the Social Media Leadership Institute, a summer program for high school minority youth. Recognizing Dr. Núñez’s valuable contributions to health equity through education, scholarship, and
clinical care, Drexel University College of Medicine selected her as associate dean, urban health equity, education, and research in 2012. She has completed several fellowships, including the Primary Care Health Policy Fellowship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the AAMC, and the AAMC’s Health Services Research and Health Policy Fellowship under the guidance of Dr. Herbert Nickens. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society.

Dr. Núñez received her bachelor of science in chemistry from Wilkes University and her MD from Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. She completed her residency in internal medicine, serving as chief resident, at Hahnemann University Hospital.

“Ana Núñez knows that unless we can connect with community in the context of culture, we cannot move toward health equity.”

— David Satcher, MD, PhD
Former Surgeon General
Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship

The award recognizes an outstanding junior faculty member who has demonstrated leadership in the United States in addressing inequities in medical education and health care; has demonstrated efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities; and is committed to a career in academic medicine.

Jed Gonzalo, MD, MSc
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences
Assistant Dean for Health Systems Education
Penn State College of Medicine

Jed David Gonzalo is an accomplished scholar, educator, and leader in addressing health care inequities through education, research, and innovative strategies. He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology and philosophy from the University of Scranton and a medical degree from the Penn State College of Medicine, receiving Alpha Omega Alpha status. He completed his internship, residency, and chief residency at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Following his residency, Dr. Gonzalo completed a fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in general internal medicine and medical education, earning a master of science in medical education in conjunction with this fellowship. In 2012, he was hired as a clinician-investigator and assistant professor of medicine and public health sciences at Penn State Hershey Medical Center College of Medicine. In the fall of 2013, he assumed the role of assistant dean for health systems education, and in 2015, he was promoted to associate dean for health systems education.

Dr. Gonzalo has a deep interest in medical education, medical education scholarship, and clinical research related to quality of care, health systems, and health care disparities. During his fellowship and in his junior faculty position, he developed and implemented several curricula, including a bedside rounding curriculum for internal medicine house staff, a resident-as-teacher curriculum for house staff, and a systems-focused morbidity and mortality conference in two locations. Dr. Gonzalo also has a strong record of productivity in health services research, which has resulted in more than 20 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Gonzalo’s research interests have focused on team-based bedside rounds, bedside interdisciplinary rounds, feedback and reflection, patient safety issues at night, impact of an academic overnight nocturnist in an internal medicine residency program, emergency department to inpatient sign-out processes, and the interface between education and clinical care delivery. As an inpatient hospitalist and outpatient preceptor for medicine house staff, he teaches and mentors medical students and internal medicine residents, also serving as faculty coordinator of the Department of Medicine Morbidity and Mortality Conference. In the fall of 2013 at Penn State Hershey, he was selected for the JEMS (Jeffries Educational Mentor and Scholar) Program and as Penn State Hershey’s institutional junior faculty representative to the AAMC Council of Faculty and Academic Societies. Since beginning his faculty position, Dr. Gonzalo has received five education awards through the Penn State College of Medicine. He also is a Harvard Macy scholar.
In his role as associate dean for health systems education, Dr. Gonzalo launched the Systems Navigation Curriculum, which trains medical students to be patient navigators for poor, underinsured patients. The curriculum is the first to design patient navigator experiences for medical students. Over the past 24 months, Dr. Gonzalo has led a team of educators to establish collaborative relationships with more than 30 clinical care sites and programs that care for pediatric and adult patients with health care disparities. He has initiated a scholarship agenda as part of this new program specifically related to vulnerable patient populations in need of additional care and to the systems barriers that prevent patients from obtaining optimal outcomes.

“It is difficult to overstate the pivotal role that Dr. Gonzalo has played in the evolution and implementation of an extraordinarily innovative movement in medical education with direct application to the care of vulnerable populations.”

— A. Craig Hillemeyer, MD
Dean, Penn State College of Medicine
Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarships

These awards consist of five scholarships given to outstanding students entering their third year of medical school who have shown leadership in efforts to eliminate inequities in medical education and health care and demonstrated leadership efforts in addressing educational, societal, and health care needs of minorities in the United States.

Jessica Buck
Weill Cornell Medicine

A member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, Jessica Buck is passionate about improving the health of American Indians. She is a third-year medical student at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City.

Jessica graduated from Harvard College in 2012 with a BA in human developmental and regenerative biology and a minor in global health and health policy. Throughout college, Jessica was active in the American Indian community, serving for three years in a row as community chair of a school-based American Indian organization.

After graduation, she moved to New York City to work at the American Indian Community House and directly serve this minority population. About 75 percent of the U.S. American Indian population lives off tribal lands, with New York City having the largest urban community of more than 110,000 people. Jessica took on a variety of roles, including behavioral health case manager and Youth Council coordinator. Her time in these positions reaffirmed her desire to serve in a health provider role for her Native American community.

At Weill Cornell, Jessica is expanding her active involvement in minority student affairs. As a first-year student, she served as co-chair of the Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine (SEOM), a minority-based student organization that collaborates extensively with school and hospital administrations. In this position, she founded a Native American medical student organization. She was able to incorporate Native American efforts into SEOM events, including hiring a local drummer to share American Indian history and perform traditional tribal songs at the Annual SEOM Thanksgiving Potluck. As a second-year student, she was elected SEOM president and continued her community work, which included helping to organize the Annual Pre-Medical Conference for more than 300 New York City minority high school and college students interested in health profession careers.

Jessica currently serves as the East Coast representative and president and founder of the New York City Chapter of the Association of Native American Medical Students Executive Board. She is involved with the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) and has mentored at the organization’s pre-medical workshops. At the AAIP annual conference, she presented the findings of her research on Native American teenage sexual health behaviors.

After completing her medical training, Jessica plans to continue her work to help eliminate health disparities and address the health care needs of minority populations. She believes there is great potential for improving Native American health within New York City and nationally, and she hopes to help implement this change.
Maximilian J.V. Cruz  
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

Maximilian (Max) J.V. Cruz, a third-year medical student at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University in Camden, N.J., has a deep commitment to community service and working with underserved populations. He first became involved with community outreach when he volunteered for a high school service trip to Appalachia, where he saw first-hand the effects of poverty and inadequate access to health care. He also participated in Aim High, a program designed to provide inner-city St. Louis high school students with an intensive summer session of tutoring to better prepare them for college.

Born and raised in the suburbs of St. Louis, Max received his BA in Spanish from the University of Notre Dame. As an undergraduate, he volunteered at St. Anthony of Padua in Camden, N.J., as part of a summer service learning project. There, he assisted with an HIV/AIDS ministry, helped community members organize to better coordinate with local law enforcement, and held a free sports camp for neighborhood and parish children.

During the year between graduation from Notre Dame and the beginning of his medical studies, Max spent four months volunteering at Santisimo Sacramento Parish in Piura, Peru. He assisted nurses in the free clinic and hospice, joined nurses in making house calls to deliver medical attention to those who had no means of accessing care, served as a translator for visiting missionaries, and developed public health information sessions in Piura and nearby villages.

At Cooper Medical School, Max has already logged more than 250 hours of community service. He was a mentor to a Camden high school student as part of the Camden After-School Medical Program (CAMP), which exposes at-risk students to medical education and careers. He is a founding board member of Tutor Time, which he and two other Cooper medical students initiated in 2013. One of the few after-school options in Camden, the program has grown to include more than 20 Cooper Medical School volunteers.

Max is a board member of both the Cooper Rowan Clinic, a free, student-run facility serving those who lack health insurance, and the Camden Area Health Education Center, a nonprofit that has served the citizens of Camden for more than 35 years. In addition, he is the founder of Seminarios de Salud, a program that offers a workshop series in Spanish to provide Camden’s citizens with the awareness and tools they need to manage their own health and wellness. He is also collecting data to identify gaps in health care access among Camden’s Latino subgroups.

Max served as the vice president of Cooper Medical School’s Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) chapter, which seeks to educate citizens about the health care process and recruit Latino students into health care professions. He currently serves as the CIO on the LMSA-Northeast’s Executive Council.

Max hopes to specialize in pediatrics and use all the knowledge gained from his experiences to best serve his patients, both mentally and physically.
Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo, a third-year student at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis), School of Medicine, is dedicated to improving health care through social justice. Born in Nigeria, Lucy was brought by relatives to Oakland, Calif., when she was 11 years old. The United States promised to provide a better life, but as an undocumented student for more than 12 years, Lucy had to fight for her own survival. She developed a strong sense of resilience in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

Lucy focused on her academics and graduated from high school as the class valedictorian at the age of 15. She obtained her undergraduate degree from California State University, East Bay, before the age of 20. After college, she started volunteering at Highland General Hospital, a safety-net facility primarily serving Oakland’s uninsured patients.

Lucy started Operating Room Experiences (OREX) at Highland General Hospital, a pre-medical surgical observation program and one of the few programs in the nation allowing undergraduates extensive access to operating rooms. More than 30 OREX participants have gone on to medical school and other graduate health education programs. OREX serves as a model for other teaching hospitals. At UC Davis, Lucy serves as co-director of the Imani Clinic, a student-run facility that provides services to the medically disenfranchised in Sacramento. She is the co-president of the Student National Medical Association–Davis Chapter, as well as the president and founder of the UC Davis Neurosurgery Student Interest Group.

In 2014, Lucy became the first UC Davis medical student to receive the Chancellor’s Civic Engagement Award for academic excellence and leadership in working with the most vulnerable communities. Most recently, she received the 2015 Paul and Daisy Soros New American Fellowship for her originality, initiative, and sustained accomplishment. The fellows are selected based on their potential to make significant contributions to their society, culture, or specific academic field, including medicine, the sciences, law, music, and education.

After medical school, Lucy’s goal is to bring specialty medical services to low-income communities. She plans to specialize in neurosurgery.
Jaire Saunders
University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine

Jaire Saunders, a first-generation American whose parents emigrated from Panama in their teens, was born and raised in Diamond Bar, Calif. He is a member of the inaugural graduating class of the University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine. With a long history of community service and advocacy, he serves on the Council of African American Parents (CAAP), which advocates for excellence in higher education among African-Americans in cities in several California counties.

In the summer of 2002, CAAP created the Legacy Roundtable Conference to address the problem of African-American youths falling behind in mathematics. Following a cohort of middle school children, the program provides classes, tutorial services, and mentoring with the goal of preparing the students for calculus by the time they enter their first year of college. Since then, the program has broadened to serve students at all levels of math in grades 6 to 12, not just preparing them for college calculus, but also guiding them to be ready for the competitive landscape of college admissions. Jaire’s role within the program has advanced from tutor to lead tutor to academic coordinator and now academic director. In addition, he serves as a mentor and role model to young scholars of color.

Although Jaire has wanted to be a physician for his entire life, it wasn’t until he earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of Arizona that he became aware of the social determinants of health and understood that providing high-quality medical care is only one part of the solution when addressing health care disparities across the nation. While earning his master’s degree in public health at the University of California, Los Angeles, he was involved in a research project sponsored by the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics that examined underserved worker populations, common work-related injuries, and mechanisms to obtain adequate medical care through local federally qualified health clinics. For his master’s project, he and three colleagues created a community-based afterschool program, Project Changes, aimed at decreasing youth mortality through gang-diversion programs administered through local schools.

Between undergraduate and graduate school, Jaire worked in social services at a nonprofit organization for three years. As the care coordinator, he led a team that established structure and created interventions that families could use to ensure that youth remained in the home and the family stayed together. This experience convinced Jaire to pursue a master’s degree in public health before going to medical school.

Following Riverside’s mission to train medical students with ties to the local community and retaining physicians to care for the underserved population, Jaire plans to practice medicine in his local community.
Mary Tate  
Harvard Medical School

As a third-year student at Harvard Medical School (HMS), Mary Tate is passionate about working with underserved communities and eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities, especially in infant mortality, in the United States. She began cultivating her skills as a leader and mentor at Dartmouth College, where she received an AB in biology (genetics). She was the director of the Dartmouth Alliance for Children of Color, a program designed to promote positive cultural awareness and expression and foster strong relationships between Dartmouth students and children in the Upper Valley Community of the African Diaspora. She served as the vice president of her sorority, which allowed her to plan community service events such as Sisters of CHaD, a program established during her tenure. Each academic term, sorority sisters visit the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth to play with children to give their parents a break.

Since graduating from Dartmouth, Mary has kept ties to several institutions so she can mentor students. As the young alumni coordinator of the Black Alumni at Dartmouth Association (BADA), she works to keep young alumni engaged and connected to the students on campus. She also collaborated with the Pre-Health Office, the Academic Skills Center, a professor, and a couple of students to establish Pathways to Medicine, a program that provides mentorship, resources, and support to Dartmouth students traditionally underrepresented in medicine.

Prior to matriculating at HMS, Mary spent a year working as a fellow at One Heart World-Wide (OHW), a nonprofit organization focused on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in the most remote parts of the world. While at OHW, she investigated paternal influences on pregnancy outcomes among Rarámuri natives in Guachochi, Mexico.

Since arriving at HMS, Mary has served as the president of the school’s Student National Medical Association (SNMA) chapter where she led her executive board to raise more than $25,000 to plan the Region VII SNMA conference, “To Medicine and Beyond.” The conference drew more than 200 medical school and college students, and 15 high school students from underperforming schools in underserved communities received sponsorships to attend.

In addition to serving in leadership roles in the OB/GYN Interest Group and the Harvard chapter of the American Medical Women’s Association, being involved with the Multicultural Fellows Committee, and volunteering with the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Partnership, Mary co-founded Medical Students Offering Maternal Support (MOMS), which partners pregnant women with medical students at the community health center. She sought to develop a program that would 1) provide women with an advocate to help them navigate the health system and enhance their system of support and 2) provide students with the invaluable experience of building a longitudinal relationship with a patient and exposing them to various social determinants of health. Since the program’s launch, her team was awarded a grant to expand the program, evaluate the interventions, and develop a standard operating procedures manual.

Mary plans to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology and obtain a master’s degree in public health with a focus in quantitative methods.
Previous Nickens Award Recipients

2014
Lisa Cooper, MD, MPH, FACP
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

2013
Aaron Shirley, MD
Jackson Medical Mall Foundation

2012
David Hayes-Bautista, PhD
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

2011
Elijah Saunders, MD, FACC, FACP, FAHA, FASH
University of Maryland School of Medicine

2010
Alvin F. Poussaint, MD
Harvard Medical School

2009
Jeanne C. Sinkford, DDS, PhD
American Dental Education Association

2008
Vivian W. Pinn, MD
National Institutes of Health

2007
M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS
University of Colorado Denver

2006
Spero M. Manson, PhD
University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center

2005
Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MS
Harvard Medical School

2004
Michael V. Drake, MD
University of California, Irvine

2003
Anna Cherrie Epps, PhD
Meharry Medical College

2002
David Satcher, MD, PhD
Morehouse School of Medicine

2001
Lee C. Bollinger, JD
University of Michigan

2000
Donald E. Wilson, MD
University of Maryland School of Medicine
Previous Nickens Faculty Fellowship Recipients

2014
Roberta Capp, MD, MHS
University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine

2013
Philip A. Chan, MD
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University

2012
Olapeju M. Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS
The Commonwealth Medical College

2011
Tumaini Coker, MD, MBA
University of California, Los Angeles
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

2010
Carmen Peralta, MD
University of California, San Francisco

2009
Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

2008
Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS
Yale University School of Medicine

2007
Thomas D. Sequist, MD, MPH
Harvard Medical School

2006
Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

2005
Ugo A. Ezenkwele, MD, MPH
New York University School of Medicine

2004
Katherine J. Mathews, MD, MPH
Washington University School of Medicine

2003
Monica J. Mitchell, PhD
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

2002
Janice C. Blanchard, MD, MPH
George Washington University School of Medicine
and Health Sciences

2001
Vanessa B. Sheppard, PhD
Eastern Virginia Medical School

2000
Charles E. Moore, MD
Emory University School of Medicine
Previous Nickens Scholarship Recipients

2014
Frank Garrett Conyers
Harvard Medicine School

Ami E. Kumordzie
Stanford School of Medicine

Alexa M. Mieses
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Adam J. Milam, PhD
Wayne State University School of Medicine

Maria Tobar
University of California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine

2013
Robert Bonacci
Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania

Keith Glover
Stanford University School of Medicine

Shermeeka Hogans-Mathews
The Florida State University College of Medicine

Tyler Mains
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Ray Mendez
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

2012
Ndang Azang-Njaah
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Olivia Marie Campa
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Senyene Eyo Hunter, PhD
University of North Carolina School of Medicine

Elaine Khoong
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

Alison L. Smith, MPH
Mercer University School of Medicine

Brett A. Thomas
The Florida State University College of Medicine

2011
Monique Chambers
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Toussaint Mears-Clarke
University of Chicago Division of the Biological Sciences, The Pritzker School of Medicine

Teresa K. L. Schiff
University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

LaShon Sturgis, PhD
Medical College of Georgia at Georgia Health Sciences University

Martha Tesfalul
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

2010
Noemi LeFranc
The Florida State University College of Medicine

Shazia Mehmood
UMDNJ–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Marizabel Orellana
University of California, Los Angeles, David Geffen School of Medicine
Jaime W. Peterson  
University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine

Kara Toles  
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

2009  
Olatokunbo M. Famakinwa  
Yale University School of Medicine

Yohko Murakami  
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Dr. Herbert W. Nickens graduation from University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, May 21, 1973.
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