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 2016: The AAMC Annual Meeting

Monday, November 14, 2016
4:30 – 5:45 pm
Seattle Hyatt: Eliza Amphitheater
Association of American Medical Colleges
Diversity Policy and Programs

Norma Poll Hunter, PhD
Senior Director, Human Capital Portfolio

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Call for Nominations

2017 Herbert W. Nickens Awards

Accepting Nominations January 2, 2017

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 health care in the United States.

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

— Mahatma Gandhi
About the Herbert W. Nickens Awards

Dr. Herbert W. Nickens’ work has inspired 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 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 in 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.”
Before 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 was also 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
Norma I. Poll-Hunter, PhD
Senior Director, Human Capital Portfolio
Diversity Policy and Programs
Association of American Medical Colleges

4:35–4:50 pm  **Keynote Speaker**

Spero M. Manson, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry
Director, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health
The Colorado Trust Chair in American Indian Health and
Associate Dean for Research, Colorado School of Public Health

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**
Richard Morgan
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

**William and Charlotte Cadbury Award**
Danyelle Thomas
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
5:00–5:45 pm  Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship and Medical Student Scholarship Presentations

Presenter:
Laura Castillo-Page, PhD
Acting Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
Association of American Medical Colleges

Award Recipients

Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship
Stanley Frencher, MD, MPH
Department of Urology
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarships
Kirsten Concha-Moore
The University of Arizona College of Medicine

Edgar Corona
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Santiago Diaz
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Kamaal A. Jones
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine

Giselle Lynch
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Herbert W. Nickens Award Keynote Speaker

Spero M. Manson, PhD
Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry
Director, Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health
The Colorado Trust Chair in American Indian Health and Associate Dean for Research, Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Dr. Manson is distinguished professor of public health and psychiatry, directs the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, occupies The Colorado Trust Chair in American Indian Health, and serves as Associate Dean for Research within the Colorado School of Public Health at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. He is the only American Indian (Pembina Chippewa) appointed to the National Academy of Medicine, and he has received 30 awards from the National Institutes of Health, the Indian Health Service, the Veterans Administration, and universities and professional organizations for scholarly achievements, mentorship, and applied work in programming and policy. These awards include the American Public Health Association’s prestigious Rema Lapouse Mental Health Epidemiology Award (1998), three special recognition awards from the Indian Health Service (1996, 2004, 2011), two Distinguished Mentor Awards from the Gerontological Society of America (2006; 2007), the AAMC’s Herbert W. Nickens Award (2006), the George Foster Award for Excellence from the Society for Medical Anthropology (2006), and NIH’s Health Disparities Award for Excellence (2008).

The Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health is composed of 10 centers and is the nation’s largest, most diverse program of its kind, spanning research, education, program development, and technical assistance. It houses 32 faculty and 64 support staff, 41 percent of whom are Native, and actively collaborates with more than 250 tribal communities and organizations. Dr. Manson and his colleagues have trained 75 American Indian/Alaska Native PhD- and MD-level scientists who have successfully competed for more than $100 million in sponsored research grants and contracts and published 360 peer-reviewed journal articles. He personally has acquired $168,877,022 in sponsored research and program development while at the University of Colorado.

Dr. Manson and his spouse, Dedra S. Buchwald, MD, a professor in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, Washington State University, collaborate on a wide range of research and career development initiatives. In addition to the 20-year, NIH-sponsored Native Investigator Development Program, they recently launched Grantwriting Uncovered: Maximizing Strategy, Help, Opportunities, Experiences (GUMSHOE). NIH recently funded the National Research Mentoring Network to promote greater diversity in the biomedical and biobehavioral research workforce, and GUMSHOE is one of the Network’s four professional development training programs committed to meeting this goal.

Twenty years ago, Dr. Manson returned to a lifelong interest in pointing-breed dogs and horses. He lives on an 800-acre ranch south of Kiowa, Colorado, with Tennessee walking horses and Irish Setters and Pointers, which he breeds, trains, and competes in field trials. Most weekends, when he’s not traveling, Dr. Manson can be found on the ranch, working his dogs, which include five national champions. He is quick to counsel the importance of balance between one’s personal and professional worlds, which he models in practice as well as in principle.
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.

Somnath Saha, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine
Oregon Health & Science University and Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center

Through his scholarship, mentorship, and service, Dr. Saha has been a highly influential advocate for health equity in classrooms and clinics.

Dr. Saha’s scholarship has been integral to developing a body of evidence that demonstrates the critical imperative for diversity and inclusion in medicine to improve both patient outcomes and medical student preparedness. Early in his career, Dr. Saha led a study that found that underrepresented minority patients who are cared for by physicians of the same race are more likely to receive appropriate preventive services than if they are cared for by physicians of a different race. Later, he published a highly influential study demonstrating that diversity in medical schools leads to increased confidence in students’ feelings of preparedness to care for patients from other racial and ethnic backgrounds. These studies and his other work have been foundational to many national reports, including those by the AAMC, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). For example, Dr. Saha’s systematic review of racial disparities within the VA health care system is credited as the basis for the department’s disparities research portfolio.

Dr. Saha’s commitment to enhancing diversity and inclusion in medicine continues in the classroom in his role as professor of medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). At OHSU, Dr. Saha serves as course director for curricula on health disparities and community-based research for fellows and junior faculty and served for several years on the OHSU admissions committee. He is also known for his mentorship, practicing an “open door policy” for anyone interested in diversity and health-equity research. One mentee attests, “Som is a sharp and talented physician-scholar, but he is also a kind, wise advisor.”

In addition to his faculty role and position as a staff physician at the Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dr. Saha provides regional and national leadership in furthering diversity and inclusion in medicine. He served on the VA’s National Cultural Competence Task Force and National Ethics Committee Task Force on Ethnic Disparities. He previously served on several AAMC committees, including the Holistic Review Project Advisory Committee. Today, he also serves as the gubernatorial-appointed chair of the Oregon Health Evidence Review Commission, which works to maximize the
value of care in Oregon’s Medicaid program. Further, Dr. Saha has worked with the leadership of both the Oregon Latino Health Coalition and African-American Health Coalition, which work to improve community health education and access to care.

After graduating from Stanford University, Dr. Saha received his MD and postgraduate training in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. He was a fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Washington, where he obtained a master’s in public health.

“I met Herb Nickens only once, about a year before he died. I was in my fellowship, and I remember telling him how powerless I felt, trying to make a difference in the world. He told me this: ‘There are many people whose hearts and minds you’ll never change. But there are some that you will. You have to start doing that one person at a time, and eventually, the balance will start to tip.’ Those words have sustained me for years.”

— Somnath Saha, MD, MPH
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.

Stanley Frencher, MD, MPH
Department of Urology
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Dr. Frencher is currently an assistant professor in the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, medical director of surgical outcomes and quality at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, and chief of urology at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in biology and sociology from the University of Michigan, where he focused on health and aging, as well as on social inequality including race, class, and gender. He then received his master’s degree in public health in health management and policy from Columbia University. He completed his medical degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and began his residency training at Yale University. In the middle of this training, he pursued the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at UCLA, where he worked with Dr. Bill Releford and the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program to implement a prostate cancer education campaign and evaluate the program.

His passion for community development stems directly from his father. He watched his father treat patients in the low-income communities of Detroit. His commitment to making a difference in these underserved communities is exactly what inspired Dr. Frencher to pursue a career in medicine and public service; he has always wanted to replicate his father’s contribution to the community.

As a researcher, his ultimate goal is to understand and eliminate health disparities. As a urologic surgeon, he is committed to improving surgical care and finding ways to deliver and ensure access to safer surgeries within the safety net. As a leader in a community hospital in South Los Angeles, he builds bridges and creates innovative solutions to address the needs of indigent populations.

Dr. Frencher is committed to teaching within and beyond the scope of academia, including lectures and presentations within the community. He has presented to members of the White House, the California Legislative Black Caucus, and the African American Enrollment Initiative for Covered California. He has taught high school and medical students alike and has invited several students to shadow him in his clinic.

He has an extensive track record in integrating public health and medicine. Shortly after obtaining his master’s degree, he worked as a health aid for Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) on Capitol Hill. He went on to serve as a board member for the Summer Enrichment Program in Health Administration and Policy for the University of Michigan. This program, which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, focuses on changing the face of health care by providing summer internships for undergraduates who are interested in a career in health care administration and policy.

Dr. Frencher is married to Michelle, the love of his life and mother to their three amazing children, Alexas, Tyler, and Donovan.
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.

Kirsten Concha-Moore
The University of Arizona College of Medicine

Kirsten Concha-Moore, a member of the Taos and Jemez Pueblo tribes from northern New Mexico, was raised on the Taos Pueblo reservation and was taught by her elders at an early age about the importance of caring for her family and tribal community and maintaining her cultural heritage. Growing up, Kirsten used the Indian Health Service as a main source for primary health care. As she grew older, she became aware of the many health issues that affected her tribe and American Indians across the country. From her experiences as a young girl, she was inspired to become a physician so that she could improve the health of her American Indian community.

In 2012, Kirsten graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a degree in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology. Now, as a third-year student at the University of Arizona College of Medicine (UACOM), she is still dedicated to and passionate about improving the health of American Indians, with a particular interest in increasing the number of American Indian students pursuing careers in health care.

In her first year of medical school, Kirsten was nominated to become a voting member of the College of Medicine’s admissions committee. She felt it was important as an American Indian woman to share her perspective and understanding of the challenges underrepresented minority (URM) students face in the medical school admissions process. She worked closely with the UACOM Office of Diversity in outreach, recruitment, and support for URM students. She currently serves as the West Coast regional representative for the Association of Native American Medical Students (ANAMS) and helped reinstate a local ANAMS chapter at the UACOM. She has also been involved with the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP) since her premedical years and is a mentor for students through the AAIP Premedical Admissions Workshop.

Last summer, Kirsten participated in the Rural Health Professions Program, where she worked on the Navajo Nation in obstetrics and gynecology. She was also awarded the Native Graduate Health Fellowship from the National Congress of American Indians and traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn about tribal health policy. From her efforts, the UACOM has awarded Kirsten with the Diversity Leadership Award, and the Native American Student Affairs organization at the University of Arizona recently awarded her the Outstanding Graduate Service Award.

Kirsten is currently a post-sophomore fellow in the Department of Pathology at the University of Arizona. She is pursuing vascular surgery research and is on an advisory board with other American Indian researchers evaluating a large-scale obesity-intervention study for American Indian youth. She is still undecided about which specialty she will choose; however, she is confident that she will continue her work in helping to improve American Indian health.
Edgar Corona
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Edgar Corona, a third-year medical student in the UCLA PRIME program at the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM), is committed to addressing health inequities in underserved Latino communities.

Edgar, who grew up in Baldwin Park, Calif., is, proudly, a first-generation Mexican-American college graduate and the first in his family to pursue a career in medicine. Through his family’s experiences accessing health care, Edgar grew up visiting public hospitals, where he was witness to the vast health inequities that severely affect low-income working-class communities of color. These encounters with health care sparked in him a desire to practice medicine and a passion to work toward eliminating health disparities and health-access barriers. After graduating from Baldwin Park High School, Edgar attended UCLA and majored in biochemistry while minoring in Chicana/o studies. At UCLA, Edgar served as a project director for the Latino Student Health Project, where he and his co-directors organized health fairs in underserved Los Angeles communities and day clinics in Tecate, Mexico, to provide free health services for more than 1,200 recipients.

Recognizing that the road to medical school is often challenging for low-income, first-generation college students, Edgar co-founded Alliance in Mentorship (AIM), a nonprofit organization that provides mentorship opportunities for aspiring health professionals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and served as the first executive director under the leadership of Dr. Efrain Talamantes. Today, AIM, with Mimentor.org, an online mentoring platform, serves more than 1,900 minority mentor and mentee users.

At DGSOM, Edgar has served as the curriculum chairperson for the PRIME Student Council, where he has organized workshops that encouraged medical students to continue growing as community leaders; served as the UCLA Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) mentorship co-chair, where he worked diligently on program mentoring events and workshops for minority premedical students; and served on the UCLA DGSOM Admissions Subcommittee. With support from the UCLA Blum Center on Poverty and Health in Latin America, Edgar spent last summer in Morelos, Mexico, conducting a cost-effectiveness analysis of a population-level cervical cancer prevention program. This experience encouraged him to think about meaningful ways to bridge community and academic work, and he was first author on a publication that systematically reviews lifestyle interventions targeting adult U.S. overweight and obese Latinos, a project that won second place at the 2015 LMSA national conference. Edgar also recently won the 2016 Lancet Award for Best Student Poster in the Financial and Operational Sustainability track at the 2016 Consortium of Universities for Global Health Conference, which allowed him to bring awareness to the important cervical cancer prevention work conducted in Mexico. This year, Edgar serves as the vice president of Community Affairs for the LMSA–West Regional Board.

Edgar is the son of hard-working and loving parents, Jose and Acela Corona, who continue to inspire him to be his best self every day.
Santiago Diaz
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Santiago Diaz grew up in Reynosa, Mexico. He moved in with his grandparents in Hidalgo, Tex., when he was 15 years old and started high school at South Texas Academy of Medical Technology. After overcoming many obstacles and a language barrier, he was able to graduate as the valedictorian of his high school class and to attend college at the University of Texas at Austin. He graduated with a bachelor of science in human biology with highest honors. Right after graduating from college, he started medical school at The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He is currently a third-year student going through a surgery clerkship.

Santiago was nominated for a Nickens award because of his contributions to creating the South Texas Health Disparities Youth Program for high school students in his South Texas community. He partnered with a local high school, Harlingen School of Health Professions, and the local medical school, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, to design and implement a medical curriculum for a three-day-long program that focused on addressing health disparities in South Texas. The goals of the program were to recruit 20 interested high school sophomores and juniors, raise awareness among them about the health disparities that strike their community, inform them about the medical school admission process, and inspire them to become physicians in their community. He was treasurer of his local chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association and a member of the Pritzker Community Service Fellowship, where he helped organize schoolwide days of service. In addition, he volunteered at Community Health Clinic in Chicago, which is the largest free clinic in the country, as a clinic volunteer and Spanish interpreter.

Santiago’s passions include working in primary care settings and in underserved communities and working toward the dissipation of health inequities. He likes watching movies, exploring the great city of Chicago, and visiting his family and girlfriend when he gets the chance. He plans to go back to his South Texas community and pursue a residency in a primary care field, such as internal medicine or pediatrics, in addition to a master’s in public health.

He has always counted on the unconditional love and support of my two parents, Josefa Rodriguez and Santiago de Jesus Diaz, my grandparents Tomas Rodriguez and Anita Rodriguez, and my siblings, Alejandra Diaz and Daniel Diaz. I wouldn’t be here if it weren’t for them.
Kamaal Jones, a third-year student at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, is passionate about the intersection of health equity and social justice. A product of Greenburgh, N.Y., from childhood, Kamaal was taught that service wasn’t simply something that was nice to do, but it was in fact a responsibility we all have.

Kamaal graduated from Cornell University in 2013 with a BA in biological sciences and a minor in Africana studies. At Cornell, he served with classmates by helping run a peer mentorship program, which worked to combat the low retention rates for black men at the institution, and he led a supply collection and service trip to Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti, in conjunction with his fraternity. During the same year as the Haiti trip, Kamaal spent 30 days serving in hospitals and clinics in Durban, South Africa. He would later return to Haiti in 2015 as a student leader for a medical school service trip.

After graduation, Kamaal made addressing health disparities his full focus, as he completed more than 1,700 hours of service with Community HealthCorps. For a year, he and his cohort worked with a federally qualified health center in Port Chester, N.Y., to organize health education programs in schools, churches, shelters, and organizations throughout the community.

At Loyola, his draw to health justice work only grew. Early in his first year, Kamaal became chair of the Health Disparities Committee at Loyola’s Center for Community and Global Health, through which he and classmates have worked closely with the administration to vigorously restructure the way health disparities are approached at Stritch.

Over the last year, Kamaal served as a Schweitzer Fellow, in partnership with Project Brotherhood, a program focused mainly on the health of black men on the south side of Chicago. Through this organization, he worked to establish the Project Brotherhood Public Health Club at a local school. In this group, they examined basic principles of public health and discussed the many facets that affect health outcomes—from food access to mass incarceration—with the overall goal of helping students gain the skills they need to advocate for their own community.

Kamaal has worked very closely over the past year with a support group for teenage boys who have survived gunshot violence in Chicago, a collaboration between Healing Hurt People Chicago and Project Brotherhood. Each week, he helps two social workers lead a discussion with a group of young men who have suffered from the epidemic of bloodshed that has plagued the city. They strive to create a community in which these young men can find healing and, in so doing, disrupt the cycle of violence.

After completing medical school, Kamaal plans to continue this work in social justice, health equity, and trauma-informed care, with a focus on under-resourced urban communities both here and abroad.
Giselle Lynch
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Giselle Lynch, a third-year student at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, has a deep commitment to social justice and eliminating health disparities. She began cultivating her leadership as an undergraduate at Williams College, where she received a BA in history and Africana studies. There, she was one of the leaders of Claiming Williams, a day that sprung out of racist and sexist incidents in January 2008 that sparked a grassroots student movement. Giselle worked with other students and the college to create a day, set aside in the academic calendar, that would bring awareness, discussion, and action for those affected by the college’s history.

Giselle brought similar skills in creating institutional support and student awareness to Mount Sinai. Since joining this community, she has helped create the Anti-Racism Coalition (ARC), composed of students and student groups, which seeks to eliminate racism in order to promote equity and medical excellence at Mount Sinai. The ARC uses the influence of medical students and centers the leadership and expertise of students of color to change structures, policies, and practices in many domains of the institution, including the medical school curriculum, student life, institutional leadership, and patient care.

In addition to her work on an institutional level, Giselle has engaged in community building with her classmates from the medical school and graduate programs. For the past two years, she has co-led an elective course, Deconstructing Race in Medicine and Health: Our Patients and Ourselves (DRMH). The course, which is founded on the principles of love and respect, challenges each participant to consider their own histories, privileges, identities, and oppressions, in relation to those of the institutions and spaces they inhabit. The design of the DRMH learning space allows each member to use the space as a place to reflect and learn about topics such as the invention of race, structural violence, and community-based initiatives, all in an effort to create healers who are able to build and act on their knowledge. Giselle’s leadership and contribution to the course have led to an innovative curriculum product that has been presented at national academic medicine and public health meetings and is currently being shared as a teaching tool among a growing community of medical educators and students interested in teaching race and medicine around the country.

After completing her medical training, possibly in internal medicine, Giselle hopes to continue her work in eliminating disparities and, one day, create free community clinics.
Throughout the years, hundreds of leaders, faculty, and students have been nominated for the Herbert W. Nickens Awards. The three selection committees dedicate many hours to identifying individuals who exemplify Dr. Nickens’ qualities and goals for academic medicine.

In this section, we highlight past recipients and the outstanding work they continue to do as their careers develop. Their work continues to embody the spirit of the Herbert W. Nickens Award, and we support their efforts and continue to be proud of their accomplishments.

Olapeju M. Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS, FAAFP

Olapeju (Peju) Simoyan is the 2012 Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship recipient. She was nominated as an assistant professor of family medicine and epidemiology at The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) in Scranton, Penn. When she joined TCMC in 2009, she worked to address health disparities in the region and served as medical director at a substance-abuse treatment facility. She also saw patients in a community-based child mental health facility. Her commitment to working with children and youth was apparent as she led faculty with a pipeline program providing economically disadvantaged youth with academic and career development support for successful entry into health-related careers.

Since receiving the award, Peju has become an associate professor at TCMC. In 2015, she passed the American Board of Addiction Medicine certification examination, making her a diplomate of that organization. As the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) Fellow in Medical Journalism in 2015–2016, she received advanced training and mentorship in medical writing and editing. She was an awardee of the 2015 Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal Top 25 Women in Business for efforts in medical education and health care in the region. Peju received a 2015 Best in Class Award for Visual Presentation at the Family Medicine Education Consortium for “Women in Family Medicine,” featuring a photographic exhibit and video, which can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QQQdu-X-bc. She received second prize in 2015 at the U.S. State Department’s Citizen Diplomacy Challenge for efforts to promote the State Department’s international exchange programs. Her clinic and academic work still embody the beliefs of the Herbert W. Nickens Award.
Bryant Cameron Webb, MD, JD

The spring after receiving his Nickens award, Cameron was elected National President-elect of the Student National Medical Association—the nation’s oldest and largest medical student organization addressing the needs and concerns of medical and premedical students of color. After his third year of medical school at Wake Forest in 2009, Cameron took a leave of absence to pursue his legal education to become better prepared for a career in health justice advocacy. Following his new bride, Leigh-Ann, to Chicago (where she matched for her emergency medicine residency), he attended Loyola University Chicago School of Law for his JD degree with a concentration in health law. During the course of his legal studies, he participated in the National Health Law Moot Court Competition, worked as a student attorney in the school’s Health Justice Project clinic, and served as editor-at-large of the institution’s health law journal, Annals of Health Law. He completed law school in the spring of 2012 and returned to Wake Forest to complete the fourth year of his medical education.

After medical school, Cameron completed his residency in internal medicine at New York–Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine. He was active in resident leadership, serving on the hospital’s Housestaff Quality Council and completing terms as the co-chair of the Minority Housestaff Committee and co-president of the Housestaff Committee. As a resident in the program’s Primary Care Track, he also served as an ambulatory chief resident in 2015–2016. After completing his residency, Cameron joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University Hospital as a hospitalist and assistant professor of medicine. Only weeks into this appointment, however, he was selected as a 2016–2017 White House Fellow, and left for Washington. Now months into his White House Fellowship, Cameron was placed in the White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, where he works on President Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative while also managing a portfolio of interagency health care–related issues.

Despite holding roles including physician, attorney, health justice advocate, and policy advisor, Cameron is most passionate about his roles as a husband and father of two. He remains inspired by Dr. Nickens’ passionate career-long pursuit of diversity and opportunity for all in health care, and he sees his own children as a daily reminder of the generations to come who can benefit from a similar passionate pursuit of equality, inclusion, and justice.
Previous Nickens Award Recipients

2015
Ana E. Núñez, MD
Professor of Medicine
Drexel University College of Medicine

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 (NIH)

2007
M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS
University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

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 System

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

2015
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

2014
Roberta Capp, MD, MHS
University of Colorado 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

2015
Jessica Buck
Weill Cornell Medical College

Maximilian Joseph Vincent 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

2014
Frank Garrett Conyers
Harvard Medicine School

Ami E. Kumordzie
Stanford University 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
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

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

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 and 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
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Marizabel Orellana
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

2009
Olatokunbo M. Famakinwa
Yale School of Medicine

Yohko Murakami
Stanford University School of Medicine

Lisa M. Ochoa-Frongia
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

2008
Aretha Delight Davis
Harvard Medical School

Nereida Esparza
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

2007
Tamika E. Smith
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Jorge A. Uribe</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Bryant Cameron Webb</td>
<td>Wake Forest University School of Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Christian A. Corbitt</td>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cherie C. Cross</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Maria-Esteli Garcia</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Marlana M. Li</td>
<td>Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Danielle Ku’ulei Potter</td>
<td>Creighton University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Nehkonti Adams</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia Medical School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dora C. Castaneda</td>
<td>Stanford University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Luis I. Garcia</td>
<td>New York University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>AeuMuro G. Lake</td>
<td>University of Kentucky College of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Katherine L. Neuhausen</td>
<td>Emory University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Erik S. Cabral</td>
<td>Stanford University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christopher T. Erb</td>
<td>University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign</td>
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<td>Harlan B. Harvey</td>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Osita I. Onugha</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sloane L. York</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Nicolas L. Cuttriss</td>
<td>George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joy Hsu</td>
<td>University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Angela Chia-Mei Huang</td>
<td>Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University</td>
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<td>Risha R. Irby</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Richard M. Vidal</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Cedric Dark</td>
<td>New York University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Francine E. Garrett</td>
<td>Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University</td>
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<td>David Montgomery, PhD</td>
<td>Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Johnnie J. Orozco</td>
<td>University of Washington School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Nicholas J. Smith</td>
<td>University of Alabama School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Aimalohi A. Ahonkhai</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Lukejohn W. Day</td>
<td>Stanford University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Tarayn A. Grizzard</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<td>Alejandrina I. Rincón</td>
<td>University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Nicholas J. Smith</td>
<td>University of Alabama School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Alberto Mendivil</td>
<td>University of Utah School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Constance M. Mobley</td>
<td>Vanderbilt University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Chukwuka C. Okafor</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Sheneika M. Walker</td>
<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Melanie M. Watkins</td>
<td>Stanford University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Opeolu M. Adeoye</td>
<td>University of Pittsburg School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Diana I. Bojorquez</td>
<td>Yale School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Jim F. Hammel</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<td>Yolandra Hancock</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sonia Lomeli</td>
<td>University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine</td>
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</table>
Dr. Herbert W. Nickens graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine May 21, 1973.
Want to make a difference?  
Make a contribution!

Tax-deductible contributions and grants to the Herbert W. Nickens memorial Fund are welcomed. Contributions of $1,000 or more may be paid over three years in equal annual amounts. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Contributions and grants can be sent to:

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c/o Angela R. Moses  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
655 K Street, N.W., Suite 100  
Washington, D.C. 20001-2399