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

HERBERT W. NICKENS
AWARDS

Honoring individuals who assist medical schools in achieving their diversity objectives and advancing health equity

GROUP ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
BUSINESS MEETING AND AWARDS RECOGNITION
TUESDAY, OCT. 19, 2021 • 1-3 P.M. ET
A VIRTUAL EVENT!
AAMC
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Norma Poll-Hunter, PhD
Senior Director, Workforce Diversity

For information about this event or the awards, contact:

Angela R. Moses
Manager, Diversity and Inclusion Programs and Resources
202-862-6203
amoses@aamc.org

Alysia L. Rieves
Administrative Coordinator
202-862-6143
arieves@aamc.org
Call for Nominations

2022 Herbert W. Nickens Awards
Honoring individuals who assist medical schools in achieving their diversity objectives and eliminating health care disparities

Accepting Nominations

We are currently accepting nominations for the following awards:

Herbert W. Nickens Award
Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship
Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarships

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the Herbert W. Nickens Awards. In recognition of the life of Herbert W. Nickens, MD, and his dedication to eliminating health care disparities, we look forward each year to celebrating his legacy.

Plan to join us in November 2022.
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Special Acknowledgments
"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

—Elizabeth Andrew

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 Patrice Desvigne-Nickens, MD. 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.

“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”

—Mahatma Gandhi
About the Herbert W. Nickens Awards
The work of Herbert W. Nickens, MD, MA, 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 our medical institutions are making to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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

1973–1975
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.

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

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

1982
Dr. Herbert W. Nickens married Patrice Designe on June 26.

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 Oct. 16, 1985, by then U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret Heckler, and is often referred to as the “Heckler Report.”
Dr. Nickens was the founding vice president of the AAMC Division of Community and Minority Programs, now the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion cluster. 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.
About the Herbert W. Nickens Awards

Herbert W. Nickens: Life and Career

Born on Dec. 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 in sociology from the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in 1973 and earning the university’s History of Medicine Prize.
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.
As one of the only practicing Native American medical oncologists in the United States, Dr. Kaur leads a national conversation to recognize cancer as a major unaddressed health disparity in Indigenous communities in the United States and internationally.

Her leadership of the Spirit of Eagles project, one of her more than 150 National Institutes of Health-funded projects, engaged native populations in culturally specific research, provided scholarships for students in medicine or biological sciences training, and advocated for improved cancer prevention and control. She also leads the Native CIRCLE, which provides culturally appropriate cancer education materials.

Dr. Kaur significantly expanded tribal access to palliative care by developing the course Case-Based Palliative Care Training for Indian Health Service Providers, which trained more than 50 Indian Health Service providers in partnership with the National Cancer Institute and the Indian Health Service. Dr. Kaur is board certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Over the past 25 years, she has mentored hundreds of minority medical students. The Hampton Scholars and Hampton Faculty Fellows programs she developed have mentored over 100 Indigenous students across the United States. One mentee said, “Her never-give-up attitude for the health and equity of all people, especially indigenous people, gives her unwavering vision and effort towards the betterment of future generations.”

Dr. Kaur has received certificates of appreciation from the Indian Health Service and works closely with the National Cancer Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and American Cancer Society. She has been named the Physician of the Year by the Association of American Indian Physicians and received the Richard A. Swanson Humanitarian Award in recognition of her distinguished contributions to national research and outreach to American Indians and Alaska Natives. Her research focuses on women’s cancers — particularly breast and cervical cancers.

Dr. Kaur’s path to a career in medicine started at age 5, when her grandmother told her she was meant to be a healer and began to instruct her on the principles of traditional Choctaw and Cherokee medicine. She went on to become the first in her family to graduate from high school — as valedictorian, no less. Her subsequent educational background is diverse: she obtained a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in counseling before pivoting to a career in medicine.

She was one of the first candidates accepted to the Indians Into Medicine Program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences. She then transferred to the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, where she received her MD with honors and later completed her residency, an internship, and a hematology/medical oncology fellowship.
Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship

This fellowship recognizes an outstanding assistant professor 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 racial and ethnic minorities; and is committed to a career in academic medicine.
Utibe R. Essien, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

Born and raised in New York City to Nigerian immigrants, Dr. Essien is an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. He is also a general internist and health disparities researcher in the VA Pittsburgh Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion. Dr. Essien completed his undergraduate training at New York University, received his MD from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2013, and trained in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Harvard Medical School. After residency, he remained at MGH to complete a general internal medicine fellowship, concurrently receiving a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2018.

Dr. Essien’s research focuses on racial and ethnic disparities in the use of novel therapeutics in the management of chronic cardiovascular diseases, including atrial fibrillation. He has co-authored over 45 peer-reviewed research manuscripts, editorials, and perspectives with work featured in leading medical journals including JAMA and the New England Journal of Medicine. Since becoming a faculty member in 2018, he has received over $150,000 in pilot research funding from the American Heart Association, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and in 2020 was awarded a five-year, $1 million Career Development Award from the VA. In 2020, Dr. Essien applied his health equity research framework to the COVID-19 pandemic and was frequently called upon as an expert in examining the disparities that disproportionately affected minority communities with COVID-19. He has been interviewed by several medical podcasts and national news outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, NBC News, and National Public Radio.

Dr. Essien is a fierce advocate for diversity and equity in medicine and has been regularly invited as a keynote and Grand Rounds speaker nationally on the topic. In 2020 he co-founded the “Antiracism in Medicine” series for the Clinical Problem Solvers medical education podcast. He is committed to increasing the diversity of future physician scientists and is the director of the Career Education and Enhancement for Health Care Diversity research training program for medical students at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Essien’s leadership in advancing health equity led him to be named a 2019 National Minority Quality Forum 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health awardee, a 30 Leaders Under 40 Transforming Healthcare awardee by Business Insider in 2020, and a recipient of the inaugural Rising Star Alumni Award from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2021.
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.
Kaylin Batey is a first-generation college graduate and third-year student at the University of Kentucky (UK) College of Medicine. His personal experience of economic and educational immobility has inspired his passion for community medicine and dedication to addressing the social determinants of health.

Batey was born in San Diego County and grew up in a loving and supportive single-parent household that later relocated to Louisville, Kentucky, to be near extended family. He attended Kentucky’s Centre College, where he majored in biochemistry and molecular biology. As a recipient of the RADM Helena O. Mishoe Fellowship for Underrepresented Scientists from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, he completed training in basic and clinical research to aid his pursuit of becoming a health equity scholar. Batey then joined the UK College of Medicine to pursue his MD with a concentration in clinical and translational research. At UK, Batey studies health disparities through multiple research projects, including one that investigates disparities related to colorectal cancer in Kentucky and a second project examining patient factors that influence the duration of patient-provider face-to-face time during clinical encounters.

In the Lexington-Fayette area, Batey leads and engages with several community-focused projects that collectively aim to reduce disproportionately poor health outcomes for socioeconomically disadvantaged and medically underserved populations. He has been involved with building a coalition to address the disparate vulnerability for Black essential workers and small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also participated in the development of a pipeline program at UK called Black Boys and Men in Medicine (BBAMM) that engages Black males from kindergarten through residency to address the American crisis of underrepresentation of Black males in medicine.

Most recently, as an advocate for and scholar of equity in medical education, Batey was awarded the Excellence in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Student Award through the UK College of Medicine Department of Behavioral Science, and he has received honorable mention as an Equity Changemaker from the UK Center for Health Equity Transformation.

Batey currently serves as co-president of the University of Kentucky Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and is an active member of the national SNMA Health Education and Prevention Subcommittee, where he collaborates with medical students across the United States to disseminate community service protocols for all chapters to serve minority communities with health education and screening programs.

In his future career of service and medicine, Batey’s work to advance health equity will continue by advocating for those who have been traditionally underrepresented and marginalized and promoting the adoption of cultural humility in medicine. Regardless of the specialty he decides to pursue, Batey envisions a continued practice of advocacy, activism, and research within the context of the social determinants of health to dismantle the sociopolitical barriers that perpetuate health inequities.
Tegan Marie Carr  
University of Minnesota Medical School

Tegan Carr is a rising third-year student at the University of Minnesota Medical School (UMMS) Duluth Campus, activist for medical equity, creative writer and poet, dancer, amateur herbalist, and impassioned researcher. She is a nontraditional student with degrees in the sociobehavioral sciences from the University of Minnesota and a proud alumna of Minneapolis Community and Technical College, where she began her journey to higher education and was never once told that she aimed too high.

Carr’s atypical path to medicine included a career coordinating psychiatric research for the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Defense, and UMMS, and publishing in the areas of treatment-refractory depression, bipolar disorder, ketamine therapy, and methadone toxicity. Carr was a pioneer member of the UMMS Department of Psychiatry Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, where she co-led a departmental initiative to diversify research by emphasizing historical trauma, sociolinguistic power and privilege, and cross-cultural psychiatry.

Carr served UMMS-Duluth as an elected chief diversity officer. She founded the Task Force 4 Change, a grassroots community of students, faculty, and staff practicing self-directed, collaborative advocacy, and the Duluth branch of the Medical Education Reform Coalition. She also helped develop the UMMS DEI Ambassadors program. Carr partnered with the UMMS Administrative Assessment/Evaluation Team to develop the first student body DEI metric. She used baseline data in her presentation, Breaking Down the Quota: Representation and Subgroup Characteristics of African American/Black Students, which was awarded Best in Show at the 2021 Best Practices in Health Sciences Education Conference. Following the horrific murder of George Floyd and devastation in Carr’s own Minneapolis Southside community, she and a handful of peers disrupted their helplessness by initiating the development of a socially responsive medical curriculum covering topics such as police brutality and COVID-19 disparities. They partnered with determined faculty and, in three weeks, collaboratively developed 40 hours of rich, engaged curriculum and succeeded in its immediate delivery as part of the core medical curriculum.

Carr is a driven researcher with an abundance of topics close to her heart and active projects fostering health care for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color; DEI in academic medicine; and psychedelic-assisted treatment of trauma and addiction. Carr is an addiction medicine trainee and scholar of the REACH (Recognizing and Eliminating disparities in Addiction through Culturally informed Healthcare) Program through the Yale School of Medicine. She is a scholarship recipient and honorary trainee in psychedelic-assisted therapies and research through the California Institute of Integral Studies. Carr is exploring psychiatry and triple board (adult psychiatry, child/adolescent psychiatry, pediatrics) residencies. Her rewarding clinical experiences in a remote tribal community have grounded her in the importance of rural access to mental health care and its integration in primary practice. Carr was recently named the 2021 Medical Student Leader of the Year by the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians.
Victor Lopez-Carmen, also known as Waokiya Mani in his Dakota language, is an enrolled member of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and is also from the Yaqui Nation. He received his traditional name and baptism as a baby on the Pascua Yaqui Reservation, attended traditional ceremonies every year of his life, and remains an active member of his communities today.

Currently, Lopez-Carmen is a third-year MD student at Harvard Medical School (HMS). He earned his Master of Public Health on a Fulbright Scholarship from Western Sydney University in Australia, where he received an honorary fellowship, and his Bachelor of Science in health sciences and chemistry with magna cum laude honors from Ithaca College.

Prior to medical school, he was elected co-chair of the United Nations (UN) Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the official caucus representing Indigenous youth in international fora. Through this role, he continues to advocate within the UN system for Indigenous health rights. In 2019, he was a clerk and fellow for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources, where he organized legislative hearings on violence against Indigenous women and Indigenous mental health in boarding schools.

In medical school, he is co-president of the Native American Health Organization for two years. As such, he has helped develop two modules on Indigenous health and a tutorial for his clinical cohort and psychiatry directors on Indigenous mental health. Currently, he is working with HMS faculty to establish a sustainable Indigenous youth pipeline program to HMS and a formal clinical rotation on his nation’s reservation, with an expected launch by early 2022.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Lopez-Carmen leveraged his position as one of two first-year students on the HMS COVID-19 Student Response Team to raise over $7,000 for three global Indigenous communities and organize UN webinars to promote awareness around their struggles. Noticing that Indigenous languages were left out of mainstream COVID-19 health literacy efforts, he brought together faculty, medical students, and Indigenous community leaders from over 35 countries to create accurate COVID-19 information in over 40 global Indigenous languages. Each community translator was compensated through grants for their work. This transformative organization, aptly called Translations for Our Nations, was profiled by the Boston Globe, National Public Radio, Global News Canada, and Corriere Della Sera. Soon after, he was nominated by HMS faculty and appointed by former Boston mayor Marty Walsh to represent Indigenous interests on Boston’s COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force.

Lopez-Carmen also helps bring Indigenous health disparities to the forefront of public discourse. His contributions include three published books, academic publications, and features in the BBC, Boston Globe, Teen Vogue, ABC News, Indian Country Today, and the UN News Centre. For his work, he has received numerous honors including being named a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar, Boren Scholar, Udall Scholar, and a Native American 40 Under 40 honoree.

Lopez-Carmen’s success is largely due to the support of his family, friends, and community, as well as the sacrifices of his ancestors. After medical school, he plans to use his immense privilege as a physician to galvanize investment in higher quality health care, pipeline programs, public health initiatives, and equitable Indigenous health policies on local, national, and international levels. Through grounded clinical work, education, cultural awareness, and community action, he will continue to dedicate himself to this vision and make his ancestors proud.
Nyah Rodman is a social justice advocate and proud member of the Black community. Born in Lakewood, California, as a daughter and sister of competitive athletes, she pursued her dream as a scholar-athlete, playing softball at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and California State University, Fullerton. Now a third-year medical student at the University of California, San Diego, she holds a bachelor’s degree in molecular biology and biotechnology.

Upon beginning medical school, Rodman found herself one of few Black students, an all-too-common experience across the nation. Individuals new to medical education may find themselves becoming a solitary leader in diversity efforts in addition to the demands of being a medical student. Like her peers, she felt the minority tax weigh heavily and sought to alleviate it, as well as the consequential feelings of isolation, with two efforts: UC San Diego School of Medicine’s Anti-Racism Coalition (ARC) and Program for Underrepresented Medical Applicants.

As co-founder of the ARC, Rodman has spearheaded multiple initiatives to transform how academic institutions incorporate equity into their curriculum and policies. As an advocate for reconstituting how race in medicine is addressed in the academic setting, Rodman currently runs a task force to replace race-based determinants of kidney function evaluation in favor of the biomarker cystatin C. These efforts led to moving cystatin C into UC San Diego lab medicine; integrating the historical implications of creatine eGFR use into the UC San Diego curriculum; creating and distributing education material for patients, physicians, and community partners; and communicating these findings with the public health office in San Diego County. Additionally, these efforts led to the development of an advocacy curriculum within the UC San Diego health equity curriculum thread, giving individuals at all levels of training the tools to identify inequities and provide thoughtful, achievable solutions.

Moreover, Rodman has put significant time and effort into improving overall diversity at her home institution and beyond. On the heels of her work with the ARC, the organization helped integrate changes to the admission process to reduce selection bias and assure applicants of an anti-racist process, including disaggregating applicant data by race and ethnicity, altering admissions requirements in the wake of COVID-19, and broadening community involvement in the selection process. While addressing issues in admissions, Rodman also dedicated significant time and effort to developing the pipeline to UC San Diego’s medical school. As founder of the Program for Underrepresented Medical Applicants (PUMA), she created a funded, institutionally supported avenue to fully invest in the futures of disadvantaged and underrepresented in medicine students by providing yearlong mentorship and advising as the cohort maneuvered through the medical school application process. Through receiving consistent, authentic, verified support, more than half of the 2020-2021 PUMA cohort has secured an offer of admission to medical school. Furthermore, with Rodman’s leadership, PUMA is currently in development to be implemented across all University of California medical schools with the support of the university’s Office of the President.

Rodman currently serves as the University of California, San Diego, class of 2023 director of equity, diversity, and inclusion and as community partnerships chair for the San Diego chapter of the Student National Medical Association. She is also a decorated academic and clinical research trainee with multiple publications in microbiology research. Currently she is pursuing her interest in cardiology, assessing the effects of food insecurity and nutritional status on health outcomes in advanced heart failure and orthotopic heart transplant patients with cross-examination of disparities among Black, Hispanic, and Native American groups.

Equity, diversity, and underserved medicine remains Rodman’s passion, and she looks forward to advancing her career and pursuing a master’s in public health to receive formal training in community interventions and need assessments. With her medical degree and future master’s degree, she hopes not only to provide excellent patient care to the underserved, but to also one day implement PUMA and curricular changes to medical education to combat racism in medicine nationwide.
Christian Tejeda was born and raised in Fountain Valley, California. He is the son of two loving and supportive parents, his Mexican American father Luis Tejeda and the late Truc Lan Tejeda, a war refugee from Sài Gòn, Vietnam. Growing up in a vibrant, multicultural home with close-knit intergenerational relationships, three languages spoken, and cherished family traditions shaped who he is today.

Tejeda holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where he majored in psychobiology and minored in music history and global health. Over the past seven years, as an undergraduate and medical student, he has volunteered with the Mobile Clinic Project at UCLA, a student-driven streetside clinic providing medical and social services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Hollywood and Santa Monica. Working as a community organizer, he co-orchestrated Homelessness Awareness Week 2015 and 2016, receiving the 2015 Community Service Program of the Year award by the National Residence Hall Honorary. Tejeda continued his lifelong passion for music performance as a bass singer for UCLA’s Resonance A Cappella, competing in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella as a senior and recording a full-length studio album titled “In This Light” in 2017. During his two gap years, he conducted research at the UCLA Center for Behavioral and Addiction Medicine under the mentorship of Dr. Keith Heinzerling, investigating the safety and efficacy of a novel medication for underserved patients diagnosed with methamphetamine use disorder.

Tejeda is currently a third-year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine, pursuing a dual MD-MBA as a cohort member of the equity-centered Program in Medical Education for Leadership and Advocacy (PRIME-LA). During his first two years of medical school, Tejeda served as a Medical Student Council Equity and Diversity Inclusion (EDI) Representative, focusing his time supporting affinity groups and underrepresented in medicine students, organizing cultural awareness events, and addressing institutional EDI issues. For the 2020-2021 academic year, he co-developed an anti-racism discussion curriculum for over 350 preclinical medical students centered around the themes found in the book How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi. Lastly, he recently co-founded Future Leaders Aspire with Mentorship and Empowerment (FLAME), an immersive mentorship program that pairs 25 disadvantaged local high school students with UCLA medical students for longitudinal support and career guidance.

In the future, Tejeda plans to complete a combined residency in internal medicine and preventive medicine. He aspires to serve disadvantaged communities as a health disparities researcher, policy advocate, and agent of change in the medical education system. Tejeda is empowered by a wonderful community of family, friends, mentors, and colleagues who will continue to help him grow as both an individual and a future physician.
Group on Diversity and Inclusion
Exemplary Leadership Award

This award recognizes innovative leadership and impact from an individual or team responsible for developing and implementing an outstanding and highly effective program that demonstrates evidenced-based best practices for enhancing diversity and inclusion in academic medicine and biomedical sciences.
Dr. Owen is from the Thunderbird House of the Shark Clan of the Aukwaan Tribe of the Tlingit people of Southeast Alaska. She left Alaska to attend Carroll College, where she majored in international relations and French. After college, in her work as a Native liaison for the Alaska Alliance for the Mentally Ill, she learned of the severe shortage of American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) health care providers and decided to apply to medical school. She returned to college at the University of Oregon to complete medical school prerequisites and then applied to schools with strong support for AIAN students. She chose to attend the University of Minnesota Medical School because it housed the Center of American Indian and Minority Health (CAIMH), a program led by an American Indian physician dedicated to increasing the numbers of AIAN physicians.

Following medical school and residency in Minnesota, Dr. Owen returned to practice 11 years of full-scope family medicine for her tribal community in Juneau, Alaska. She left in 2014 to return to the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth Campus to lead CAIMH. Her work at the medical school led to her receiving an endowed professorship for American Indian and Alaska Native health. She is recognized for her student advocacy, her expansion of awareness of issues in AIAN health nationally, and her efforts to broaden local, regional, and national collaborations to increase the AIAN health professions workforce.

Dr. Owen advocates for students by mentoring and teaching them but also by supporting their messages in public forums. She believes that students are champions of the movement to increase the teaching of social and structural determinants of health and that their demands for changes in medical school curricula are a critical component in improving health care. Dr. Owen has spoken to numerous media outlets to increase awareness of the impacts of COVID-19 on AIAN communities, reminding audiences that the pandemic is only worsening long existing health disparities for AIAN and other underserved populations. In response to the pandemic, Dr. Owen developed a COVID vaccine task force to create regionally specific messaging for AIAN communities while serving as the president of the Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP). Both as director of CAIMH and president of AAIP, Dr. Owen has welcomed and created partnerships across communities, campuses, departments, schools, and numerous institutions to develop networks of support for students, patients, and co-collaborators dedicated to improving health care and outcomes for all underserved populations.
National Medical Fellowships Awards

To recognize and support the outstanding work of the National Medical Fellowships (NMF), the AAMC honors the 2021 Franklin C. McLean Award and the William and Charlotte Cadbury Award winners. We are pleased to highlight these very deserving recipients.
Aaron Conway is presently a fourth-year MD student at SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine. Until the age of 19 he lived in Syracuse, New York, with his mother, stepfather, five younger brothers, and younger sister. When he turned 19, Conway decided to take some time before entering academia to apply his faith by doing a missionary trip with a group based in East Texas. Spending just over four years, Conway traveled around the United States and internationally to Guatemala, Honduras, Germany, and South Korea, all as a missionary performing humanitarian aid. These experiences — serving at homeless shelters in Chicago, food pantries in New Orleans, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers in Guatemala, orphanages in Honduras, plus many others — served to define his life’s trajectory. His understanding of the plight of the lesser fortunate was expanded, becoming the lens through which he saw the world. Conway began to consider ways to have a greater positive impact in the world.

After returning from four months in South Korea, he decided it was time to leave the mission field to gain an education. Having been exclusively home educated, Conway’s first challenge was getting a high-school equivalency certificate from his community college in Syracuse, where he also received an associate degree in math and sciences. He then moved to Long Island, attending Stony Brook University and receiving a BS in biology and an MA in medical humanities, compassionate care, and bioethics. Next, Conway interned in Washington, D.C., for a year at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights, and Law program, and volunteered at a local after-school tutoring program in Columbia Heights. He then attended New York Medical College (NYMC) in Westchester, New York, where he received an MS in medical science. While at NYMC, he was chair of the Graduate School Research Forum for the Graduate School of Basic Medical Sciences. Additionally, Conway performed pharmacologic research on preventing the progression of post-myocardial infarction heart failure.

As a first-year medical student at SUNY Downstate, he quickly became involved in volunteering at the Brooklyn Free Clinic (BFC). One of the main motivations in his decision to attend Downstate was the opportunity to be involved in a clinic that actively served a medically underserved population. Conway was elected to the clinic’s executive board position of chief administrative officer and spent the majority of his first and second years volunteering with the clinic. Now as a fourth-year student, he is the chief medical officer for the BFC, where he is responsible for overseeing care of every patient that comes through the clinic’s doors.

Conway is now applying for residency in both emergency medicine and internal medicine. His goal is to continue practicing emergency and primary care among medically underserved populations and to maintain involvement in humanitarian efforts both locally and abroad. He also hopes to continue to be an inspiration for fellow aspiring physicians of color.
Violeta Osegueda is the proud child of immigrant parents from El Salvador and Mexico, whose health and social challenges throughout her upbringing influenced her educational journey. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley, speaking Spanish at home and in her medically underserved neighborhood of North Hills. Osegueda completed her first undergraduate degree in linguistics and psychology and minored in cognitive science and global studies at UCLA. While initially giving up on the premedical track after discouragement from academic advisors, her involvement in internships in health education and research work kept medicine in the periphery. Fortunately, she would find her way to the Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture and then to Transfusion Medicine, where both experiences brought her back completely to medicine. She went on to complete a second bachelor’s degree in cell and molecular biology at California State University, Northridge, where she continued to be active in the group Chicanos for Community Medicine and the premedical fraternity Phi Delta Epsilon.

Osegueda is a fourth-year medical student at the UC Irvine School of Medicine. She holds a master’s degree in medicine, science, and technology studies from the UC Irvine School of Social Sciences, housed by the Department of Anthropology. As a medical student, she was active in multiple efforts, including co-leading Spanish diabetes education projects both in person and virtually, teaching medical Spanish to peers and residents, and contributing to research projects, including those on interpreter use in clinical settings. These projects reflect a passion rooted in her experiences as an ad hoc interpreter as a child for her parents and losing her father to diabetes-related complications when she was in college. Presently active in the Latino Medical Student Association, mentorship pipeline programs in Orange County, and the nonprofit organization MPNA-GREEN, she continues to take on educational projects geared toward advancing minorities in medicine. She is the founder of the MedicalSpanish.org website, whose mission of increasing linguistic competency in health care is supported through free educational resources and information on interpreter usage. Osegueda is also active in COVID-19 vaccine education and addressing vaccine hesitancy with bilingual content on social media and volunteering at community vaccination sites. She was recently inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society and was awarded the Pfizer – One Young World Scholarship to join as an ambassador. She will be applying to residency programs focused on primary care tracks and hopes to remain connected to the several places in which she has grown roots, such as the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles, and Orange County, after the completion of her clinical training.

As an NMF Scholar, she participated in the NMF Primary Care Leadership Program and United Health Foundation/NMF Diverse Medical Scholars Program. She was also awarded the 2021 National Alumni Council Scholarship.
Association of American Medical Colleges/ Darrell G. Kirch, MD Scholarship

Established in 2019 by the AAMC Board of Directors, this scholarship honors the exemplary leadership of Darrell G. Kirch, MD, and recognizes his deep commitment to creating a diverse workforce of health care professionals. This $10,000 scholarship is awarded to eight underrepresented minority first-year medical students who are enrolled at an LCME-accredited U.S. MD-granting medical school for the 2019-2020 academic year. Selected students demonstrate an exemplary record of community service and leadership. This scholarship is renewable for an additional three years, provided that renewal criteria are met. Scholars will use the funds toward their tuition fees and/or living expenses.
Artesse Conley
Morehouse School of Medicine

Shanice Cox
TCU and UNTHSC School of Medicine

L'Oreal Kennedy, DNP
University of Washington School of Medicine

Kyle Lakatos
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine

Derrick Lewis, MS
Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine

Enrique Martinez
Medical College of Wisconsin

Aurelio Alberto Muzaurieta, MA
University of Michigan Medical School

Jaquelin Solis Solis
Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine
Previous Herbert W. Nickens Award Recipients
Previous Herbert W. Nickens Award Recipients

2020
Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD
University of Connecticut

2019
Maria L. Soto-Greene, MD, MS-HPED, FACP
Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

2018
Griffin P. Rodgers, MD, MACP
National Institutes of Health

2017
George C. Hill, PhD
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

2016
Somnath Saha, MD, MPH
Oregon Health & Science University and Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center

2015
Ana E. Núñez, MD
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

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

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

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

2004
Michael V. Drake, MD
University of California Systemwide

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 Herbert W. Nickens Faculty Fellowship Recipients
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Cherisse D. Berry, MD, FACS</td>
<td>NYU Grossman School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Joshua Barocas, MD</td>
<td>Boston University School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Marlene Camacho-Rivera, ScD, MPH</td>
<td>CUNY School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Risha Irvin, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Stanley Frencher, MD, MPH</td>
<td>David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Jed Gonzalo, MD, MSc</td>
<td>Penn State College of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Roberta Capp, MD, MHS</td>
<td>University of Colorado School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Philip A. Chan, MD</td>
<td>The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Olapeju M. Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS</td>
<td>The Commonwealth Medical College</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Tumaini Coker, MD, MBA</td>
<td>David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Carmen Peralta, MD</td>
<td>University of California, San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD</td>
<td>University of California, Davis, School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD, MHS</td>
<td>Yale School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Thomas D. Sequist, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Alfredo Quiñones-Hinojosa, MD</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Ugo A. Ezenkwele, MD, MPH</td>
<td>New York University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Katherine J. Mathews, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Washington University School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Monica J. Mitchell, PhD</td>
<td>University of Cincinnati College of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Janice C. Blanchard, MD, MPH</td>
<td>George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Vanessa B. Sheppard, PhD</td>
<td>Eastern Virginia Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Charles E. Moore, MD</td>
<td>Emory University School of Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Previous Herbert W. Nickens Medical Student Scholarship Recipients
PREVIOUS HERBERT W. NICKENS
MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2020
Russell J. Ledet, PhD
Tulane University School of Medicine
and Freeman School of Business

Bernadette N. Lim
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine

Itzel López-Hinojosa
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Rubén D. Vega Pérez
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Lauren West-Livingston, PhD
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

2019
Betial Asmerom
University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine

Sylvia Guerra
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Pauline Ngoc Anh Nguyen
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Bria Peacock
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

2018
Alex Villeda
Duke University School of Medicine

2018
Tyler K. Carcamo
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Catherine Castro
University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Lawrence Rolle
Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

Chad Lewis, MPH
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Sang Minh Nguyen
University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine

2017
Yvorn Aswad
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science/David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Nattaly Greene
Oregon Health & Sciences University

Linda Magaña
Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University

2016
Nancy Rodriguez, MPH
University of California, Davis, School of Medicine

Denisse Rojas Marquez
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

2016
Kirsten Concha-Moore
University of Arizona College of Medicine

Edgar Corona
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Santiago Diaz
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

2015
Jessica Buck
Weill Cornell Medical College

Maximilian Joseph Vincent
Cruz Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

2014
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
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>School of Medicine</th>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Ndang Azang-Njaah</td>
<td>University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Monique Chambers</td>
<td>University of California, Davis, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Olatokunbo M. Famakinwa</td>
<td>Yale School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Aretha Delight Davis</td>
<td>Harvard Medical School</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Christian A. Corbitt</td>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Boris M. Paulin</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Jennifer McKezie</td>
<td>University of North Carolina School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Shazia Mehmood</td>
<td>University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-New Jersey Medical School</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Lisa M. Ochoa-Frongia</td>
<td>Mount Sinai School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Sheena L. Flood</td>
<td>University of California, Davis, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Andrea L. Fruchter</td>
<td>University of California, Davis, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Mark E. Soloway</td>
<td>University of Rochester School of Medicine</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Michael J. Boccaccio</td>
<td>University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Michael J. Boccaccio</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Helen M. Paul</td>
<td>University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Ova El Solak</td>
<td>University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine</td>
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<td>1995</td>
<td>Brenda L. Marcus</td>
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<td>Sandra A. Ochoa</td>
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PREVIOUS HERBERT W. NICKENS MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2006
Nehkonti Adams
Eastern Virginia Medical School

Dora C. Castaneda
Stanford University
School of Medicine

Luis I. Garcia
New York University
School of Medicine

AeuMuro G. Lake
University of Kentucky
College of Medicine

Katherine L. Neuhausen
Emory University School of Medicine

2005
Erik S. Cabral
Stanford University
School of Medicine

Christopher T. Erb
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign

Harlan B. Harvey
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine

Osita I. Onugha
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Sloane L. York
Eastern Virginia Medical School

2004
Nicolas L. Cuttriss
George Washington University
School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Joy Hsu
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine

Angela Chia-Mei Huang
Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Risha R. Irby
Harvard Medical School

Richard M. Vidal
University of Pennsylvania
School of Medicine

2003
Cedric Dark
New York University
School of Medicine

Francine E. Garrett
Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University

David Montgomery, PhD
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Johnnie J. Orozco
University of Washington
School of Medicine

Nicholas J. Smith
University of Alabama
School of Medicine

2002
Aimalohi A. Ahonkhai
Johns Hopkins University
School of Medicine

Lukejohn W. Day
Stanford University
School of Medicine

Tarayn A. Grizzard
Harvard Medical School

Alejandra I. Rincón
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine

David T. Robles
University of Colorado School of Medicine

2001
Alberto Mendivil
University of Utah
School of Medicine

Constance M. Mobley
Vanderbilt University
School of Medicine

Chukwuka C. Okafor
Boston University
School of Medicine

Sheneika M. Walker
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine

Melanie M. Watkins
Stanford University
School of Medicine

2000
Opeolu M. Adeoye
University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine

Diana I. Bojorquez
Yale School of Medicine

Jim F. Hammel
Harvard Medical School

Yolanda Hancock
University of California, Los Angeles, Medical School

Sonia Lomeli
University of California, San Francisco, School of Medicine
Dr. Herbert W. Nickens graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine on May 21, 1973.
WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
MAKE A CONTRIBUTION!

Contributions to the Herbert W. Nickens Memorial Fund are welcome. Contributions of $1,000 or more may be paid over three years in equal annual amounts and are generally tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

Send contributions to:

**Herbert W. Nickens Memorial Fund**
c/o Angela R. Moses
Association of American Medical Colleges
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20001-2399