

Welcome, GSA Community!

Welcome, and thank you for joining us for the 2025 AAMC Group of Student Affairs (GSA) Business Meeting!

The program will begin shortly. Please note you will **not** hear any audio until we begin.

If you need technical assistance, please send a message to aamc@commpartners.com

2025 National Business Meeting Group on Student Affairs (GSA)

October 23, 2025

GSA National Chair: Welcome



Joel Maurer, MD
2024-2025 GSA National Chair
Michigan State University College of
Human Medicine

Meeting Agenda

- Chair's Welcome
- Evolution of AAMC Affinity Groups
- GSA National Business Meeting
 - GSA Leadership and National Committee Transitions
 - Announcement of Exemplary Service Award Recipient
 - Nominating Committee Report: GSA National Vice-Chair
 - National GSA Chair Report
 - GSA National Committees & Regional Chairs' Reports
 - Announcements
- Closing Remarks

Evolution of AAMC Affinity Groups



Jennifer Schlener
AAMC Chief of Staff

***“Thank you” to our national and regional
committees and to the entire student affairs
community for an amazing year of
accomplishments!***

Outgoing Committee Members: COSA



Cherie Singer, PhD

2023 – 2025

COSA Chair

University of Nevada, Reno SOM



Stephanie Zia, MD

2022 – 2025

WGSA Rep

Keck SOM of USC



Katherine Chretien, MD

2021 – 2025

NEGSA Rep

Johns Hopkins University SOM

Outgoing Committee Members: COSFA



Mike Sabara, MEd

2021 – 2025

NEGSA Rep

University of Pennsylvania

Perelman SOM

Outgoing Committee Members: COSR



**Celeste Fowles
Nguyen, EdD**
2023 – 2025
Liaison to COSFA
Stanford University
SOM



Cynthia Eichele, MA
2024 – 2025
NEGSA Rep
George Washington
SOM

Outgoing Committee Members: SOAR



Ranna Nash, PhD
2022 – 2025
Liaison to COSFA
Elson S. Floyd COM
Washington State University



Erik Malmberg, PhD, JD
2024 – 2025
WGSA Rep
University of Washington
SOM



Kristen Reavis, MD, MBS
2022 – 2025
Liaison to COSA
University of Maryland SOM

Thank You to the Outgoing GSA Leadership!



Hilit Mechaber, MD
GSA Previous Past Chair
University of Miami
Miller School of Medicine

Thank you for your service to the GSA!

October 2025



Katherine Chretien, MD

NEGSA Representative to COSA

Katherine, thank you, thank you for your commitment, service and thoughtful leadership to COSA.

Thank you so much for all you have done for GSA and for all the students involved!

Kathy, Thank you so much for all your leadership and incredible mentorship. We are so lucky to have you as part of the NEGSA!





*Erik, thank you for your
service to SOAR...you'll be
missed!!!!*

Erik, Thank you for your
leadership and ongoing
contributions to SOAR.
Best of luck to you!

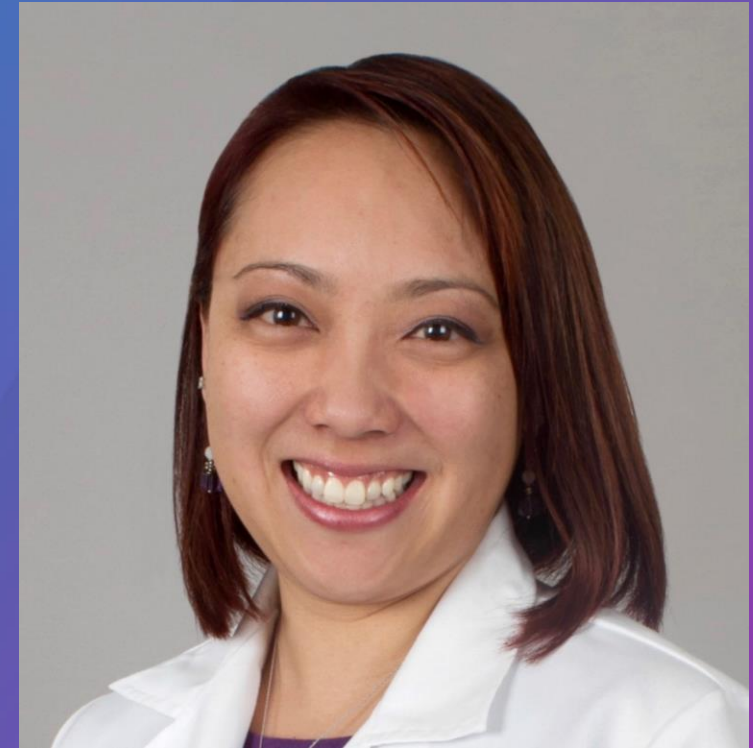
*Erik, it has been a
pleasure to work
with you, and you
are a great example
of advocacy. Thanks
for doing the work.*

Erik Malmberg, PhD, JD
WGSA Representative to SOAR

Thanks so much for all you do for your current and future medical students at your school as well as your amazing service to COSA and the WGSA. You will be missed.

I have really enjoyed working with you. Thank you so much for your leadership, guidance and service. I really value your expertise and will miss working with you!

Stephanie, thank for being a warm and welcoming voice on the GSA! You will be missed on COSA.



Stephanie Zia, MD, MACM

WGSA Representative to COSA

Ranna Nash, PhD

SOAR Liaison to COSFA

SOAR & COSFA WERE SO
LUCKY TO HAVE YOU -
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR
HARD WORK.



To one of the hardest
working people I know!
Thank you for being a
partner in this work.

Ranna, Thank for for
everything that you
do and your
willingness to jump in
and help anywhere
there is a need! I'll
miss having you on
the committee.

Your energy and expertise will be incredibly missed. Thank you for teaching me so much.

Mike Sabara, MEd

NEGSA Representative to COSFA

Thank you so much for your service!!! It was great working with you!

Mike, thank you for all you've done and the time you've given to COSFA!





Thank you for everything that you do! It has been a pleasure working with you.

It has been a pleasure working with you in COSR. You were so helpful in helping me orient to the committee.

Celeste Fowles Nguyen, EdD

COSR Liaison to COSFA

Thank you for your insight and expertise. It has truly been valuable to collaborate with you!

It has been a pleasure working with you on COSA.
Your voice and contributions made the work of
our Committee that much richer.

Thank you for your leadership and advocacy on
behalf of our students. It has been a pleasure to
work with and learn from you.



Kristin Reavis, MD, MBS
SOAR Liaison to COSA

*Thank you, Kristin, for your
service to SOAR and COSA!
You'll be missed!!!!*

Cynthia Eichele, MA

NEGSA Representative to COSR



We are so grateful for
your time with us!
Thank you!!!

Hi Cynthia, it was so
nice working with you
on the committee! All
the best to you in your
next adventures!

We will miss you! Your
knowledge and dedication
were evident and I wish
you the best in your next
life chapter.

Your guidance and leadership has helped our GSA community grow. Thank you for all that you do! I'll miss you!

Thank you for leaving your mark on COSA -- your leadership has benefitted colleagues and students alike.

So grateful to you for your incredible leadership - and your friendship - over the years.

Cherie Singer, PhD

COSA Chair





Hilit, Thank so much for your amazing impact on the GSA. You have been a wonderful role model and I truly admire your leadership and expertise.

HILIT! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP AND FRIENDSHIP – YOU'VE DONE MORE FOR THE PHYSICIAN WORKFORCE THAN CAN BE MEASURED!

Hilit Mechaber, MD

Previous Past Chair, GSA

Hilit, thank you for being a wonderful friend on the GSA! I will miss your welcoming and warm presence. Please keep in touch!

**Thank you for all you
have done for the GSA!**



Welcome to our incoming GSA Committee Members!



Incoming Committee Members: COSA



Lauren Cobbs, MD, MEd, FACP
Chair
Associate Dean for Student
Affairs
Texas Tech University Health
Sciences Center SOM



Lisa Burch-Windrem, EdD, MEd
WGSA Rep
Assistant Dean for Student
Affairs
Elson S. Floyd COM
Washington State University



Kristen DeSimone, MD
NEGSA Rep
Senior Associate Dean,
Student Affairs
Sidney Kimmel Medical
College at Thomas
Jefferson University

Incoming Committee Members: COSFA



Lydia Cowher, MPA
NEGSA Rep
Manager of Student Financial Aid
Pennsylvania State University College
of Medicine

Incoming Committee Members: SOAR



Natalie Johnson, DHA
SGSA Rep
Associate Dean for
Engagement
Medical University of South
Carolina

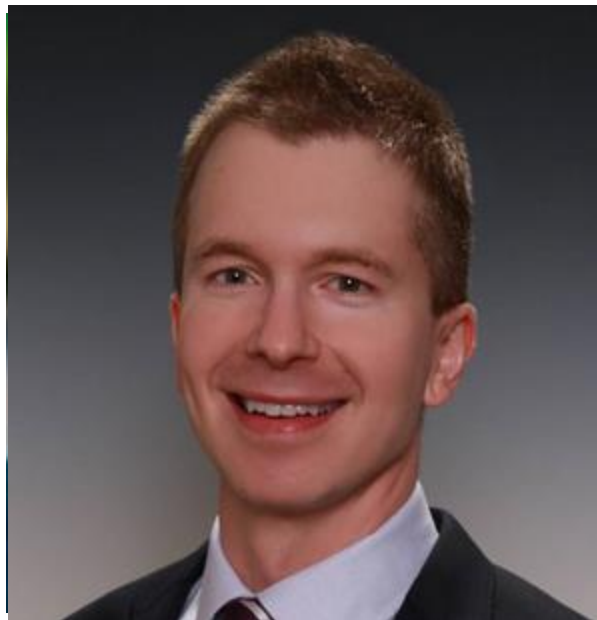


Ranna Nash, PhD
WGSA Rep
Disability Resource
Professional
Elson S. Floyd COM
Washington State University



Alden Landry, MD, MHP
Liaison to COSA
Assistant Dean, Office for Culture and
Community Engagement
Harvard Medical School

Exemplary Service Award Nominating Committee Report



Alex Grieco, MD
Nominating Committee Chair
2024-2025 GSA Vice Chair
Ohio State University School of Medicine

Defining Exemplary Service

“**Exemplary service**” is defined as significant and sustained **leadership, expertise, and/or creativity** in addressing an issue or issues of importance to the GSA.

Nominees for this award shall have demonstrated, in activities appropriate to membership in the GSA, an extraordinary record of **accomplishment, collaborative leadership, resourcefulness, dedication, mentoring** of GSA colleagues, and **commitment** to the mission of the GSA.

GSA Exemplary Service Award Nomination Committee



Richard Amini, MD
WGSA Past Chair



Carmine Grieco, MD
Nominating Committee Chair
2024-2025 GSA National Vice Chair



Elizabeth Lamos, MD
NEGSA Past Chair



Josh Hanson, MD, MPH, MBA
SGSA Past Chair



Jay Behel, PhD
CGSA Past Chair



Donna Jackson, EdD
SOAR Chair

2025 Exemplary Service Award Winner



Congratulations,

Lina Mehta, MD
Case Western Reserve University
School of Medicine



GSA Vice Chair Nominating Committee Report



Marcy Verduin, MD
Nominating Committee Chair
GSA Immediate Past Chair
University of Central Florida COM

GSA 2025 Vice Chair Nominating Committee



Tanisha Price-Johnson, PhD
WGSA Chair
Arizona State University SOM and
Advanced Engineering



Marcy Verduin, MD
Nominating Committee Chair
GSA Immediate Past Chair
University of Central Florida COM



Jill Volk, MEd
CGSA Chair
Rush Medical College



**Holly Khachadorian-
Elia, MD, MBA**
NEGSA Chair
Harvard Medical School



**Yogi Hernandez-Suarez, MD,
MBA, FACOG**
SGSA Chair
Alice L. Walton SOM

2025 - 2026 GSA Vice Chair



Katherine “Kathy” Chretien, MD

Associate Dean for Medical Student Affairs

Director of Medical Student Wellness

Johns Hopkins University SOM

GSA National Chair: Annual Report



Joel Maurer, MD
2024-2025 GSA National Chair

GSA Leadership Structure: Steering and National Committees

National GSA Steering Committee



Student Records (COSR)

Admissions (COA)

**Student Opportunity,
Access, and Retention
(SOAR)**

Student Affairs (COSA)

**Student Financial Assistance
(COSFA)**

Current rosters are available at aamc.org/gsa

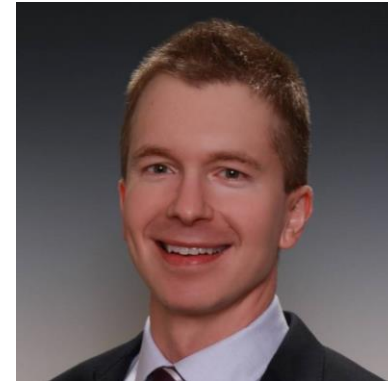
Nov 2024 – Nov 2025 GSA Executive Committee



Joel Maurer, MD
Chair
Michigan State University
College of Human Medicine



Tara Cunningham, EdD, MS
Chair-Elect
Geisel SOM at Dartmouth



Alex Grieco, MD
Vice Chair
Ohio State University COM



Marcy Verduin, MD
Immediate Past Chair
University of Central
Florida COM



Hilit Mechaber, MD
Previous Past Chair
University of Miami
Leonard M. Miller SOM

2025 GSA National Committee Chairs



**Leila Harrison, PhD, MA,
MEd**

Nov 2023-Nov 2026
COA Chair
Washington State
University COM



Cherie Singer, PhD
Nov 2023-Sept 2025
COSA Chair
University of Nevada,
Reno SOM



Donna Jackson, EdD
Nov 2022-Nov 2026
SOAR Chair
Virginia
Commonwealth
University SOM



Casey Wiley, MEd
Nov 2024-Nov 2027
COSFA Chair
University of South Carolina
SOM Greenville



Carol McGhie, EdD, MEd
Nov 2023-Nov 2026
COSR Chair
University of Miami
Leonard M. Miller SOM

April 2025 – April 2026 GSA Regional Chairs



Tanisha Price-Johnson, PhD
Western Region
Arizona State University SOM
and Advanced Medical
Engineering



Jill Volk, MSED
Central Region
Rush Medical College



**Holly Khachadorian-Elia,
MD, MBA**
Northeastern Region
Harvard Medical School



**Yogi Hernandez-Suarez,
MD, MBA, FACOG**
Southern Region
Alice L. Walton School of
Medicine

How does the GSA SC represent our community?

We honor your voice through ongoing collaboration with the AAMC and its external stakeholders by:

- Contributing to discussions and providing feedback to AAMC services and programs:
 - AMCAS/MCAT/PREview
 - Holistic Student Support
 - VSLO
 - Careers in Medicine/Residency Explorer
 - ERAS
- Continued support of internal initiatives like GSA Well - thank you Kathleen Kashima and Hilit Mechaber
- Engaging with NRMP and NBME Leadership
- Collaborating with OPDA – thank you Marcy Verduin

GSA National Committees and Regional Leadership

- GSA Committee Members are your GSA voice!
 - Your regional representatives serve on all GSA national committees
 - They attend monthly committee calls (regionally/nationally)
 - They sponsor regular community calls (every 2-3 months)
 - Specific to GSA Regions:
 - Support mentoring opportunities, regional, field of expertise specific, coffee hours.
 - Award scholarships for students and junior faculty/staff to attend GSA national and regional meetings
 - Regional GSA chairs meet monthly to brainstorm, align ideas and efforts, and gain collective strength in numbers

2025 GSA Highlights & Accomplishments

Successes amidst external challenges....

1. Ongoing working group in collaboration with OPDA has now developed Residency Guides for over 30 specialties/subspecialties - up from 22 the previous year!
2. Continued collaboration with ERAS team to improve contextual bidirectional information sharing with advisors and applicants
3. Ongoing communication/collaboration with NBME/USMLE led to increased transparency and information sharing on test accommodation options, requests, and approvals

2025 GSA Highlights & Accomplishments

Successes amidst external challenges....

4. Continued conversations with NRMP and ERAS regarding SOAP – led to overall, uneventful process; we appreciate extensive and early prep/instruction in response to community's feedback
5. Reinvigorated the need for medical education advocacy work; GSA SC represented your voice for advocacy on Capitol Hill; impact of institutional stories
6. Increased community engagement in “GSA Well” initiatives focused on promotion of personal and professional reflection and well-being. Dedicated wellness programming was well integrated into all regional spring meetings.

2025 GSA/GEA/OSR Spring Regional Meetings

- Collaboration by all four regions with GEA colleagues to deliver cohesive content to all regions
- Attended by over 550 attendees, speakers, and exhibitor
- Academic leaders, professional staff, advisors, and learners
- Topics with content (some continuity-based) focused on:
 - Accreditation
 - Transitions in Student Affairs and Medical Education
 - Professionalism and Academic Performance/Progression
 - Curriculum: Teaching and Learning Pedagogies and Curricular Innovation
 - AI, Simulation, and Technology
 - Assessment and Evaluation
 - Professional and Leadership Development
 - Advising Strategy and Models
 - Wellbeing and Flourishing
- Next GSA/GDI/OSR National Meeting planned for April 16-18, 2026, in Orlando, FL

2025 Summer GSA In-Person Steering Committee

- Held on July 16-17, 2025, at the AAMC Headquarters in Washington, DC
- Convened members of the GSA Steering Committee
- Focused on updates regarding:
 - Legislative and regulatory issues (legal, DOE)
 - Academic affairs (external influences, pathways to medicine, T2R, AI)
 - AAMC services (AMCAS/MCAT/PREview, CiM/Residency Explorer, VSLO, ERAS)
- Met with high-ranking leaders from AAMC unlike any other year; continued dialogue with leaders from NBME, NRMP, AAMC Services
- Attendees participated in a Capitol Hill visit to advocate for medical student education financing and Title VII programming
- Initiated discussion and draft of 2025-26 GSA Priorities

2025-2026 GSA Priorities: ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, TRANSFORMATION, & ADVOCACY

Access for ALL applicants to information and resources.

Opportunity for community scholarship and wellness, AI innovation across the continuum, and student promotion and support.

Transformation of MSPEs, away rotations, and residency application process.

Advocacy for comprehensive medical education finance at state/federal levels and community need-driven access to care.

Personal/Professional Development	Transition to Medical School	Financing Medical School	Promotion and Progression	Transition to Residency (T2R)
Research & Scholarship - Promote scholarly work to increase community visibility and dissemination - Identify resources - Create/support staff development - Collaborate with GSA PDI and GEA	Admissions cycle - Define mission aligned policies/practices consistent with state/federal legislation - Outline/disseminate implications of a changing evaluative landscape - Leverage AI in admissions - Student professionalism - Optimize cycle timeline	Equip, Educate, Advocate - Analyze/inform our community on implications of an evolving financial aid landscape - Explore new funding models - Increase financial aid officer institutional and national visibility and representation through strategic partnerships (business officers/government relations).	Identify & Support At-Risk Students Share effective practices for student hand-offs, off-ramp programs, dual-degree students, promotion committees, students on LOA	Transparency Continue strategic collaborations to clarify implications of signaling /geographic preferences, specialties'/programs' resident selection criteria, and the purpose/value of away rotations
Emotional Health/Crisis Management - Foster/grow GSA Well - Update crisis management resources - Promote culture of support (OK to seek help; OK to proactively address others)	NAAHP Collaboration - Identify effective/accessibile student resources - Further develop advising information/opportunities for applicants - Provide guidance on financing medical school		Step 1 P/F Impact - Understand selection for away rotations - Discuss USMLE issues for students in accelerated programs	Evaluation of MSPE - Data analysis of NC section information - Evaluate other aspects of MSPE, including program utilization

GSA presence at 2025 LSL

Multiple ideas and proposals originated in the National GSA SC and were subsequently presented to the greater community for further development and delivery. Those selected include:

- *Empowering Academic Medicine: Implementing Mental Health Training for Students in Distress*
- *Improving Communication and Transparency for a Successful Match: Aligning Stakeholder Expectations*
- *Deconstructing the MSPE: Imagining Future Scenarios for the Transition to Residency*
- *Leaders as Mentees: Embracing Mentorship for Growth and Impact*

The Steering committee welcomes your suggestions for the 2026 LSL – feel free to contact me directly at maurerj7@msu.edu

GSA Events at LSL 2025

Saturday November 1st

9:45am: **GSA Regional Meetings**

1:45pm: **GSA Award Ceremony & Town Hall**

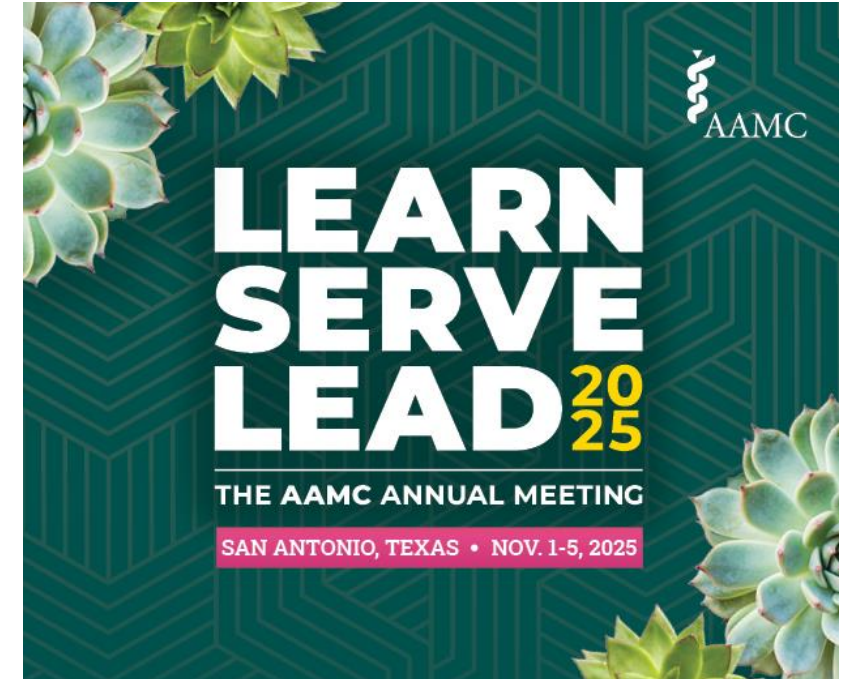
3:30pm: **GSA – OSR Joint Poster Reception**

Sunday, November 2nd

7:00am: **GSA PDI Networking Breakfast**

Tuesday, November 4th

4:30pm: **GSA Knowledge Sharing Session**





Thank you again for affording me this amazing opportunity to serve the greater GSA community. I've been extremely humbled and honored to represent you within the AAMC.

Respectfully,
Joel Maurer, MD

GSA Committees and Regions Reports

2025 Report: Committee on Admissions



Leila Harrison, PhD, MA, MEd

COA Chair

2023 - 2026

Vice Dean for Admissions, Student Affairs,
and Alumni Engagement

Scholarly Associate Professor

Washington State University

Elson S. Floyd COM

GSA Committee on Admissions Report

2024 – 2025 Priorities Outcomes

Optimizing the Admissions Cycle

- Meetings held with multiple constituents to discuss possible updates to admissions cycle dates
- Increasing the 21-day CTE window was determined to be a probable recommendation
- Project Team created to move the recommendation forward

Other Projects:

- ☐ **2025 Regional GSA/GEA Session:** Assessment-Driven Models in Medical Education: Holistic Approach in Admissions and Student Success
- ☐ Identified overlaps in secondary application questions for consideration of an additional questions on AMCAS

NAAHP Partnership

- **October 2024 Townhall** for Pre-Health Advisors: Increasing Transparency in Medical School Admissions: Addressing SCOTUS Decision Implications and Holistic Review
- **Spring 2025 NAAHP Session Across all Regions:** Telling Your Story: Helping Applicants Share Who They Are in a Post-SCOTUS Era

Post-SCOTUS Resources and Tools

- **LSL 2024 Session:** Rethinking Holistic Admission Strategies and Premed Competencies in the New Regulatory Landscape
- Survey to admissions officers related to changes made based on SCOTUS 2023 ruling
- Exploring submission of results to an upcoming session and manuscript development

2025 – 2026 Priorities

Leveraging AI in Admissions

- Pulse check survey
- Webinar: how AI is being used in admissions and how applicants are using it

Professionalism in Admissions

- Webinar September 24, 2025 - Student Professionalism in the Continuum of Medical Education
- Resource development

Effective Practices in Mission-Aligned Admissions

- Partnerships with AHPAC and SOAR

Collaborations with NAAHP

- Fall webinar on transparency in admissions

2025 Report: Committee on Student Affairs



Tara Cunningham, EdD, MS

National GSA Chair-Elect, 2024-2025

Interim COSA Chair

Associate Dean for Student Life

Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine



Cherie Singer, PhD

COSA Chair, 2023 - 2025

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Associate Professor of Pharmacology

University of Nevada, Reno SOM

GSA Committee on Student Affairs Report

Committee Charge:

COSA provides guidance on issues related to student support and services including:

- Academic advising
- Career advising
- The health and well-being of medical students
- The ethical and professional development of students
- Academic support and resources
- Preparation of students for the transition from medical school to residency

Overview of 2024-25 COSA Priorities & Projects

1. Transition to Residency

- **Best practices for MSPE Noteworthy Characteristics**
 - Usage survey analysis with Next Step 1 group
 - Presentations to stakeholders in the UME/GME community
 - Developing recommendations for revisions
- **Transparency in residency applications & specialty advising**
 - Providing input from COSA and contributing to discussions with stakeholders regarding changes/data collection & analysis

Overview of 2024-25 COSA Priorities & Projects

2. Review and reorganization of AAMC Crisis Management Tools

3. Fostering a community of practice

- Developing working groups with the regions
- GSA orientation bootcamp
- Next steps in development of onboarding resources, online modules, workshops
- Co-sponsored webinars in 2025
- Implementing a structure to increase research opportunities
- Professional development workshop proposals for all regional meetings

Overview of 2025-26 COSA Priorities & Projects

1. MSPE/Career Advising

- Create process with stakeholders for updating MSPE, additional standardization

2. Student Affairs Scholarship

- Increase visibility of student affairs work, strengthen capacity for scholarship
- Partner with MESRE
- LSL focused discussion

3. Promotions Committee Project

- Creating best practices based on national survey, LCME requirements

Other Ongoing Projects:

- Crisis Management Resources
- SOAP survey to gather institutional practices and resources to guide this season's SOAP Community Calls

2025 Report: Student Opportunity Access and Retention Committee



Donna Jackson, EdD

SOAR Chair

2022 - 2026

Associate Dean for Admissions Outreach
and Engagement

Virginia Commonwealth University SOM

GSA Student Opportunity, Access, and Retention (SOAR) Committee

In July 2025, the committee formerly known as Committee on Student Diversity Affairs, was renamed the **Student Opportunity, Access and Retention Committee**. This new committee name reflects both the evolving focus of our work and our continued commitment to supporting students in and through their academic medicine experience. The acronym **SOAR** is intentional—it symbolizes growth, momentum, and the journey our students take as they enter and move through medical education.

GSA SOAR

This calendar year started with a whirlwind of Executive Orders greatly impacting the work of university Diversity, Equity and Inclusion administrators. It has been a very stressful time for the higher education community and medical schools, in particular. As a result, COSDA (now SOAR) has worked to minimize the negative impact these actions have had on our work and to continue supporting our colleagues and students.

We have continued to focus on developing strategies for Student Diversity Affairs Professionals, collaborate with colleagues on the Promising Practices in Admissions Work Group, and assisting other committees with 2024-2025 priorities to ensure equity needs are being met in all areas across the medical education continuum.

With the recent (May 2025) LCME announcement eliminating Element 3.3, there is still much to do in our efforts to ensure our future physician workforce is reflective of our communities.

GSA SOAR

Our work this year has included:

- Community Call with COSFA: Financial Aid 101 for Student Diversity Affairs Reps (October 2024)
- Successful Regional Meeting Sessions:
 - Best Practices to Help Students Tell Their Stories: Utilizing "Other Impactful Experiences (OIE)" in the AMCAS Application Process [Central, Southern & Western Region Meetings]
 - Enhancing Access in Elective Away Rotations for Medical Students [Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western Region Meetings]

We are appreciative for our colleagues from Admissions, Student Affairs, Student Records, Student Financial Aid, NAAHP and AAMC for their collaboration in facilitating these sessions

GSA SOAR

Proposed 2025-2026 Priorities

- Moving into the next year, SOAR is considering the following priorities:
- Helping to ensure Financial Aid Access & Counseling
- Addressing the Step 1 academic performance and challenges
- Providing strategies to overcome admissions & representation challenges in the changing socio-political environment
- Helping to alleviate mistrust in advising systems and addressing need for robust adaptable career advising models.

2025 Report: Committee on Student Financial Assistance



Casey Wiley, MEd

COSFA Chair

2024 - 2027

Manager of Financial Aid

University of South Carolina SOM
Greenville

GSA COSFA- Priorities

Equip: Analyze, educate, and inform financial aid professionals on the implications of proposed legislation and research forward-looking funding models, including the addressing of key issues such as private loan availability, repayment strategies, and cosigner release options.

- Strategic Meetings with Outside Partners
- Quarterly Community Calls: Academic Calendars, Legislative Updates, etc.
- Regional Coffee Breaks

Educate: Provide timely, accurate, and accessible information to both the financial aid and the broader medical education communities to ensure awareness and understanding of the evolving financial aid landscape.

- 2026 Joint COSFA-COSR Professional Development Conference
Miami-February 2026
- OB3 One-Pagers for each community

Advocate: Increase visibility and representation of financial aid administrators in key decision-making through strategic collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

GSA COSFA Priorities

Currently in development:

One-pagers to educate colleagues across student affairs (i.e. admissions, student records, etc.) on recent changes to the financial aid landscape

GSA COSFA Overview of Key Recent Student Aid Policy Changes & Their Impact on Borrowers for GSA COA

This document highlights the need for close collaboration between the Financial Aid community and colleagues in the offices of admission, student affairs and medical education in navigating the impact of recent legislative changes on medical students' financial aid policies (One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 (OB3)). Financial Aid officers can serve as a key resource, offering insight, guidance, and support to help other areas anticipate and address the financial implications of OB3. By working together, our shared goal is to ensure that students receive accurate information, timely assistance, and the best possible support throughout their academic journey.

I. Student Aid Policy Changes Affecting Incoming Students: Identifying Scenarios to Engage Financial Aid Offices

(Students starting after July 1, 2026)

- Schools may consider requiring a credit check or statement of financial ability as part of admissions to ensure matriculation readiness.
 - i.e. credit-worthy co-signer for private loans.
 - Schools may consider becoming “need-aware” during the admissions process.
-

II. AAMC Student Aid Policy Resources

- [Navigating Student Loans and Repayment Changes Post Budget Reconciliation](#) (recorded FIRST webinar)
 - [AAMC Comparison of Student Aid Provisions](#)
 - [AAMC One-Pager on Grad PLUS](#)
-

III. Additional Resources

- [National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators 2025 Budget Reconciliation Web Center](#)
 - [NASFAA Chart](#): Federal Student Aid Changes from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act
-

2025 Report: Committee on Student Records



Carol McGhie, EdD, MEd

COSR Chair

2023 - 2026

Executive Director of Medical Education

University of Miami Leonard M. Miller SOM

GSA Committee on Student Records

2024-2025 Highlights

Collaboration & Policy Impact

- Strengthened collaboration with COSFA to support students.
- Addressed implications of the Gainful Employment (GE) Rule.
- Responded to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act affecting LOA and graduation timelines.
- Advocated for Financial Aid involvement in LOA and enrollment status clearance.

Compassionate Off-Ramp Programs

- Explored best practices for initiating and sustaining off-ramp options.
- Engaged GSA groups to discuss reasons for MD program stop-outs.
- Promoted awarding credentials for completed MD coursework.

Visiting Student Support

- Continued alignment with best practices through advisor, student, and registrar communication.
- Regional engagement to troubleshoot VSLO cycle challenges.
- Promoted awareness of available resources.

LCME Guide for Registrars

- Editing guide to support registrars during LCME accreditation.
- Highlighted key standards and elements requiring registrar input.
- Provided insights on relevant data and questions.

GSA Committee on Student Records

2025-26 Priorities

- **Compassionate Off-Ramp Programs:** Continue to work on best practices for compassionate off-ramp programs focusing on reporting requirements and alignment with federal requirements
- **Guardians of the Data: AI, FERPA, and Data Integrity:** Engage in meaningful discussions and provide best practices on navigating AI and FERPA. Identify ways in which AI can be used to streamline and enhance the student records profession, while maintaining close adherence to FERPA.
- **Leave of Absence:** Continue collaboration with COSFA and other GSA committees to ensure that students are receiving optimal support, especially as delays to graduation could have significant impact to financial aid eligibility.

2025 Report: Central GSA



Jill Volk, MSEd

CGSA Chair

2024 - 2026

Director, Admissions and Recruitment
Rush Medical College

GSA Central Region

Leadership

- Chair: Jill Volk, MSED
- Chair Elect: Eileen Doherty, PhD
- Vice Chair: Pasquale Manzerra, PhD
- Treasurer: Stephanie Calato, MS, LCPC

Highlights from the Central Region

Engagement with the Region (Theme for the year)

- Maintained strong Steering Committee (after years of vacancies)
- Implemented flipped classroom approach to meetings to allow knowledge sharing and active discussions
- Launch a monthly newsletter to inform Community of priorities
- Continued connection with Regional Chairs

Highlights from GSA Central Region cont

Building and Communicating (Theme for the year)

- Active encouragement of Virtual Communities – Regional Reps, emails, posts
- Outreach to central member institutions to update Institutional Representatives
- Monthly Coffee talks – great opportunity for feedback from colleagues, continued discussion around hot topics within a SA's areas, support (we are all in this together)
- Continued Community Calls (bi-monthly) coordinated by our MALs and/or Regional Reps
 - Preparing for SOAP -- February 20, 2025
 - The MSPE – May 25, 2025
 - Wellness for you and your team – August 28, 2025

Successful CGSA/CGEA/COSR Conference in Detroit, MI

Thank you to our colleagues at Wayne State for being such gracious hosts

- Attendance: 445 which includes 108 students!
- Submissions: 268
- # member institutions presenting workshops, lecturers, panels: 36 (of the 43)
- # member institutions represented in posters: 24

Upcoming Central Region Events

CGSA Fall Virtual Business Meeting
Tuesday, October 28, 2025
2:00 – 3:00 CT

LSL CGSA Regional Meeting and Networking
Saturday, November 1
9:45 am CT

*** First ½ meeting: Meet and Greet; Involvement and Leadership Opportunities**
Second ½ meeting: Join colleagues from the Southern Region

CGSA Community Calls Continue:
Coming in November: Financial Aid/Admissions
What you need to know about Federal Student Funding

Other community call topics being considered (Stay tuned)
Best Practices on welcoming new students
FERPA – the impact across student affairs
Professional Scholarship
Technology and Efficiency

2025 Report: Northeastern GSA



Holly Khachadorian-Elia, MD, MBA
NEGSA Chair
2025 - 2026
Advisor and Associate Director, Peabody
Society
Harvard Medical School

GSA Northeastern Region

Leadership

- Chair: Holly Khachadorian-Elia, MD, MBA
- Chair Elect: Tanja K. Adonizio, MD
- Vice Chair: Ioannis Koutroulis, MD, PhD, MBA
- Immediate Past Chair: Elizabeth M. Lamos, MD FACP
- Secretary/Treasurer: Vannita Simma-Chiang, MD, MBA



Highlights from Northeastern region

Successful Partnership with the Northeastern GEA for the Inaugural Spring Joint Meeting – The Power of Partnership: Innovation and Inspiration in Critical Conversations - New Brunswick, April 9-11, 2025

- 284 total submissions!
- Overall positive feedback
- Huge thanks to Dr. Sonia Garcia-Laumbach (Host Chair) & her amazing team at Rutgers who simply went above & beyond!

NEGSA Budget Stable

GSA Northeastern Region

Highlights from Northeastern Region (Con't)

Well attended Community Calls that have addressed relevant and timely topics including:

- Mistreatment/Learning Environment & Faculty Engagement Panel
- Application Cycle Updates by Specialty PDs & Organization of Program Director Associations (OPDA)
- Navigating Medical Student Research
- Match & SOAP Prep / SOAP & Match Debrief

Strong participation and leadership in the AAMC Professional Development Initiative (PDI)

Successful regional election for COSA and COSFA positions

Successful launch of our Peer Mentoring (2024-2025)

- Elevated Together: NEGSA Mentorship Matters Program
- Goal to run the Program every other year w/ next 2026-2027

Outreach Initiative to all Member Institutions over 2-year cycle

Virtual Regional Business Meeting: Monday - October 20, 2025, 12-1 PM

Upcoming Events (all are welcome!)

In-Person Regional Meeting at LSL w/ WGSA: Saturday - November 1, 2025 9:45am-11:15 AM

Next Community Call: TBD



2025 Report: Southern GSA



Yogi Hernandez-Suarez, MD, MBA, FACOG

SGSA Chair

2025 - 2026

Executive Vice Dean

Alice L. Walton School of Medicine

GSA Southern Region

- **Leadership**

- Chair: Yogi Hernandez Suarez, MD, MBA
- Chair Elect: Alice Chuang, MD, MEd
- Vice Chair: Shelvy Campbell-Monroe, PhD, MPH
- Immediate Past Chair: Joshua Hanson, MD
- Treasurer: Christina Garcia, MBA

- **Highlights from the Southern region**

- **"Leading Through Uncertain Times"**
- **Regional Reflections:** SGSA Leadership meeting with SA professionals across Southern Region at their regular group meetings with goal of building personal connections and hearing concerns

GSA Southern Region

- **Community Call**

- PDI and Engagement with SGSA- Joshua Hanson
- Navigating Upcoming Federal Financial Aid Reforms- Doug Stupec
- Recruitment Strategies- Yogi Hernandez Suarez
- Residency Application Process- Alice Chuang

- **Fall Business Meeting**

- Oct 17, 2025

- **SGSA Staff Professionals and Faculty Development Program**

- Training in utilization of PDI
- One on one coaching
- Mentoring from SGSA leadership
- Participants:
 - Laventrice Ridgeway, University of South Alabama
 - Mackenzie Bernardino, University of Texas, Tyler
 - Melinda Harrison, University of Alabama
 - Janey Crabtree, East Tennessee State University
 - Hannah Clark, Belmont University

2025 Report: Western GSA



Tanisha Price-Johnson, PhD

WGSA Chair

2024 - 2026

Associate Dean, Admissions

Arizona State University SOM and
Advanced Medical Engineering

GSA Western Region

- **Leadership**

- Chair: Tanisha Price-Johnson, PhD
- Chair Elect: Erick Hung, MD
- Immediate Past Chair: Richard Amini, MD
- Treasurer: Charmika Jenkins

- **Highlights from the Western Region**

- AAMC and Affinity Spaces for Learning Environment Professionals in Medical Education Initiative
- Continued joint regional meetings at LSL
- Partnership with AAMC and WGSA Community Calls for 2025 - 2026

GSA Western Region - Highlights from the Western Region (cont'd.)

- Continued bi-weekly career advising community chats with a focus on navigating the residency application cycle and trends that impact career exploration
- Regional selections for COSA and SOAR are underway
- Successful WGEA-WGSA Collaborative Conference in Portland, OR held in May
- Upcoming Events:
 - October 22 – Annual WGSA Business Meeting and LSL Know Before You Go Session – Noon PST
 - LSL Regional Joint Meeting with NEGSA – November 1 – 9:45 AM CT

2025 GSA Annual Report

The report will be posted by November 1

Group on Student Affairs 2025 Annual Report

National Business Meeting
Thursday, October 23rd, 2025
1:30 - 3 pm EST
Virtual Event

Learn

Serve

Lead

Introducing 2025 - 2026 GSA National Chair



Tara Cunningham, EdD, MS
Associate Dean for Student Life
Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

GSA Virtual Communities

Join the Conversation online!

Connect with peers:

[Communities.aamc.org](https://communities.aamc.org)

- In your region
- In your area of expertise
- Across the GSA

1. Request an Account
2. When your account is approved, request to join the GSA
3. Customize your email settings
4. Post in the Community

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2026

Health Professions Financial Aid and Student Records Administrators Joint Meeting



**Financial Aid and Records Community,
Join us February 25-27 in Miami, Florida**

Group on Student Affairs, Group on Collaboration, Engagement, and Community, and Organization of Student Representatives National Meeting



**GSA, GCEC, and OSR communities:
Join us April 16-18 in Orlando, Florida**

LEARN SERVE LEAD ²⁰₂₅

THE AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

SAN ANTONIO • NOV. 1-5

LSL 2025 Sessions of Interest

Sunday, November 2nd:

- GSA Networking Breakfast, Sponsored by PDI
- Engaging Medical Students in Leadership: Strategies for High-Impact Programs
- Enhancing Medical Student and Trainee Well-Being Through Collaborative Efforts
- A Remedy for Remediation: Supporting Learner Success With New Strategies
- From Crisis to Care: Suicide Prevention and Response in Medical Schools and Training Programs
- Towards a Successful Match: Balancing Stakeholder Expectations
- Informed Advising: Leveraging Data for Career and Residency Match Success
- Leveraging Residency Explorer, Careers in Medicine®, and FREIDA: Resident and Applicant Insights

Monday, November 3rd:

- Exploring the Effects of Program Signaling on Interview Invitation and Match Outcomes
- Faculty and Staff Leaders as Mentees: Embracing Mentorship for Growth and Impact
- Transforming Medical School Admissions: A Collaborative Approach to Context Data and Holistic Review
- Beyond Academics: Addressing Food and Basic Needs Insecurity Among Medical Students
- Embracing Failure: Building Resilience and Professional Identity in Medicine
- Deconstructing the MSPE: Imagining Future Scenarios for the Transition to Residency
- NBME/USMLE Update

LSL 2025 Sessions of Interest

Tuesday, November 4th:

- AAMC Services Update for Advisors: Leveraging CIM, VSLO, Residency Explorer, and DWS
- Psychological and Emotional Influences on Current and Future Physicians
- Staff Professionals as Key Collaborators for Educational Success
- Advancing Disability Care and Inclusion in Medical Education
- Impacts of Pass-Fail Score Reporting on Residency Selection
- Implementing Mental Health Training for Students in Distress
- Rethinking the Definition of Impact for Medical Education Scholarship
- Engaging in Student Financial Aid Advocacy: Your Role in Empowering Future Physicians
- National Collaborative Efforts to Enhance the Transition to Residency

Wednesday, November 5th:

- What Patterns Exist in Applicant Characteristics on Program Rank Order Lists?
- Focus on Student Affairs and Services in UME
- Utilizing Clerkship Grading Committees for Student Performance Evaluation

