



## Committee on Student Diversity Affairs (COSDA)

**Association of  
American Medical Colleges**  
655 K Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20001-2399  
T 202 828 0400  
aamc.org

### Message from the COSDA chair



On behalf of the committee, it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to welcome all to the Group on Student Affairs - Committee on Student Diversity Affairs (GSA-COSDA). I look forward to working with all of our Student Diversity Affairs representatives, and others, as we come together on a local, regional and national level, to advance a holistic approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion so that all of our medical students successfully thrive across the undergraduate medical education continuum.

COSDA is one of the five national committees of the GSA. COSDA regularly comes together to discuss issues, contribute to, and provide guidance on medical student diversity on a local, regional, and national basis, with respect to student recruitment, admissions, enrollment, retention, and graduation.

COSDA serves as the representative body of the larger constituency of Student Diversity Affairs representatives at the AAMC member medical schools. In that regard, COSDA represents the institutional, individual and affiliate representatives, and/or other faculty and staff, who have responsibility for medical student diversity efforts.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the several members who have recently completed their terms on the COSDA National Committee with a special thanks to Dr. Gerald Yutrzenka, PhD who has provided important leadership, perspective and insight during the past three years as National Chair of GSA-COSDA.

We also acknowledge the outstanding leadership and continued support provided to the committee by Dr. Geoffrey Young PhD, AAMC Senior Director for Student Affairs and Programs and his entire team.

GSA-COSDA continues to move forward in expanding our collaborative efforts with the various GSA Committees, the Group on Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) and other AAMC constituent groups to ensure that the diversity affairs expertise and voice is strongly represented in advancing and advocating for diversity in medical education.

In closing, we welcome your interest in the efforts of COSDA and the Student Diversity Affairs community in working towards advancing a holistic medical education experience for our increasingly diverse medical student body. Please feel free to contact COSDA if you have ideas, proposals or comments that might be of interest to the GSA-COSDA leadership and membership.

Best,

**Ann-Gel S. Palermo, DrPH, MPH**

National Chair, GSA Committee on Student Diversity Affairs  
Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion in Biomedical Education  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai