# **American Medical Women's Association 2024 AWARDS**

### Presidential Award – Women's Health Access Matters (WHAM)

Health Access **Matters** 

Women's In 2018, Women's Health Access Matters (WHAM) was founded by Carolee Lee to (1) Increase funding for women's health research, (2) empower women researchers to study and share sex and gender research, and (3) build a data-driven case for accelerating women's health research. WHAM works across diseases that impact women differently and differentially in the areas of brain health, heart health, immune and autoimmune health, and cancer. WHAM has focused on creating three platforms of expertise: The WHAM Report, The WHAM Investigator's Fund and the WHAM Collaborative.

#### Presidential Award – Jamie White, MS



Jamie White serves as the Government Affairs Manager and Women's Health Director at G2G Consulting. Previous roles have included Health Science Strategy and Relations Lead and Health Science Policy Analyst, NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) and Presidential Management Fellow (PMF, NIH), Public Health Analyst, and Special Assistant to the Director of ORWH. Prior to working for NIH, she was a Laboratory Analyst that developed methodologies for the destruction of chemical weapons at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot program and a Research Chemist at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She has expertise in multiple disciplines, including global women's health innovation, sex, gender, and intersectionality, instrumentation analysis, analytical chemistry, behavioral neuroendocrinology, bioethics, and policy, among a few others. Recently, she served as the co-chair of the Innovation Equity Forum that was responsible for the

development of the Women's Health Innovation Opportunity Map 2023. Also in 2023, Jamie was named one of the 200 Trailblazing Leaders in Women's Health and FemTech, received a First in Femtech Award, and her third NIH Director's Award. Jamie White received her graduate degree in neuroscience at Tulane University and is a proud alumna of Spelman College and the Gates Millennium Scholars Program.

#### Presidential Award – Dr. med. Maike Scharp, MScPH



Dr. Maike Scharp is a Deputy Director in the Foundation Strategy Office at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) where she supports teams across the foundation in strategy development and execution. She co-leads the foundation's efforts to strengthen the Women's Health R&D ecosystem within the Gender Equality division and is co-chair for the Innovation Equity Forum (IEF), a collaborative partnership sponsored by BMGF and the U.S. National Institutes of Health with over 250 women's health experts and stakeholders across diverse sectors and geographies. In October 2023, the IEF released the Women's Health Innovation Opportunity Map 2023, a collaborative framework, outlining 50 equitable, high-return opportunities across the R&D continuum to maximize research and innovation, investments, and global action in women's health. Prior to joining BMGF, Dr. Scharp was a Partner at the Boston Consulting Group and a physician in radio-oncology and palliative care and spent time in Uganda working closely with the Ministry of Health through the Clinton Health Access

Initiative. She holds a Medical Doctorate from Heidelberg University as well as a Master of Science in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

### Presidential Award – Lucy Pérez, PhD



Dr. Lucy Pérez is a Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company's Boston office, advising CEOs and teams at leading organizations globally on growth strategy, innovation, sustainability, and organizational transformation. Dr. Pérez is especially passionate about advancements in science and technology, which are transforming patient care delivery and outcomes. A former cancer researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, she brings a strong technical background to her work with organizations across the healthcare sector. Dr. Pérez leads the health equity portfolio for the McKinsey Health Institute, and has spearheaded multiple partnerships to advance health equity, including a collaboration with the World Economic Forum to assess the economic impact of investing in women's health. As a leader in McKinsey's Life Sciences practice, she leads McKinsey's women's health initiative. Dr. Pérez is also a board member of the Massachusetts Business

Roundtable and sits on the advisory board for the Aspen Institute's Latinos in Society program and the Women's Health Innovation Summit. She was elected one of Amplify LatinX's inaugural LatinX 100 Leaders and named one of ALPFA's 50 Most Powerful Latinas in 2023. Dr. Pérez holds a bachelor's degree and doctorate degree in Chemistry from Harvard University. She is an avid traveler, amateur photographer, and a coinventor on multiple patents.

### Elizabeth Blackwell Award - Mary Polan, MD, PhD, MPH



Dr. Mary Lake Polan is former chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Stanford Medical School (1990-2006) and is currently Professor of Clinical Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Yale Medical School. She specializes in reproductive endocrinology and infertility and hormonal issues related to gynecology patients and menopause. She received her BA from Connecticut College, a PhD in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and MD from Yale University. She completed her residency and Reproductive Endocrine Fellowship at Yale. Dr. Polan received her MPH (Maternal and Child Health Program) from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Polan's research has involved ovarian and urologic function with publications in both areas. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and has served on both NIH and university committees. She has a long-standing interest in women's health research and has been actively

involved in international public health. While at Stanford, she initiated The Eritrean Women's Project in 2001 and has maintained this surgical project in Eritrea to repair fistulas resulting from traumatic births. Recently, she has been interested in the biologic basis of healthy longevity and executive produced an award-winning short documentary, BELOW SURFACE, screened at 17 film festivals, which highlights the stories of a multicultural, multigenerational YMCA Aquafit class, demonstrating how kindness and community, combined with exercise, supports longevity.

#### Bertha Van Hoosen Award - Monica D. Ormeno, DO



Born and raised in Lima, Peru, Dr. Ormeno is a board-certified psychiatrist in general and child & adolescent psychiatry. She is alumni of Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA and New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, NY. Dr. Ormeno holds an academic appointment as Assistant Professor at the Uniformed Services University of Health Services. She has developed curriculum for the Psychiatry and Pediatrics Residency programs. She is a Subject Matter Expert in LGBTQ+ and women's mental health. Dr. Ormeno is a Global Health Specialist with extensive experience in Global Health Engagement missions in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Dr. Ormeno is in the Board of Governance for AMWA and is the Chair of the Military Issues Committee for AACAP. She currently serves as the Mental Health Specialist for the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Navy Psychiatry Specialty Leader.

#### Lila Wallis Women's Health Award – Traci Kurtzer, MD



As Medical Director for Trauma Informed Care in the Department of OB/GYN, Northwestern Medicine, Dr. Kurtzer provides specialized gynecologic care critical for patients with a trauma history. As a solo private practitioner for the first 15 years of her career, she recognized the adverse impact of gender-based violence on her patients' health. She teaches on trauma informed care, the neurobiology of trauma, domestic violence, human trafficking and the intersection of firearms and GBV. She is past Co-chair of the Cook County Human Trafficking Task Force Healthcare Committee and the current President of the Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (AMWA-PATH). For her innovative work in women's health, for creating the first dedicated trauma-informed, survivor-centered gynecology clinic in Chicago, and for her local and national efforts in advocacy, she was awarded the 2022 Victoria J. Mastrobuono Award in Women's Health by the National Organization for Women.

### Woman in Science Award – Louise McCullough, MD



Dr. Louise McCullough is the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Distinguished Chair and Professor of Neurology at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. She is a physician-scientist and practicing vascular neurologist with clinical expertise in sex/gender disparities, the microbiome, stroke and aging, and acute stroke treatments. A renowned investigator, she is well recognized for her research identifying sex differences in cell death pathways during stroke. Working closely with the Society for Women's Health Research and Office of Research on Women's Health, she was instrumental in the National Institute of Health's requirement to include female animals in basic and translational studies. Among Dr. McCullough's many honors are the prestigious National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award, the NINDS Landis Award for Outstanding Mentorship, the Inaugural American Heart Association (AHA) Outstanding Stroke

Research Mentor Award, the AHA Merit Award and the AHA Thomas Willis Lecture Award.

#### Early Career Woman in Science Award – Christina LaCroix, MD



CDR La Croix graduated with honors from AZCOM. She did a residency in physiatry at WRAMC, afterwards ultimately serving as Service Chief for the Department. After a residency in psychiatry, she was Chief of the CL Service at ATAMC, then Director in both Medicine and Psychiatry at ISC. She was also the Director of Research and did extensive TBI research as she is board certified in TBI. During her service, she developed the military rehabilitation programs for the Republic of Georgia. Among others, she received the COL Peter J. Weisma Award for Excellence in Research, Master Clinician, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Armed Forces Achievement Medal. She is currently an assistant professor at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU). She lives in Maryland with her family, and interests include fencing, ancient languages, and writing poetry.

#### Esther Pohl Lovejoy Award - Nehkonti Adams, MD



Commander Nehkonti Adams, MD, is the Director of the Naval Medical Research Command Clinical Trials Center where she is responsible for overseeing the development of vaccines and therapeutics for infectious diseases. Dr. Adams serves as principal investigator of sepsis studies in Cambodia, Ghana, Liberia, and Uganda and she has coordinated rigorous didactic sessions and practical field experiences in Brazil, Ghana, India, Liberia, Peru, Tanzania, and Thailand. She also has a Masters in Global Health Policy from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Adams is board certified in Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease.

# Larry Zaroff Man of Good Conscience Award – Mark Shapiro, MD, FHM, FACP



Mark Shapiro, MD is a practicing Hospitalist & the creator, producer & host of Explore The Space Podcast, a show focused on bringing those who provide healthcare and those who seek healthcare closer together through conversations with leaders from across the spectrum. Dr. Shapiro is a sought-after national speaker and TEDx presenter. Popular speaking topics include gender equity, gun violence, climate change and disaster management as well as advocacy and voter registration. He is also a successful producer of live shows and roundtable events, and is a well-known panel moderator. Dr. Shapiro is a published author and was the winner of the "I Stand With Her" Award at the 2021 Women in Medicine Summit. Dr. Shapiro has been in full-time clinical practice as a Hospitalist since 2006 and has been working with Providence Medical Group-Northern California since 2016.

### Camille Mermod Award - Hugh Webster, JD



Hugh Webster is a nationally recognized lawyer who has served as an advisor to associations and other non-profit organizations, association management companies, as well as individual executives, for almost 20 years. With special expertise in governance, strategic, and operational issues, He also works regularly in such diverse areas as employment (including executive employment), taxation, antitrust, contracts, standards and certification, code of ethics, publishing, and fiduciary obligations of directors and officers. He is also a frequent speaker, including for organizations such as the American Society of Association Executives, the International Association of Association Management Companies, and the Council of Engineering & Scientific Society Executives.

# Anne C. Carter Student Leadership Award – Mikayla Mefford



Mikayla Mefford grew up in a small town outside of Sacramento, CA and is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara. Now a third-year medical student at UCLA, she is passionate about education and advocacy that improves the lives of women. Mikayla has organized reproductive health teach-in's, led mentorship programs for undergraduates, and co-designed a leadership retreat for high school women under-represented in medicine. After witnessing the impact human trafficking had on her hometown, Mikayla has dedicated herself to the fight against trafficking. She coordinated a "Learn to Identify and Fight Trafficking" training at UCLA and serves as the Research and Education co-coordinator with AMWA-Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans. Currently, Mikayla is completing a masters in public health and contributing to research identifying sex-based

disparities in arthroplasty utilization. She hopes to utilize skills from her MD-MPH to reduce gender disparities and advance women's health.

### Linda Brodsky Memorial Grant - "The Impact of Workplace Injustices on the Employment Status of Women in Medicine"







Ursula Barghouth, DO, MHA, MPH, CWSP



Brianna Clark DO, MPH



Michael S. Sinha, MD JD, MPH



Sharon Griswold, MD, MPH

#### **Exceptional Mentor Award Recipients**

Meredith Barnes, MD, PhD, FACP Internal Medicine Primary Care, Southern California Permanente Medical Group

Lia Pierson Bruner, MD

Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine

Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership, a four-year campus of the Medical College of Georgia

Rachel Carpenter, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor, Medical Director of Women's Mental Health

UF College of Medicine - Jacksonville

Joel C Diamant, MD, MACP

Executive Vice President, Scripps Clinic Medical Group

Felicia Jordan, MD, MBA, MACP

Associate Medical Director of Care Coordination and Quality Improvement, Kelsey Seybold Clinic

Jennifer F. Kawwass, MD

Professor and Division Director, Emory Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Suzanne H. Lester, MD, MS

Associate Professor, Family Medicine, Campus Director, Community and Population Health Medical Director, The Athens Free Clinic; Medical Director, The Clarke Middle Health Center AU/UGA Medical Partnership

Emily Margolin, MD

Chief Medical Resident 2023-2024, UC San Diego Internal Medicine

# **Resident Division Awards**

### Charlotte Edwards Maguire, MD Outstanding Resident Mentor Award - America Stephanie Revere, MD



Born in Texas, Dr. Revere attended college at The University of Texas at Austin to obtain a Bachelors of Science in Nutritional Sciences with High Honors. She subsequently pursued a medical degree at the Long School of Medicine in San Antonio where she developed a love for the operating room. She is currently a general surgery resident with plans to complete a cosmetic surgery fellowship and own her own practice. Her hobbies include all things related to cats, makeup, and finance. When she isn't in the operating room, you can find her convincing friends and family to make Instagram reels, eating sushi, or traveling anywhere she can. She is absolutely humbled to have won this award and can only hope that continuing to be her unapologetically unique self will encourage other women to do the same.

#### Elinor T. Christiansen, MD Altruism Award - Thulasee Jose, MD



Originally from Canada, Dr. Tulsi Jose is a graduate of Life Science at McMaster University and American University of Antigua College of Medicine. She completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at Mayo Clinic Rochester under the guidance of Dr. David O. Warner, studying smoking behavior in cancer survivors. At Mayo, she was involved in the leadership committee of the Women in Science and Engineering Research Group. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at the Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. Throughout her training, she has developed a passion for creating impactful mentorship opportunities for trainees, particularly for under-represented women physicians. In 2023, she founded Heme-Onc Fellows Mentorship Empowerment (H.O.M.E.), an on-line community of 300 internal medicine residents across the U.S. who are actively mentored by Heme-Onc fellows. She is thrilled to join Stanford University for her Hematology/Oncology fellowship and hopes to continue developing leadership and mentorship opportunities for trainees.

## Susan Love Essay Award - Laura Grace Wolfe, MD



Dr. Laura Wolfe is a first-year resident at the University of California San Diego. With an interest in medical education, she strongly believes in the power of words to communicate and inspire. Initially from a small mountain town in Colorado, she completed her medical training at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Greenville. With a strong passion for serving the pediatric population, her interests include neonatology and pediatric surgical interventions. Training at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, California, allows Dr. Wolfe to pursue her passion of working to address health disparities and learning about global medicine. In her free time, she is an avid yoga practitioner, plant lover, and coffee enthusiast.

### **Medical Student Division Awards**

### Vivian E. Shih Scholar Award – Yeonsoo Sara Lee



Yeonsoo Sara Lee is a past AMWA Student Division Advocacy Chair and a current 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. She is passionate about health equity, women's health, and medical humanities and has had first author publications on her research (gender-based care) in the *J of Women's Health* and *Cleveland Clinic J of Medicine*, and calls to action published in *Health Affairs*. Prior work experience includes a focus on differentiated service delivery/access to care for people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa (Brigham and Women's Hospital) and breast cancer screening/care for at-risk populations in the U.S. and Rwanda. As an artist, she co-wrote and illustrated her first children's book, *The ABC's of Anatomy* (2022). Her graphic work has been featured in medical journals (*J of Urology* cover Dec 2023, *Urologic Clinics*), magazines (*The Pathologist, TrailRunner*), conferences, and national collaborations. She is part of the inaugural student class to

receive Distinctions in Applied Medical and Health Humanities at Mayo Clinic, with a focus on visual arts. She will be a resident in Urology at Mayo Clinic Florida.

### Medical Education Cycle 1 - Lauren Rudin



Lauren Rudin, OMS-II at New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine-Long Island Campus, holds a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science from the University of Connecticut. As a pre-clinical student, Lauren works as an Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Teaching Assistant and Department of Anatomy Research Assistant. She holds several executive board positions for her school's chapters of American Medical Women's Association as President, American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians as Adopt-A-Class Chair, and Medical Students for Choice as National Liasson. Lauren also serves her school as a Student Ambassador and serves her community as a volunteer for NYITCOM's Rock Steady Boxing Program. In her spare time, Lauren enjoys gluten free baking, jigsaw puzzles, and discovering new hiking trails across Long Island.

### **Medical Education Cycle 1 - Catherine Alvaro**



Catherine Alvaro is a first-year medical student at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. Cate graduated Summa Cum Laude with Departmental Honors from George Washington University in May of 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science. It was at GWU that she became involved with AMWA, serving first on the advisory board, then as Vice President, and President. Cate is a current member of the SKMC branch of AMWA and is interested in orthopedic surgery.

### Medical Education Cycle 2 - Tanya Kondolay



Univ. of Buffalo, SUNY student, Tanya Kondolay, is an aspiring physician who skillfully navigates the intersections of medicine, public health, research, humanities, and literature. While her primary focus is on medicine, her fervor for the humanities gas propeled her into parallel roles as a children's author, illustrator, composer, and novelist. As the visionary behind the Dr. Wonder Why children's book series, dedicated to promoting health education, and Sapere Bloom, fostering the biopsychosocial connection, she seamlessly integrates innovation with medicine, driven by a steadfast commitment to making a positive global impact. Through her podcast, Unraveling Medicine, she expands the horizons of medical culture. At the core of Tanya's pursuits lies a profound passion for humanity and philanthropy. Her medical initiatives leverage her multifaceted talents to instigate transformative change, while her diverse interests carve innovative pathways in medicine, public health,

humanities, and medical education. She stands as an inspirational force in the field of medicine.

### **Medical Education Cycle 2 - Alex Schick**



Alex Schick is a second-year medical student at the Univ. of Rochester School of Medicine. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with Highest Distinction/Highest Honors as department valedictorian from the Univ. of Buffalo, SUNY. She received the NIH Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award, a prestigious full-time research fellowship at NIH where she studied human metabolism and the neuroscience of obesity, co-authoring peer-reviewed papers (*Nature*). Alex is passionate about patient advocacy, research, and service. As AMWA Branch President, she hosted student-faculty mixers and a women's health/women in medicine mini-speaker series and is now organizing a local conference for women in medicine. Alex is founder of the Meliora Educational Pathway Program, teacher of anatomy and physiology to Rochester City School students, leader of the Hematology-Oncology, Ultrasound, and Sports Medicine interest groups, Deaf Health Student Group, and

Rochester Medical Accessibility Coalition, and Vice-President of the medical school's student body. Her research on outcomes in patients with breast cancer brain metastases has earned her a competitive summer research grant and a URSMD Annual Symposium Poster Excellence Award (top-scoring clinical research poster). In her free time, Alex enjoys spending time with her cat, Fern, reading, and exploring local coffee shops.

#### Eliza Lo Chin, MD Unsung Hero Award - Vaishnavi Patel



Vaishnavi Patel is a third year medical student at the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine in San Antonio, Texas who is interested in pursuing OB/GYN or Family Medicine as a career. She is passionate about Women's Health and advocacy, serving on the Executive Board of the American Medical Women's Association Gender Equity Task Force. Her research expertise includes scientific computation, data sciences, and analyzing methods to improve patient outcomes in surgery and women's health. She is a dedicated volunteer and speaker at various programs focused on patient education and advocacy such as local free clinics. She serves as an ambassador of the Gold Humanism Honor Society and is a recipient of the Lifetime Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Her patients describe her as compassionate, thorough, and

knowledgeable. Her classmates, coworkers, and mentors describe her as a genuine leader, hard-worker, and a valuable asset to the future of medicine.

#### Eliza Lo Chin, MD Unsung Hero Award – Emily Marsico



Emily Marsico was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. She attended Youngstown State University, graduating in 2020. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences with Honors Scholar Distinction and *Summa Cum Laude* Honors. During her time, she worked at the Primary Care Network, which is a Federally Qualified Health Center where she learned about health disparities in lower socioeconomic groups. This experience inspired to go to medical school to address these gaps in health care. Emily now attends the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) where she has continued to address health care disparities in Northeast Ohio by holding various leadership positions at the Student Run Free Clinic at NEOMED. She has also been able to implement various programs, such as a dietician and exercise program to help the patients of the Clinic. Research is

another passion she pursues at NEOMED. Currently, she is working on a project that seeks to address the gaps of Alzheimer's research when it comes to sex differences. Through this research, she investigates sex-specific inflammatory responses in AD. She hopes to determine why women exhibit a more advanced AD phenotype when compared to men.

# Eliza Lo Chin, MD Unsung Hero Award - Campbell Aiken



Campbell Aiken is a second-year medical student at Tulane University School of Medicine. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Dance, with a minor in Economics from Tulane University in May of 2022. She served as Treasurer for the Tulane AMWA chapter throughout 2023. Currently, Campbell is preparing for a research fellowship year with the American Sports Medical Institute in Birmingham, Alabama.

### **Underrepresented Students in Medicine - Bethlehem Michael**



Bethlehem Michael is a medical student at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine in the dual-degree Program in Medical Education-Leadership and Advocacy (PRIME-LA). Bethlehem graduated from UCLA in 2019 with a major in Biochemistry and a minor in Global Health. She is passionate about health justice and pursuing health equity for vulnerable and under-resourced communities, particularly through a career in internal medicine. Having completed her third year of medical school, she is now pursuing her Master's in Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy and Management. Bethlehem is immensely grateful to AMWA for creating this scholarship opportunity, and for being an

essential part of her academic endeavors since she was an undergraduate student.

### **Underrepresented Students in Medicine - Mayra Repetto**



Mayra is a Latina and first-generation medical student with a deep commitment to making a positive impact in the field of medicine and beyond. In her role as Region 8 Director for the American Medical Women's Association, she hopes to lead initiatives that empower women in medicine and encourage them to break down barriers, fostering a more representative and equitable healthcare community. Her dedication extends to her community, where she hopes to improve Latino/a/e health and access to care as a future physician. As the Vice President of Policy for the Latino Medical Student Association-West (LMSA-West), she hopes to drive policy changes that address healthcare disparities and enhance access to quality healthcare for underserved communities. She understands the unique challenges faced by her community and is committed to addressing them

as a future physician. Her approach to medicine is rooted in community-focused and health policy-driven principles. Her goal is to make healthcare more accessible and equitable for all, reflecting her commitment to improving healthcare outcomes for everyone.

### Linda Brodsky, MD Essay Award - Devki Patel



Devki Patel is currently a first-year MD candidate at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine. Beyond her academic pursuits, Devki is actively engaged in addressing gender and equity issues within the medical field while also demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing healthcare disparities. As a dedicated member of the AMWA Gender and Equity Task Force, she contributes to initiatives aimed at fostering inclusivity and promoting equality in healthcare. Combining her passion for medicine with a commitment to advocacy and compassionate care, Devki is shaping a future where healthcare is not only about expertise but also about fairness and accessibility for all.

### Shobha S. Krishnan HPV and Cervical Cancer Champion Award – Elizabeth Klein



Elizabeth Klein is originally from Westchester, NY, and graduated from Cornell University in 2018. Before medical school, she spent two years in clinical research at NYU Langone Health in the Transplant Institute and Division of Infectious Diseases and Immunology. As Chair of the Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC) Young Leaders, she was instrumental in facilitating the annual Us vs HPV webinar series hosted by GIAHC and AMWA. During her time with GIAHC, she led the creation of a grant to fund student initiatives to raise awareness about cervical cancer prevention. She will graduate from the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in May 2024 and complete her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Cleveland Clinic. She hopes that with increased dissemination of knowledge, expansion of screening, and improved access to vaccination and treatment, HPV-related cancers will be a medical challenge conquered in her lifetime.

### Heller Outstanding Branch Award 2023-2024 Winner: St. George's University Chapter





### **Pre-medical Student Division Awards**

#### Student of the Year Award – Lianna Shoikhet



Lianna Shoikhet studies Human Biology & Journalism (pre-medical track) at the University of Kansas where she founded the first AMWA pre-medical branch in Kansas in 2022. Under her leadership, the branch was awarded "Outstanding Student Organization of the Year" by the Univ. of Kansas Student Involvement and Leadership Center. Passionate about mentorship, she also established a mentorship program with medical students from the Univ, of Kansas School of Medicine. Lianna is a member of Phi Delta Epsilon (co-ed premed fraternity), Chi Omega Lambda, and the Univ. of Kansas Honors College. During her college years, she worked with Integrated Psychiatric Consultants at Signature Psychiatric Hospital and assisted local medical companies, including Responsive Centers for Psychology & Learning and Collective Medical Research. She was also

Events Coordinator for Health International at KU, raising \$1600+ for Global Care Force, a local non-profit providing medical care and supplies for Ukraine war victims. She is a Supplemental Instruction Leader for General Chemistry and enjoys tutoring STEM subjects in her free time.

# Premedical Education Scholarship - Kaitlin To



Kaitlin To is a second-year Ecology and Evolutionary Biology major at the University of California, Irvine who currently works as a Certified Nursing Assistant and conducts research on a part-time basis in UC Irvine's Department of Developmental and Cell Biology. With a 3.984 GPA, Kaitlin has made the Dean's Honor List every quarter thus far. In addition, she has founded and currently leads two on-campus student organizations and volunteers at a local hospital on the weekends. She also completed an internship at the NIH's National Institute on Aging and was awarded the Barbara A. Hughes, Ph.D. Award of Excellence for her work with porcine stem cells. It is Kaitlin's honor to receive the National AMWA Premedical Education Scholarship.

### Premedical Education Scholarship – Kiara Langford



Kiara Langford is a graduate student working towards a master's in biomedical and health sciences. She is a national member of AMWA and former president of the pre-medical branch at UAB; she still serves as a resource to the pre-medical branch. She is employed as a part-time medical scribe and has been a SHPEP ambassador for 4 years. Balancing everything has been a challenge, but she has made it work, and she has a 3.52 GPA to show for it.

### Medical School Application Scholarship - Ashita Jain



Ashita Jain is a junior majoring in Neuroscience at the University of Texas at Dallas. As a pre-medical student, she dedicates a significant amount of time to both on-campus and off-campus research initiatives. Notably, she has had the privilege of contributing to projects at the MD Anderson Research Center and the Pain Research Center at UTD. Beyond her research commitments, she works as a supplemental instructor and teaching assistant for biology courses. These roles allow her to share her knowledge and support her peers in their academic journeys. In her free time, she likes to run, work on her visual arts minor, and explore different cuisines. She is an active participant in AMWA, where she has expanded her network, developed leadership skills, and contributed to meaningful initiatives that align with her values and aspirations.

### Most Impactful Diversity and Inclusion Advocacy/Initiative - Emma Theisen



Emma Theisen is a graduate of the University of Michigan (2022), where she was Membership Chair and Professional Development Chair for the AMWA branch. She is now the national AMWA Premedical Advocacy Chair and Pre-Medical representative within the Physician Advocacy group. While at Univ. of Michigan, she completed her EMT certification and Bachelor's, with concentrations in Neuroscience and Gender & Health. She also worked as a surgical and perioperative tech and research assistant. She plans to matriculate in 2024 to medical school and desires to be a physician dedicated to community-centered care. Emma is passionate about health education. She is the Maternal Health Chair for Community HealthEd, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that develops evidence-based educational materials about location-specific health resources. Her passion project is the Lunar Doula Collective, a nonprofit based in Michigan. She served two years as Director of Program Development and is

currently Executive Director. During this time, she launched the first and only reproductive loss doula program in Michigan, which has since expanded to work with many healthcare providers and hospital systems to offer free virtual bereavement doula services.

#### Mental Health Advocacy Award - Rameen Gaddi



Rameen Gadd is a student at the University of Houston, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Biology. She is the Women's Advocacy Committee Co-Chair of her AMWA branch. In this role, she has hosted many wonderful events through the HERstorical panel series, where women of all backgrounds discuss their journeys in healthcare. She also developed a mental health event called "You're NOT On Your Own Kid." Through the branch, Rameen has volunteered with Amaanah Refugee Services and The Women's Home's Cottage Shop and helped fundraise for the Women In Science & Health (WISH) scholarship which celebrates a high school senior in Houston who would like to pursue a career in STEM and/or health. Her experience as an emergency room scribe solidified her decision to pursue a career in medicine. Her advice to others is this: *Just take things one* 

day at a time. Everyone's timeline and pathway is different. Things can change and no matter what just make sure to give yourself room to breathe and do what you need to do at your own pace. Pursuing a career in healthcare is stressful at times and it's important to protect your mental health at all costs, so don't rush anything. What's meant for you will always come at the best and perfect time, don't stress out about it.

#### MCAT Scholarship - Adaeze Ahanotu



Adaeze Ahanotu is a Health Studies student at Texas Woman's University with an emphasis in Public Health, minor in Chemistry, and Biological Research certification. She excels academically and focuses on research linking CMV infection to Alzheimer's. Recognized on the Dean's and Chancellor's Lists, she employs advanced techniques like western blotting and ELISAs. In addition to her studies, Adaeze serves as a public health ambassador, resident assistant, and G-Force mentor. She's actively involved in impactful organizations like the American Medical Women's Association and Be The Match, contributing to inclusive environments and nurturing future healthcare professionals. Adaeze's commitment extends to Be The Match's mission, connecting patients with suitable donors for life-saving transplants. Her dedication makes her a promising advocate for positive

change in healthcare and beyond.

### MCAT Scholarship - Sneha Magesh



Sneha Magesh, a health sciences major on a premedical track with a biology minor, passionately advocates for healthcare affordability and accessibility. As the global health chair of AMWA, she leads awareness campaigns and organizes fundraisers. A co-founder of Tamil Sangam at OSU, she fosters cultural unity, promoting diversity on campus. Sneha volunteers at food banks, emphasizing the importance of nutrition for all. Her dedication extends to supporting STEM students at Graham Elementary and Middle School. In Mirrors and Chimes honor societies, she contributes to academic and service-oriented communities. As a research assistant in the James Cancer Center, she advances medical knowledge, showcasing versatility. Transitioning to research in the College of Public Health reflects her commitment to addressing public health challenges.

Volunteering on the Chemo floor demonstrates her compassionate nature in impacting the lives of patients. Sneha Magesh is a well-rounded individual actively contributing to academic and local communities.

#### MCAT Scholarship – Sarah McHaffie



Sarah McHaffie majors in Biology and minors in Chemistry at Texas Woman's University, where she also serves as the President of TWU's local AMWA chapter. She is a Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP) Scholar, PRIME Research Assistant, and has been on the Dean's List of Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023.

#### AMWA Outstanding Branch Award – University of Southern California



In line with AMWA's tenets, this branch really knows how to support their undergraduate community, providing the right mentorship and guidance to help their members through this daunting premed journey. Established in the Spring of 2020, The American Medical Women's Association at the University of Southern California is committed to providing support and resources to our members to aid in their path to the healthcare field. Some of our highlight events include our yearly Women in Medicine Symposium where we facilitate round-table discussions between students and physicians, our Moms in Medicine panel where we bring in female physicians to speak on their experience with balancing motherhood with their careers, and our student shadowing events with the Keck Medical Center Department of Radiology physicians.

**Active Branch Award - University of California, Berkeley** 90 active national general members and 5 current national leaders

#### Branch Event Award - University of California, Berkeley



The UC Berkeley AMWA Branch partnered with UC San Francisco Medical School to organize medical workshops at the UCSF Parnassus Campus and match 65 UC Berkeley pre-medical students with a UCSF medical student mentor! The medical student mentors led 3 hands-on, interactive workshops: anatomy lab workshop, suturing workshop, and ultrasound machine workshop. These workshops created a space where AMWA members were able to explore medical techniques and machines while also networking with UCSF medical student mentors. The mentorship pairs were based on personal preferences and future interests, with the hopes that this would create a foundation for members to forge meaningful relationships with a mentor to guide them through the arduous journey as a woman in medicine. The UC Berkeley Branch continues to work towards strengthening their partnership with UCSF Medical Students, with some UCSF Medical Students attending the 2023 Pre-Health Symposium as part of the Medical Student Panel.

# **International Outreach Award - University of Houston**



The AMWA University of Houston Branch held many events that served international organizations and POC and educated members on global issues, showing that their impact does not stop at the local level. The branch hosted a series of impactful events and projects this past fall. The "Simmer Down From Summer" Back to School Social successfully welcomed both new and returning members, fostering a sense of community early in the school year. A McGovern Medical School Tour provided an exclusive and informative experience, allowing members to gain insights into a medical school right here in Houston. In support of International Day of the Girl, the branch hosted a UNO Tournament which not only offered a fun break during midterms but also raised \$100 in funds for a local organization that empowering. The Women's Health & Fitness Panel as well as the Indigenous Women in Healthcare Panel offered a high-caliber networking opportunity, featuring various accomplished

professionals sharing their journeys in healthcare. Their commitment to community service led to a partnership with Candlelighters, an organization that supports families of children with cancer. They supported families and patients facing challenging circumstances through the Candlelighters Fall Festival. Moreover, the Public Health Committee hosted a campus-wide blood drive with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, highlighting their commitment to making a positive impact on both their members and the broader community. These events collectively underscored the branch's dedication to excellence, education, and service.

#### Humanitarian Award - University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras Campus



The American Medical Women's Association-University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus is the first AMWA pre-medical chapter in the Caribbean. Established in January 2021, the branch has swiftly become a leading organization on campus with over 100 members and gold status. Recognized for its outstanding achievements, the chapter has received both the AMWA Premedical International Outreach Award and the National AMWA Humanitarian Branch Award. In the past year, this branch has distinguished itself for its countless community service activities, such as animal shelter maintenance, distribution of products in local food banks, and beach cleanups. The branch also aims to foster the development of the members by organizing and providing lectures,

seminars, and discussions pertinent to the expansion of knowledge of each participant. Whether it be related to medical education or women's health, there is something suitable for each member.