

March 2, 2019

RE: 2019 Region 5 AMWA Conference, UABSOM, February 15th-16th

Dear Dr. Fouad and the UABSOM Office of Diversity and Inclusion:

I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for your involvement in the recent 2019 Region 5 American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) Conference held at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine (UABSOM). Without your support and the support of the UABSOM's Office for Diversity and Inclusion, this event would not have been possible.

Held at UAB for the second year in a row, following the inaugural Region 5 conference in 2018, it was by all accounts an overwhelming success. The conference, which focused on the promotion and advocacy of women in medicine and science, was certainly the highlight of the academic year for our local UAB AMWA chapter.

Conference planning began in the fall of 2018 with assembly of a conference taskforce to include the faculty, the medical student, and the pre-medical student UAB AMWA branches. Leaders of this taskforce included Dr. Marisa Marques (AMWA conference co-chair, UAB faculty), Dr. Lauren Walter (Region 5 AMWA faculty director), Dr. Kelly Roszczynialski (UAB AMWA GME/Trainee Advocate), Sally Harrison (Region 5 AMWA medical student director), Poojitha Balakrishnan (UABSOM medical student branch president), and Glory Akinduro (UAB AMWA pre-medical branch president). Logistical, technical, and financial support were provided by the UABSOM Office for Diversity and Inclusion (Dr. Mona Fouad, Senior Associate Dean).

The conference commenced on February 15th at Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium on the UAB hospital campus. Following introductions from UAB AMWA leadership, the afternoon schedule highlighted two UAB faculty speakers, Dr. Sandra Frazier and Dr. Ashita Tolwani, who discussed wellness and promotion respectively, as well as a guest speaker from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Ms. Rachel Tyrone, who presented on leadership styles and professional goals.

A networking mixer was held at The Wine Loft in downtown Birmingham the evening of February 15th and was attended by approximately 35 conference participants. A silent auction held at the mixer raised over \$600 for a local charity, One Place Metro Alabama Family Justice Center, a center that provides coordinated services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault across Jefferson County.

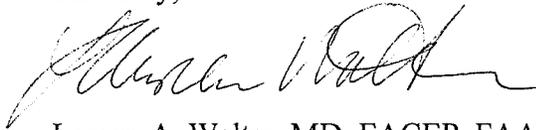
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Saturday's activities, held at the 'Edge of Chaos,' a unique meeting space located in the UAB Lister Hill Library on the medical school campus, began with a scholarly poster session which included 35 judged posters. Poster awards were given at the conclusion of the conference to the top scored winners in three separate poster categories including *Original Research*, *Clinical Case*, and *Medical Education Research*. Additional events on Saturday included subsequent lectures and workshops featuring UAB faculty, residents, and medical students. Session topics included CV development, suturing skills, selecting a residency/specialty, and transgender health. The conference concluded with a capstone lecture highlighting self-care and wellness delivered by UAB pediatric chief resident Dr. Induru.

Total registered attendees numbered 89 however, this number does not include attendees for the Friday session as registration for this day was not required. As such, total conference attendees are estimated at well over 100. Saturday's registered attendees included 50 medical students, 14 residents, and 12 pre-medical students. Likewise, while ~60% of registered attendees were from UAB, six U.S. states/territories in total were represented at the conference (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, TN and PR), including all Region 5 designated states.

In summary, the 2019 Region 5 AMWA conference held at UABSOM was universally appreciated and enjoyed. It brought together women in medicine and science and supporters of women in medicine and science from across the Southeast for education, scholarly activity, and networking. Many thanks again for your commitment to this project and to AMWA at UAB.

Sincerely,



Lauren A. Walter, MD, FACEP, FAAEM
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AMWA Region 5 Faculty Director
UABSOM AMWA Faculty Branch Director

cc: AMWA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, associatedirector@amwa-doc.org

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