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Sweta Adhikary MD/PhD Candidate to be Recognized by the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) as the 2022 Winner of AMWA's Anne C. Carter Student Leadership Award on March 26, 2022 at 8 pm ET, During the AMWA 2022 Annual Meeting

(Schaumburg IL)—March 18, 2022—On Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 8 pm ET, MD/PhD student Sweta Adhikary will be presented with the Anne. C. Carter Student Leadership Award of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) at the 107th Annual AMWA Meeting, which runs from March 24-27. Adhikary lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband and cat.

The Anne C. Carter Student Leadership Award recognizes a national AMWA medical student member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills through vision, inspiration, innovation and coordination of local projects that further the mission of AMWA by improving women's health.

As a childhood immigrant to the United States, Sweta Adhikary overcame many challenges simply to make it to college. She attained her BA in Integrative Physiology and Psychology from University of Colorado through a scholarship from the Daniel's Fund and is now an MD/PhD candidate at Oregon Health and Science University aiming for a career in academic medicine as a Pediatric Physician Scientist studying long-term effects of opioids and sedative pharmacotherapy in children.

Through her academic career, Adhikary has consistently chosen and succeeded in challenging courses of study. As an undergraduate, she was funded by Howard Hughes Medical Institute for work on neuroinflammatory markers after chronic methamphetamine use. After graduation, Adhikary won an NIH Intramural Research Training Fellowship and joined the Shaham Lab at the National Institute on

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Drug Abuse from 2014-2016 to dissect neural circuits implicated in drug addiction relapse, which impacts women at a high level. In this short time, Adhikary published one first author, four second author and numerous middle author publications in respectable journals, presented her work at numerous professional meetings, and won top poster awards at the NIH for innovative techniques such as using kappa-opioid receptor based DREADD to trace complex addiction neural circuits.

At OHSU, Adhikary has had stellar academic results and continued her research on psychoactive and addictive substances working in John Williams' lab at the Vollum Institute. Her thesis proposal won a NIDA grant giving her a principal investigatorship with \$277,500 in funding. She has received smaller fellowships from the Tartar Trust and ARCS foundations, numerous travel awards, and has published two first author manuscripts from her thesis work.

Adhikary has also been an outstanding peer and leader in her student communities. She was one of the first Executive Chairs for the AMWA branch at OHSU, helping to grow the branch from six to over 40 members in the first year, contributing to programming with themes such as the importance of stories in medicine, innovation in research, and gender equity. Adhikary also raised substantial funds for the AMWA OHSU branch. In 2019, Adhikary was elected Treasurer for the national student division of AMWA. In this role, she helped navigate pandemic-related program changes, including transitioning to a fully virtual Annual Meeting. Adhikary has also been active with OHSU's Women's Leadership Development Program (WLDP), where she developed programming for first year students and served as a mentor to future women leaders. She also helped organize a journal club on police violence and racial equity for OHSU's MD/PhD program and served as a Chair of Education for the Alliance for Visible Diversity in Science (AVDS).

"Sweta Adhikary is an exceptional, insightful, hardworking and empathetic young woman who has made meaningful contributions to our AMWA community. Her OHSU and AMWA peers and mentors generally speak very highly of her and a few submitted extraordinary endorsements in support of her nomination for the Anne C. Carter Student Leadership Award," said AMWA President Janice Werbinski, MD. "We feel incredibly fortunate to count her among our exceptional AMWA student leaders. We appreciate the contributions and spirit she has brought to our community to date and are excited both for the scientific progress she will help to deliver and the example and mentorship she will contribute for other young women in medicine in the future."

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About The 107th AMWA Annual Meeting

In response to the strain endured across the healthcare world during the last several years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is focusing its 107th Annual Meeting on uplifting and energizing women in medicine to *Thrive with Tenacity, Humor and Hope*. The AMWA 2022 agenda offers something for every career stage. It features nationally recognized thought leaders who will inspire with their vision and offer strategies to manage the myriad challenges facing women in medicine. CME accreditation is provided by SIU School of Medicine. There are also student and resident tracks, and a 2-day medical school fair. All registrations include a 30-60 minute session with a professional physician coach, and for non-member physicians, registration includes membership in AMWA. For more about AMWA 2022, see our [press release](#) or visit our website: amwa-doc.org/amwa107.

ABOUT AMWA

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), founded in 1915, is the oldest multispecialty organization of women in medicine. Our mission is to advance women in medicine, advocate for equity, and ensure excellence in healthcare.

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