

American Medical  
Association Foundation  
**2020 Impact Report**



## Welcome

Dear Friends,

I am immensely proud that this past year we awarded nearly \$1,000,000 to support medical education and leadership and free health clinics at time when they needed it most. What we have been able to accomplish amidst an ongoing global pandemic is all made possible by you – our incredible donor community.

Through our Community Health Programming, eleven physician-led clinics were able to screen and educate nearly 22,000 individuals from our most vulnerable patient populations in the prevention and/or management of type-2 diabetes and hypertension. In addition, the Foundation provided \$250,000 to directly support COVID-19 relief efforts in these underserved communities.

We continued our long-standing tradition of supporting Physicians of Tomorrow by awarding 28 medical student scholarships to deserving individuals, many of whom you see on the cover of this Impact Report. These students serve as a reminder and beacon about the importance of what we do. I would like to share with you a note we received from one of these medical students so you can better understand the impact you have on their lives:

***“Thank you** is not enough: Thank you for empowering me. **Thank you** for investing in my future and in me. **Thank you** for believing in me. **Thank you** for helping my family by supporting my medical education. **Thank you** for allowing me to be able to invest more in the communities I will serve as a future family medicine physician. I vow to continue to serve as an active leader in my community and to make sure I always give back. **Thank you** so much again, I greatly and gratefully appreciate it!”*

-Gabrielle Sangesse, 2020 Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship Recipient attending SUNY Upstate Medical School.

I join Gabrielle in saying **thank you**. Amidst the many challenges we faced this past year, there was also much to celebrate. And, looking ahead to a brighter year, the Foundation is launching the National Fellowship for LGBTQ+ Health in July 2021. This unique initiative is designed to improve the health of and address health care inequities experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals, increase the availability of culturally competent medical specialists with special expertise in LGBTQ+ health, and further integrate LGBTQ+ health care curriculum into medical education. Through it, we will encourage information sharing and collaborative efforts to sustain and expand the nation's ability to develop highly qualified leaders in LGBTQ+ health and exponentially increase the capacity to care for LGBTQ+ patients.

Now, more than ever, we are resolved to improving the public's health – especially those among us who are most vulnerable. I again thank you and hope you enjoy learning more about these efforts and more in this report celebrating you and everything you make possible with your generous support.

With Gratitude,

R. Barkley Payne  
Executive Director, AMA Foundation



## ***Programmatic Portfolio***

Made possible by the generosity of individual and corporate donors, our programs bring together physicians, businesses, health care providers, academic institutions and community leaders to help solve our country's most difficult health care challenges.

### ***Community Health Programs***

Addresses health equity and works to improve health outcomes and sustain the delivery and quality of care by forming a cohort of physician led, community-based organizations throughout the country serving at-risk, underserved populations in preventing and managing type-2 diabetes and hypertension.

### ***Excellence in Medicine Awards***

Recognizes physicians who exemplify the highest values of volunteerism, community engagement, leadership and dedication to the care of underserved populations.

### ***National Fellowship for LGBTQ+ Health***

Designed to improve the health of and address health care inequities experienced by LGBTQ+ individuals, increase the availability of culturally competent medical specialists with special expertise in LGBTQ+ health, and further integrate LGBTQ+ health care curriculum into medical education.

### ***Leadership Development Institute***

Offers a unique leadership development program that includes a weekend retreat, mentorship pairing and additional networking opportunities for students in their final year of medical school.

### ***Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarships***

Provides scholarships to a diverse group of medical student leaders committed to serving their communities and improving our nation's health.



## Programmatic Impact

### Leadership Development Institute:



**300 hours** of leadership development training activities



**120 hours** of formal mentorship with a physician leader



**100%** residency match by participants

### Physicians of Tomorrow Medical Scholarships:



**\$4,260,000** awarded since 2004

**26 scholarships** awarded in 2020



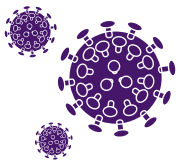
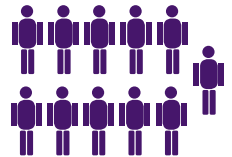
**9 new** scholarships established in past five years

### Community Health Programming:



**11 community health clinics** providing free health classes and COVID-19 support to uninsured patients

**\$758,350** awarded to support multi-lingual health education classes, chronic illness management and prevention services, food literacy services, free A1C testing, and more



**\$250,000** allocated to directly support COVID-19 related community needs

**Nearly 2,000 patients** screened for diabetes and hypertension in the last year for free



**2,000 lbs. (12,000 servings) of produce** harvested annually by our Community Health Partner in Raleigh, NC from their community garden. All produce is incorporated into cooking classes and distributed to patients, along with recipes and nutrition information



## ***New fund aims to address health equity and inspire action***

The COVID-19 pandemic has shined an even brighter light on the need to invest in eliminating health care disparities and addressing social determinants of health. Tom and Sandra Madejski want to help bring people together to find innovative solutions to improve public health in communities across the country, and they have created a new fund in honor of their mentors, David and Donna Marie Meza, to do just that.

The creation of the David and Donna Marie Meza Health Equity Fund has been formulating for many years for the Madejskis. As a resident at SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, New York, Dr. Madejski volunteered at a free clinic for the uninsured and homeless. He recalls the frustration of not being able to modify some of the risk and other societal factors that have a direct impact on the health of individuals. This motivated him to serve as a catalyst for change – which is the basis of the Meza Health Equity Fund.

“I want to inspire action,” says Dr. Madejski. “I see the struggles every day in my patients and community members with so many remediable problems. We try to help in our practice, but we need to reach out further and create a better and healthier society.”

The AMA Foundation has a long-standing Community Health Program that is dedicated to supporting vulnerable populations and improving health equity. This new fund will support initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to addressing health disparities and promoting health equity in diverse, economically disadvantaged environments through both the Foundation’s Community Health Program and the AMA’s Center for Health Equity.

In 2018, the Medical Society of the State of NY (MSSNY) sponsored a resolution passed by the AMA’s House of Delegates that resulted in the creation of the Center for Health Equity. As an AMA delegate of MSSNY, Frank Dowling, MD is honored to be one of the Meza Health Equity Fund’s lead donors. “I’m pleased and proud to have the opportunity to donate to the Meza Health Equity Fund,” expressed Dr. Dowling. “This fund provides more resources for the AMA, through the Center for Health Equity and the AMA Foundation, to support community-based pilot projects and programs that seek to eliminate the inequities that cause these unacceptable disparities in health and health care outcomes.”

Dr. David Meza delivered more than ten thousand babies over his career and served as a leader at the Medical Society of the State of New York as well as the Empire State Medical, Scientific and Educational Foundation. The Meza Health Equity Fund honors the life and career of David and his wife Donna Marie, and thanks them for the outstanding mentorship that was afforded to both Tom and Sandra.



LGBTQ Fellowship  
Program



## *Addressing disparities in LGBTQ health care*

This year, the Foundation established a new partnership with the [Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai](#) to underwrite a pilot fellowship program to address health care disparities faced by the LGBTQ community. This pilot program is designed to complement the AMAF's National Fellowship Program, which will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) to U.S. MD and DO educational institutions in early 2021.

Recognizing that training the next generation of physicians requires promoting excellence in LGBTQ health as well as advocacy for the unique sets of needs that patients in the LGBTQ community face, the Icahn School of Medicine will offer an LGBTQ Healthcare Fellowship through its Department of Medicine's Institute for Advanced Medicine (IAM), that will launch in the 2022 academic year. This pilot fellowship will be led by Michael Gaisa, MD, PhD, Director of the Anal Dysplasia Program at the Mount Sinai Health System. Under Dr. Gaisa's leadership, the prospective fellow will focus on evidence-based, patient-centered, integrative and culturally competent clinical care, to include social, cultural and mental health.

"The goals of the Mount Sinai LGBTQ Healthcare Fellowship are in complete alignment with the AMA Foundation's National LGBTQ Fellowship Program," said John D. Evans, Chairman of the LGBTQ Fellowship Commission. "I am thrilled the AMA Foundation is underwriting this pilot fellowship so that we can learn from Dr. Gaisa and thereby enhance health care for LGBTQ patients. This is a unique opportunity to provide the LGBTQ Fellowship Commission with vital information to further enrich the RFP process and best practices in LGBTQ health care."

"We're grateful and excited to collaborate with the American Medical Association Foundation," says Dr. Michael Gaisa. "It is our shared vision to reduce disparities and improve quality and accessibility of LGBTQ health care across the US through education of physician leaders. Together we're striving to set national standards for post-graduate education in LGBTQ medicine."

First announced in January 2020, the National LGBTQ Fellowship Program is designed to create a pipeline of LGBTQ health specialists who are able to serve the health care needs of the LGBTQ community while growing the pool of competent instructors who will pass their knowledge to the next generation of LGBTQ providers.



## Improving LGBTQ health during a global pandemic

One evening while I was working an overnight shift in the ER, a transgender woman with no symptoms of COVID-19 showed up at the hospital around 1am. She came in for some routine blood work, refills on her hormone therapy and antiretroviral medications, and her regular STI testing. I couldn't figure out why she would come to the ER at such a dangerous time, potentially exposing herself to an infectious disease for routine medical care.

I often teach my residents that for each of our patients, we need to understand a key question – “why are you really here?” Patients are not always able to communicate the fears that lead them to the ER in their time of need. Our job as doctors is to pick up on their unspoken cues and treat them accordingly. This ‘guiding light’ is what drives us to dig deeper when our gut tells us something isn't right.

During our conversation, I discovered that, to her, it was worth the risk of possibly contracting COVID-19 to receive her hormone therapy medications so that she could feel like her true self. Fri- day night at 1am felt safe and worth braving the elements while most of the locked down New York City was asleep.

We have an obligation to continue our work to improve LGBTQ health. For our community, for our patients, and for all of the individuals that have made a late-night trip to the hospital just so they can feel like the truest version of themselves.

By,

Erick A. Eiting, MD, MPH, MMM,  
Vice Chair of Operations for Emergency Medicine  
at Mount Sinai Downtown  
AMA Foundation LGBTQ Honor Fund Founding Donor  
New York, New York



## Equipping our Community Health Partners during COVID-19

The AMA Foundation has a long history of partnering with organizations across the country to improve the health of our most vulnerable populations. This past year, the Foundation partnered with eleven free-health clinics focused on the prevention and treatment of type-II diabetes and hypertension. In support of their COVID-19 efforts, we provided them with the opportunity to reallocate \$250,000 in funding to best serve their patients and communities during this pandemic.

“Thank you for allowing us to reallocate funding,” said Corinne Hanson, Chief Development Officer at La Maestra Community Health Centers in San Diego. “This is very much needed in our health center. We cannot find enough personal protective equipment for our staff.”

Thanks to an in-kind donor, the Foundation also organized the delivery of 10,000 masks to five of these 11 clinics who needed PPE. In addition, the Foundation sent them additional program tools, including COVID-19 related web-based resources provided by the AMA.

Thank you to our corporate and individual donors, who make efforts like these possible! Here's a sampling of additional thank you notes we have received:

- “Thank you, thank you so much for your generous donation. We received the masks yesterday, and we are so appreciative...with generous donations like yours, we will be able to maintain needed PPE for our staff.”
- “A huge thank you to AMAF – we sincerely appreciate this very generous gift. These masks will go a long way in our clinic during this challenging time.
- “Thank you so much. We truly appreciate the support and additional resources. This network is so invaluable in the current crisis we are all facing together.”

Even in the face of a global pandemic, our Community Health Partners have remained steadfast in their effort to educate serve uninsured patient communities in the treatment and prevention of type-II diabetes and hypertension in addition to providing COVID-19 specific support.



To-date, our Community Health Partners have provided type-II diabetes and hypertension education and screenings to **21,250 individuals** and has **enrolled 2,865** into a chronic disease prevention/management program.

Educational materials are being produced and translated into: **Arabic, Bosnian, Cantonese, English, Farsi, French, Haitian Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Russian and Vietnamese.**



**93%** of hypertensive program participants lowered their blood pressure

**98%** of pre-diabetes program participants lowered or maintained their A1C levels





## *Supporting medical student DREAMers*

This past year, a new \$10,000 scholarship underwritten by the Vandenberg Health Equity Fund was established to be awarded annually to a medical student beneficiary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and/or a first-generation immigrant to the United States.

The DREAM MD Equity Scholarship recognizes the unique experiences of DACA-recipient medical students and other first-generation immigrants, and the unique challenges they face in pursuing a career in medicine. Equally important, it acknowledges their unique contributions to society and the health of the nation.

Nearly 30,000 health care workers are currently DACA recipients, including medical students, residents, and physicians who depend on DACA for their eligibility to practice medicine. They have stood among the frontline heroes during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and are indispensable to the nation's health system during ordinary times, as well.

“As we look ahead, DACA medical students and other similarly situated Dreamers will continue to enhance their communities, while also facing significant challenges in paying for their education,” said Brian Vandenberg, American Medical Association (AMA) General Counsel. “Most cobble together tuition with merit-based scholarships and private loans since they are ineligible for federal loans. The DREAM MD Equity Scholarship program will provide financial support to help ensure that our nation's health care system continues to be enriched by their presence.”

“We are proud to add this new DREAM MD Equity Scholarship for DACA medical students to our growing portfolio of annual scholarship opportunities. The AMA Foundation is truly honored to be entrusted by Mr. Vandenberg to administer this scholarship through the Vandenberg Health Equity Fund which he established with us earlier this year,” said Dr. Jacqueline A. Bello, President of the AMA Foundation.



## Supporting medical student DREAMers

“The creation of the DREAM MD Equity Scholarship provides visionary leadership at an inflection point in our nation’s history,” said Mark Kuczewski, PhD, Director, Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics & Health Policy at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. “We have never needed the talents, skills, and resilience of DACA-recipient med students more than in this uncertain time. This investment in their future is a show of faith in these young people and a beacon hope for the diversification of the medical profession.”

In addition to the new DREAM MD Equity Scholarship, the Vandenberg Health Equity Fund currently supports the following medical school scholarships:

- David Jones Peck, MD Health Equity Scholarship, established in 2018, and awarded annually to medical students who demonstrate a commitment to addressing health disparities and promoting health equity in marginalized and minoritized communities.
- Native American Center for Health Professions (NACHP) Scholarship for Advancing Health Equity, established in 2020, and awarded annually with preference given to medical students at the [University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health](#) who are members of a federally- or state-recognized Native American tribe and/or who demonstrate a commitment to address health disparities that impact Native American populations.

### Inaugural recipients



Ivonne Beltran is a rising fourth-year student at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Ivonne’s incredible story as a DACA recipient is one of enormous resilience and a spirit that never abandons hope. Ivonne plans to become a family physician who aims to guide patients in their journey to overcome barriers created through social determinants of health.



Alyssandra Abrenica is a rising third-year student at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Growing up as a DACA student made her keenly aware of the constant fear and challenges marginalized communities face. Alyssa’s hope is to train as an OB-GYN and help women who feel disempowered and vulnerable.



## ***Leadership Circle Honor Roll***

**As of December 31, 2020, the following individuals and organizations are part of the Leadership Circle by generously donating over \$100,000 in their lifetime:**

### **Visionary \$1,000,000+**

Estate of Dorothy W. Boone  
Pfizer  
Estate of John C. Shipper, MD

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## **Champions**

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# 2020 Donor honor roll

## \$50,000+

- Estate of Dorothy W. Boone
- Brian and Jamie Vandenberg

## \$25,000-\$49,999

- American Medical Association
- The John D. Evans Foundation
- Jon N. Ekdahl and Marcia Opp
- Surekha and Deepak Kumar, MD
- Thomas J. Madejski, MD and Sandra Madejski

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Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you believe your name was omitted in error, please do not hesitate to contact us.



## ***Financial Statement for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020***

### **Fundraising Revenue**

**\$1,735,093**

### **Scholarships & Grants Awarded:**

**\$1,023,162**

### **Grants & Educational Program Expenses**

**\$1,468,082**

### **Administrative Expenses**

**\$608,835**

### **Total Expenses**

**\$3,149,777**

### **\*Total Revenue**

**\$2,197,602**

### **Total Net Assets**

**\$24,857,042**

Our mission is to bring together physicians and  
communities to improve our nation's health.

\*You can view additional financial documents on  
our website by [clicking here](#).



## 2020-2021 AMAF Board Roster

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