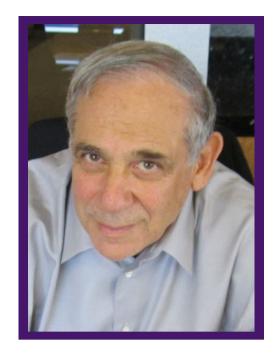




**Annual Report** 

2022



# A Message from the President

Over the past year, your AMA Foundation dispersed nearly \$2 million dollars in charitable grants, further deepening its commitment to advance health equity. On behalf of the Foundation, please accept our sincere appreciation for your loyal support of our programs.

Because of your generosity, the AMAF was able to achieve numerous strides to advance our mission of bringing together physicians and communities such as:

- · Raise \$2,233,912
- $\cdot$  Establish a fund supporting courageous physicians devoted to serving women's health in the face of adversity.
- · Create three new Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarships
- · Added two academic institutions to our National LGBTQ+ Fellowship Program
- · Establish our new Health Equity Acceleration Fund to further accelerate projects designed to advance health equity

We hope the content contained in our annual report that highlights achievements from the past year exemplifies the important work of the AMAF that would not be possible without you. Thank you once again.



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# **Breaking Barriers in American Indian and Alaska Native Health Education**

American Indian and Alaska Native medical professionals discuss the lack of representation in medical education and purposeful approaches to improvement, such as the AMA Foundation's Physicians of Tomorrow Program.

AMA Foundation (AMAF) Board member Siobhan Wescott, MD, MPH, associate professor in the Department of Health Promotion at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, took an unlikely path to become a physician. After working for several years in public health, she realized that with a better understanding of disease prevention, she could make a more substantial impact on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities.

While pursuing her medical degree at Harvard Medical School (HMS), Dr. Wescott recognized an uncertainty toward non-white students, an all too familiar refrain of her lived educational experience. She recalls being on call with a classmate, a white man, wearing their white coats embroidered with HMS and their names. After both were paged, a nurse approached them and asked Dr. Wescott if she was the translator.

"That kind of thing happened constantly," she reflects. "My childhood prepared me to expect the unexpected. I had to explain to staff that I was there to become a physician. Even the Harvard name is of little help when people see dark skin."

Similarly, AMA member Alec Calac, a fifth-year MD/PhD candidate in public health at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine and Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science and

president of the Association of Native American Medical Students, was the only Native student in his class of 134 when he enrolled at UCSD in 2018.

Prior to being admitted, Calac, a 2022
National Minority Quality Forum 40 Under
40 Leader in Minority Health, had found
mentors during his undergraduate career
who introduced him to different career
paths in advancing Al/AN health and
education. After he pursued biomedical
research opportunities at the National
Institutes of Health and a health policy
fellowship at the National Indian Health
Board, Calac eventually became involved
in public health.



Alec Calac (center) with other members of the AMA Medical Student Section Committee on American Indian Affairs

Calac brought his knowledge and expertise to UCSD to challenge himself as an aspiring physician and the educational system to maximize opportunities for AI/AN students. Through his hard work and determination, he made substantial

improvements at UCSD. Two years after he entered the MD/PhD program, the medical school enrolled five AI/AN students. Today, the medical school has more than 10 AI/AN students and an entire program dedicated to advancing AI/AN medical education.

"You can imagine the experience was very different, where instead of being the only [Al/AN student], they could fill a table. Their lectures had direct references to Native health education. They had financial resources for board preparation and other forms of aid because I did not want to feel those same feelings of isolation," Calac asserts. "I think that's really what a lot of Native students do—they take those same feelings and use them to ensure that the path for the next generation is a little bit better. These gradual improvements really make a significant difference over time."

#### **Pathways to Success**

According to the Association of American Colleges, less than 10 percent of medical schools have four or more AI/AN students, and less than one percent of the physician workforce is AI/AN. Calac shares that only 11 percent of medical schools have Native health in their curriculum. Both he and Dr. Wescott agree that mentorship, training and financial support are ways to increase physician recruitment and retention rates.

"When it comes to education, we've seen virtually no change in representation across the education continuum from K through 12 to college and eventually graduate and professional education," Calac says. "There are just so few Native people who can successfully progress

through all the degree paths because of financial costs, lack of mentorship and getting past the expectation that they will fail. That's why it's important that we have mentorship opportunities that begin early and often."



Siobhan M. Wescott, MD, MPH

Dr. Wescott, an AMA member, offers the example of the successful University of North Dakota Indians into Medicine program (INMED), which is ranked first in the nation for graduating Al/AN physicians. The program provides academic, personal, social and cultural support for students in grade seven through graduate studies.

Still, programs like INMED require significant financial resources to be successful. "We're just barely keeping up with the [graduation rate] and not really getting anywhere toward representation in medicine," Dr. Wescott says.

# Supporting Al/AN and other underrepresented students

Recognizing the urgent need for financial aid for underrepresented students, AMAF student Board member Shaquille Charles has pushed heavily for increased support through the AMAF's Physicians of Tomorrow Program. The program

distributes a \$10,000 tuition assistance scholarship to medical students approaching their final year of school with the goal of creating a diverse cohort of students who are dedicated to serving underserved communities.

"Underrepresented students in medicine see both sides of the coin. We know the side of medicine that provides hope through treatment and understanding, and the side of medicine characterized by distrust and betrayal," says Charles.

"However, as more programs continue to promote diversity in the medical field, we may bridge the gap of health disparities by fostering trust between patients and providers."

Because of student Board members, as well as external advocacy from Calac and Dr. Wescott at an early 2022 AMAF Board meeting, the AMAF awarded an additional scholarship this year to Rohsennase Dalton LaBarge, a medical student at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and member of the Association of Native American Medical Students. As a student, they help operate the student-run clinic at St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, which provides specialty care to underinsured patients. LaBarge also co-founded the Bridge Program to formalize longitudinal mentorship opportunities for historically excluded students on their path through medical training.

"Recognition from the AMAF speaks to the important work of the collective, work that poses many questions and opportunities as we reimagine what the fields of medicine and medical education look like," LaBarge affirms. Efforts to increase

onkwehonwe [original or first people] representation in medicine are fundamental to fostering a deeper understanding of what it means to connect and grow with all people."

LaBarge plans to enter an emergency medicine residency with aspirations to increase the critical shortage of Indigenous physicians and to improve access to health care across traditional Rotinonshón territory.



Rohsennase Dalton LaBarge

"We have systems of healing and consensus building that can be the antidote to many challenges that our systems face," LaBarge says. "It is through the support and encouragement of initiatives—like those housed at the AMA Foundation—that we may bring our minds together as one to make the health and livelihood of future generations an achievable priority."

Learn more about the Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship Program by visiting amafoundation.org/programs/scholarships.



# AMAF Launches the Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Excellence in Medicine Award

The AMAF Excellence in Medicine Awards recognizes physicians and medical advocates who exemplify the highest values of volunteerism, community engagement, leadership and dedication to the care of underserved populations. Recipients are honored at a ceremony during the AMA Annual Meeting and can choose a health-focused non-profit organization for a grant honorarium.

AMAF donors recently came together to create a new Excellence in Medicine Award. The Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Award honors physicians dedicated to clinically advancing women's health and who demonstrate courageous advocacy in support of women, including all who identify as women, or women's health. The inaugural recipient will be presented with the award during the AMA Annual Meeting in June 2023.

Founding donor Brandi Rig, MD, MA, MBA, FACOG, FAWM, FACS, was inspired to donate to the fund by the women she sees every day: her patients. "These patients who are sometimes struggling just to survive, to take care of their families, to juggle work and home responsibilities deserve the very best care that medicine and science can provide them," she says. "I see our system failing

them every day—insurance that doesn't cover tests or imaging studies they need, copays for specialist visits and tests that they cannot afford, insurance that covers only until delivery but not after birth."

Dr. Rig believes that the Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Award is needed to support and recognize physicians who are fighting to change the system, people who are fighting for women and those who identify as women. "These champions need to know that there is support out there for the change they are trying to make happen and the patients they are trying to care for," she adds. "Inspiration and hope can be found in the smallest gesture of thanks. I donate to spark that inspiration and hope for others so that many more will have the courage to join the fight beside these champions."

Fellow founding donor and former AMA president Barbara McAneny, MD, also voices her support of the fund. "I gave to the AMA Foundation's Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Award because I not only want to advance women's health care clinically but I want to provide a vehicle to help protect the physicians who deliver women's health in an environment where the standard of health care may be criminalized," she states. "It is the job of the AMA to protect and service the practice of medicine, and the Foundation gives us the ability to put our money where our values are."

The AMAF thanks the donors who generously established the award: Jodi Abbot, MD, MSc, MHCH; Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, FAAFP; Betty Chu, MD, MBA; Lisa Bohman Egbert, MD; Nita Kulkarni, MD and Bobby Mukkamala, MD; Ilse Levin, MD, MPH; G. Sealy Massingill, MD and Debbie Massingill; Barbara McAneny, MD; Diana Ramos, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOG; Brandi Rig, MD, MA, MBA, FACOG, FAWM, FACS; and Heather Smith, MD, MPH.

Learn more about the Excellence in Medicine Awards by visiting amafoundation.org/programs/awards.



**2022** Excellence in Medicine recipients at the June 2022 ceremony with AMAF Immediate Past President Heather A. Smith, MD, MPH: (left to right): Jerry P. Abraham, MD; Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, FAAFP; Dustin Nowaskie, MD; Brian Vandenberg, JD; Lonnie R. Bristow, MD; Jason Schneider, MD; Heather A. Smith, MD, MPH; (not pictured: Oni Blackstock, MD)



## War in Ukraine Sparks Physician Aid Response

The AMA Foundation provided \$100,000 in aid to support the efforts of the International Medical Corps and Heart to Heart International in addressing the humanitarian crisis for citizens in Ukraine.

The images of bombed-out hospitals and apartment buildings in Ukraine evoke feelings of outrage and grief. For some, those emotions go even deeper.

"I look at some of these pictures and I say: I've been there, I've walked those streets. I know what it was like before," said George Hrycelak, MD, a retired general surgeon and AMA member who is executive director of the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

"It's really, really sad, because the cities are beautiful cities and it's terrible to see what's happening," Dr. Hrycelak added. "It really doesn't seem to make any sense at all."

These feelings are shared by doctors and physician organizations around the world. "The AMA is outraged by the senseless injury and death the Russian army has inflicted on the Ukraine people," said former AMA president Gerald E. Harmon, MD. "For those who survive these unprovoked attacks, the physical, emotional and psychological health of Ukrainians will be felt for years."

"In addition, the Russian military targeting of health care facilities violates every standard of decency," said Dr. Harmon, a family physician in South Carolina. "We join physicians everywhere—and especially in Ukraine—who are calling for an end to this war so we can work on healing the terrible damage already inflicted."

The AMA Foundation provided \$100,000 in aid to support the efforts of the International Medical Corps and Heart to Heart International in addressing the humanitarian crisis for citizens in Ukraine, including the estimated 5 million people who have been forcibly displaced thus far, including more than 1.5 million children. Visit these organizations' websites to learn more and support their ongoing efforts.

Originally published by the AMA. Read the full article at bit.ly/3YWoMn6.



# AMAF National LGBTQ+ Fellowship Program Expands with New Institutions and Inaugural Fellows

Last year, the AMA Foundation announced that Harvard Medical School affiliates in collaboration with Fenway Health and Vanderbilt University Medical Center joined the AMA Foundation's National LGBTQ+ Fellowship. They joined the consortium of institutions comprising of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

#### **Inaugural Fellows**

Muhammad Daud, MD, grew up in Pakistan where he received his medical education at the National University of Sciences and Technology. He recently completed his residency in family medicine at the UC Davis-affiliated San Joaquin General Hospital Family Medicine Program in Northern California.

Before starting his residency, Muhammad completed a Global Health Fellowship with Global Health Corps where he worked with New York City's Department of Health to improve and expand HIV prevention and care services throughout the city.

During his residency he led the establishment of LGBTQ+ and HIV care services in San Joaquin County, Calif. Muhammad's long-term goal is to work at the intersection of clinical medicine and public health and to become a more insightful and confident advocate for LGBTQ+ acceptance and health equity globally.

Margaretta Gergen, DO, completed her Bachelor of Arts in Ethnomusicology at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn., and received her osteopathic medical degree at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed her family medicine residency at the University of Arizona College of Medicine—Phoenix.

Pictured: Daud (middle right), Gergen (middle left) and UWSMPH staff

Learn more about the LGBTQ+ fellowship by visiting amafoundation.org/programs/ lgbt-fellowship.

## **The Impact of Your Charitable Giving**

AMAF by the Numbers
Fiscal Year 2022

Learn more at www.amafoundation.org

1,088 Individual Donors



**315** New Donors



**\$364** Avg. Annual Gift



**\$2,233,912** Aid Dispersed



**5** Programs

Including Excellence in Medicine, Physicians of Tomorrow and National LGBTQ+ Fellowship

**32** Scholarships

Supporting scholarships, awards, programming and unrestricted support **50+** Donor Funds

Supporting scholarships, awards, programming and unrestricted support

**20** Board of Directors

Leading the Foundation through dedicated service

# Financial Statement for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

## **Fundraising Revenue**

\$2,233,912

# **Grants & Educational Program Expenses**

\$2,262,825

# **Administrative Expenses**

\$880,294

## **Total Expenses**

\$4,297,822

## **Total Revenue**

\$2,675,271

## **Total Net Assets**

\$24,994,658

## Donor Spotlight: Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, FAAFP

Dr. Bisgrove is a family physician and assistant professor of family medicine at Rush University Medical Center. She is the recipient of the Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to the Profession Excellence in Medicine Award and is a founding donor to the Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Excellence in Medicine Award.



Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, FAAFP

In June 2022, Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD, FAAFP, was awarded the AMA Foundation Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to the Profession Excellence in Medicine Award for her outstanding improvements to the profession through community service, advocacy, leadership, teaching or philanthropy. For Dr. Bisgrove, a family physician and assistant professor of family medicine at Rush University Medical Center (Rush) in Chicago, her passion to practice is driven by the legacy of her father and grandfather's practice of medicine.

Dr. Bisgrove's grandfather, Samuel Turner, MD, who immigrated from Ukraine 100 years ago, wanted to be an engineer but was not allowed to pursue the profession because he was a Jew. He instead decided to become a physician. Being a doctor became so important to him that he impressed upon his sons that there was nothing more important than

being a doctor. Two of his sons would go on to become physicians, her father a radiologist and her uncle an OB/GYN, respectively.

"Being a doctor continued to be so important to my grandfather that even though he died when I was a baby, he and my grandmother set up their will such that money was set aside specifically to pay for medical school for any grandchild who wanted to become a doctor," Dr. Bisgrove says. "Three of us did, and we were, as my father would say, 'Sam and Sarah Turner Medical Scholars."

Inspired by her grandparent's generosity and pay it forward credo, Dr. Bisgrove and her parents established a primary care scholarship 10 years ago that would eventually become part of the Department of Family and Preventative Medicine at Rush, where her father worked for more than 40 years and her alma mater.

"Being a part of the scholarship has been amazing, and last year I came home to Rush in part through a friendship in the AMA House of Delegates that was sparked by a connection to our family's scholarship," Dr. Bisgrove asserts. "Now, I get to help teach those same medical students and pay it forward again."

Dr. Bisgrove's philanthropy expands to the recently established Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Excellence in Medicine Award which will be awarded inaugurally to a physician who is

dedicated to clinically improving women's health and demonstrating courageous advocacy in support of women.

Dr. Bisgrove was inspired to support the fund by acknowledging women's physicians and health specialists through the Excellence in Medicine Awards. As a recipient of an AMAF award, Dr. Bisgrove understands firsthand the importance of recognizing physicians for their care of patients and contributions to communities.

"You spend your life taking care and fighting for patients and being plucked from the crowd to be recognized inspires you to take your work and your passion to a whole new level. For women's health, we need levels of passion like never before."



"I am truly honored to receive this prestigious scholarship in memory of Dr. Susan Diskin's father, Herman E. Diskin, MD. who embodied the core of compassionate medicine through his never-ending acts of kindness, empathy and service to the people of his community. I too have a community that I hold near and dear to my heart, the metabolic community. They have long been underserved and overlooked due to the rarity of their condition, and I am

honored to call them my family as I work tirelessly to help make the world a better place for them and their families. I will continue to uphold Dr. Herman E. Diskin's values of humanitarian acts of service and embody his legacy throughout my career as a physician-scientist compassionately serving the underserved." – Daelyn Richards, MD, PhD, 2022-23 recipient of the Herman E. Diskin, MD Memorial Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship

## **Honor Roll of Donors: Leadership Circle**

As of December 31, 2022, the following individuals and organizations are members of the Leadership Circle by generously donating more than \$100,000 in their lifetime:

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

Estate of Dorothy W. Boone Pfizer Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Estate of John C. Shipper, MD

#### Altruist \$500,000-\$999,999

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