



2023
Excellence in Medicine
Awards

*Recognizing extraordinary physicians
and health care advocates*

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Message from the AMA Foundation President

As one of the AMA Foundation’s long-standing programs, the Excellence in Medicine Awards recognizes physician leaders and changemakers, as well as health care advocates, for their outstanding service to patients and the communities they support. We are pleased to celebrate the recipients of the 2023 Excellence in Medicine Awards at this year’s AMA Annual Meeting.

The commitment and dedication physicians deliver every day too often go unrecognized. The Excellence in Medicine Awards program was designed to show these physicians that the work they do matters and the impact they make on their patient’s lives and in their communities is boundless.

The recipients that the AMA Foundation are honoring this year come from many different backgrounds and practice a breadth of specialties, but what they share is their compassion, humanity and tenacity. The future of medicine is bright because of the work and advocacy they do.

We appreciate your attendance at the Excellence in Medicine Awards ceremony and your support of the AMA Foundation.

Sincerely,



William C. Sternfeld, MD, FACS
President, AMA Foundation



About the AMA Foundation

Through educational support and development programs, the AMA Foundation cultivates a diverse group of physician leaders committed to serving their communities and improving our nation's health. Established in 1950, the AMA Foundation supports aspiring medical students through development, leadership and fellowship programs. The programs, as well as scholarship and grant aid, are generously funded by individual donors, state and medical societies, and medical and health care organizations, among others.

The AMA Foundation's current programs include the Excellence in Medicine Awards, Health Equity initiatives, Leadership Development Institute, National LGBTQ+ Fellowship and Physicians of Tomorrow. To learn more or to donate, visit amafoundation.org/donate.

About the Excellence in Medicine Awards

The Excellent in Medicine Awards recognizes physicians who exemplify the highest values of volunteerism, community engagement, leadership and dedication to the care of underserved populations. Awards include:

AMA Foundation Award for Leadership in Medical Ethics and Professionalism:

Honors individuals dedicated to the principles of medical ethics and the highest standards of medical practice, and who have made an outstanding contribution through active service in medical ethics activities. The award is in partnership with the AMA.

Courage in Women's Health Advocacy Award: Honors deserving physicians dedicated to clinically advancing women's health and/or demonstrating courageous advocacy in support of women, including all who identify as women, or women's health.

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About the Excellence in Medicine Awards (cont.)

Dr. Debasish Mridha Spirit of Medicine Award: Recognizes the work of U.S. physicians who demonstrate altruism, compassion, integrity, leadership and personal sacrifice while providing quality health care to destitute, distressed or marginalized populations in underserved communities.

Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to the Profession Award: Honors physicians who are committed to expanding knowledge through teaching, conducting research and publishing. Other qualifying virtues include leadership, volunteerism and philanthropic activities in medical and other civic organizations.

Dr. Jacqueline A. Bello Friend of the AMA Foundation Award: Honors AMA staff, donors and volunteers for their active engagement and unwavering support of the AMA Foundation. Recipients are those who inspire hopefulness and encourage others to join them in giving their time and personal resources to further advance the foundation's mission.

Excellence in LGBTQ Health Award: Honors physicians, residents/fellows and medical students in their final year that have demonstrated outstanding work, innovation and leadership in LGBTQ policy, advocacy, patient care, academics (teaching and research), workforce diversity and/or health care administration.

Jack B. McConnell, MD, Award for Excellence in Volunteerism: Honors senior physicians who are committed to providing medical care to those without access to health care in the U.S.

International Award in Medicine: Honors physicians for outstanding international service in the areas of medical practice, medical education or medical research.

Pride in the Profession Award: Honors physicians who aid underserved populations in the U.S.



2023 Dr. Debasish Mridha Spirit of Medicine Award

**John A. Johnson, MD, MBA
Nominated by Neethi Johnson**



John A. Johnson, MD, MBA, is a board-certified psychiatrist with more than three decades of experience in mental health care, spanning three continents. He graduated medical school from Magadh Medical College in India, trained at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland and became a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, London, and completed his residency in psychiatry from Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pa. He went on to

earn his MBA from Ohio University and is currently a specialist in psychiatry from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, as well as associate professor of psychiatry at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Ohio.

Dr. Johnson is dedicated to applying his credentials to improve mental health outcomes in our communities as well as mental health education, policy and access. He embodies a philosophy of not just treating illness at the point of a medical visit but creating an ecosystem to help the most marginalized individuals to become more empowered, productive and balanced members and even contributors to society.

The ecosystem Dr. Johnson built in Ohio has served tens of thousands of individuals who had fallen through the cracks. Among his many contributions to the profession, Dr. Johnson founded a mental health center and residential treatment facility, reopened an inpatient psychiatric hospital that had been closed due to state funding losses, pioneered a long-term homeless and housing program, and most recently, reopened a shutdown hospital in rural Appalachia.

In honor of Dr. Johnson, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to East Ohio Regional Hospital.



2023 Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to the Profession Award

**Lynn Jeffers, MD, MBA, FACS
Nominated by Sean Figy, MD**



Lynn Jeffers, MD, MBA, FACS, is the chair of the AMA Council on Medical Service and the AMA Section on Plastic Reconstructive and Maxillofacial Surgery and a trustee and past president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS). She serves as the chief medical officer at St. John’s Regional Medical Center and St. John’s Hospital Camarillo, the medical director at the Integrated Breast Center and a plastic surgeon in her independent private practice.

As president of the ASPS and St. John’s chief medical officer during the pandemic, Dr. Jeffers led the Covid response for her national specialty society as well as her two hospitals. Through her leadership, her hospital administered one of the earliest convalescent plasma treatments in the state; rolled out vaccine clinics; sourced PPE and other supplies and prioritized the safety of physicians, staff and patients. During her term as president, the ASPS was recognized by the White House and surgeon general for helping to source millions of masks to hospitals in need, and source PPE and supplies to its members’ practices that were reopening after the lockdown.

Throughout Dr. Jeffers’ career, she has been honored for her leadership, mentorship, research and service including the AMA Glaxo Achievement Award, AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Leadership Award, the ACS/ASPS Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management Scholarship, ASPS Young at Heart Award, ASPS Presidents’ Award, VCMA Charles Hair Award and the Camarillo Woman of the Year Award.

In honor of Dr. Jeffers, a \$1,250 grant will be awarded to the St. John’s Healthcare Foundation and a \$1,250 grant will be awarded to the Plastic Surgery Foundation.

2023 Dr. Jacqueline A. Bello Friend of the AMA Foundation Award

**Joshua Cohen, MD, MPH, FAHS
Nominated by Kim Hunt, MUPP, MPP**



Joshua M. Cohen, MD, MPH, FAHS, is chief medical officer at Braeburn. He previously served as senior director, global medical therapeutic area lead for migraine and headache at Teva Pharmaceuticals. He completed board certification in neurology and headache medicine. Dr. Cohen was chosen as a Super Doctors® 2013, a 2014 New York Rising Stars™ and was selected as a Castle Connolly America's Top Doctors™ in 2015

Dr. Cohen has been an active member of the American Medical Association for 23 years, serving in a variety of leadership positions including chair of the Medical Student Section and delegate to the House of Delegates as a member of the New York State Delegation. He is also a leader in organized medicine on the state and local level, having served as commissioner for Public Health for the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY), assistant secretary of MSSNY and past president and chair of the Board of Trustees of the New York County Medical Society.

From 2013-22, he served on the Board of Directors of the AMA Foundation and was president of the Foundation from 2017-18. Dr. Cohen founded the AMA Foundation National LGBTQ+ Fellowship, a program to promote best practices and shared outcomes, while exponentially improving the quality of LGBTQ+ health care across the nation. He was a founding board member of the Nan Lightstone Foundation whose mission is to support research and public education on infectious diseases. Additionally, he was the founder of Adolescents in Medicine at New York University, a program that encourages minority adolescents to pursue careers in health care fields.

In honor of Dr. Cohen, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to the AMA Foundation National LGBTQ+ Fellowship Program.

2023 Excellence in LGBTQ Health Award (Physician)

**Jeremy Toler, MD
Nominated by Scott Nass, MD**



Jeremy Toler, MD, received his medical degree at West Virginia University School of Medicine in 2008. He completed his residency in child neurology at Louisiana State University (LSU) Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, followed by a fellowship in clinical epilepsy at the University of Colorado. Dr. Toler returned to New Orleans in 2016 and currently serves as an assistant professor of clinical child neurology at Louisiana State University. He also serves as the medical director of the Pediatric Epilepsy

Program at Children’s Hospital New Orleans and is co-director of the LSU Epilepsy Center.

Dr. Toler is a former board member of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality and chaired the policy and government Affairs committee during his time on the board. He has served two terms on the AMA LGBTQ Advisory Committee, representing the AMA Medical Student Section and the Resident and Fellow Section, respectively. From 2013 until 2022, Dr. Toler represented GLMA in the AMA House of Delegates, where he helped to shape numerous AMA policies that have improved the lives of the LGBTQ+ community. He has also served as chair of the LGBTQ Health Section Council since its inception in 2018.

In honor of Dr. Toler, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality.

2023 Excellence in LGBTQ Health Award (Physician)

**Carl Streed Jr., MD, MPH, FACP
Nominated by Erick Eiting, MD, MPH**



Carl Streed Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, is an assistant professor at Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine and the research lead for the GenderCare Center at Boston Medical Center. After attending medical school and residency in internal medicine at Johns Hopkins he completed a fellowship in general internal medicine at Brigham & Women’s. Nationally, he has chaired the AMA Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues, served on the board of GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality,

and currently serves as the president-elect of the US Professional Association for Transgender Health.

To achieve equity in health care access, health and community well-being, Dr. Streed actively incorporates the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility into his work as a clinician-investigator. As such, his personal and professional pursuit for a more equitable and inclusive society is focused on elevating voices often ignored and redistributing power. His clinical, training, advocacy and research initiatives regarding the health and well-being of marginalized persons, particularly sexual and gender minority populations, have been used to influence and inform institutional, state and federal policy as well as clinical care, academic research and scholarship.

Dr. Streed’s efforts have earned him several awards, notably from the University of Chicago and Johns Hopkins University Alumni Associations, the AMA, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as well as recognition from the White House during the Obama administration.

In honor of Dr. Streed, a \$1,250 grant will be awarded to the GenderCare Center at Boston Medical Center and a \$1,250 grant will be awarded to the Point Foundation.

2023 Excellence in LGBTQ Health Award (Medical Student)

Mollie Marr, MD, PhD

Nominated by Rebecca Harrison, MD, FACP



Mollie Marr, MD, PhD, is a psychiatry intern at Massachusetts General Hospital/McLean in the Physician Scientist Training Program. She identifies as ace and is passionate about increasing access and support for low-income, LGBTQIA+ and underrepresented students in medicine and science.

During medical school, Dr. Marr served as a co-director of the Research and Analytics Committee of the Medical Student Pride Alliance and the student chair of the LGBTQIA+ Committee at the American Medical Women's Association. She was a 2022 GLMA Health Professional in Training Fellow and is the outgoing medical student representative to the AMA's Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Issues. She currently serves as a trainee representative for the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Dr. Marr is a recent graduate of the Medical Scientist Training Program at Oregon Health & Science University. Her PhD is in behavioral and systems neuroscience and her dissertation focused on the intergenerational transmission of childhood maltreatment. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre from the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University with a second major in psychology and a minor in applied theatre.

In honor of Dr. Marr, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to the Medical Student Pride Alliance.

2023 Jack B. McConnell, MD, Award for Excellence in Volunteerism

**Josef Machac, MD
Nominated by Elaine Posner**



Dr. Josef Machac, MD, was born in Přerov, in Czechoslovakia, in what is now the Czech Republic and his family immigrated to the U.S. in 1964. He studied biophysics at Brown University and later received his medical degree from his alma mater in 1978. Dr. Machac completed his professional training at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, where he trained in internal medicine, cardiology, nuclear medicine and radiology, and became director of nuclear cardiology and nuclear medicine, eventually becoming a professor of radiology and medicine.

He has authored/co-authored more than a dozen book chapters and 120 peer-reviewed scientific publications as well as hundreds of abstracts. Dr. Machac has also presented at national and international scientific meetings, given hundreds of lectures on medical topics and trained dozens of residents and fellows.

In 2012, Dr. Machac retired from Mount Sinai Hospital part-time, and three years later, retired full-time. For nearly 10 years, Dr. Machac has volunteered weekly as an internist and cardiologist at the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, a medical clinic in Hackensack, NJ, that provides free medical care for people who cannot afford medical insurance.

In honor of Dr. Machac, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative.

2023 Pride in the Profession Award

**Florence Jameson, MD
Nominated by Jacqueline Nguyen, Esq.**



Florence Jameson, MD, has spent her life dedicated to family, health care and community. She attended UCLA School of Medicine where she earned her medical degree and Cedar Sinai where she completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology. She is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

In 1985, Dr. Jameson opened her private practice in Las Vegas and has been a solo practitioner for the last 38 years. She is an advocate for patients, their physicians and community health, having served as a member of the Clark County Medical Society for 38 years and as past president. She is also the past president of the Nevada State Medical Association.

Dr. Jameson is founder and CEO of Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada (VMSN), a free health clinic dedicated to providing medical services to the uninsured who would otherwise have no access to medical care. Prior to starting VMSN, she opened a clinic at the Juvenile Justice Center of Southern Nevada to care for incarcerated young girls who would otherwise have no medical care.

Dr. Jameson's vision is that no child or adult will ever go to bed at night sick without much needed health care. Her mission is to bring the community together to create a safety net of clinics that will provide quality health care one person at a time in a culture of caring.

In honor of Dr. Jameson, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to the Volunteers in Medicine of Southern Nevada.



2023 Courage in Women’s Health Advocacy Award

Caitlin Bernard, MD, MSCI, FACOG
Nominated by Jodi Abbott, MD, MSc, MHCH



Caitlin Bernard, MD, MSCI, FACOG, is an obstetrician-gynecologist and complex family planning specialist and is an assistant professor at Indiana University School of Medicine. Her clinical, research and advocacy work focus on expanding access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception, abortion, miscarriage and pregnancy care. In the wake of the Dobbs ruling in 2022, she spoke out publicly about the harms of abortion bans and received both support as well as political persecution.

An assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Bernard began preparing for her medical career at New York’s Binghamton University. She graduated from the undergraduate program magna cum laude in 2006 and enrolled in a medical program at SUNY Upstate Medical University, completing her MD in 2010. In addition to receiving a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation from Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Bernard conducted postgraduate medical training in family planning and obstetrics and gynecology at SUNY Upstate and Washington University.

A diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Dr. Bernard maintains professional relationships with organizations such as the Society for Family Planning, the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals and Physicians for Reproductive Health. Beyond her teaching and medical research activities at Indiana University, she is an assistant visiting professor at Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya.

In honor of Dr. Bernard, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to Physicians for Reproductive Health.



2023 International Award in Medicine

Warren Heffron, MD

Nominated by Amy Clithero-Eridon, PhD, MBA



Warren Heffron, MD, has worked in multiple areas of medical education, service and administration. Internationally he worked in Puerto Rico at a mission hospital, providing medical education and service. He also worked at the Christian Medical College in Ludhiana, Punjab, India, teaching and started a small family medicine residency program. He later worked in Ecuador, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, again consulting and teaching in developing family medicine educational programs. He was an

officer and on the board of directors of the World Organization of Family Doctors and served several years as the regional vice president for the Americas. His consultations include 64 individual consultations in 23 different countries on six continents.

Dr. Heffron had a 53-year career at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and was a founder of the Department of Family and Community Medicine. He started the family medicine residency at UNM and was chairman of the department on three different occasions. He was president of the New Mexico Medical Society and served as an alternate delegate to the AMA. Dr. Heffron was also president of the New Mexico Academy of Family Physicians, vice president of the American Academy of Family Physicians and president of the American Board of Family Medicine and the National Christian Medical and Dental Associations.

In honor of Dr. Heffron, a \$1,250 grant will be awarded to the University of New Mexico Foundation Warren and Rosalee Heffron Fellowship and a \$1,250 grant will be awarded to In His Image International.

**2023 AMA Foundation Award for Leadership in Medical Ethics
and Professionalism**

**Matthew Wynia, MD
Nominated by Mark A. Levine, MD**



Matthew Wynia, MD, is a clinician-researcher and leader in bioethics with a history of guiding diverse teams of professionals exploring some of the most contentious ethical issues in health care.

He directs the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities, which provides training, research and clinical support services in bioethics, the arts and health humanities. The center runs an annual Aspen Ethical Leadership

Program and major community engagement programs, including the Holocaust Genocide Contemporary Bioethics program and the Hard Call® podcast series.

Before this role, he spent 18 years at the AMA, where he led the Institute for Ethics and the Center for Patient Safety and was director of Patient and Physician Engagement. He co-founded the multi-stakeholder Ethical Force® program as well as the AMA/NMA/NHMA-led Commission to End Health Care Disparities, and he led the project on the History of African-Americans and the Medical Profession that, in 2008, prompted the AMA's public apology for a legacy of racial discrimination and exclusion in organized medicine.

Dr. Wynia has delivered more than two dozen named lectures and visiting professorships and he is an author of more than 230 academic publications. He is a fellow of the Hastings Center, past president of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities and past chair of the Ethics Forum of the American Public Health Association and the Ethics Committee of the Society for General Internal Medicine.

In honor of Dr. Wynia, a \$2,500 grant will be awarded to the University of Colorado Center for Bioethics and Humanities.





2022-23

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