



Student Liaison to the Student National Medical Association 2024 Annual Report

Liaison to the Student National Medical Association (SNMA)

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) was founded in 1964 as a sub-division of the National Medical Association (NMA). The SNMA is the nation's oldest and largest organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. As of 1971, SNMA became an independent non-profit organization with the primary mission of supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent, and socially conscious physicians. SNMA chapters at allopathic and osteopathic medical schools across the nation implement programs tailored to serve the health needs of underserved and minority communities. These initiatives aim to enhance cultural sensitivity in medical education while striving to boost enrollment and graduation rates of African American, Latino, and other students of color in medical schools. Additionally, SNMA serves as a credible source of information on minority issues in medical education, fosters the development of minority faculty to increase their capacity as mentors and researchers in academic health centers, and actively evaluates and advocates for the necessary measures to eliminate educational practices that hinder quality education opportunities for minorities and women.

The student liaison to the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is responsible for collaborating with both AAFP and SNMA leaders to provide opportunities and resources aimed to increase exposure to the expansive field of family medicine. The primary objective is disseminating crucial information regarding AAFP events, such as the National Conference and available scholarship opportunities. The student liaison works to actively promote and encourage active student engagement in both the AAFP and SNMA, while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for underrepresented minority medical students.

Activities & Achievements

2024 Student National Medical Association Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC)

- In collaboration with former student liaison to the SNMA and current FMIG regional coordinator, Breanna Chachere, planned and hosted an FMIG panel discussion at the 2024 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. The 4 panelists included residency program directors, attending physicians, and a chief resident from four different programs. The panel was well attended with over 50 attendees.
- Engaged with over 175 students while hosting a table in the exhibit hall with Todd Moore, Diversity & Health Equity Program and Project Strategist, and Adam Bradley, Student Initiatives Strategist. Over the course of the conference, 33 students signed up for AAFP membership.

2024 AAFP National Conference

- Collaborate with SNMA communications to effectively promote the AAFP National Conference and associated scholarships.
- Co-planned an innovation workshop with my colleague, Hira Trivedi, for delivery at the 2024 FMIG Leadership Summit. This session will allow FMIG leaders from medical schools across the world to reflect on their experiences and aspirations for their local FMIG.

SNMA FMIG Programming and Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) National Network

- Maintained and monitored SNMA FMIG GroupMe activity. Increased number of members in GroupMe to 500.
- Maintain open communication with SNMA members to field any questions and disseminate information as appropriate.
- Collaborate on monthly FMIG newsletters to share any information for upcoming SNMA programming to the FMIG student members.
- Collaborate with FMIG National Network leadership to plan AAFP National Conference programming including FMIG Leadership Summit and the Program of Excellence Awards.

Minority Health Month Instagram Live

- In recognition of Minority Health Month in September, participated in an Instagram live discussion with Dr. Margot Savoy, AAFP Senior Vice President, Education, Inclusiveness, and Physician Well-Being, on how family physicians can promote health equity.
- This Q&A session allowed for community engagement and promotion of the critical work being done by both the SNMA and AAFP.

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving on

Serving as the student liaison to the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) within the FMIG National Network has been an invaluable experience. This role allowed me to collaborate with two organizations dedicated to advocacy, cultural humility, and promoting increased representation in the medical field. As a medical student, it has been both empowering and inspiring to witness firsthand the AAFP's dedication to amplifying student and resident voices. Additionally, being part of the FMIG National Network afforded the unique opportunity to forge meaningful relationships and network with medical students, residents, physicians, and community leaders with shared values and experiences.

Through my role, I have learned the importance of effective collaboration in creating opportunities that engage, educate, and empower current and future medical students. Overall, my experience as student liaison to the SNMA has equipped me with essential skills in communication, collaboration, and advocacy necessary for advancing initiatives aimed to increase representation of traditionally underrepresented minority medical students. This role has not only strengthened my commitment to playing an active role in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the medical field, but also equipped me with knowledge and experiences that will prepare me to contribute meaningfully in my future endeavors.

Note: This report was prepared by the resident or student representative(s) listed and includes their account(s) of the business conducted during their term. This is not an official record of business proceedings from the AAFP or any other entity. To find out more about the business of the AAFP, its congresses, commissions, and current policies visit aafp.org.