



Student Liaison to the Student National Medical Association 2020 Annual Report

STUDENT LIAISON TO THE STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (SNMA)

Student Liaison

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Purpose & Scope of Work

The SNMA is the nation's oldest and largest independent, student-run organization committed to supporting underrepresented minority students and increasing the number of culturally competent, socially conscious, and clinically excellent physicians. The SNMA also encourages students to pursue the various facets of medicine from clinical medicine to policy and scientific careers. Additionally, the SNMA designs local programming to serve the health needs of underrepresented communities and ensure that medical services are culturally sensitive to the needs of diverse populations.

The liaison is a member of the National SNMA External Affairs Committee & FMIG Network. The role involves sharing information and fostering collaborative efforts between the AAFP and the SNMA, encouraging student members of both the SNMA and FMIG network to recognize the similar values their organizations hold, partner for events at their institutions, and encourage more students from diverse backgrounds to consider Family Medicine as their specialty of choice.

Activities & Achievements

Work with the SNMA

- **2020 Virtual Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC)**
 - Encouraged members to partner with their local FMIGs, invited students to attend AAFP National Conference and shared links for resources offered by the AAFP when students visited the AAFP booth in the virtual exhibition hall.
 - Offered advice and insight into medicine and family medicine careers to premedical students who visited the AAFP booth in the virtual exhibition hall
 - Worked closely with Convention Planning Committee Co-Chairs, DaShawn Hickman and Abner Murray, AAFP President, Dr. Gary LeRoy, and AAFP staff via email and video calls to organize a virtual family medicine-led session about advocating during a pandemic (with less than two weeks to prepare).

- **Pipeline Initiatives**
 - Communicated via email with the Pipeline Mentoring Institute (PMI) Fellow, Sydney Haney, to discuss partnerships in SNMA pipeline initiatives to expose students of varying backgrounds and ages to family medicine and giving advice & support to those considering pre-medical undergraduate or postgraduate studies.

- **Other Communication**

- Posted AAFP National Conference in National SNMA Opportunities Newsletter that is emailed to every SNMA member nationwide weekly
- AMEC 2021 in Orlando, Florida
 - Beginning to brainstorm ideas of how family medicine can be more integrated in the conference
- External Affairs Committee
 - Have had introductions (via video call) with the newly appointed 2020-2021 External Affairs Committee Co-Chairs, Ade Osinubi and Kamilah Evans, and Vice-Chair, Ximia Moore.
 - Planning to increase presence of AAFP-related events and announcements on SNMA social media, as well as a FMIG within SNMA
 - Helping to revamp SNMA Specialty Interest Groups, including a family medicine SIG

Work with the AAFP

- **AAFP National Conference:** Assisted in planning National Conference sessions with the FMIG Network team via email and video calls. Direct planning sessions include:
 - Annual FMIG Celebration
 - Minority Special Interest Discussion
 - FMIG Basics: Essentials for Leaders workshop

Lessons Learned and the Value of Serving as the SNMA-FMIG Liaison

It was an honor and a pleasure to serve in this role for the 2020 administrative year. Being the SNMA Student Liaison has reinforced the importance of community, collaboration, and commitment. This year was quite different than previous years with the impact of COVID-19 and everything taking a virtual turn. Through enhanced partnership and communication, we were able to adapt and continue to reach the goals that these organizations set out to achieve.

Supporting students and addressing the needs of underserved communities are important aspects in the missions of both the AAFP and the SNMA. They are particularly important objectives to me as well. Serving in this position has allowed me the opportunity to improve my communication, creativity, session-planning skills, and advocacy for these groups. I was able to help expose such a diverse group of medical students to the impact of family physicians (especially during a pandemic) as well as highlight the opportunities that are available to get involved and have a larger impact in the community for students interested in family medicine. I highly recommend students who are passionate about these topics to apply for this amazing opportunity.

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