



# 2020 Inspiration Award Honorees

Presented by the AMA Women Physicians Section

The AMA Women Physicians Section (WPS) Inspiration Award honors and acknowledges physicians who have offered their time, wisdom and support throughout the professional careers of fellow physicians, residents and students. This year, we are honoring more than 100 women and men in medicine who have made a difference in the professional life of others.

**Congratulations to our 2020 Inspiration Award Honorees!**





## Homa K. Ahmadzia, MD, MPH

"Dr. Homa Ahmadzia is not only a great physician and researcher, but she is also an exemplary mentor. As a Maternal-Fetal Medicine specialist and an Assistant Professor, she spends a lot of time seeing patients and teaching in the public health school. However, she always has time for one of her passions: researching postpartum hemorrhage...With her incredibly busy schedule she is still able to be an influential mentor to all of her students, pushing us to learn more about the field of OB-GYN and research in general every day. Dr. Ahmadzia is an excellent researcher, a caring physician, and a passionate mentor. She has shown me that no matter what, you can always make time to explore your passions. She is paving the way for other women in medicine to continue this legacy."

Nominated by: Julia Barsoum, medical student



**Physicians' powerful ally in patient care**



## Claudia Alejandra Alvarez, DO

“Dr. Alvarez is an inspiration to Latinx medical students everywhere. She often volunteers her time at my school's free student run clinic, where she not only provides exceptional care to underserved patients, but also acts as a teacher to first year medical students. Her passion for medicine and activism through the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) inspired me to pursue a leadership role of my own at my school's LMSA chapter, where I am now Vice President. I truly admire her kindness, determination, and professionalism. She is the type of doctor I am striving to be and she deserves to be recognized for her outstanding work in the medical community.”

Nominated by: Dayana Perez Sanchez,  
medical student



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## Anne Felicia Ambrose, MD, MS

“Dr. Ambrose served as my residency program director and mentor. It was her humanity that drew me to the residency; she demonstrated a deep and personal understanding of the challenges of balancing our roles at home and in the workplace. She supported me through my first pregnancy in my PGY-3 year of training. She acted as guide and champion during my fellowship application process. She has been an unwavering source of support and works diligently to support her female colleagues at all levels, organizing and leading women-centric sessions at national conferences, gathering women in leadership at all levels to mentor the coming generation. There is no one more appropriate for this type of recognition.”

Nominated by: Jennifer Russo, MD



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## Ritu Aparajita, MD

“She has shown impeccable perseverance and determination for more than 10 years and now a vascular surgeon. She pushed me to believe in me when I had given up. She is a strong woman and advocates and stands with women who need her.”

Nominated by: Namita Tiwari, MD

# Loretta Au, MD

“...I met Dr. Au during my undergraduate years, and she has never ceased to inspire me with her compassion, leadership, dedication, and excellence in prioritizing quality care to patients and the community. Through Dr. Au’s unwavering support and mentorship, I feel empowered and grateful to pursue medicine as a young woman. She constantly challenges me to step out of my comfort zone and has given me countless opportunities to learn, grow, give back, and foster my love for medicine.”

Nominated by: Shirley Mo, medical student





## Regan Bergmark, MD

“Dr. Bergmark is an inspiring surgeon and researcher who is a true role model and guides and uplifts students to succeed. She dedicates time to meet with students and mentor them through productive research projects and is consistently supportive and encouraging us to reach our goals.”

Nominated by: Sarah Rahman, medical student





## Kimberly Bird, MD

“Dr. Bird is the program director for my residency and is a great inspiration. She is a hard-working physician that practices as an intensivist, sleep physician, pulmonologist and program director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program. She is a mother to two and the wife of a surgeon. She is able to manage both her family and work-life. She is board certified in 3 boards. I strive to be the woman that she is.”

Nominated by: Jasmine Jackson-Akers, DO



## Amy R. Blair, MD

“Dr. Blair is a family medicine physician bilingual in Spanish and English who is passionate about community and global health... She has created a COVID response elective at our school and has single-handedly led our COVID response initiative at our school.”

Nominated by: Kristen Kelly, medical student



## Letitia L. Bradford, MD, FAAOS

“I met Dr. Bradford in the fall of my first year of medical school at the Perry Initiative, a program meant to increase the number of women in the field of orthopedics. Dr. Bradford inspired me from the get-go to pursue my passions and explore the field of surgery. She immediately became my mentor and allowed me to shadow her surgeries...She not only is loved by her patients but has mentored many medical students who are women and underrepresented minorities in the field of medicine. She is always there for me when I need support or encouragement, and consistently provides me with tools and resources to become a better future physician...I am so grateful to know Dr. B and hope to mentor students in the same compassionate way she has mentored me one day!”

Nominated by: Abrianna Robles, medical student



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## Monica Broome, MD

“She's a very compassionate physician who emphasizes the value of good communication, and she helped us navigate challenging patient situations in her sessions.”

Nominated by: Fatima Chagani, medical student



## Melissa J. Chen, MD, MPH

“Dr. Chen is approachable and genuinely interested in helping residents. She always listened to my research ideas and our relationship eventually evolved into a mentor-mentee relationship, which can be incredibly difficult during residency. She not only mentored me through my research project, but has also been available to talk about the ups and downs of life, including how to stay well during COVID-19 and to talk through issues of race and ethnicity in the workplace. She is an amazing mentor who receives much less recognition than she deserves. I am so thankful to have met her during residency.”

Nominated by: Claudia Lopez, MD



Physicians' powerful ally in patient care



## Sonia Nagy Chimienti, MD

“It is people like Dr. Chimienti that give me more faith in my journey. She is one of the most sincere, diligent compassionate individuals I have met. Thank you.”

Nominated by: Jacqueline Do, medical student

# Emilie Chow, MD

"...Dr. Emilie Chow...has been a mentor, an inspiration, and a dear friend to me. Dr. Chow has been supportive of my career goals, and I can think of a person more deserving of this honor than Dr. Chow.

Dr. Chow has encouraged me to pursue curriculum development of point-of-care ultrasound for the internal medicine residents... She encouraged me participate in the All of Us research project, of which I am now a co-investigator. I enjoy our collaborations at work and our meaningful conversations."

Nominated by: Maria Victoria Peralta, MD







## Deborah M. Costakos, MS, MD

“...She has spearheaded numerous changes in our department that have contributed to a forward-looking, collegial atmosphere with a strong emphasis on teaching. Despite her busy schedule, I cannot count the times she has spent hours dispensing invaluable counsel on any imaginable topic. She is insightful and brilliant; compassionate and resourceful; productive, supportive, kind and incredibly accomplished. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor than Dr. Costakos.”

Nominated by: Lynn Sun, MD



## Dorothea Douglas-Lindsay, MD

“Dr. Douglas, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist, is always busy with a demanding career, family, and community outreach, including collecting bone marrow donations for patients with sickle cell disease/trait. She also goes above and beyond the expectations of a mentor. She took the time during the COVID-19 quarantine while taking care of immunocompromised patients to see if I was in need. She has taught me so much about medicine, from the basics of physical exam to the intricacies of communicating with the family of a patient diagnosed with malignancy as a female physician, she is an inspirational mentor and role model.”

Nominated by: Ricci Allen, medical student



## Rochelle Dy, MD

“Dr. Dy is a pediatric physiatrist...[who] kindly offered an observership to me when I was a junior PM&R resident in China, seeking U.S. clinical experience while knowing nobody here. She has been very supportive in my pursuit of overseas PM&R training. She inspired me as a dedicated educator and an international leader working as Chair of Education Committee of ISPRM. She is also a role model for me because of her gentle bedside manner and strong advocacy for patients. She has been caring and supportive in my new life...”

Nominated by: Bei Zhang, MD



## Wendi Wills El-Amin, MD

“Dr. Wendi El-Amin is an invaluable source of support, comfort, and wisdom who has undoubtedly had a tremendous impact on me as a physician and leader. Her integrity, remarkable strength of character, and compassion make her a guiding light for me and all women in medicine at our institution and beyond. Dr. El-Amin models the virtues of listening, kindness and genuine caring. During an incredibly difficult time in our nation, between the pandemics of COVID-19 and racial injustice, she selflessly committed her time and energy to serving our trainees and faculty as a visionary leader, sounding board and guide.”

Nominated by: Vidhya Prakash, MD



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## Jamie L. Engel, MD

“Dr. Engel provided me with incredible mentorship and stood up for me when I needed help from someone in a position of power. She stands for everything I aspire to be and as a younger female orthopaedic surgeon, she serves as a strong role model. I know I will be successful going forward because of Dr. Engel and hope to emulate her in the near future.”

Nominated by: Emily Sparks, medical student



## Roberta Gebhard, DO

“Dr. Roberta Gebhard is the definition of a physician who uses her position of influence to lift others up. While president of AMWA, before and since, she is ALWAYS encouraging others to believe in themselves, step up and shine. I’ve gotten quite the taste of this while working with her, and I can say without a doubt that Dr. Gebhard is the antidote to Imposter Syndrome.”

Nominated by: Joanna Turner Bisgrove, MD



## Larisa Geskin, MD

“Dr. Geskin is always an enthusiastic, humble and positive person, and brings that attitude to her work and shares it with her students. For me, that positivity is reflected in her unfailing availability. Any time that I have a question or concern she is accessible to me and provides meaningful and direct feedback. I feel comfortable going to Dr. Geskin with any questions, and she has become a friend as well as a mentor. Her constructive feedback is always balanced by her kindness and positivity, building confidence in her mentees. She is also someone who I can completely trust, an attribute that makes her advice even more valuable. She encourages my independence and personal growth to become self-sufficient by giving me autonomy with my projects. I feel that Dr. Geskin takes a personal interest in me, and this further instills in me a sense of both honor and confidence.”

Nominated by: Megan Trager, medical student



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## Candace F. Granberg, MD

“Dr. Granberg has been one of the most influential physicians in my career and that of my colleagues to date. She is a tireless advocate for resident learning as part of the resident education committee with special focus on surgical simulation, a strong mentor who encouraged every single female resident in our program to apply for (and receive) an opportunity to present at and attend an annual women in medicine conference sponsored by the Mayo Clinic and a dedicated faculty member whose cell phone we are encouraged to call day or night, with questions about patient care or personal issues. She has spearheaded at least 10 women in medicine research projects in the last two years alone and has fought for gender neutral language in surgical evaluations as well as how to recognize gender bias in surgical training. My nomination is for her outstanding example as a surgeon and educator for her residents, patients and colleagues.”

Nominated by: Raevti Bole, MD





## Danielle Hairston, MD

“Dr. Hairston is my current psychiatry residency training director...She has served as an excellent mentor, mastering the delicate balance of nurturing and challenging me during my educational journey. Under her guidance, I’ve gone from a timid intern who second guessed herself constantly to now serving as a Chief Resident, pioneering my own community health initiative, creating curriculum, and on national committees. She serves a consistent advocate for us, especially during COVID-19, ensuring our safety as we serve as frontline workers, and providing space for us to process the social unrest in our society.”

Nominated by: Ebony Caldwell, MD



## Barbara N. Hamilton, MD

“I first came across Dr. Hamilton through a blog post about how a radiologist saved her father’s life, which inspired me through a difficult period in training. Shortly afterwards, we connected through social media where Dr. Hamilton provided encouragement by sharing her own challenges from training on days where I felt discouraged. In moments where I was discouraged from pursuing certain things because I was a female, she offered support and an unfailing belief that I could do whatever I set my mind to. Dr. Hamilton gave me the best gift a mentor can give: confidence to believe in myself.”

Nominated by: Amina Farooq, MD



## Stephanie A. Hart MD, MPH

“Dr. Hart, a general surgeon, has become my mentor as I navigate specialty decision and life in medicine as a woman. It has been vital for me to witness a strong female attending who upholds the quality of humanism in all her interactions with patients, both in the OR and out. She has illustrated that a surgeon doesn't need to fit the stereotype and can instead be a compassionate champion for patients. Out of the OR, she has made time to mentor and guide me, rather than simply push me into surgery. She also actively focuses on mentorship of female surgical residents.”

Nominated by: Vidiya Sathananthan,  
medical student



## Elena B. Hawryluk, MD, PhD

“As an underrepresented minority at a medical school without a home dermatology program, the impact Dr. Hawryluk’s mentorship and guidance have had on my career is inestimable. A rising star among the Harvard pediatric dermatologists, her unparalleled kindness, commitment to excellence, and unwavering dedication to her patients are an inspiration to all that have the fortune of meeting her. For young trainees, mentorship is crucial to establish a foothold in any field, and Dr. Hawryluk not only supported my projects and facilitated connections with other dermatologists, but also set the standard for me to aspire to as a future clinician.”

Nominated by: Andrew Blundell, medical student



## Amy C. Hayton, MD

“Dr. Amy Hayton is a tremendous advocate for all physicians in training. She not only connects on an individual level to inspire and encourage, but is actively building curriculum at her institution to support wellness and resilience in physicians. In so doing, she is re-infusing medicine with humanity and training doctors who will be compassionate and empathetic. As the data shows, this will not only improve patient care, but such compassion also has a significant economic impact. Her dedication requires recognition; I would not be the doctor I am today without her guidance.”

Nominated by: Carolyn Pearce, MD





## Hope Tiffany Jackson, MD

“Dr. Jackson is an outstanding advocate for medical students and residents alike. Her approach to teaching is kind and patient and she has a way of making everyone feel included and part of the team...” Nominated by: Flori Corpodean, MD

“...She’s been a difference in my life by always being there for any questions anytime ready to help ready to take time out of her life to help you achieve your dreams...” Nominated by: Charles Marriott, MD

“...I truly wouldn’t have made the career choice, nor felt supported in the decision, without her kindness, grace, and dedication to mentorship.” Nominated by: Savannah Smith, MD

“...She inspires me to chase my dreams and carve out a path that is my own as a woman in surgery.” Nominated by: Becca Allen, MD





## Emily S. Jungheim, MD

“...Dr. Jungheim had a literal ‘open door policy’ leaving her office-door ajar so all team members ‘from physicians to front desk staff to fellows’ felt empowered to stop to discuss a suggestion or just chat. Dr. Jungheim has an uncanny ability to balance multiple demands on her time and focus on the present - the patient or person in front of her. She is also a committed mentor: she was the first to inquire about my career goals and discuss forging a path to reach them. Her enthusiasm for research is infectious. Dr. Jungheim is a sterling example of a patient advocate, physician scientist, and leader.”

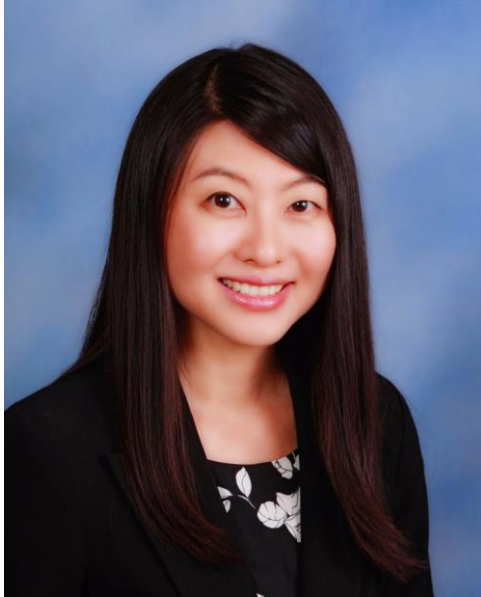
Nominated by: Vinita Alexander, MD



## Samaa Kemal, MD

“I couldn’t have asked for a more incredible senior resident, teacher, colleague, leader, or role model than Dr. Kemal. She makes you feel seen, supported, and appreciated. She makes you feel empowered and strong. She reminds you that our goals matter. She validates your frustrations. She creates space for us to connect with patients. Intern year is a scary time, but Dr. Kemal made it feel safe. I am so lucky to have had her, and I am excited for others to share in her specialness!!”

Nominated by: Leora Lieberman, MD



## Wonha Kim, MD, MPH

“Dr. Wonha Kim has had a profound impact on my life as well as the lives of numerous young women in the STEM field. She is a caring and kind pediatrician who emphasizes the importance of wellness. She focuses on educating and empowering her patients, not just helping them feel better. As the Director of a Health Policy Institute, she hired multiple women of all different races/ethnicity and gave us the tools to become leaders in this field. Honoring somebody like Dr. Kim will be a benefit for our medical society by showing us what 21st century care looks like.”

Nominated by: Priya Vedula, medical student



## Sonnie Kim-Ashchi, MD

“I will forever be grateful for Dr. Ashchi's guidance from the first day I mentioned wanting to pursue medicine. Professionally, she spent her time allowing me to shadow, guiding me with medical school applications, and discussing the practical aspects of joining the medical profession. However, Dr. Ashchi also shared her journey to medicine, and guided me on being a woman in medicine and finding a work/life balance to become the best healthcare provider possible. Because of her showing interest in my professional development, I could see myself in this field, and I have no doubt that I am only in medical school today because of her.”

Nominated by: Nicole Fares, medical student



## Tania Kurtz, DO

“Dr. Tania Kurtz, a pediatrician at the Children’s choice pediatrics, cemented my desire to take up the path of osteopathic medicine. As a first-generation immigrant, a mother, and first in my family to go for higher education, I did not have a Godfather. Dr. Kurtz came into my life as a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my dream and told me that with hard work, dreams can be turned into reality. I truly admire her for work ethics and amazing mentorship. It is my pleasure to nominate her for the WPS award she truly deserves.”

Nominated by: Rajshri Joshi, medical student



## Angeli Landeros-Weisenberger, MD

“I work with Dr. Landeros in a psychiatry lab. In many aspects, including keeping track of regulatory requirements, helping with patient care, and providing humor and emotional support, she is the backbone of the lab. She’s an amazing support to everyone, happy to help with even the smallest request and going above and beyond to help patients, all with a warmth and empathy that’s irreplaceable. Additionally, during the pandemic she is balancing work with homeschooling her kids, throughout which she has never lost her warmth and empathy. She inspires me to be a better healthcare provider and person every day.”

Nominated by: Natalie Lomayesva, MD

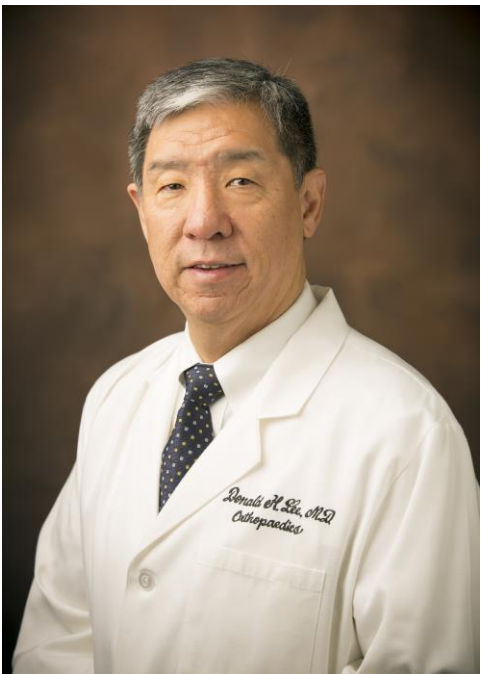


## Jennifer Lau, MD

“... she is always positive, she advocates for what is right and promotes physician well-being. As a pediatric anesthesiologist, who deals with high stress situations and in this new Covid-19 era, she is a beacon of light for everyone around her. She is a shining example of who I want to be as a future pediatric anesthesiologist; she does this with grace and compassion for others.”

Nominated by: Franchesca Rivera-Calonje, MD





## Donald Han Lee, MD

“Dr. Lee is a remarkably well-rounded mentor in research, clinical care and service. He singlehandedly started a unique outreach to provide free surgeries to uninsured patients, thus modeling the importance of service to his trainees. In the male-dominated field of orthopedics, Dr. Lee wholeheartedly supports me and other female trainees and always treats us with the utmost respect. I greatly appreciate his confidence in me, even when I haven’t always believed in myself. He gives me countless opportunities to publish manuscripts and write grants. His influence and sponsorship are integral in my scholarship development and pursuit of an academic career.”

Nominated by: Kaitlyn Reasoner, MD



Physicians' powerful ally in patient care

# Erin B. Lesesky, MD

"...Through lectures and hands-on supervision, she taught me key surgical skills for excising skin cancers. She always emphasized meticulous attention to detail when measuring margins and how to handle surgical complications. In my first year of practice, I rely on Dr. Lesesky's advice whenever I perform a procedure. During unexpected bleeding or a challenging wound closure, I always think back to what Dr. Lesesky would recommend. Thanks for her I feel confident taking care of my patients."

Nominated by: Diana Norton, MD





## Jenny Libien, MD PhD

“...She has given opportunity to young physicians from every corner of the world to be trained to become change-maker pathologists. Although not gender biased, she is a big advocate of women empowerment in this specialty and in every aspect, specially, international and mostly traumatized women. As an international female physician, I found both courage and power to become to my fullest potential with Dr. Libien’s support. She is the best example of emotion and strength both at the same time and the best role model.”

Nominated by: Shabnam Seydafkan, MD



## Marjan Abedi Linnell, MD

“Dr. Linnell's passion for pediatrics is inspiring. She was my preceptor this summer and helped me solidify my interest in pediatrics with her patience for teaching and dedicated care and guidance for her patients. She is a role model for all aspiring female future physicians.”

Nominated by: Maria Alegria, medical student



## Nicole E. Lopez, MD

“Despite having a busy surgical practice and research responsibilities, Dr. Lopez has dedicated her energy to improving surgical education. She has created early exposure opportunities for pre-clinical medical students and networking opportunities for students applying into surgery. She is a fantastic educator, both in the operating room and in research, and her mentorship has been invaluable in my personal journey in surgery. Dr. Lopez embodies the surgeon I aspire to be in the future.”

Nominated by: Christina Cui, MD



## Preeti Malladi, MD, FACS

“Highly qualified surgeon, Bariatric and General Surgery, well liked and loved by the patients for professional compassion and caring resulting in excellent outcomes with more than 10 years of service. Held very important professional leadership positions. Published papers and written chapters in textbooks of surgery...and many more achievements!”

Nominated by: Malladi Sastry, MD



## Jill L. Maron, MD, MPH

“Dr. Maron is a superb physician-scientist with exemplary leadership skills, innovative vision, unsurpassed dedication to research and science, all of which help advance the health of many infants in the country. Using drops of saliva, she has created an important breakthrough in neonatal salivary diagnostics where information could be gathered in the least invasive way to advance the scientific understanding in this vulnerable population. Her strong work ethics and bright mind are inspirations to many early-career physicians and trainees whom she mentors. She also integrates her career and personal life so eloquently that both facets thrive and reinforce one another.”

Nominated by: Elizabeth Yen, MD





## Courtney B. Martin, MD

“Dr. Courtney Martin is known by our entire hospital system to be a strong advocate for her patients and colleagues. She is a champion for physician well-being. Her work ethic and pursuit of excellence inspires those around her to push themselves to their full potential. Dr. Martin is an amazingly compassionate physician, loving wife, and fantastic mother. I would trust Dr. Martin with my own and family’s care.”

Nominated by: Van Nguyen, DO



## Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams, MD, PhD

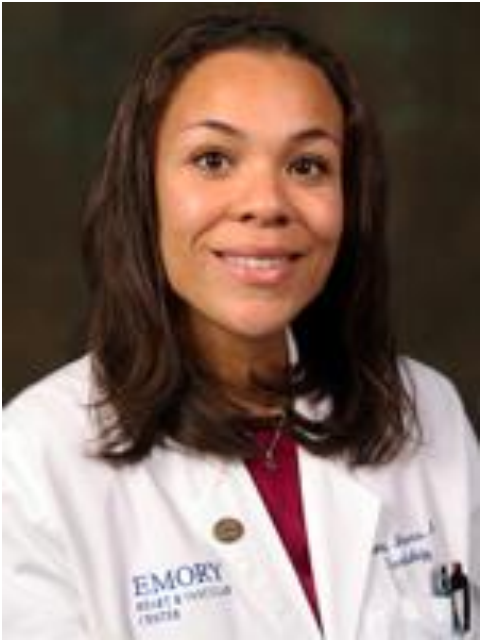
“... Dr. Mitchell-Williams embodies the best and finest qualities of the medical profession. Her selfless dedication to my success and that of other medical trainees -- current and future -- highlight her unparalleled excellence-in-leadership, devotion to minority-excellence, and commitment to a cause greater than herself...”

Nominated by: Roberto Gonzalez Merin,  
medical student

# Mary Mitskavich, MD

“Dr. Mary Mitskavich continues to play a pivotal role in my medical school journey. She has provided me with knowledge, advice and companionship. She is the true embodiment of a strong and intelligent woman. Having Dr. Mary as my mentor has changed my life for the better.”

Nominated by: Konstandina Kokinakos,  
medical student



## Alanna A. Morris MD, MSc

“Dr. Morris has been an incredible mentor to me since my first year of medical school. She has made me feel like a true member of the medical community from her inclusiveness and guidance through research methods, leadership on the hospital wards, and ability to speak out on important perspectives on the humanistic side of medicine and the importance of identifying and overcoming health disparities in underrepresented race and gender groups in medicine...She has inspired me to not only dedicate my career to research, but also apply into internal medicine for residency, largely because of her willingness to teach and support others in the field. I would not be where I am today without her selflessness!”

Nominated by: Rebecca Steinberg, medical student



Physicians' powerful ally in patient care



## Darilyn V. Moyer, MD, FACP, FRCP, FIDSA

“Darilyn Moyer, MD, is a startlingly accomplished and inspirational physician, who has helped trail blaze for so many other women and to set a new standard for medical organization leadership. She is board certified in infectious diseases and internal medicine...she is the Executive Vice President and CEO of the American College of Physicians (ACP). Under her leadership, ACP has engaged in meaningful and sustained advocacy including in Times Up Healthcare, expanded diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice work...She is helping reshape internal medicine and internal medicine subspecialties, as well as executive leadership in medicine through her explicit leadership roles and also through coaching, mentoring, and sponsoring countless other women.”

Nominated by: Eileen Barrett, MD



Physicians' powerful ally in patient care



## Maura E. Muñoz, MD

“Dr. Muñoz has served as a brilliant example of patient centered care and continuously models a sustainable, gracious practice of medicine where patient's and trainees feel safe and heard and cared for. She exudes kindness, empathy and warmth in her interactions with staff, learners and patients. She is a physician that really ‘walks the walk’ and lives out the oaths that so many of us have attested to at the beginning of our training.. She is continuously trying to learn more about the community where she practices and she is most certainly the person to go to with questions about good local food!”

Nominated by: Amanda Whitehouse, medical student

“Dr. Maura Muñoz...consistently goes above and beyond for her patients, residents, and students. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, she has worked tirelessly to ensure that all the new trainees at the Med-Peds clinic are seamlessly integrated into the Med-Peds community. Her quick thinking, patient-centered approach, and sense of humor put her patients at ease, and she provides the highest standard of care at all times. Finally, her involvement with local organizations, to ensure that patients are taken care of after they leave her office, provides a model to learners on how to be an excellent community physician.” Nominated by: Laura Schwartz, medical student



## Josephine Nguyen, MD, MHCDS, FAAD

“Dr. Nguyen is an amazing physician leader. Despite her accomplishments as a military officer, an AMA leader, a hospital administrative leader, and now a White House Fellow, she remains the quintessential example of what we should all strive to be. When working with her, she is always pristine, poised, and prepared. Her faith is embodied in everything she does, and she gives credit for all that she’s achieved to God. Working with her has increased my faith in God and in the future of medicine. She is someone who genuinely wants to be helpful and work for the betterment of women and all physicians and never wants praise. For these reasons and many more, she is beyond deserving of this recognition. I am very honored and blessed to be her colleague and to call her my friend.”

Nominated by: Nicole Plenty, MD, MPH, MS, FACOG



Physicians' powerful ally in patient care





## Heather C. Nixon, MD

“Dr. Nixon is one of the most remarkable physician educators I have ever met. She is a model mentor and sponsor. She is effusive in her support and a tireless advocate. As the Associate Head of Education and Obstetric Anesthesiology Division Chief, she leads with grace, humility, and strength. She is patient and observant, highlighting others’ achievements and taking pride in the success of her trainees. Dr. Heather Nixon is a real-life wonder woman. My colleagues and I could not be more grateful for the privilege of working with her.”

Nominated by: Jarna Shah, MD

# Mary Hanna, MD

“Dr. Hanna has always demonstrated commitment and compassion for patient care. Her dedication and compassion to her patients range from presenting classes in an educational outreach program to the commitment and compassion she shows during her family medicine rounds and bedside teaching. She has the trust of not only the patients she cares for but the students she mentors with her outstanding medical knowledge and commitment to the medical profession. Dr. Hanna as a capable physician who can not only heal and comfort the sick and injured, but also one who can bring inspiration by pushing you to have faith in yourself and inspiring others to grow. Dr. Willian Osler once wrote the practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised equally with your head. With Dr. Hanna, you get both.”

Nominated by: Ecler Jaqua, MD





## Lauren J. Oshry, MD

“Dr. Oshry is the role model of a compassionate, knowledgeable oncologist who looks out for fellow education and well-being. She is there for her patients at all times, coming late after a busy clinic day to help hold a goals of care meeting. She is kind to the hematology/oncology fellows and teaches us the relevant literature in breast and lung cancer, provides encouragement and support. We are truly lucky to have her in the program.”

Nominated by: Rena Zheng, MD

# Lydia Park, DO

“It is no secret that Dr. Park is a cherished and beloved figure in her community. You can tell by her staff’s praises and her patients’ smiles. Her humility always prevents her from taking credit instead she directs positive outcomes to teamwork. It is this emphasis on team dynamic and patient care that grants her deep admirations from others. Her genuine love for medicine and her dedication to those around her is undeniably inspiring. I am truly grateful to have worked with Dr. Park as she will serve to me as a reminder of what makes pursuing medicine so enjoyable.”

Nominated by: Leon Yang, medical student





## Nuria M. Pastor-Soler, MD, PhD

“Dr. Nuria Maria Pastor-Soler...instilled in me the values of what it means to be an outstanding physician-scientist: treating patients like family, teaching medical students, residents, and fellows with enthusiasm, and taking attention to detail when organizing and running scientific investigations. Today, I am a rising second-year medical student and I credit my passion for research and patient-care to her invaluable mentorship. Thank you for all that you do.”

Nominated by: Jordan Juarez, medical student



## Shannon P. Pryor, MD

“Dr. Shannon Pryor has been a fierce advocate for women physicians and women’s health and served on the new American Medical Association Women Physicians Section at its formation. She is now Chair of the Council on Long Range Planning and President Elect at MedChi. She is passionate about mentorship, equal rights for women and advancing issues that have special relevance to women such as childcare during our meetings. She is an ENT-otolaryngologist in Washington, District of Columbia. A woman physician champion, mother and leader within our AMA; she embodies the true spirit of an inspiring leader.”

Nominated by: Sheila Rege, MD



## Mamata Ravipati, MD

“Dr. Ravipati is the epitome of a servant leader and models servant leadership for all those around her. She is willing to work harder than anyone else, with a singular goal of ensuring patients are taken care of. Dr. Ravipati has personally inspired me to take a thoughtful and thorough approach to any problem, involving as many other teams as possible to come up with a comprehensive solution. She has made me a better leader by her meticulous attention to detail and thoroughness.”

Nominated by: Josephine Nguyen, MD





## Sheila Rege, MD

“I am lucky to count Dr. Sheila Rege as my mentor and sponsor for the past several years. In our field, where only one in four women are radiation oncologists, she has been a trailblazing woman physician leader in multiple local and national organizations including the AMA. She is the first woman President of the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO). She is intelligent, thoughtful, and compassionate and has grown many physicians both personally and professionally. As a young woman physician, she has taught me work/life balance and has developed me as a leader in ACRO.”

Nominated by: Parul Barry, MD



## Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, MD

“I would like to nominate Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, MD for the AMA Inspiration Award. She is the consummate mentor, supporter and sponsor of MANY women in medicine. She is an AMA member, and has previously served on the AMA-WPS G[overning] C[ouncil], and is a past-president of the American Medical Women's Association. She has championed many women in their careers, and spends countless hours mentoring and supporting others. She is a great leader and friend.”

Nominated by: Roberta Gebhard, DO

# Diana Sanderson, MD

“Dr. Diana Sanderson is a phenomenal woman. In my mind, she is so because her personal journey has made her incredibly resilient, brilliant, and most importantly a true kind soul...Dr. Sanderson is also my supervisor. As most physicians have experienced, there can be significant anxiety in the initial years of starting the first job after residency/fellowship training. My experience has been blessed partly because of Dr. Sanderson. She is a humble leader, an excellent teacher, and very personable. I cherish the ease in relating with her. I acknowledge her for these I have mentioned and her unmentioned acts of kindness.”

Nominated by: Isuan Asikhia, MD





## Kasandra Scales, MD, MPH

“Dr. Scales-Bentley is beyond deserving of the WPS inspiration Award. Since I’ve known her, she’s been a natural leader and passionate advocate for women’s rights and women’s health. She’s been a leader in numerous areas of the AMA, including the Minority Affairs Section, Resident and Fellow Section, Young Physicians Section, and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists delegation. She is always kind to others, often encouraging new members to run for office and be involved. She’s an amazing listener, always ready to trouble-shoot issues and often solutions rather than add to problems. She’s an inspiration for so many and should be recognized for all she has done.”

Nominated by: Nicole Lee Plenty MD, MPH, MS, FACOG



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# Reham Shaaban, DO

"I first met Dr. Reham Shaaban as an intern however I truly got to know her when I worked in the capacity of a chief resident with her as my program director. Not only is she vested deeply in the success of her residents, but she has also truly taught us that every single one of us can be a leader in our own sphere of influence. Despite being in a demanding role, she continues to be committed to medical education through her involvement with the BERST program and in her own words "Loves working with July learners and watching them grow'. She inspires me to push my own boundaries and be the best version of myself every day!"

Nominated by: Prarthna Bhardwaj, MD





## Ami A. Shah, MD

“Dr. Ami Shah is an inspiring leader...She has held leadership within Women Physicians Section (WPS) and American College of Radiology (ACR). She is a champion for ethnic minorities and a leader at the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. Her goals are to advocate for physicians and our patients and to educate our lawmakers on the important goals and ambitions of ethnic minorities. She believes in physicians leading change and been elected as a representative to her hospital’s medical executive committee and collaboration council. She is a woman leader within our AMA and WPS; and truly an inspiring leader.”

Nominated by: Sheila Rege, MD



## Katherine M. Sharkey, MD, PhD

“Dr. Katherine Sharkey and I met through American Medical Women’s Association. Our first call was about our journeys to and through MD-PhD. I did not know many MD-PhDs, so it was nice to hear from someone with lived experience, even if it was in another field. For the last two years, we have continued with monthly Friday morning calls. She has helped me stay on track and be my voice of reason when things are hard. She has helped me navigate so many things. Those Friday morning calls are my rock and safe harbor. She mentors so many students across the country, and she gives her time. I hope to be able to give back like she has one day.”

Nominated by: Alyssa Brown, MD





## Jaclyn Spiegel, MD

“Dr. Spiegel is known to my colleague residents for being supportive and available to assist us in any academic questions/challenges. I have first-hand witnessed Dr. Spiegel's flexibility and eagerness to help despite her schedules in projects and presentations that she tirelessly assisted us despite time constraints. Thank you for everything you do!”

Nominated by: Nebat Hussen, MD



## Saray Stancic, MD, FACLM

“...Dr. Stancic was my first physician mentor-- she met with me before even knowing me, in response to my interest in preventive medicine, and has selflessly given her time to so many students throughout the year to teach and share her passion for prevention. She has been an inspiration to me and so many...”

Nominated by: Emily Kahoud, medical student



## Sandra M. Swain, MD, FASCO, FACP

“Dr. Swain is internationally recognized by her work in breast cancer. Her broad research interests and experience include clinical trials, translational research and health disparities work. Her accomplishments as a medical oncologist, clinical researcher, mentor and leader have reached women and man who have decided to devote their careers to cancer research. In different countries or in the US, we look up to Dr Swain as an example of work ethics, consistency, quality, perseverance and efficiency. Dr Swain has earned the respect and gratitude of fellows like me, as well as from those for whom and with whom she serves.”

Nominated by: Paula Pohlmann, MD



## Lynn E. Taylor, MD

“Dr. Lynn E. Taylor has inspired me for over six years with her kind mentorship and fearless leadership. She is a trailblazer in the fight to eliminate hepatitis C...I am grateful for all that she has done to not only amplify my voice as a female medical student part of her organization but also other female mentees and colleagues. She has provided me numerous opportunities and support from my undergraduate years to medical school. Her commitment to female empowerment is evident in all of her work. She is the cofounder and codirector of MomDocFamily, an organization to support and mentor women physicians facing the challenges and rewards of combining parenthood and a medical career. As I am about to graduate, I am forever indebted to her for being a role model, and I hope to be a strong female physician like her.”

Nominated by: Soumitri Barua, medical student



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## Listy Thomas, MD, MBA

“Dr. Thomas is the backbone of my medical education; she is a woman of color and an excellent mentor, educator, and emergency physician. As COVID tore through her community...and her own close relations, Dr. Thomas continued to work the frontline while organizing educational opportunities for medical students to learn how the pandemic was being handled. She organized for alumni to share their experiences as residents, for our legal ethical consultant to discuss the approach to tough ethical dilemmas in medicine, and for leading black activists to educate us about the intersection of race and COVID...Dr. Thomas is a phenomenal woman physician who deserves recognition for the vast and impactful work she performs.” Nominated by: Laura Cantu, medical student

“Dr. Thomas has made a huge impact in my life...She was one of the first people to believe in me, one of the first people to never doubt my abilities. And for that I am truly grateful! She gave me the best advice throughout my now 4th year application process for residency and has also been an invaluable mentor in research...” Nominated by: Nicole McAmis, medical student



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## Susan Thompson Hingle, MD

“There is no person who has shaped my professional identity as a woman physician than Dr. Hingle...She has tremendous personal and professional integrity that was demonstrated through her leadership as a Chair of the American College of Physicians Board of Regents and Board of Governors where she guided both Boards through complex, difficult issues with grace and transparency of process to help the work be more inclusive, deliberate, and patient-centered. Since concluding those positions, she joined the Board of Directors of American Medical Women’s Association and has continued to champion gender equity throughout organized medicine.”

Nominated by: Eileen Barrett, MD



## Kanani E. Titchen, MD

“Kanani is a fierce physician-advocate. She is a trailblazer in the field of human trafficking, an expert on trauma informed care, and a pioneer in adolescent medicine. She has served as a mentor to me since my first year of medical school, and she is tenacious, kind, and driven. She is a constant source of support to her mentees - from my IRB proposals and my research papers to my residency applications, Kanani has been endlessly encouraging. I cannot imagine a physician more deserving of the AMA-WPS Inspiration Award..”

Nominated by: Catherine Coughlin, MD





## Christine Yasuko Todd, MD

“Dr. Christine Todd ...gives of her talent, time and expertise selflessly. She is an amazing mentor, role model and colleague..”

Nominated by: Susan Hingle, MD

# Marinda Tu, MD

“To put simply, I wouldn’t be entering my 4th year of medical school this year if it wasn't for Dr. Tu. I met Dr. Tu when I was a young pre-med in college. Since then, she has always encouraged me to aim higher, including applying to medical school when I believed it was out of reach. From writing letters of recommendation to helping me practice my interview to periodically checking in on my well-being, Dr. Tu has supported me in every aspect of my medical career. She has gone above and beyond as a mentor and for that, I am so grateful.”

Nominated by: Ashley Wong, medical student



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## Christina Y. Weng, MD, MBA

“Dr Weng is a strong advocate and model for all trainees. For female trainees in particular, she advocates for us to aspire to excellence in the still-male-dominated field of ophthalmology and vitreoretinal surgery. She teaches effectively and has been recognized with numerous awards. In my personal experience, she has not only taught and encouraged me but has also pushed me to continue to teach and challenge myself. She is an ideal mentor, who can always be counted upon to exhibit the highest levels of integrity, competence, drive, energy, and compassion. I believe she is well-deserving of this recognition.”

Nominated by: Weijie Lin, MD



## Stephanie White, MD, MS

“Dr. White is an incredible mentor and role model. She deeply cares about her students, and their advancement, and has a personal mission to watch us grow and thrive in medical school and beyond. She takes the time to learn who you are so she can offer guidance that is direct, honest, and empathetic in a way that you can receive it. On the morning of my white coat ceremony, after a brief conversation with Dr. White, my father turned to me and said: "Now I feel safe about leaving you here"; that is how palpable and genuine her spirit is.”

Nominated by: Falen Demsas, medical student



## Julie K. Wood, MD, MPH, FAAFP

“Dr. Wood has been a FORCE in supporting my family medicine career! She has been both a mentor and sponsor, taking the time to listen and learn about my areas of passion, and then going out of her way to. She was the first person I reached out to when I had my first job interview, and she has always been ready with a tool for me to grow: whether it's wings to keep me uplifted and supported, a ladder to help me climb towards my goals, or a flashlight to help shine a light for the path forward. During Covid, she has been the face of public health and family medicine leadership at the American Academy of Family Physicians, facilitating impactful conversations among key stakeholders, making our education collective and accessible. She embodies the ideal healthcare leader whose impact on family medicine physicians is something I aspire to.”

Nominated by: Anita Ravi, MD



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# Congratulations to the 2020 Inspiration Award Honorees!



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