STUDENT NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICE

ELECTIONS COMPOSITE

49th Annual Medical Education Conference

April 4-8, 2012
Atlanta, GA
Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION

II. HOUSE OF DELEGATES ELECTIONS
   HOD Elections Overview
   1. National President-Elect
      a. Courtney M. Johnson
   2. National Vice President
      a. Jesse X. Yang
      b. Raina Wallace
   3. Pre-medical Board Member
      a. Mertalaine Mulatre
   4. Speaker of the House of Delegates
      a. Janelle Miller
   5. National Parliamentarian
      a. No Candidates
   6. Professional Board Member
      a. No Candidates
   7. Strategic Planning Council Member
      a. No Candidates

III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS
    BOD Elections Overview
    1. Chairperson of the Board of Directors
       a. No Candidates
    2. National Treasurer
       a. Ernest Powell
    3. National Secretary
       a. Danisa Clarrett
    4. Regional Director to the EC
       a. No Candidates
    5. Professional Board Member to the EC
       a. No Candidates
Greetings SNMA Members:

The following elections composite includes the application materials for the 2012-2013 candidates for elected national office. Please take the time to review this document in its entirety in preparation for national elections, which will take place at the 2012 Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) in Atlanta, GA.

Each candidate has been certified by the Elections Committee, and each student candidate is in good academic standing at their respective institution. For each candidate, you will find a letter of intent, answers to four standard questions, and a curriculum vitae for your review. Additionally, candidates included a letter or recommendation in support of their desired position.

You will have the opportunity to meet and hear from these candidates during AMEC during Regional Meetings, the House of Delegates sessions, and a “Meet the Candidates” session. Please check your AMEC conference booklet for the times and locations of these events.

We are grateful that these dedicated members desire to advance the mission of the SNMA through service as a national leader. Please join us as we choose our national team for the 2011-2012 Administrative year who will aim to envision our organizational future, engage our membership, and empower our communities like never before. I look forward to seeing each of you in Atlanta!

Sincerely,

Nisha N. Branch
MD Candidate | Howard University College of Medicine
Student National Medical Association
National President-Elect 2011-2012
NMA Student Trustee
presidentelected@snma.org | www.snma.org
The House of Delegates (HOD) is the supreme governing body of the Student National Medical Association. It is made up of delegates from each active SNMA chapter who discuss the business of the organization and elect national officers. The following positions are elected by the HOD at the Annual Medical Education Conference. Each candidate will be formally nominated during the opening session of the HOD on Thursday, April 21, 2011. They will then make presentations to each Region that evening during Regional Meetings. On Friday, April 22nd each candidate will present their platform to the HOD. This will be followed by a special “Meet the Candidates” session later that afternoon. On Friday evening, each delegate will cast a vote for their preferred candidates during the HOD voting session.

Please carefully review the following candidate applications, and take an opportunity to hear their presentations at the aforementioned times during the Annual Medical Education Conference. Please note that additional candidates may be nominated during the HOD opening session. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration. The future of our organization is in your hands!
National President-Elect

Candidate:

Courtney M. Johnson
MD/PhD Candidate
The Warren Alpert Medical School/ Pathobiology Graduate Program
Brown University

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
February 21, 2012

To Ms. Nisha N. Branch and the 2011-2012 Election Committee,

It is with great humbleness that I announce my intention to run for the position of President-Elect for the Student National Medical Association 2012 – 2013 administrative year. For the past year, I have served on the Board of Directors as the Region VII Director and it is from this position I have been granted a multifaceted view and in-depth understanding of this organization. Interacting with the membership on the local, regional, and national level has allowed me to develop a perspective I feel would be most advantageous for the position of President-Elect. Discussions with current and previous leaders within the SNMA have helped to sharpen my focus on the needs of the organization and have clarified ways in which I hope to continue to serve. After much deliberation and consideration, I am certain that I am in the best place in my academic career to devote to this position the dedication and hard work it deserves.

I have been actively involved with our organization for the past four years of which three of those years were in leadership positions on a chapter, regional, and national level. On the local level, I served two years as my chapter’s Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students’ liaison working to support our premedical students. While in my last term as MAPS liaison, I was elected Assistant Regional Director for Region VII allowing me to broaden my understanding of the organization while becoming more acquainted with the great history of Region VII. I was able to learn the uniqueness of each chapter and how collectively these qualities distinguished Region VII within the SNMA. The lessons gained in this position prepared me for the position of Regional Director the following year. As Regional Director, I learned the importance of delegation, team work, timely planning, and effective communication. In this position, I had the opportunity to combine programmatic efforts with a business-oriented approach. On a national level, I served as a voting member of the Board of Directors of which provided a more complete view of our organization. Outside of the SNMA, I have worked on various committees within the medical school and at Brown University of which has further shaped my leadership abilities.

The SNMA legacy is one of dedication to our founding ideals, persistence in spite of the odds and achievement of the highest quality. As we approach one of the most momentous milestones in our organization, our 50th anniversary, it is important that we reflect on our foundation, capture our history, take pride in our present, and charter the course for our future. Now is the time to appreciate the major impact the SNMA has had on diversifying the medical field and improving the overall health of minorities across the nation. This is indeed a moment to celebrate who we are while never forgetting our purpose.
I am excited about the future direction of SNMA and would be thrilled for the opportunity to continue serving such a worthwhile mission. Please find attached my candidate responses, curriculum vitae, my letter of academic standing and my letter of recommendation. I look forward to your questions and thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours in SNMA,

Courtney M. Johnson
Candidate responses:

1. What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?

   The President-elect year encompass many responsibilities and learning opportunities which serve to enhance the following year as National President. The major responsibility of the President-elect is to prepare the organization’s Executive Agenda for the following year. This detailed document lays the foundation for the programmatic efforts of the organization incorporating the advice of previous SNMA leaders while addressing the current needs. It is expected that the agenda will be presented at the January NLI/BOD meeting for endorsement by the Board of Directors and subsequently at the following Annual Medical Education Conference for approval by the House of Delegates.

   Along with this responsibility, the President-elect serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Committee with the duty of accurately recording and distributing the minutes from these meetings in a timely-fashion. The President-elect is expected to chair the Elections Committee ensuring the accurate and timely distribution of election information to the membership. As Election committee chair, the President-elect ensures the integrity and eligibility of each candidate for office in the SNMA. It is also the responsibility of the President-Elect to appoint chairs to the national committees for the following year. Additionally, the President-elect is charged with representing the organization to the National Medical Association as the Student Trustee, building on the connection between the two organizations.

   Lastly, the President-elect is expected to assist the National President with the successful implementation of the current Executive agenda while also coordinating travel and representation to regional events and external engagements.

2. If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?

   As we approach the historical milestone of our fiftieth anniversary, it is vital that the goals and missions continue to reflect our initial purpose for being founded. For the past five decades, we have developed a tradition of excellence with the uncompromising belief that united we are our greatest allies in diversifying the face of medicine. In honor of our five momentous decades, I propose five areas of concentration during my presidential administration.

   Building a stronger SNMANation requires developing more appropriate and technologically-advanced ways of operating; thus, the first area of focus is the continued development of our infrastructure. Our programmatic operations must be concise, efficient, and user-friendly in order to better facilitate the accurate implementation of our goals on local, regional and national levels. Using information gleaned from previous years and innovative suggestions, we will strengthen the areas of operation that are successful while eliminating the areas that no longer serve our needs.

   Development of the 360° Physician calls for the SNMA to continuously evaluate all aspects of what constitutes a well-rounded physician; therefore, the next area of focus is membership development. SNMA can truly make its mark by providing our membership with
skills to make them better communicators, writers, scientists, advocates and more. Through the creation of modules, webinars and workshops, we will strive to equip our members with resources that give them a professional edge.

The “We got Next!” campaign strives to support all of our future medical colleagues by strengthening and supporting our pipeline programs. While continuing to work with our existing programs, we will provide additional support to the non-traditional pre-medical student. Students such as the post-bachelorette student and others have unique paths to medicine that can benefit from situation-specific mentorship and opportunities.

Community service, the heart of SNMA, serves as the fourth area of focus. Chapters and members will be encouraged to take the Community Service Challenge, developing new ways to increase our service impact and relevance. Reevaluating our current service protocols and partnering with external programs with similar focuses will help to further strengthen our effect taking our service to the next level. We will engage in a year-long major community service initiative addressing a minority concern while maintaining our various monthly service protocols.

Finally, the 50 Years and Beyond campaign focuses on the SNMA legacy promoting our historical achievements while clarifying our vision for the next 50 years. On various levels, our celebration provides an opportune time to commemorate our history while reaffirming our mission. The significance of this accomplishment will boost pride among our membership and create unity across the nation. It will also serve as a marketing/branding tool to further solidify our standing as the leading student medical association for the needs of underrepresented minorities.

If elected, these five areas of foci will serve as the foundation of the Executive Agenda to be created during my year as President-elect. With the advice of SNMA leadership, current and past, and the suggestions of the membership, I believe these goals and others will help propel us into the next fifty years.

3. Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/ committee(s) of interest.

**Student National Medical Association (Specific Experiences)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Position/Experience</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011– pres</td>
<td>Region VII Director&lt;br&gt;Organize and direct the activities of nine (9) SNMA chapters in seven New England states&lt;br&gt; Oversaw the successful planning and implementation of a regional leadership retreat, regional chapter officer workshop, regional conference, World AIDS Day Health Rally (Boston area)&lt;br&gt; Increased fundraising efforts (regional t-shirts, regional party) in order to support over 15 members to AMEC (registration, hotel costs)&lt;br&gt; Gained 100% regional voting privileges at 2012 AMEC House of Delegates session&lt;br&gt; Serve on the National Board of Directors for SNMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010– 2011</td>
<td>Region VII Assistant Regional Director</td>
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4. In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?

From modest beginnings, the Student National Medical Association has grown to become the principal leader on issues concerning the minority medical student and the underserved community populations. Yet, despite our advances and improvements, there are several areas of need that should be addressed to facilitate our continued growth.

Diversifying our financial income sources is an area that deserves immediate attention. Having so few sources of steady revenue stifles our ability to operate maximally. Over the past few years, we have successfully created new financial opportunities by developing new marketing endeavors. Moving forward, it is important that we continue this trend by adding to this portfolio. Presently, our upcoming anniversary can serve as a marketing tool to increase external financial support from other institutions with the possibility of leading to multi-year financial sponsorships.

Understanding the external view of the SNMA is also important as we look for financial partners. Knowing how we are perceived will help us create/recreate our brand. Using data
collected from previous administration and other sources, we will evaluate our perception and ensure it is reflective of our mission.

Technologically, our organization is outdated. We must provide better equipment and software support for our headquarter staff and officers. Also, progress should continue to be made on converting our chapter and regional documentation submissions into an online format. Economical solutions will be sought in an effort to update our networks and technical infrastructure.

High officer turnover continues to be a concern for our organization and affects our ability to grow and strengthen our mission. It is necessary that we invest resources into developing quick and effective ways for training and transitioning our officers on all levels of the SNMA. We will continue to clarify our current training documents while creating new methods of information dissemination. Use of technology, such as Webinars and YouTube videos, can help streamline the process and quickly convey information.

Despite these areas of need, I am confident that with all of us working together we are more than capable of addressing these issues with the best course of action. With greater efficiency and continuity within our organization, the SNMA will continue to stand for another fifty years and more.
COURTNEY M. JOHNSON

EDUCATION
2010 – pres Brown University Graduate School – Pathobiology Graduate Program – G1, G2
2008 – 2010 The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University – M1, M2
2004 – 2008 Tougaloo College – Bachelor of Science, Chemistry
2000 – 2004 Terry High School – Diploma, General Studies

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES
Student National Medical Association (Specific Experiences)
2011 – pres Region VII Director
Organize and direct the activities of nine (9) SNMA chapters in seven New England states
Oversaw the successful planning and implementation of a regional leadership retreat, regional chapter officer workshop, regional conference, World AIDS Day Health Rally (Boston area)
Increased fundraising efforts (regional t-shirts, regional party) in order to support 15 members to AMEC (registration, hotel costs)
Gained 100% regional voting privileges at 2012 AMEC House of Delegates session
Serve on the National Board of Directors for SNMA

2010– 2011 Region VII Assistant Regional Director
Assisted the Regional Director (L. Landry) with implementation of national and regional initiatives
Organized region-wide Domestic Violence Awareness Week
Implemented regional fundraiser (USMLE Q-Bank raffle)

2009– 2011 Chapter MAPS Liaison – The Warren Alpert Medical School
Successful revitalization of MAPS chapter at Brown University
Implementation of new pre-medical events; inc. Suturing Workshop, Med Student Panel
Boosted membership to over 100 students

General Experiences
Mar 2010 MD/PHD Retreat Coordinator (special guest: Dr. Andrew Lichtman, MD, PhD)

Feb 2010 Office of Minority Medical Affairs Black History Dinner Coordinator
(special guest: Dr. Augustus White, MD, PhD)

June 2009 National Youth Leadership Forum - Student Coordinator

2006- 2007 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc Gamma Omicron Chapter - 2nd Vice-President
2005- 2006 Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society – President
2004- 2008 Tougaloo Ambassadors for Meritorious Scholars – Tour Guide, Student Representative

Sept 2010 Brown University “MD vs. MD/PhD” Undergraduate forum – Panelist
Sept 2009 “How to be Successful in Medical School” for entering first year medical
Students - Panelist

COMMITTEE EXPERIENCES
Oct 2011  LCME Student Survey Committee - Co-chair
Nov 2011  Institutional Diversity Officer Search Committee - Member
Apr 2009  Alpert Medical School Admissions Committee - Interviewer

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES
2010 - pres  Graduate Student Research, Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
Dr. Jonathan Reichner, Principal Investigator
Mechanistic role for α3β1/CD151 and the neutrophilic fungal response to β-glucan.

2009  Summer Rotation, Brown University/ Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, RI
Dr. Loren Fast, Principal Investigator
Characterization of Terminally Differentiated CD8+ T-cells for Use in Tumor Immunotherapy

2007  Summer Research Experience, Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS
Dr. Rajendram V. Rajnarayanan, Principal Investigator
Differential Regulation of Nuclear Receptors and Aminoacyl-tRNA-Synthetases by Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

2006  Summer Research Experience, National Cancer Institute/NIH, Bethesda, MD
Dr. Alfred Johnson, Principal Investigator
Effect of Curcumin on Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) Expression in Lung Cancer Cells

PUBLICATIONS

TEACHING EXPERIENCES
Fall 2011  Brown University – Cancer Biology - Teacher Assistant
Taught two lectures in graduate/undergraduate level course
Led class in mid-term and final reviews
Graded course work and provided assistance to professor

Spr 2011  Brown University – Introduction to Medical School – Co-Course Leader
Introduced upcoming PLME undergraduates to courses in medicine
Provided introduction to anatomy lab, biochemistry, cell biology coursework
Provided study tips and advice for success in medical school

Spr 2010  Alpert Medical School – Brain Sciences - Teacher Assistant
Individual tutor for 1st year medical student
Led two class exam reviews
2010– 2011 Office of Curriculum Affairs - Alpert Medical School – Tutor (Various Courses)
Tutored group (4-7) of first year medical students biweekly

HONORS AND AWARDS
Apr 2012 FASEB Travel Award – Experimental Biology 2012 – San Diego, CA
Apr 2012 ASIP Oral Presentation Invitation – Experimental Biology 2012 – San Diego, CA
Oct 2010 FASEB Travel Award – Society of Investigative Pathology XXX National Congress – Salerno, Italy
Fall 2009 Alpha Lambda Beta National Honor Society Induction
2004– 2008 Tougaloo College Presidential Scholar
2004– 2008 Jackson Heart Study Scholar
2007– 2008 Miss Hospitality Byram, Mississippi
2006 – 2007 Miss Tougaloo Mississippi
May 2006 Who’s Who among College Students
July 2006 Woman in Medicine Award – Miss Mississippi Pageant
May 2005 Who’s Who among College Students
Aug 2005 Tougaloo College Honors College – Inaugural Class
2004– 2005 Miss UNCF Tougaloo College
May 2004 Mississippi STAR Student Award
May 2004 Terry High School Hall of Fame
2003– 2004 Miss American Co-Ed – Terry High School

PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC MEMBERSHIPS
2011 – pres National Medical Association – Student member
2010 – pres American Physician Scientist Association – Member
2010 – pres American Society of Investigative Pathology – Member
2009 – pres Student National Medical Association – Member
2006 – pres American Association for Cancer Research – Student Member
2006 – pres Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc – Member

EMPLOYMENT
2010- pres Alpert Medical School Exam Proctor
Summer 2009 The Peterson Legal Group, LLC – Internship
2008- 2011 LOFT, Inc – Salesperson (intermittent employment)

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE
2006– 2008 South Mississippi Abstinence Education Program - 7th Grade Course Instructor
2006– 2007 American Cancer Society – Jackson, MS
To the SNMA Elections Committee and General Membership,

Please allow this correspondence to convey my enthusiastic support of Courtney Johnson’s candidacy for the position of National President-elect of the Student National Medical Association. Having been an active officer on the SNMA Board of Directors for over four years, and in my current capacity as Immediate Past National Chairperson, I have had the opportunity to participate in the inner workings of our organization and assess our needs and areas for growth. It is with this knowledge coupled with my experience working with Miss Johnson on the BOD that I am confident she possesses the skills necessary to lead our members in furthering the mission of the SNMA.

Courtney has been an active member of the SNMA serving in leadership capacities on a chapter, regional, and national level. Additionally, she has held a number of positions in her medical/graduate schools, church and community, and maintains membership in several professional, service, and academic organizations. These endeavors showcase her passion for academic excellence, community service, and diversity—the core ideals of SNMA. It is clear that her personal values fall in line with that of our organization.

It was my pleasure to work with Courtney on the BOD. Throughout our tenure together, I saw that she was and continues to be committed to a job well done. She is thorough in her reporting of regional activities, is dedicated to implementing both the programmatic and corporate foci within her region, and is diligent in advocating for her Region VII constituents, ensuring that their needs and concerns are addressed. These skills, combined with her savvy in teamwork and team-building as well as her creativity and analytical mind will serve her well as she prepares her Executive Agenda and ultimately directs the programmatic efforts of the SNMA.

I bear witness to Courtney’s strong work ethic, organizational knowledge, collegial spirit, and positive attitude requisite of a President-elect/National President. With this in mind and without reservation, I highly recommend Miss Johnson for this position. I am available for any questions or requests for further information.

In service,

Carmen T. Robinson, MD Candidate
Wake Forest School of Medicine
Immediate Past Chair 2011-2012
immediatepastchair@snma.org
National Vice President
Candidate:

Jesse X. Yang
M.D Candidate
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
Dear Elections Committee:

It is with great humility that I submit this letter of intent to become a candidate for the position of National Vice President of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). I believe that I am an ideal candidate for the office of National Vice President. The office is one that embraces a duality of both support and leadership. These are two roles that I have fulfilled through various roles in SNMA. As the current Associate Regional Director (ARD), I fill a supportive role to the Regional Director. However, as ARD I also have lead committees and initiatives, most notably the Region VI Conference. Further, I formerly served as Chapter President of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine SNMA chapter.

As for the specifics of being National Vice President, I am well qualified to both support the National President and to oversee the Community Service initiatives of the National Organization. As aforementioned, I have played a support role in the past, and additionally, I have a great personal and professional relationship with the upcoming National President, Nisha Branch. Nisha and I are both members of Region VI and have served together on Regional Executive Boards where we have fostered an excellent working relationship. I feel confident in my ability to both support and improve her initiatives as National President. As for Community Service, I have been intimately involved in running and participating in SNMA pipeline programs since I became a medical student. I continue to serve as the coordinator of our Community Adolescent Sexuality Education (CASE) program which brings sexuality education to middle school students in Baltimore City and have served as mentor in other SNMA pipeline programs. I understand the unique challenges of delivering quality community service as a busy medical student and would bring this experience to the office of National Vice President.

Finally, I would like to address and illustrate my commitment to the mission of SNMA. As is clear from my name and photograph, I am not the typical SNMA member, and certainly not the typical candidate for National Vice President. However, I would ask that those who would question my ideals and convictions consider my history of positions held and community service. As aforementioned, I am the current ARD for Region VI and the former Chapter President of the Hopkins SNMA. I also served as the Regional Political Advocacy Liaison for Region VI during my time as Chapter President. As an undergraduate, I served as Vice President of Northwestern’s Black Student Alliance and was the Social Action Director of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. as well as the founder/president of the Northwestern University Coalition to Free the Jena Six. For community service, I am the current Coordinator of an SNMA pipeline program, a mentor in other SNMA pipeline programs, a former Big Brother Big Sister mentor in Baltimore City, a former HIV/AIDS counselor/tester in Baltimore city, a student governing board member of the Hopkins graduate school community service advisory council, and a former YMCA basketball coach in inner-city Chicago.
I ask for your support in my endeavor to become the next National Vice President of SNMA. I believe my past and present commitments illustrate my commitment to this organization and to the members and individuals that SNMA as a National Organization serves. I would be honored to serve as your upcoming National Vice President.

Yours in SNMA,

Jesse X. Yang
MSIII, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Associate Regional Director, Region VI 2011-2012
Political Advocacy Liaison, Region VI 2010-2011
Chapter President, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine SNMA Chapter, 2010-2011
Candidate responses:

1. What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?

Vice President of SNMA is a unique role. It is one of both support and leadership. The Vice President must be a consistent grounding of support for the President. This includes assisting the President with their duties and if possible, enhancing the outcomes of their actions. However, the Vice President supports more than just the President. Versatility is key. By not having leadership placed squarely upon oneself, a Vice President has the opportunity to be able to be involved with many projects within the organization. However, concurrently, a Vice President must be a strong leader. A President cannot be omnipotent, nor should they be held to such a standard. When the President is unavailable, it is the responsibility of the Vice President to assume control and lead. Further, Vice Presidents of the SNMA typically lead many of their own initiatives without input from the President, thus further necessitating strong leadership.

I believe that I am uniquely qualified to fill this role. I currently serve in a support role as the Associate Regional Director (ARD) of Region VI. As ARD, I have worked closely with Ross McMillan, the Region VI Director to aid him in his duties as director. This has included carrying on communication with the regional officers and presidents as well as setting agendas for regional meetings. Supporting Ross was made easier by having a strong personal and professional relationship with him. This would be the same situation if I am elected Vice President. Current President Elect Nisha Branch and I have a healthy personal and professional relationship originating from our time together as regional board members for Region VI. I feel extremely comfortable working with Nisha and hope to continue to do so in the future.

Additionally, I am qualified to lead. This is demonstrated by both my time as ARD and as Chapter President of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine SNMA. As ARD over this past year, I was the lead coordinator for the highly successful Region VI Regional Conference featuring keynote speaker Dr. Ben Carson. As Chapter President my first year, I organized more community service programs at Hopkins than had been run in recent years and strengthened our three pipeline programs, Community Adolescent Sexuality Education (CASE), Brotherhood Alliance for Science and Education (BASE) and Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP). Additionally, I served as lead coordinator of CASE which is a position I continue to hold. Under my leadership, CASE has expanded from teaching sexuality education at one middle school to four middle schools/community centers. The number of pupils receiving sexuality education has increased from 20 to over 170.

2. If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?

As the Vice President’s role is one of both support and oversight of community service within the National Organization, my goals focus on these two major facets of the position. In
addition, I have goals unique to my vision for the further advancement and improvement of SNMA.

-Supporting the National President: My top priority is to support the National President and assist the President in accomplishing their goals and the National agenda.
-Making the National Organization relevant to SNMA members: As it currently stands, most SNMA members merely see the National Organization as a body of individuals who coordinate AMEC annually. I believe that the National Organization can and should mean more to individual SNMA members. Whether this is through more National support at the Regional or even Chapter level, or National initiatives that are determined by a majority of the members, my goal is to make the National Organization relevant to every SNMA member. SNMA members should feel that their dues are going to more than just funding a board of individuals who plan a National Conference.
-Compiling standard protocols for SNMA pipeline programs and signature SNMA events such as Regional Conference: Although standardized in their objectives, many of the SNMA pipeline programs are run fairly differently from school to school. By collecting best practices from experiences chapters, my goal is to create a set of protocols for SNMA’s key pipeline programs. This will not only strengthen current pipeline programs at established chapters, but provide a base for fledgling chapters to set up their own programs. Additionally, organizing conferences can be a time intensive effort that can involve lots of on the job training. My goal is to create a base protocol of standard needs for a generic conference so that students can maximize their time spent planning.
-Starting efforts to stabilize the organization, promoting accountability and fiscal responsibility: It is no secret that SNMA has struggled as of late in both the financial and organizational spheres. I expound on this in more detail within the response to question 4, needs of the organization, but my goal is to make inroads towards greater stability within the organization.

3. Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/ committee(s) of interest.

As aforementioned, I am the current Associate Regional Director (ARD) of Region VI and the former Chapter President of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine SNMA and the current lead coordinator of the Hopkins SNMA pipeline program: Community Adolescent Sexuality Education (CASE). During my time as Chapter President, I also served as the Regional Political Advocacy Liaison for Region VI. In my undergraduate career, I served as Social Action Director of the Iota Nu Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., the Vice President of Northwestern University’s Black Student Alliance, and the Founder/President of the Northwestern University Coalition to Free the Jena Six.

I previously detailed the responsibilities I had in my SNMA roles. Further details can be found in my attached CV. As for my undergraduate roles, my positions were mostly centered around community service and political advocacy. As Social Action Director for my chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, I organized voter registration drives and fundraisers for the homeless of Chicago. As Vice President of the Black Student Alliance, my responsibilities included being in charge of all
programming undertaken by the Alliance. This included fundraisers, rallies, guest speakers etc. Highlights included bringing Angela Davis and Rev. Jeremiah Wright to Northwestern’s campus. Finally, I served to organize rallies and raise awareness about the case of the Jena Six in my role as Founder/President of that organization. I was successful in passing a politically charged student body resolution condemning the case in Jena, Louisiana which was a first of its kind.

4. In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?

I believe that the National Organization has two glaring needs which I aforementioned. They are the need to make the National Organization relevant to everyday SNMA members and to stabilize the National Organization from a financial and organizational perspective.

As I stated before, too many SNMA members see the National Organization as simply a body which coordinates a National Conference annually. SNMA members should care about what initiatives the National Organization is undertaking and more importantly, they should feel that the National Organization is improving their current status as Medical Students and their future status as Doctors. To that end, I would like to work towards SNMA members having a more active role in choosing the direction of the organization. We live in a digital age. SNMA members can vote on important initiatives everyday through internet communication rather than at annual HOD sessions. Ideas include having SNMA members vote on which political initiatives are put forth on National Advocacy Day or which major organizations SNMA allies itself with akin to the initiative with the Greater Than AIDS organization. As for making the organization work for its members, seeking more professional and academic development opportunities is key. Additionally, making these opportunities well known to members is crucial! Too often do opportunities reach students with mere days before the deadline for applications. My goal is for SNMA members to value their membership to the National Organization of SNMA.

Finally, for a few years now, SNMA has been a fairly unstable organization. Poor finances and unfortunate circumstances within the National Office have made for arduous years. I believe that at the crux of this instability is a lack of accountability and transparency. I do not believe in reprimanding individuals who have made mistakes but rather, learning from those mistakes. My goal is to institute a standardized process for investigating and vetting every major decision within SNMA that ends up with a negative outcome. By then making the results of these investigations available to the entire SNMA organization including all general members, we can learn from these mistakes so that they are not made again. I believe strongly that National Board members always act with the best interests of the organization in mind and these investigations are by no means punitive. It is simply a matter of quality control that the organization must undertake to improve the overall practice and efficacy of the organization.
Jesse X. Yang

Education

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Class of 2013
Baltimore, MD
M.D Candidate

Northwestern University, Class of 2009
Evanston, IL
B.A. Biological Sciences
GPA: 3.91

Work Experience

Healthy Teen Network, Policy Researcher, Baltimore, MD, (June 2010-August 2010)
Healthy Teen Network is a non-profit organization whose mission is to bring comprehensive sexual health education to all youth. As a policy researcher for Healthy Teen Network, I assisted them in completing the Strategic Plan for Reducing Teen Births in Baltimore that they were commissioned to complete by the Baltimore City Health Department in 2007. I researched sexual health education policy in other US States and prepared policy briefs and advisory sheets for local and state legislators to advocate for comprehensive sexual health education in Baltimore City. I also prepared the executive summary of the final Strategic Plan.

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Biological Sciences Department, (2008)
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for Dr. Robert Holmgren course Biology: Genetics.

Community Assistant (RA equivalent), Northwestern University Residential Life, (2008-2009)
I worked as a Community Assistant (equivalent of an RA) in one of Northwestern’s residence halls. I was entrusted with a group of residents to mentor and guide as well as the responsibility to build a community among undergraduate students in the residence hall.

Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR), Rockville, MD, Research Assistant, (June 2007 – September 2007)
CPDR is a program of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a leading program in prostate disease research. I worked as a research intern at the CPDR headquarters in Rockville, MD. I worked as an aide to Dr. Gyorgy Petrovics and completed research on the cancer inducing PCGEM1 sequence of prostate cells.

Center for Prostate Disease Research (CPDR), Rockville, MD, Research Assistant, (June 2006 – September 2006)
CPDR is a program of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and a leading program in prostate disease research. I worked as a research intern at the CPDR headquarters in Rockville, MD. I worked as an aide to Dr. Hongzhen Li and completed research on the anti-carcinogenic effects of Propolis bee extract. My work was later published in the International Journal of Oncology.

National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD Research Assistant, (June 2005 – September 2005)
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and is the primary agency of the United States government responsible for biomedical and health-related research. I worked as a research intern at the main campus of the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, MD. I worked as an aide to Dr. Chun Gao and completed research on the expression of 12-Lipoxygenase in rat eye cells which was then believed to be a possible stem cell marker.

Accomplishments and Honors

Magna Cum Laude, (2009)
Cumulative GPA at graduation in the top 5% of the graduating class of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Baltimore Albert Schweitzer Community Service Fellow, (2011)
Selected as a fellow to continue my work with Community Adolescent Sexuality Education (CASE) program in Baltimore. One of only 15 community service projects in Baltimore selected.

Northwestern University Dean’s List, (2006-2009)
Freshman - trimesters 1,2,3; Sophomore – trimesters 1,2,3; Junior/Senior – trimesters 1,2,3

Under the article: “Antiproliferation of human prostate cancer cells by ethanolic extracts of Brazilian propolis and its botanical origin”

Selected as an undergraduate TA for Biology 210-1-Genetics, (2008)
Selected based off of excellent test scores in the indicated class the year before. One of two student TAs.

Member of Alpha Lambda Delta, (2009)
International organization for those with a 3.5 GPA at their University or higher.


Virginia State Firefighter’s Association (VSFA) Scholar, (2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extracurricular Activities and Community Service</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Region VI, Associate Regional Director, (2011-present) Time Commitment - 6 hours/week</td>
<td>(2009-present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am the current Associate Regional Director (ARD) for Region VI of SNMA. Region VI encompasses all medical schools within Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. As ARD my responsibilities entail overseeing more than a dozen SNMA graduate and undergraduate chapters. A major responsibility includes being the lead organizer for the 2-day SNMA Region VI Regional Conference that draws medical and pre-med students from across the three states under Region VI.</td>
<td>(2009-present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead conference planner for SNMA’s Region VI Regional Conference</td>
<td>(2009-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I was the President of the Hopkins Chapter of SNMA, the only student-run organization at the Johns Hopkins School of medicine focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color. The mission of SNMA is to enhance the number of underrepresented minority students in medicine, eliminate health disparities, increase access to care in underserved communities, and to promote diversity and cultural competency in medicine. As President, I was responsible for representing the organization at both the local, regional and national level. Through SNMA, I organized community service projects for underserved populations and worked to educate those around me to societal inequalities.</td>
<td>(2009-2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Adolescent Sexual Education (CASE), Coordinator, (2009-present), Time Commitment - 7 hours/week</td>
<td>(2009-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due to lack of funding in Baltimore City, many schools lack a sexual health education curriculum. In addition to serving as SNMA Region VI Associate Director, I also coordinate the CASE pipeline program of SNMA. CASE is a program whereby SNMA members and volunteers teach sexual health to at-risk youth who normally would not be receiving such education. As coordinator, I contact local schools and work with them to set up the course for their students. I then schedule volunteers from the Johns Hopkins Schools of Medicine, Public Health, and Nursing to go teach the courses. I currently coordinate 8 week sex ed programs at three separate middle schools within Baltimore City with over 150 middle school students and 30 graduate student volunteers.</td>
<td>(2009-present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Outreach Resource Center (SOURCE), School of Medicine Representative, (2009-Present) Time Commitment – 2 hours/week</td>
<td>(2009-Present)</td>
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<td>I am one of four SOURCE governing board student representatives from the School of Medicine. SOURCE coordinates community service opportunities for the school of medicine, school of nursing and school of public health at Johns Hopkins University. As a governing board member, I am involved in evaluating and selecting the community service opportunities which become available to students and for finding new opportunities. I am also responsible for notifying my classmates of potential opportunities and being a resource for their involvement.</td>
<td>(2009-Present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InterAction Council Representative, (2009-Present), Time Commitment – 1 hour/week</td>
<td>(2009-Present)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am one of four InterAction Council Representatives from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. InterAction provides monetary support to student groups involved in community service and social justice activities.</td>
<td>(2009-Present)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jesse X. Yang

**Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Maryland, (2009-present), Time Commitment – 2 hours/week**

I am a volunteer Big Brother mentor to a Little Brother in Baltimore, MD. As a big brother, I serve a role as a mentor and friend to my little brother. This involves checking up on my little brother regularly to see how he is doing in school and at home, as well as seeing my little brother at least twice a month for activities.

**HIV/AIDS Testing/Counselor, Dates-(2009-2010), Time Commitment-(4 hours/week)**

I volunteered as an HIV testing and counseling personnel at People’s HIV/AIDS clinic in Baltimore, MD. I was responsible for testing patients who come in for an HIV/AIDS test and for counseling these patients on their treatment options and prevention strategies.

**For Members Only (FMO), Northwestern University’s Black Student Alliance, Vice President, (2007-2009) Time Commitment - (10 hours/week),**

FMO serves as the most politically active organization on Northwestern University’s campus. I served as the Vice President of FMO and was responsible for all programming (events) that FMO put forth for the Northwestern campus. I worked with a budget of approximately 30,000 dollars.

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Technician, (2005-2009), Time Commitment - (6 hour/week when I was home from school)**

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department serviced the city of Vienna and surrounding areas with fire and EMS responses. As a volunteer ambulance EMT, I delivered basic life support and transport for emergency victims.

**NU Coalition to Free The Jena Six, Founder/President, (2007-2008), Time Commitment - (6 hours/week)**

The NU Coalition to Free the Jena Six was a coalition formed between various student leaders to educate the Northwestern community about the case in Jena, Louisiana and to raise funds for the defense fund. I was the founder and president of this coalition.

**YMCA, Youth Basketball Coach, (2006-2009), Time Commitment - (5 hours/week)**

I volunteered as a basketball coach for a team of at-risk 7th and 8th grade youth at a Chicago YMCA.

**Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Social Action Director, (2008-2009), Time Commitment - (5 hours/week)**

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. is a historically Black Fraternity that focuses on Brotherhood and Community Service. As Social Action Director, I was in charge of putting on all events that pertained to social activism such as our annual voter registration drive and the Sigma Sleepout, a fundraiser for homeless shelters in Chicago.

**Relay For Life, Committee Chair/Team Captain, (2004-2008), Time Commitment - (3 hours/week)**

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society’s marquee event for their fundraising efforts. It is a team fundraising endeavor that culminates in an overnight celebration at venues across the country. Starting in High School, I was a team captain, and then later, a committee chair in Northwestern’s Relay For Life organization. I managed a group of individuals responsible for arranging all food logistics for the culminating event at Northwestern.
To Whom It May Concern:

It is with the highest honor and great ebullience that I write this letter of recommendation for Jesse X. Yang as Vice President of the Student National Medical Association. Jesse is one of the best men that I know. I am honored to call him a colleague and even more honored to call him a friend. He has been an excellent leader within the SNMA on both the local and regional level and will be phenomenal at the national level as well.

After serving as Vice President of the Black Student Alliance at Northwestern University, Jesse came to Johns Hopkins with leadership experience and the desire to enhance the diversity of the Hopkins student body. He was soon voted president of the Johns Hopkins SOM chapter of the SNMA, where he oversaw the most active service organization at Johns Hopkins. In addition to serving as SNMA chapter president, Jesse concurrently served as the Region VI Political Advocacy Liaison, helping to organize our Health Equity and Advocacy Tour and a discussion on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care act at our Regional Conference. More importantly, he was always in communication with the others on his boards, listening when he should and acting when he could. He was the consummate “team player.” During his second year he was voted as the Associate Regional Director, again serving as a willing facilitator. As the regional director, I would not have had the success that I had without Jesse’s tireless support.

In addition to his work as President of the Hopkins SNMA chapter and Associate Regional Director, Jesse has also served as an active volunteer for many of the community service programs that the Hopkins SNMA performs. He has served as the coordinator for the Community Adolescent Sexual Education (CASE) Program, an educational program that provides the opportunity for students in the schools of medicine, nursing, and public health to teach sex-education to middle school students in East Baltimore. As the program’s coordinator, Jesse amended the entire curriculum and expanded the program from a fledgling one school to a thriving four. For his work he was honored with an Albert Schweitzer Fellowship. He is also an active mentor for the Brotherhood Alliance for Science and Education (BASE). BASE is a program that serves to mentor young 8th-12th grade males in East Baltimore and show them a snapshot into higher education. As a BASE mentor, Jesse has been vital in teaching the young men the art of public speaking and has been personally mentoring one of the young men toward achieving an exceptionally bright future.

Outside of his incredible academic record and commitment to service, what I find most impressive about Jesse Yang is his commitment to his ideals and his dedication to enhancing diversity throughout medicine. Jesse is a champion for diversity and service. Although he is not considered the “prototypical” member of SNMA, he should be. The prototypical member should not look a certain way, but rather should have the conviction to enhance medical cultural competence and the willingness to fight for diversity. To paraphrase the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., it is on the content of one’s character, not the color of one’s skin, that one should be judged. The same should be applied to one’s leadership ability within SNMA and Jesse Yang’s character is robust. I have no doubt that Jesse Yang will make a fantastic vice president and will help to take this organization to new heights. His passion, charisma and attention to detail will contribute favorably to the enhancement of our great organization.

Yours in SNMA,

Ross H. McMillan
Region VI Director
Student National Medical Association
National Vice President

Candidate:

Raina Wallace
M.D. Candidate
Mount Sinai School Of Medicine

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
February 26, 2012
Letter of Intent
Vice-President 2012-2013

Dear National Elections Committee,

I humbly submit this letter of intent to run for National Vice-President of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA).

This past year, I served as the Region IX Associate Regional Director (ARD)- General. I entered this position in the hopes of uniting chapters and assisting the Regional Director and Executive Board in fulfilling the goals of the current national leadership, and also SNMA’s mission. I knew one of the biggest tasks was planning the regional conference, which is a great way to achieve those goals. We not only had an extremely successful conference, but we were also able to move it from the spring to the fall semester, which had been a point of contention in the past. It was a joint SNMA and MAPS conference as well, which allowed more interaction between medical students and premedical students, particularly for mentoring purposes. As ARD, I also knew there was a possibility that I would have to assume the duties of the Regional Director, which I did successfully for two months. Therefore, I feel I have a good grasp for SNMA’s operations. In college, I served on the regional board of the National Society of Black Engineers and on a national conference planning committee. Those experiences truly introduced me to the roles of an executive board and provided me with the tools to handle this position.

Moving forward, I am excited to hold more responsibility; hence why I also applied to become a Future Leadership Project (FLP) Fellow for this year. SNMA has such an important mission and it is my passion to help fulfill it. Thus, working on a project for the betterment of SNMA, as a FLP fellow, has truly allowed me to sharpen my leadership skills and work with the current national leadership. As a result, I am sincerely excited about the opportunity to serve as your National Vice-President, and am confident that I can function as the right-hand woman to the President and President-Elect. Having spoken to the current Vice-President, I understand the commitment, roles, and responsibilities that are required. Yet, as usual, I will do more than is expected of me in hopes of advancing our premier organization to greater heights. I look forward to elections at the Annual Medical Education Conference. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Best,
Raina Wallace
Region IX Associate Regional Director - General
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
M.D. Candidate 2014
**Candidate Responses**

1. **What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?**

As National Vice-President, I would work closely with the President and President-elect in the implementation of the Executive Agenda. I would also work with the Community Service Committee to support the regions and chapters in their implementation of national programs and protocols. The Vice-President also assists in programing for the Annual Medical Education Conference with the Diversity Research and Community Service Committees. He or she is also responsible for contributing articles to the *JSNMA* and *President’s Newsletter*. Lastly, the Vice-President serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and must submit reports on their activities, as well as updates on national projects.

2. **If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?**

Having worked with all three structural levels of the SNMA – national, regional, and local – I have a complete understanding of many of the issues that can arise when implementing projects. Thus, my goal is to assist the President and President-elect in bringing the Executive Agenda to fruition in the most efficient and successful way. I have a strong passion for community service as well, so working with the Community Service Committee to do the same will be of utmost importance to me. Also, despite not being listed as a specific responsibility, it is my belief that a vice-president serves as a bridge for the Executive Board and President since the President is the face of the organization and generates the “vision”, while the other board members facilitate it. Thus, I hope to support the other national officers and committee chairs, as well.

3. **Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/committee(s) of interest.**

During my first year of medical school, I was appointed as Region IX Webmaster. In that newly created position, I was able to keep the membership updated on important SNMA events. It also gave me the opportunity to learn more about how SNMA operates, as I assisted other regional board members in disseminating information relevant to their positions and attended national, regional and local events. For my second year, I was elected to serve as the Associate Regional Director – General. One of my biggest goals was to move the regional conference to the fall, instead of the spring. We were successful accomplishing that, as well as making it a joint conference with MAPS. As a result, we had an amazing turnout. After the conference, I assumed the Regional Director’s duties for two months. During that time I was privy to some of the Board of Directors operations. This year, I am also a fellow of the new Future Leaders Project. Within this fellowship, I have been able to work on a project I am passionate about for the advancement of SNMA. As a result, I have learned how to become a better leader and work with other national officers and committee chairs to develop my project.

During college, I was a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and served on all three organizational levels as Chapter President, Regional Pre-College Initiative Conference Planning Chair, and the Pre-College Initiative Speakers & Workshops Liaison on the National Conference Planning Committee. Through those experiences, I gained leadership, planning and organizational skills. I led my chapter into winning the Regional Chapter of the Year award, and
successfully planned three conferences for high school and middle school students in order to garner interest in the sciences. Those experiences have enabled me to be confident and auspicious in my leadership positions for the SNMA.

4. In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?
Communication is a continuous problem for many businesses and organizations. SNMA is very efficient with its many modes for communicating to its members, but in my opinion, nothing is as effective as the website. With the transition to the new website, I know many people have felt at a loss for obtaining the information they need. As a Future Leadership Project Fellow, my current project is entitled “SNMA Online: Optimizing our Web Presence,” and it is my hope that during this transition we can continue making improvements to the website in order to assuage much of the frustration I have heard in the past. Although it is not a specific duty for the Vice-President, if my proposal is accepted, I would want to support the external affairs committee in making it a reality. As a result, SNMA leaders and members can quickly organize and efficiently complete their goals. I believe this would also assist with membership involvement. As busy medical students, time is precious. Many people do not appreciate having to contact several different people for information or having to search through papers and emails. With a website that serves as a “one stop shop”, it is my opinion that leaders can more easily set the foundation of SNMA’s benefits and goals, and members can know exactly how to stay involved.
RAINA W. WALLACE

EDUCATION
Mount Sinai School of Medicine – New York, NY
M.D. Candidate, May 2014

Harvard University, Extension School – Cambridge, MA
Health Careers Program, 2008-2009

University of Pennsylvania, The School of Engineering & Applied Science – Philadelphia, PA
Degree: Bachelor of Applied Science in Biomedical Sciences, May 2008

Academy of the Holy Names - Tampa, FL
High School Diploma, May 2004

HONORS & AWARDS
The Society of Thoracic Surgery Looking to the Future Scholar            2012
Student National Medical Association Future Leadership Project Fellow           2011
National Society of Black Engineers Fulfilling the Legacy Scholar                     2008
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc Marjorie Holloman Parker Leadership Award                    2008

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE
International Center for Health Outcomes and Innovation Research (InCHOIR) 2011- Present
Research Associate
Mentor: Dr. Deborah Ascheim
Supervised participation in patient enrollment, screening and randomization for 2 major clinical trials run by the Cardiothoracic Surgical Trials Network (CTSN), as well as mentored clinical outcomes research on multicenter database of sternal wound infection.

Mount Sinai Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery – New York, NY 2010- Present
Research Associate
Mentor: Dr. Joanna Chikwe
Received research grant from the Center for Multicultural & Community Affairs (CMCA), designed and conducted retrospective analysis of 10,000 patient database, secured IRB approval and in process of submitting manuscripts to the American Journal of Surgery. Proficient in univariate and multivariate analysis.

Follica, Inc – Philadelphia, PA 2009- 2010
Research Associate
Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Prouty
Experience in murine model of follicle neogenesis, histochemistry techniques, and administrative responsibilities. Played a significant role in 2 of the 3 clinical trials, and in the processing of 10+ pre-clinical drug experiments that set up the clinical work. Handled the processing and analysis of over 200 human samples. This work helped to move the company into the 2nd and possibly the 3rd phases of funding. Served as Safety Officer for the company and worked with a consultant to develop proper protocols.

Dunn School of Pathology at Oxford University– Oxford, England 2006
Laboratory Researcher
Supervisor: Dr. Siamon Gordon
Studied the expression of Macrophage Scavenger Receptors (MARCO) in mice using Western blots and performed cell transfections. My results helped lead to a publication entitled in “SR-A/MARCO-mediated ligand delivery enhances intracellular TLR and NLR function, but ligand scavenging from cell surface limits TLR4 response to pathogens." in Blood January 2011.
National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research – Philadelphia, PA 2005

Laboratory Researcher in Neurology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Supervisor: Dr. Brenda Porter

Studied the molecular changes of the brain's hippocampus post-seizure in rats & mice using immunohistochemical staining, fluorescent staining, and polymerase chain reactions. From those results, I co-authored "The Role of Transcription Factors Cyclic-AMP Responsive Element Modulator (CREM) and Inducible Cyclic-AMP Early Repressor (ICER) in Epileptogenesis" published in Neuroscience March 2008. Continued working in the lab during the summer of 2005 under the National Science Foundation’s Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) in Undergraduate Research Program.

PUBLICATIONS


EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP

World AIDS Week
Leader 2011 – Present
Responsible for planning week-long events and fundraising for World AIDS Week. Recruited and managed a committee to help organize it. Raised about $1600 for the Manhattan HIV Care Network.

MSSM Admissions Tours
Tour Guide Coordinator 2011 – Present
Appointed by the Dean of Admissions to the position of tour guide coordinator. Responsible for training tour guides and managing the tour schedule. Developed resources for the interviewees.

Student National Medical Association (SNMA)
Associate Regional Director – General 2009 – Present
Elected to this position by 200 members of the region at our national conference. Planned and coordinated the Regional Conference and oversaw other regional operations and event planning. Previously held the regional webmaster position.

East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership (EHHOP)
Junior Clinician 2010 – Present
Worked with a senior clinician on all aspects of a clinic visit, and served as an Access to Care representative screening all patients in the clinic on their medical benefits status.

OVERSEAS EXPERIENCE
Dominican Republic Inaugural Medical Trip
Organizer/ Volunteer 2010 – Present
Along with one of the co-founders of Seeds of Hope planned and attended an inaugural medical mission trip to La Victoria, Dominican Republic. Currently, serve on the Seeds of Hope Medical Committee.

Medical Students Making Impacts – Nogales Public Health Trip
Medical Volunteer/ Transportation Committee 2011
Provided education activities and screenings to residents of Nogales, AZ and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC)
Medical Volunteer 2010
Worked in a pediatric clinic run by the Foundation for the International Medical Relief of Children (FIMRC) in Ajajuelita, Costa Rica.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
American Medical Association 2011 – Present
Society of Thoracic Surgeons 2011 – Present
Student National Medical Association 2009 – Present
SKILLS
Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint
Experience with Maple, MatLab, SPSS
Proficient in univariate and multivariate statistical analysis
Moderate in Spanish
To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I am writing to endorse current Region IX Associate Regional Director – (ARD General) Raina Wallace’s candidacy for SNMA’s National Vice President position. I currently serve as Regional Director of the largest region of SNMA, Region IX. The year before, I was the Associate Regional Director – General. During these two years, I have worked closely with Raina on the Region IX executive board, thus I have had the opportunity to work with her and provide insight on her abilities.

I still remember when I first met Raina at Region IX Fall Business Meeting in 2010. She was a first year medical student, who wanted to be involved on the regional level. By the end of the meeting, she was not only appointed as regional webmaster but she also walked over to me and said “next year I want your position”. As promised she is the current ARD General and her determination and hard work will be very valuable to SNMA. Raina eagerly wanted to get her foot in the door with SNMA and during the business meeting she noticed we were having a lot of problems with keeping our chapters informed. Everyone suggested that maybe using our website as a focal location for all information would be helpful. Only Raina acted on this by volunteering to do just this as the regional webmaster. She took her role very seriously and helped us keep our members informed. From there she stepped up in other capacities working to fill any other inadequacies that the e-board could not meet. She soon became the glue that held everything together. There were times when she would take minutes at the business meeting in the absence of our regional secretary. After watching her for so long, she gave me the confidence to run for RD knowing she would run as Associate Regional Director and became one of my right-hand (wo)men.

This past year, Raina has truly shown exemplary leadership. She was able to move the regional conference to the fall semester for the first time in several years, as well as make it a joint SNMA/MAPS conference. In the past, regional executive board transition occurred late and planning started late, but she was able to make use of the summer to get this started. In the end, we had an extremely successful conference in November. It was so successful; we had to turn away some exhibitors since we maxed out the tables. Also, after the regional conference, I needed a brief leave of absence, and Raina was very willing and able to step up and manage my duties as Regional Director for two months. She did an excellent job.

Furthermore, Raina’s passion for SNMA is inspiring. She was accepted as one of ten inaugural Future Leadership Project fellows within SNMA. That is a great honor and I know she is working hard on her assigned project, while communicating with our very own national leadership. Through that experience, she has gained incredible knowledge of SNMA.

Overall, Raina is a natural leader. Her enthusiasm, drive and genuineness will serve her well as the National Vice President. Therefore, I have no doubt that Raina will be successful as our National Vice President. I will look forward to working with her next year.

Sincerely,

R.A. Lawal "Bisi"
Student National Medical Association
Region IX Director, 2011-2013
University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry,
MD/PhD Candidate
region9director@snma.org
Pre-Medical Board Member
Candidate:

Mertalaine Mulatre
M.D. Candidate
University of Central Florida College of Medicine

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
Student National Medical Association – Elections Committee
5113 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20011
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my interest in running for Pre-Medical Board Member position. SNMA has been an influential part of my medical school experience and I look forward to the opportunity to participate nationally in this dynamic organization.

I am currently a second year medical student at the University Of Central Florida College Of Medicine. As a part of the second medical school class of a new medical school, we were faced with the challenge of building the social culture of the school. I quickly saw that there was a need to have SNMA at the university and I along with 5 other students founded a chapter. Founding the organization and later serving as President served as a solace to dealing with every day stresses of medical school. It provided a medium to do community service in the community and an outlet to talk to other medical students from different schools.

I am currently the President of our chapter and it has been my goal to continue our growth and demonstrate our presence both at the university and within the community. Within the community, our chapter participated in several health fairs and started our pipeline program at Jones High School. We saw a significant decrease in the amount of minorities matriculating in the 2015 class. In response, we drafted a letter to the admissions committee expressing our concern, organized a pre-medical talk at Bethune-Cookman College, held a pre-medical workshop with our MAPS chapter and will be having a table at the pre-medical forum recruitment fair at AMEC. These efforts were to increase the awareness of our new medical school. Within the College of Medicine, we hosted a Journal Club about health care provider contribution to race/ethnicity disparities in medical care, co-hosted a talk with the Geriatric Interest Group, Ophthalmology Interest Group and American Medical Student Association about eye health issues in Nigeria and hosted the 3rd Annual Multicultural Day Celebration.

I believe that I would be a highly qualified candidate for Pre-Medical Board Member position. This position requires drive, innovation, and clear communication. My leadership abilities within the SNMA and other organizations along with my professional experiences allow me to complete tasks in a timely manner and with efficiency. My colleagues and describe me as a well-organized person, who is adaptable to meet challenges as they arise. I hope to contribute these skills to this position and at the same time benefit the SNMA.

Respectfully yours,

Mertalaine Mulatre
M.D. Candidate 2014
University of Central Florida College of Medicine
Candidate Responses

1) **What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?**

The position of Pre-Medical Board Member is the primary voice of the pre-medical students. It is there to ensure that the pre-med students are getting accurate information so that they can successfully attract applicants to medical school. Working to plan the Pre-medical Forum during AMEC, ensuring the "So You Want to Be a Doctor" document is up to date, and serving as a resource for the Community Service Committee regarding pre-medical enrichment programming along with other assignments all aid in accomplishing the goal of increasing the number of minority applicant applying to medical school. These resources provide information to pre-med students that they may not be getting from their pre-medical advisors at their perspective institutions.

The Pre-Medical Board Member also serves as a means of support and information to the leaders of MAPS by overseeing the activities, documentation, and leadership of MAPS chapters. The local chapters face the arduous task of disbursing appropriate information, maintaining membership, establishing community service opportunities, and providing social support all the while maintaining a competitive GPA for entering medical school. All these responsibilities can become overwhelming especially when there is not adequate support from school administration. Serving as advisor to the Regional MAPS Liaisons, providing a MAPS newsletter, and providing communication with pre-medical members, Regional MAPS Liaisons and MAPS Committee provide a means to grant encouragement to MAPS leadership.

2) **If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?**

If elected, I hope to:

- encourage the local SNMA chapter to get more involved with their MAPS chapters this will provide more mentoring opportunities
- distribute materials regarding being a successful applicant to medical school to as many MAPS members as possible
- coordinate the communication between with pre-medical members, Regional MAPS Liaisons and MAPS Committee
3) Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/committee(s) of interest.

Being a student at a new medical school, I quickly realized the need to establish an official support system. I along with 5 colleagues founded the SNMA chapter at UCF. The following school year, I became the president of our chapter. One of my goals as president was to be more active regionally. We hosted the Region IV Regional Leadership Institute in August and participated in many of the regional president’s calls. Despite our chapter’s small size, I wanted to ensure that we made our presence known on our campus and within the community. Events that we’ve held on campus include a Journal Club session, organized and hosted Multicultural Day, co-sponsored with other student organizations to bring physicians in from Ghana to discuss eye health and held a pre-med conference for our MAPS chapter on filling out AMCAS. Within the community, we established and are currently running our Pipeline Program with Jones High School, attended Men’s Health Summit and the Caribbean Health Fair where we provided health consultations.

I am currently participating in the inaugural Future Leadership Project. This initiative of the national president provides monthly webinars on being an effective leader. Also as a part of this program, we are to write a proposal that we will present to during AMEC that will help improve SNMA. My project is entitled “SNMA Expansion: Optimizing the Chapter Charter Initiative” where I am looking to improve the chapter charter process.

4) In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?

There is an increase in the number of medical schools being created in the US. Five new osteopathic schools have been added and there are 10 new allopathic medicals schools that have been granted “preliminary or provisional accreditation” by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). There needs to be a clear communication on the SNMA website on how to start a successful chapter. Right now, there is just the application and a checklist that is required to start a chapter. A “chapter resources” link should be created where all the information to create a successful chapter is easily accessible. I’m hoping that the information in my proposal will be implemented to help solve this need.

I saw a recent statistic reporting a disproportionate decrease in the amount of minority students completing their application to medical school. The cause for this decrease was not stated; however this is a problem that SNMA should address. If elected as Pre-Medical Board Member, I will help in distributing the “So You Want to
Be a Doctor” document and other important documents to as many MAPS members as possible. I would also want to encourage local SNMA chapters to host pre-medical conferences to help disseminate the information and to serve as mentors to the pre-medical students. If I am not elected, I plan to still do those activities but just on a local level.
Mertalaine Mulatre

EDUCATION

University of Central Florida College of Medicine, Orlando, Florida
Doctor of Medicine anticipated, May 2014

Columbia University, Institute of Human Nutrition, New York, New York
Master of Science, Human Nutrition, October 2009
Master’s Thesis: The Role of Aldose Reductase Flux on Cardiovascular Tissue

Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Suwanee, Georgia
Certificate, Biomedical Science, June 2008

The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
Bachelor of Science, Exercise Science; Minor: Chemistry, Biology, April 2007

HONORS AND AWARDS

Cadaver Award 2011 Inaugural Awardee – First Place
• Anatomy group was the first awardees of this annual award
• Prepared a presentation on the cause of death of our cadaver to the students and faculty at the UCF College of Medicine using clues attained during semester long dissection.

UCF College of Medicine Scholarship
• Student of the second class of UCF College of Medicine
• Awarded a scholarship covering half of tuition.

Seminole Torchbearer – 2007 Inductee
• Inducted into the 2007 class of the Seminole Torchbearers
  o Recognition of leadership activities in Student Government Association
  o Seminole Torchbearers is an organization that recognizes Florida State University alumni who, as students, are exceptional leaders at FSU.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Administrative Assistant, October 2009 – June 2010
Department of Anesthesiology, University of Miami Hospital, Miami, Florida
• Maintain and coordinate the schedule that recorded the days of availability of the anesthesia attendings
• Coordinate with the Administrative Assistants in University of Miami Hospital system to ensure proper physician coverage
• Assist the Chief of Anesthesiology and the needs of the anesthesia department as needed
• Assisted in publishing the textbook the PGY-4 anesthesia residents used
**Data Entry Clerk**, November 2008 – August 2009
Asthma Clinic, Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, New York, New York
- Entered patients information into the ACRN database
- Prepared samples for mailing
- Prepared microscope slides to observe white blood cells in sputum to see patients compliance to asthma medication

**Exam Proctor**, November 2008 – May 2009
Office of Disability Services, Columbia University, New York, New York
- Proctored exams for students that have special testing considerations

**Student Assistant**, August 2004 – April 2007
College of Human Sciences – Dean’s Office, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- Aided the Associate Dean through office organization
- Prepared presentations to display the completed research
- Conducted online research for articles

**Receptionist**, June 2005 – August 2005
University Housing, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- Assisted the dorm director by answering phone calls from parents
- Conducted tours of the dormitory to prospective freshmen students and their families

**RESEARCH**
Racial Differences in Obesity Behavior and Outcomes in Adolescents, Co-Investigator, October 2010 – present
Dr. Lisa Barkley, Nemours Children Hospital, Orlando, Florida
- Design, conduct an experiment and analyze data to observe whether or not the mentality prevalent in Black community towards body size affects weight loss goals in adolescents
- Prepared a manuscript capable of being published in a reputable journal

The Role of Aldose Reductase Flux on Cardiovascular Tissue, Master’s Thesis Research, November 2008 – August 2009
Dr. Ravichandran Ramasamy, Department of Surgery, Columbia University, New York, New York
- Design, conduct experiments and analyze data to observe the effect of diabetes on cardiovascular tissue
- Prepared a manuscript capable of being published in a reputable journal

Effects of Illuminants and Retail Environments on Color of Textiles Fabric, Research Assistant, June 2007 – July 2007
Gallayaneey Yaoyuneyong, Department of Textiles and Consumer Sciences, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida
- Analyzed data for a Ph.D. candidate for her dissertation

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**
Student National Medical Association (SNMA), October 2010 – present
• Founding Treasurer
  o Seeing the need for an organization focused on minority health issues, I along with 5 other students founded this organization
• President 2011-2012
• Future Leadership Program (FLP) 2011
  o Chosen to be 1 of 10 students nationally to participate in the inaugural program to help develop national leaders to be a part of SNMA.
  o As a part of the program, required to prepare a proposal on improvements to the chapter charter process and present it at the national conference in April.

Jones High School Pipeline Mentoring Program, March 2011 – present
• Participated in the planning and inauguration of this program
• Mentor high students participating in the Medical magnet program at Jones High School once a month

Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG) – 2011-2012 Treasurer

UCF College of Medicine Homestay Committee, August 2010 – February 2011
• Coordinated the communication between interviewees and other committee members in order to facilitate the assignment of an appropriate student host for the interviewees

Nutrition Radio Broadcast, Orlando, FL October 2010 – November 2011
• Educate the Haitian population in Orlando about nutrition through a monthly radio broadcast through the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention (CMWP) radio station

Haiti Missions Trip, Okap, Haiti, July 2010
• Worked in a village clinic under the supervision of a doctor to provide health services to people from the surrounding villages for two weeks
• Assisted the nurse practitioner during her pre-natal visits/screen into the different villages

Peru Missions Trip, Iquitos, Peru, June 2010
• Worked with a team of doctors, nurses and medical and nursing students to provide health care to Peruvian people in remote villages along the Amazon river

Orlando Domestic Violence Center Dinner, Orlando, FL, October 2010, October 2011
• Aided in cooking a dinner for people at a domestic violence center in Kissimmee, Florida through the Women’s Health Interest Group

Choosing Healthy Active Lifestyle for Kids (CHALK), New York, NY June 2009 – August 2009
• Participated in health fairs and a weekly Family Fitness Night at the YM & YWHA of Washington Heights to educate kids about healthy eating choices

• Translated Haitian Creole to English for the Haitian migrant workers so that physicians can better serve them
Belize Medical Mission Trip, Dangriga, Belize, June 2006

- Worked with a team of doctors and nurses to provide health care and aid in the running of three different clinics in Dangriga, Belize; assignments range from triage to running the pharmacy
To whom it may concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend Mertalaine Mulatre for a position in national SNMA leadership. Mertalaine Mulatre has been an exemplary leader and individual for the entirety of the time that I have known her, which is almost two years. She is a founding member and the current President of the University Of Central Florida (UCF) College Of Medicine’s SNMA chapter. In her role as President she has overseen a number of chapter initiatives and spearheaded numerous outreach programs. She recently orchestrated a Pre-med workshop for the UCF MAPS chapter where she was determined to not merely go over trite statements about how to get into medical school but to give concrete tips on how to fill out AMCAS and complete a personal statement the stands above the rest. Her motivation for this workshop being to increase the number of minority students in medical school by decreasing confusion about filling out AMCAS. With all of her duties as SNMA president she still finds time to do other things. She recently organized our school’s annual Multicultural Day which was a huge success. During this event students were provided the opportunity to showcase their culture’s cuisine by bringing a dish from their homeland to share with everyone. Students voted for the best dish at the end. Students were also delighted by various forms of cultural entertainment such as singing and dancing. Mertalaine is also a well educated woman and received her Bachelor’s degree from Florida State University and her Master’s degree in Nutrition from Columbia University. She continues to put these degrees to use and has appeared numerous times on a local Haitian radio station to give nutritional advice and tips in creole to listeners. In addition, Mertalaine also serves on the Homestay committee at the UCF COM and as such often serves as a familiar face to first year students when they matriculate to the COM. Lastly she also has shown a strong interest in international missions and this summer she not alone traveled to Haiti, but also to Peru to aid in providing care to rural peoples in need of medical attention. In closing, as you can see from the above Mertalaine is a phenomenal student and leader, but what you cannot be described in words is how wonderful a woman she is to everyone she knows. As a result, it is with great honor that I would like to recommend Mertalaine Mulatre for a leadership position in national SNMA.

Sincerely,

Sharise Richardson
MD Candidate 2014
UCF College of Medicine
Vice President SNMA@UCF
Speaker of the House of Delegates

Candidate:

Janelle Miller
DO Candidate
Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
Greetings SNMA Members!

My name is Janelle Miller and I am writing to you to state my intent to run for Speaker of the House.

I have chosen to run for this position because of my strong desire to serve you, as SNMA members and friends. In the short time as an SNMA member I have come to adopt all of you as my new family. I have come to trust you and depend on you to be there for me through all of our victories and defeats. It is true, I really do think of each one of you as my brothers and sisters. My thanks goes out to all of you for always being there for me and now I feel it is time for me to give back to you!

There are many qualities that I believe a good leader should possess. It is my goal in this letter to share with you the qualities that I possess that I believe would make me a good leader. I am a strong believer in leading by example. I try my best to keep a smile and a good attitude and remember how blessed I am to be in medical school and to be a part of such a great organization.

I also believe that a leader is one who first and foremost serves the people that he/she is leading. One of my greatest joys in life is to serve others, knowing that I helped make someone’s day a little brighter. There are many ways that I have served SNMA. For the term of 2010-2011 I was VCOM chapter president of SNMA; also parliamentarian for Region VI SNMA Chapter. I am currently Region VI treasurer. In both of these positions I had to organize events, meeting, change bylaws, and work with others to make SNMA a better organization. I also held many other officer positions within this year and previous years, which have helped with being a leader and team player. If elected, I promise to serve you to the best of my ability.

A leader also needs to be an excellent communicator. I feel like with my many years of leadership positions it has taught me how to communicate with others. These positions have taught me how to listen to others ideas and opinions and how to combined different ideas into one great idea. Additionally, I worked as a instructor for Thomas Nelson Community College and Tidewater Community college.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I believe a leader absolutely must be an encourager. There are times that the moral of any organization is drained because of hardships and a leader must rally the troops and reassure its members that we will get through this together! If I had to tell you only one thing that I was good at, it would be encouragement, ask anyone that is around me! I must drive them nuts by the number of times I tell them that they can do it or they are doing great!

If elected, I have several plans for next year. I would like to make a comment box, so that you may submit ideas/comments while remaining anonymous. I would like to open up the communication between the SNMA members and the leadership of SNMA. One way I would like to do this is by having an SNMA board member at each regional conference or chapter
event to update members on National Business and answer any questions or concerns they may have. I would also like to help our organization become more organized and efficient with national business. I would also like to reach out to more DO schools to get their students involved with SNMA. My main goal next year is to actively involve the organization in planning and decision making and represent the organization as a whole.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I look forward for the chance to serve you next year.

Sincerely,

Janelle Miller
Candidate responses:

1. What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?

My understanding of the responsibilities of Speaker of the House of Delegates, is that this person serves on the election and internal affairs committee. This individual also has to work side by side with the National Parliamentarian to make sure that they understand the SNMA constitution and help with any changes that must be made to the constitution. Speaker of the house has to know Robert Rules of Orders to be able to run the House of Delegates meeting effectively and efficiently. This person must be able to construct agendas for these meetings develop and distribute material for these meetings. This person has to be willing to travel and educate others on the issues that are being presented at the meeting before and during the AMEC. The main job of the Speaker of the House of Delegates is to educate individuals on the business aspect of SNMA to make sure that individuals understand what the organization is about and what we are trying to accomplish in the future.

2. If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?

If elected, I have several plans for next year. I would like to make a comment box, so that you may submit ideas/comments while remaining anonymous. I would like to open up the communication between the SNMA members and the leadership of SNMA. One way I would like to do this is by having an SNMA board member at each regional conference or chapter event to update members on National Business and answer any questions or concerns they may have. I would also like to help our organization become more organized and efficient with national business. I would like to reach out to more DO schools to get their students involved with SNMA because the more great ideas we have from individuals the better our organization can become. My main goal next year is to actively involve the organization in planning and decision making and represent the organization as a whole.

3. Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/committee(s) of interest.

The experience that I have had with SNMA is on the chapter and regional level. For the term of 2010-2011 I was VCOM Chapter president and regional parliamentarian. These positions taught me a lot about SNMA as an organization, and they also gave me more insight on how to run a meeting smoothly. Chapter president showed me how to work with administration and type A students. I had to listen to everyone’s ideas, make sure meeting started on time, make sure events went on without any problems, and make sure that pretty much everyone was happy with what SNMA was doing as a whole. Regional parliamentarian gave me a better understanding on Roberts Rules of Order and how to run a meeting more effectively and efficiently. For the term of 2011-2012 I was elected as Regional Treasurer. This position gave me a totally different experience of SNMA because I had to file taxes and keep up with multiple bank accounts. I also had to document everything involving money and work with national personnel to make sure financial situations for the region were in order. I have also held many
positions outside of SNMA and all of them I think have made me a better person and a great leader. The greatest experience with all of these positions is the friendships that I have developed and some of the great people that I was able to meet that will make a huge difference in the organization.

4. In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?

In my opinion the national organization currently needs reorganization. This year has been a tough year nationally with personnel and I feel with a little help from national members we can turn these hardships into successes. I would contribute by helping out with the national office by lending a helping hand, if it’s opening mail or filing papers. I also feel like national also needs help with our financial issues and I could help by coming up with fund raising ideas or soliciting other organizations as financial investors. I think national SNMA may also benefit from a financial advisor to help us to learn how to budget our money better or how to invest our money to earn more. Another issues that needs to be addressed nationally is AMEC with a HOD meeting, I feel that the constitution needs to be addressed about how many meetings we have and who needs to be in attendance. I would help with this issue by working with the HOD to change the constitution so that individuals attending the conference get a chance to experience the conference and not attend meetings all day. I think at this stage National officers and SNMA members need to work together to bring this organization back to greatness and I hope to be a part of this rebuild.
Janelle Miller  
Detroit, Michigan

EDUCATION

Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
2009-present  
expected graduation 2013

Hampton University  
M.S. Medical Science  
2007-2009

Hampton University  
B.A. Biology/Pre-Med  
2003-2007

SCHOOL SPONSORED ORGANIZATIONS

Student Osteopathic Medical Association  
2009-present

Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association  
2009-present

Student National Medical Association  
2009-present

American Osteopathic Sports Medicine  
2009-present

American Osteopathic Association  
2009-present

Virginia Rural Health Association  
2009-present

Student American Association of Osteopathy  
2009-present

LOCAL, STATE, NATIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

SNMA National Treasurer  
2011-present

SNMA National Parliamentarian  
2010-2011

Social Chair for SAAO  
2010-2011

SNMA VCOM Chapter President  
2010-2011

ASIG VCOM Chapter Treasurer  
2010-2011

Pre-Soma Rep. SOMA VCOM Chapter  
2010-2011

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM

Radford Free Clinic Volunteer  
2010-present

Dominican Republic Mission Trip  
April 2011

VCOM Safety Day Volunteer  
May 2010

Honduras Mission Trip  
April 2010

SNMA Regional Conference  
November 2010

Hispanic Community Outreach Volunteer  
March 2011

SNMA National Conference  
April 2011

SOMA Spring Conference  
April 2009

OMED/AMA Conference  
April 2010
February 23, 2010

Re: Janelle Miller  
Candidate for Speaker of the House  
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)  

Dear Selection Committee Members:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Student Doctor Janelle Miller for the position of Speaker of the House for the national Student National Medical Association (SNMA). I am delighted to have this opportunity to elaborate on her many talents, leadership accomplishments, and community involvements.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Janelle for the last three years in my capacity as the Student Services Officer at VCOM and have first-hand knowledge of her contributions to the community. I can attest to Janelle’s professionalism; commitment to helping others; her caring and dedicated nature; commitment to the medical profession; leadership abilities; and desire to help those in need.

Last year, Student Doctor Miller was the elected President of our student chapter of our SNMA Chapter and an active participant in other student groups at VCOM. She has been a regular volunteer at the New River Valley Free Clinic, using her medical knowledge and skills to help those who have little to no access to healthcare. Notably, she also volunteered for a special program to assist battered women to “take back” control of their lives. I would see Janelle as being very effective in such a role since she has a caring nature, a confident demeanor, and is a superior communicator, while, at the same time, she is down to earth and can relate to others in a “real” and effective manner.

Janelle is an effective leader. She is organized, dedicated, and committed. She is passionate about the mission of the SNMA and, due to her contagious personality, took our chapter to new heights. She led fundraising events for causes such as collecting medical supplies and resources for underserved groups, educated the school community on diversity issues, and helped provide camaraderie among her fellow students. Under her leadership, VCOM’s SNMA chapter led an effective multicultural show and successful educational program during Black History Month. She even helped my office with minority recruitment initiatives.

Janelle leads by example, and is always one of the first students to volunteer for any event held at her medical school whether it is leading educational programs for high school students in the summer to serving the admissions office when we have visitors to campus. Her dedication to others is noteworthy and inspiring.
Should you need any additional information about Student Doctor Janelle Miller, please contact me at 540-231-5992. It would be an honor to elaborate about this exceptional candidate.

Sincerely,

William P. King

William P. King, MBA
Associate Vice President for Student Services
National Parliamentarian

No Candidates

Note: Position is open for members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
Professional Board Member*

No Candidates

*There are two (2) open Professional Board Member positions

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
Strategic Planning Council Member*

No Candidates

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the House of Delegates
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS

The Board of Directors (BOD) is the governing body of the Student National Medical Association when the House of Delegates is not in session. It is made up of elected National officers, Regional Directors, and appointed National Committee Chairpersons. The following positions are elected by the BOD at the conclusion of the Annual Medical Education Conference. Each candidate will be formally nominated during the BOD meeting on Sunday, April 24, 2011. They will then present their platform to the BOD. Following candidate presentations, each voting BOD member will cast a vote for their preferred candidates.

Please carefully review the following candidate applications, and take an opportunity to share any comments or questions with your Regional Director. The 2011-2012 Regional Directors will cast a vote on behalf of the members of their respective Regions. Please note that additional candidates may be nominated during the Sunday BOD meeting. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration and stewardship of our organization.
CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No Candidates

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the Board of Directors
NATIONAL TREASURER

Candidate:

Ernest Powell
MD Candidate
Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the Board of Directors
Elections Committee:

I am running for the position of Treasurer because the longevity of any organization revolves around maintaining its membership and its long term financial stability. I believe that my previous experiences have provided me with the skills to ensure the SNMA remains on the right track fiscally in order for the organization to continue to strengthen the bonds between the hundreds of African American medical students throughout the country. I feel that I will be able to work with the Board of Directors to organize the financial records, make business contacts, and hopefully nurture the talents of some of the regional treasurers in hopes that they will run for the office of National Treasurer; this could hopefully bring some consistency to the yearly Board of Directors transition. I would be honored to be entrusted with the responsibility of guiding the financial matters of the organization for the next year, and if elected I will do everything I can to make sure the organization is on solid financial footing for years to come.

Ernest Powell
Candidate Responses

1. What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?

As I understand the Treasurer’s main responsibility revolves around maintaining the long term fiscal stability of the organization as chair of the National Finance Committee. The treasurer along with the committee will take into consideration the current needs and goals of SNMA and give its recommendations to the Board of Directors. The treasurer has many tasks that relate to financial security such as: presenting a budget to the Board of Directors, maintaining the organization’s bank accounts, managing the accounting records and filing all applicable taxes. The job of treasurer also entails communicating with the regional treasurers to collect the QFS forms and monitor financial situation of each region. This allows the Finance Committee to ensure that SNMA can fulfill its mission for years to come.

2. If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?

If elected treasurer I plan to increase communication between the national treasurer and the regional treasurers, increase regional financial autonomy, set the foundation for a national capital campaign. The first two goals are interrelated as increasing overall communication will allow for the regional treasurers to take on more responsibility of their region's finances. I would like for every regional treasurer to sit on the National Finance Committee, in order for each of them to feel like they are part of the financial decision making. Having the regional treasurers on the finance committee will also allow for each regional treasurer to take on more responsibility as treasurer. The regions should all use their own Tax ID number, they should keep detailed accounting records, and they should file their own taxes. All of the previous goals will be made easier with increased communication through universal membership on the Finance Committee. Lastly, I would like to initiate a nationwide capital campaign which will benefit from the increased participation of the regional treasurers. Each treasurer will be asked to make business contacts in their community in order to build lasting partnerships. The partnerships will be used to increase revenue and SNMA exposure throughout the country.

3. Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/ committee(s) of interest.

I graduated from the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign with a B.A. in Economics; I have served as the treasurer for the University of Illinois chapter of the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. I spent one summer in an internship at what is currently Bank of America in Chicago, where I collected and organized data on the company’s various financial instruments. Most recently I served one year as the treasurer of SNMA Region V and I am currently serving a term as the Assistant Regional Director.

4. In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?

I think SNMA is currently doing many things really well. The organization is active in health policy on a nationwide while also making sure to keep new SNMA members engaged and active through scholarships and various incentives. One issue I believe the organization needs to improve is raising revenue. The national organization as well as each region should have ways of raising revenue that is not dependent on dues. In order to increase revenue I will institute a national Capital Campaign involving all the regions. The goal of the campaign will be to create business relationships across the country. The benefits of the business relationships will be twofold: corporate sponsorship will allow SNMA to have a revenue stream separate from new member dues and conference registration, corporate relationships will also allow for greater exposure of the SNMA brand.
Another issue I believe the organization has is a perceived lack of transparency and communication, especially concerning the organization’s finances. As regional treasurer I remembered receiving emails about having to file particular tax forms, using the wrong EIN number, and having to pay extra taxes, but we were never given any information besides what to do and when to do it. I think a lack of regular communication from the national treasurer can lead to the feeling that the national organization is a complete separate entity from the regional organization and the regions will only hear from the national treasurer when they have done something wrong. This issue can be rectified if all regional treasurers were to sit on the finance committee. The finance committee will meet once every quarter and that will allow the regional treasurers to receive information directly from the national treasurer, and it will also allow the national treasurer to get feedback directly from each region.
### Education

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine</td>
<td>2009-2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>MD Candidate, May 2013</td>
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<td>Roosevelt University</td>
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<td>M.S. Biotechnology and Chemical Sciences</td>
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<td>University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign</td>
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### Honors and Awards

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<td>Reliant Electric Minority Scholarship</td>
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<td>Mastin Scholarship</td>
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### Research

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<tr>
<td>PI: Teresa L. Carman, MD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Peripheral Arterial Disease Prevalence in Urban Health Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>PI: Teresa L. Carman, MD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Venowave®: Influence of Venous Flow Characteristics</td>
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### Posters and Presentations

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<td>Venowave®: Influence of Venous Flow Characteristics</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Lepow Day: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine</td>
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### Volunteer Experience

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<tbody>
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<td>East Cleveland Neighborhood Center</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performed school athletic physicals</td>
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<td>Otis Moss Jr. Health Center</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<td>Community Health Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine</td>
<td>2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Admission Committee student interviewer and tour guide</td>
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### Memberships

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<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student National Medical Association</td>
<td>2009-Present</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region V Treasurer</td>
<td>2010-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region V Assistant Regional Director</td>
<td>2011-2012</td>
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To Whom this May Concern

I am pleased to endorse the candidacy of Ernest Powell for SNMA National Treasurer for 2012-2013 administrative year. I had the pleasure of working with Ernest when he was the Region V Treasurer for the 2010-2011 year. Ernest was always available and dependable during his entire term. Based on his eagerness, confidence, and reliability, it was surprising that this was his first regional position in SNMA. Ernest did a great job balancing his SNMA responsibilities as well as keeping up with his academic responsibilities at his home institution of Case Western University. I could not think of a better candidate for National Treasurer. Taking into considering the financial ups and downs that SNMA has had in recent times, it is imperative that the role of National Treasurer is held by a worthy candidate. As I mentioned, Ernest has previous financial and leadership experience, including regional treasurer as well as heading up Region V financial committee. Ernest’s responsibilities included handling all regional financial responsibilities, attending monthly conference calls, as well as being a voting member on the regional board and contributing to important regional decisions and responsibilities. After a successful year as regional treasurer Ernest was then elected Assistant Regional Director (ARD) of Region V for the 2011-2012 administrative year. Thanks to Ernest’s contribution and leadership, region V had another flourishing year, including a successful Regional Leadership Institute event (RLI), regional picnic, and regional conference. After working first hand and closely with Ernest for almost a full year I know his leadership would be a great contribution to the SNMA BOD. He is the type of leader that will motivate his colleagues, inspire excellence, and make a positive and a significant addition to SNMA national leadership.

Sincerely
Michelle E. DaCosta, MD
Past Region V Director & BOD Member
NATIONAL SECRETARY

Candidate:

Danisa Clarrett
MD Candidate
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the Board of Directors
Dear President-Elect, Nisha Branch, and the BOD,

I am submitting an application for the position of National Secretary of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) in the 2012-2013 school year.

I have been a member of SNMA since my freshman year of college in 2004 and care deeply about its mission toward diversifying the physician workforce and addressing the needs of underserved communities. I am a current Chapter President at the University of Cincinnati (Region V) and we have made enormous strides, in the past year alone, in terms of minority recruitment, mentoring, and community service. I believe that the leadership and organizational skills I have learned in my current role have prepared me tremendously for the position of National Secretary. As chapter president I had to oversee all the activities of SNMA — I have kept an open line of communication with all executive board members, chairpersons, general members, other school organizations, the faculty and staff in the Office of Diversity and Community Affairs, the Office of Admissions, and residents and physicians who wanted to become more active in SNMA. I have become very good at multitasking, successfully balancing my responsibilities of SNMA with my other extracurricular activities, school, and USMLE Step 1 preparation. If elected to this position, SNMA and mentoring will be my only extracurricular activities, and therefore, based on the heavy load I carried this year, I believe that I definitely have what it takes to serve effectively.

I am a very cheerful, outgoing, hardworking individual and I am hoping to bring my positive attitude to the national board. I am very excited to work with so many like-minded medical students to advance SNMA. In order to understand how to go about improving minority student matriculation, retention, and SNMA membership, we have to analyze what is working and what is not. For this reason, I am most interested in contributing to the Diversity Research Committee. I thoroughly enjoy research and I also believe it is something we need to inspire other URMs to get involved in. My second and third national committee interests are Membership and External Affairs — I elaborated on this in my candidate responses.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration of my application to the National Secretary position in SNMA. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Danisa M. Clarrett, MS
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine ‘14
President, UC SNMA (Region V)
Candidate Responses

1. What is your understanding of the responsibilities of the position(s) and/or committee(s) for which you are interested?

To my understanding, the National Secretary’s role is to ensure open and thorough communication between all sectors, from the delegates, to the regions and the many chapters that comprise SNMA. The Secretary is a non-voting member of the Board of Directors (BOD) and as such should be present at all BOD meetings. Minutes taken by the national secretary, at BOD meetings, should be transcribed verbatim in addition to the audio recording he or she keeps. He/she should also be present to transcribe minutes at House of Delegates (HOD) meetings in summary format and maintain a record of all motions. The National Secretary also collects quarterly chapter activity forms (CAF) and quarterly financial statements (QFS) and must follow up with delinquent chapters that are late in submitting these documents. Other duties include keeping roll at meetings, maintaining listservs for dissemination of information and assisting the President and Chairperson with correspondence.

2. If elected or appointed, what goals do you hope to accomplish?

I have always been very passionate about the mission of SNMA ever since my membership as an undergraduate student. Minority recruitment and retention is something I care deeply about and have worked toward during high school, college, and even now through my work with my medical school’s admissions office and SNMA. It is exciting for me to get the opportunity to serve as a part of SNMA on a national level. Over the years, from what I have heard and what I have seen, the University of Cincinnati’s chapter has had some ups and down. Here at UC, we really have a problem with SNMA membership and activity, especially community service. I am hoping to learn tactics from the national board that I can bring to Cincinnati to improve upon the programs we currently have in place and implement new programs to benefit the medical students, the pre-med students of MAPS, and the Cincinnati community-at-large.

I believe that I am a very strong communicator and I hope to use that skill to reach out to other organizations to get them on board with our mission so that we are not the only group discussing the issues of the underserved and underrepresented minorities (URMs) in medicine. I would like to contact some of the universities across the nation that are lacking in either an SNMA and/or MAPS chapter to give them information they need to start one of their own, or at the very least, put their URM students in contact with another school’s chapter for support.

Over the years, SNMA has done so much in terms of inspiring me to keep working toward my dream of becoming a physician, so I want this to be a lifelong commitment. I imagine moving into regional leadership in my fourth year to improve cohesiveness
within Region V and work on grand-scale recruitment and community service projects. I do not see my involvement with SNMA ending at graduation.

3. Describe any chapter, regional, or national experience that you have had with the SNMA. Also include any non-SNMA experience related to your position(s)/committee(s) of interest.

I currently serve as Chapter President of SNMA at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, during the 2011-2012 school year. As chapter president, I have conducted and presided over chapter executive board meetings, abiding by a prepared agenda. I led the organization through numerous successful, well-planned events including monthly lunch talks featuring health care providers and patients, service events for HIV/AIDS awareness and sickle cell anemia, a black history month banquet honoring and remembering minority women in medicine, two medical student and resident mixers, as well as other social events. I actively worked alongside board members to ensure that everyone stayed on task. Although at times difficult, I was sure to contact delinquent board members to discuss progress and methods of improvement. I helped the treasurer in filing for funding and reallocations, supported the MAPS liaisons for Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati with novel ideas on how to improve underrepresented minority matriculation into medical school as well as providing medical school tours, and adopted a pre-medical student for mentoring. As per the suggestion by our Region V Director, Nina Butler, I recruited a first-year medical student to the new position of Community Service Representative. Volunteered with our chapter’s tutoring group, EndZone, which meets every Saturday morning at the medical school from 10am-noon to tutor inner city grade school children. I worked closely with the Office of Diversity & Community Affairs (ODCA) in the recruitment of underrepresented minority students; this included attending lunches and dinners with prospective students, speaking on student panels, and student hosting during interview stays. As chapter president I emceed and spoke at several school-supported banquets. With the sponsorship of the ODCA, I helped in planning “destressor” events for medical students after block exams. Early in the school year, I encouraged SNMA members to support the formation of a Cincinnati chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) by attending start-up events; I also had meetings with the future LMSA executive board as an advisor figure. Throughout the year, I maintained regular contact with the Regional Director via phone and email and met regularly with our chapter advisor to discuss group issues. I attended the Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) 2011 in Indianapolis, IN and voted as chapter representative in regional elections as well as a House of Delegates (HOD) meeting. I also plan to attend the upcoming AMEC 2012 in Atlanta, GA.

In addition to my work as SNMA chapter president, I also take an active role in the admissions process as an interviewer and admissions committee member. I also give back through mentorship – for the past year I have mentored a little boy from an inner city elementary school; this is a relationship that I plan to keep at least through
graduation when I will likely move out of Cincinnati and back to the East Coast with my family.

4. **In your opinion, what are the national organization’s current needs, and how will you contribute to fulfilling each of those needs?**

My experiences with SNMA date back to my freshman year of college in 2004. From what I have seen, the organization as a whole is doing a wonderful job supporting the needs of minority medical and pre-medical students. I cannot speak on some of the behind-the-scenes organizational difficulties SNMA may be having, but I will say that what any successful organization needs is leaders who are proactive and independent, yet still team players. I have been a leader in groups since high school, and always as either Vice President or President, therefore I know what it takes to inspire others to work toward a common goal and I also know how to step aside and support another person in that role. I have attended several non-SNMA leadership conferences and retreats over the years and they have equipped me with the necessary arsenal to succeed in the leadership role.

I believe that SNMA will benefit greatly from a net increase in membership, additional allies and new sponsors. Having spoken to students about obtaining national membership, I realize that money is the primary barrier. I do not believe that the membership cost is too steep but anyone would hesitate to spend $100 if they did not think they were getting anything for it. As National Secretary I would want to find a way to make national membership more attractive, probably by altering the way we advertise the benefits of membership, so that people will not view it as just being a requirement to attend AMEC. I would like to contact schools without SNMA or MAPS chapters to help initiate the formation of those missing chapters. In doing so, I think it would be worthwhile to research the reasons certain schools do not have an active chapter – for example, Xavier University (OH) which offers a strong premedical education, yet does not have an organized MAPS chapter.

I would also be willing to make calls, depending on how heavy my clerkship schedule is at the time, to potential sponsors for private donations to SNMA. I would like SNMA to build strong relationships with other national groups as well, such as AMA and AMSA. I believe that having an alliance with these groups, which attract so many more individuals, could only be of benefit. We can start with advertising agreements at each other’s conferences and/or asking them to let SNMA host a talk/dinner at their conference. This will help to generate more interest in SNMA, not only from our URM target audience, but also from students of all backgrounds who may want to work toward our mission. At the University of Cincinnati, we have made SNMA a very diverse group but the mission is still very clear. It is beautiful to see how passionate so many non-URMs are about SNMA here. The key is being very open about what we are working toward and letting people see how much you care and how it will benefit society. Because of the broad interest we have created at UC, our events are well attended, we
Danisa M. Clarrett

OBJECTIVE
To obtain a position as National Secretary of the Student National Medical Association

EDUCATION

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine
Doctor of Medicine, expected June 2014
Geriatrics Medical Student Scholar
Cincinnati, OH

East Stroudsburg University
Master of Science
Biology; GPA: 3.9
East Stroudsburg, PA

Case Western Reserve University
Bachelor of Arts
Major: Psychology; Minor: Childhood Studies
Cleveland, OH

CAREER HISTORY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mentor – Med Mentors Program
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine/Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, Cincinnati, OH
2011-Present
Helped to expose an inner city elementary school student to cultural experiences such as Broadway shows and dining out. Supplied the student with opportunities for homework help. Provided the student with advice on how to succeed academically and social etiquette.

Member – Medical School Admissions Committee
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH
2011-Present
Reviewed 12 applicant files (AMCAS applications, secondary applications, letters of recommendations, and interview feedback) weekly. The committee met for one hour per week to discuss applicants, where all members present voted on whether applicants should be accepted, waitlisted, or rejected. In addition, committee members occasionally interviewed applicants for entry into medical school.

Chapter President – Student National Medical Association (Region V)
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH
2011-Present
Conducted and presided over chapter executive board meetings, abiding by a prepared agenda. Led the organization through numerous successful, well-planned events including monthly lunch talks featuring health care providers and patients, service events for HIV/AIDS awareness and sickle cell anemia, a black history month banquet honoring and remembering minority women in medicine, two medical student and resident mixers, as well as other social events. Worked alongside board members to ensure that everyone stayed on task. Contacted delinquent board members to discuss progress and methods of improvement. Helped the treasurer in filing for funding and reallocations. Supported the MAPS liaisons for Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati with novel ideas on how to improve underrepresented minority matriculation into medical school as well as providing medical school tours. Adopted a pre-medical student for mentoring. Recruited a first-year medical student to the new position of Community Service Representative. Volunteered with our chapter’s tutoring group, EndZone. Worked closely with the Office of Diversity & Community Affairs in recruitment of underrepresented minority students; this included
attending lunches and dinners with prospective students, speaking on student panels, and student hosting during interview stays. Emceed and spoke at several school-supported banquets. Helped in planning “destressor” events for medical students after block exams. Supported the formation of a Cincinnati chapter of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA). Maintained regular contact with the Regional Director via phone and email. Met regularly with chapter advisor to discuss group issues. Attended the Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) 2011 in Indianapolis, IN and voted as chapter representative in regional elections as well as a House of Delegates (HOD) meeting. Will attend the upcoming AMEC 2012 in Atlanta, GA.

**Prosector – Gross Anatomy Course**  
*University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH*  
*2011-Present*

Dissected both male and female cadavers on a team of prosectors, for use as a study and dissection guide for first-year medical students. Specific dissections included: pelvis & perineum, posterior mediastinum, gastrointestinal tract, mesenteric arteries (leaving hollow organs *in situ*), anterior triangles of the neck, root of the neck, and infratemporal fossa.

**Researcher – Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program**  
*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD*  
*2011-2012*

Recipient of an MSTAR grant through the American Federation of Aging Research. Designed and conducted a retrospective chart review, analyzing the postoperative complications seen in patients over the age of sixty receiving their first cochlear implant at Johns Hopkins Hospital between 1999 and 2011, the manuscript of which is in progress. Attended Geriatrics Grand Rounds weekly. Engaged in many didactic sessions focusing on issues afflicting the elderly. Took several epidemiology and biostatistics classes. Shadowed several Geriatricians as well as an Otolaryngologist in clinic and the OR.

**Student Intern – Department of Infection Control**  
*Pocono Medical Center, East Stroudsburg, PA*  
*Jan 2010 – July 2010*

Completed a central line and Foley catheter protocol audit throughout the hospital. Collected data from 100+ patient charts concerning when catheters were inserted/pulled and daily physician documentation of catheter need. Checked patients for proper catheter placement and bandage dressings. Compiled data from hundreds of operating room anesthesia records for the hospital’s monthly meetings on infections and normothermia. Shadowed an Infectious Disease physician on rounds in the Intensive Care Unit. Trained in infection diagnosis through observation of patient peripheral blood smears in the hematology laboratory.

**Student Volunteer – Planned Parenthood**  
*Northeast & Mid-Pennsylvania Health Centers of Planned Parenthood, East Stroudsburg, PA*  
*Dec 2009 – Feb 2010*

Aided in scheduling appointments and patient intake. Shadowed nurse practitioners, 10 hours/week, during gynecological exams. Learned how to use microscopy in diagnosis of infections such as: bacterial vaginosis and molluscum contagiosum.

**Research Program Assistant – Home Safety Study**  
*Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD*  
*June 2009 – Aug 2009*

Actively recruited participants for the home safety study. Conducted participant interviews on topics of fire, carbon monoxide, and scald burn safety. Performed clerical duties, pertaining to the study, under the direction of the Principal Investigator.

**Research Assistant – Immunology/Parasitology Laboratory**  
*Cleveland State University*
Jan 2009-May 2009

Participated in malaria vaccine research under the Principal Investigator. Used microscopy to observe *Plasmodium yoelli* parasites in murine peripheral blood smears. Checked blood serum samples for antibody class and subclass profiles as well as cytokine profiles using Western blotting.

**Tutor – Math and Graduation Test Sector**

*Educational Resource Center*, Cleveland, OH  
**Sept 2006 – Apr 2008**

Tutored students in grades 3 through 12 in mathematics and/or in preparation for standardized examinations. Developed individual lesson plans for each student, targeting his or her weaknesses. Maintained standard that all students increase by at least one letter grade each report card. Successfully raised students’ American College Testing (ACT) Assessment scores.

**Student Ambassador – Office of Undergraduate Admissions**  
*Case Western Reserve University*  
**2004-2007**

Aided with the college recruitment process. Hosted many prospective students giving them an opportunity to experience the school. Participated on student panels before large groups of prospective students and their families.

**MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

- American College of Surgeons  
- American Geriatrics Society  
- American Medical Association  
- Student National Medical Association

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Complications Following Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults**, 2012  
International Conference on Cochlear Implants and Other Implantable Auditory Technologies  
Baltimore, MD

**Complications Following Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults**, 2012  
American Geriatrics Society Annual Conference  
Presidential Poster Session & Student Poster Session  
Seattle, WA

**Complications Following Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults**, 2011  
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Research and Service Symposium  
Cincinnati, OH

**AWARDS**

**Complications Following Cochlear Implantation in Older Adults**, 2012  
American Geriatrics Society Annual Conference  
Top-50 Student Abstract
March 07, 2012

Re: Danisa M. Clarrett Letter of Recommendation for National Secretary for SNMA

On behalf of the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine (UCCOM), I am delighted to write a letter in support of Ms. Danisa M. Clarrett’s nomination for National Secretary for the Student National Medical Association. Ms. Clarrett is a second year student and is in good academic standing with the College of Medicine. She is an extraordinary young woman that has performed extremely well and represents the best of the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine student community.

As the Associate Dean of the Office of Diversity and Community Affairs and Senior vice chair of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience, I have interacted with this student in multiple areas of her educational and community engagement experiences. I found her to be bright, inquisitive and well versed in the research project she has completed. She is motivated to learn and demonstrated compassion for others. She is clearly one of the finest medical student leaders in our school.

She has a commitment to mentor URM premedical and medical students. Through her participation on the Admissions Committee, Ms. Clarrett has been invaluable in our efforts to diversify the UCCOM student body and develop potential candidates for medical school. In addition, she was has been genuinely interested and concerned about the academic performance and welfare of classmates. Working in collaboration with our office, she organized study groups and tutoring sessions. In view of all the cliques that exist in school, she was able to transcend the variety of personalities and functioned well in a multicultural environment. She is the kind of student that helps our school move forward as we make efforts to include the value of diversity in all we do. She is definitely one of our top class leaders.

Ms. Clarrett has consistently participated in student groups and community activities. These include serving as a prosector for the gross anatomy course, member of the Medical School Admissions Committee and Chapter President for the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). With the support of SNMA, we were able to recruit a number of fantastic URM students to the College of Medicine. In terms of her work in the Cincinnati area, she participated in our numerous outreach programs to reduce health care disparities and educate people in the community about preventative health care. In addition, she served as a resource for a community nonprofit entity, The EndZone Club and the Med Mentor Program that focuses on academic achievement in children that attend the Cincinnati Public School system.

I feel that Ms. Danisa Clarrett has the complete balance of compassion, humility, talent and professionalism to hold a national leadership position for the SNMA. Furthermore, she has proven her concern for the people around her and those in our community. As a representative of the University of Cincinnati, I give the highest possible recommendation for her National Secretary candidacy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 513-558-4898 or charles.collins@uc.edu.

Respectfully,

Charles Williamson Collins, MD, MBA
Associate Dean, Office of Diversity & Community Affairs
Senior Vice Chair
Director of Clinical Services
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Neuroscience

An affirmative action/equal opportunity institution
REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO THE EC

No Candidate

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the Board of Directors
PROFESSIONAL BOARD MEMBER TO THE EC

No Candidates

Note: Position is open for additional members to run from the floor of the Board of Directors