ASSOCIATION OF BLACK WOMEN PHYSICIANS

VIRTUAL 39TH ANNUAL
CHARITY & SCHOLARSHIP Benefit

CELEBRATING 39 YEARS
Advocating for Health Justice
...Our Mission Continues

LIVE PRESENTATION
SUN, OCTOBER 18, 2020
THE ARCHITECTS OF THE FUTURE MUST REPRESENT ALL OF US.

At Anthem, we believe African American women leaders bring fresh perspectives that drive innovative health care solutions to better serve more members in more communities.

We congratulate the Association of Black Female Physicians for 39 years of service to the community and honor the 2020 scholarship recipients and nominees.
Welcome to the
39TH ANNUAL
CHARITY & SCHOLARSHIP
Benefit

Honoring

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
CHANDRA L. FORD
Ph.D., MPH, MLIS
Founding Director, Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
JUDY BELK
President & CEO, The California Wellness Foundation

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
Varina Clark
Allison Leggett
Jesslyn Magee
Denise McIntyre
Zeemayat Mekonnen
Simone Montgomery
Onome Oboh
Osose Oboh
Juliana Paul
Sabina Spigner
Nicole Syder
Charnise Taylor
Aunsha Williamson

FEATURED SCHOLARSHIPS
Rebecca Lee Davis Crumpler, MD Scholarship Awards
Anna L. Smith, MD Award Memorial Scholarship
Beverly James, MD Memorial Award
Blue Cross Anthem Scholarship
Carmen Parrot, MD Memorial Scholarship Award
Jeannette McPherson Gates Award
Sandra Bankhead, MS Memorial Scholarship
Vena Ricketts, MD/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

CELEBRATING 39 YEARS
Advocating for Health Justice
...Our Mission Continues
39TH ANNUAL CHARITY & SCHOLARSHIP Benefit

Be ready to Give through Text to Donate today!

Text a pledge of any amount!

1. Text ABWP to 41444

2. In your message:
   ABWP space Amount space Your Name
   Example: ABWP 100 John Smith

3. Press send

Accepting all major credit cards

Also join us on Social Media!

Association of Black Women Physicians
BlackWomenPhysicians

Use #abwpcharitybenefit

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Program

MISTRESS OF Ceremonies
Leslie Sykes
ABC 7 News Anchor

Invocation
Rev. Dr. Najuma Smith-Pollard

President-Elect Remarks & Introduction
Dr. Cozzette Lyons-Jones

ABWP Organizational Overview

Guest Appearance/Comments
The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. Representative, 37th Congressional District

ABWP President Remarks
Dr. Sylvia Gates-Carlisle

Scholarship Presentations
Dr. La Tanya Hines

Student Testimonial
Varina Clark

Call to Action – Mobile Cause Fundraise
Dr. Ana Lopes-Johnson, Dr. La Tanya Hines
& Dr. Wendy Green

Guest Appearance/Comments
The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. Representative, 43rd Congressional District

Special Guest Performance
Major.
Grammy-Nominated Pop-Soul Recording Artist / Actor

Awards Presentation
Humanitarian of the Year Award
Judy Belk
President & CEO, California Wellness Foundation

Lifetime Achievement Award
Chandra L. Ford, Ph.D

Acknowledgments
The Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) was founded in 1982. Almost 50 African-American women physicians met to share their experiences and to discuss career development at the first meeting held in the recreation room of Dr. Jessie Sherrod's home. The need for such an organization was abundantly clear, and the founders of our organization were women who passionately worked together for the organization. Over the course of a few months, members adopted the official name, transformed their goals into a mission statement, established Bylaws and began actively engaging in organized community service programs and philanthropic endeavors.

Over the past 39 years, ABWP has grown to represent African-American women physicians, medical students and undergraduate students throughout California, the United States and the Caribbean. Focused primarily in Southern California, the nonprofit organization has made an impact in local communities through health literacy programs, community outreach activities, mentoring and scholarship awards. All of our programs and services facilitate fulfillment of our mission:

"The Association of Black Women Physicians is an organized network of African-American women physicians committed to the improvement of public health and welfare, through the advancement of knowledge concerning women and community health."

- Health Fairs with Community and Faith-Based Organizations
- Black Women Lawyers Los Angeles Joint Symposiums
- Breast Cancer Awareness and Education Sessions
- Network of Ethnic Physician Organizations for the California Medical Association Foundation, Member
- Health and Wellness Advocacy

"We also serve as a philanthropic source of funds to projects related to the health concerns of traditionally underserved communities."

- Annual Charity and Scholarship Benefit Gala
- Annual Holiday Party and Toy Drive

"We endeavor to enhance the personal and professional quality of life of present and future African-American women physicians."

- General Membership Meetings
- Sister 2 Sister Mentorship Program
- Practice Point Communications CME

"The Association of Black Women Physicians is an organized network of African-American women physicians committed to the improvement of public health and welfare, through the advancement of knowledge concerning women and community health. We also serve as a philanthropic source of funds to projects related to the health concerns of traditionally underserved communities. We endeavor to enhance the personal and professional quality of life of present and future African-American women physicians."
Honoring

Jeanette McPherson Gates

For her dedication and lifetime commitment to “Fight the Good Fight”

McPherson & Sway
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Association of Black Women Physicians, I want to welcome you to our first Virtual Charity Benefit. We are proud to have continued a four decade legacy of sisterhood and service. The mission remains unchanged, the strategies have evolved.

The challenges our community faces did not take a COVID break. Neither did we.

We pivoted and progressed. COVID forced us to evolve in many ways.

Virtual community collaboration, virtual sisterhood and mentoring and now our first Virtual Charity Benefit. We turned up the heat to deliver on our commitment. We cannot do this without your support.

Our students and our community thanks you.

Sylvia Gates Carlisle
Sylvia Gates Carlisle, MD, MBA, FACP
President
This is an unprecedented year for the Association of Black Women Physicians! The work that ABWP has been privileged to do for almost 40 years is just as essential now amidst the current global pandemic as essential workers contribute to the frontline efforts against the virus known as SARS-CoV-2. The healthcare disparities are more apparent in the current environment, with marginalized communities suffering the greatest losses in lives and livelihoods. These “essential workers” often are the populations described as “high risk” due to baseline poor health compounded by barriers to accessing quality and culturally unbiased health care. Our ABWP founding group of Black women doctors were ahead of the curve when they identified the need to establish an organization that supports its members at every step of their medical career journey while holistically creating programs to help solve the health concerns and healthcare workforce shortages in urban communities.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients and to our Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, Dr. Chandra Ford and our Humanitarian of the Year honoree, Ms. Judy Belk. The Association of Black Women Physicians commends your exemplary promotion of public health and contribution to health equity.

African American women make up only 2% of America’s doctors! ABWP has been the change we wanted to see since its inception, paying it forward by mentoring premedical and medical school students. Additionally, fundraising initiatives like today’s virtual telecast, have provided much needed scholarships to academically outstanding Black women to help defray the high cost of medical education. But we cannot do the work without community partners and sponsors like Anthem Blue Cross, Blue Shield, California Wellness Foundation, Kaiser Permanente, David Geffen School of Medicine, the United States Postal Service, City National Bank, the Cooperative of American Physicians, and countless other generous benefactors.

We appreciate the work of everyone who helped to make our virtual event a success. The time and effort of our many volunteers and the monies raised will fund a future doctor and heal communities. Help share the Mission of ABWP through sharing today’s program link on your personal platforms with hashtag #ABWP or #blackwomenphysicians, and thank you for participating in our Silent Auction and Mobile Cause campaign. From 1982 to now, the work of the Association of Black Women Physicians continues...

Cozzette Lyons-Jones
Cozzette Lyons-Jones, MD, MPH, FACP
President-Elect
**Charter/Founding Members**

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Omni Hotel Los Angeles at California Plaza
Blue Shield of California is proud to support the Association of Black Women Physicians’ 39th Annual Charity & Scholarship Benefit. Guided by our not-for-profit values, we are committed to championing innovation and serving as a catalyst for constructive change in health care.

blueshieldca.com

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In December 1994, she returned to Los Angeles as a general assignment reporter for KABC-TV’s “Eyewitness News” program.

Upon graduation, Sykes began her professional career as a journalist. One of her first jobs was as a general assignment reporter for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. An internship followed at local independent television station (now My Network TV affiliate) KCOP-TV. This led to a desk assistant position in the news department at Fox affiliate KTTV.

LESLIE ANN SYKES was born in San Diego, California. She grew up in Compton, California, where her father worked as an administrator for Compton Community College. Sykes attended St. Joseph High School (Lakewood, California) and then went to Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she majored, and has a degree in English. While there, she made her film debut as “Miss Mission” in Spike Lee’s 1988 film, School Daze.

Upon graduation, Sykes began her professional career as a journalist. One of her first jobs was as a general assignment reporter for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner. An internship followed at local independent television station (now My Network TV affiliate) KCOP-TV. This led to a desk assistant position in the news department at Fox affiliate KTTV.

Her big break came when she landed her first on-air job in Hattiesburg, Mississippi at WDAM-TV. Not only did she serve as a reporter, she anchored three shows a day and produced a newscast. From there she received her first major market assignment at WVUE-TV in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In December 1994, she returned to Los Angeles as a general assignment reporter for KABC-TV’s "Eyewitness News" program.

In late 1998, Leslie was approached by WBBM-TV in Chicago to become its new top female weekend anchor, replacing Sarah Lucero, opted to remain in Los Angeles at ABC 7, and in June 1999; was promoted to co-anchor the weekend edition of the "Eyewitness News".

In 2009, she moved to co-anchor the 11am-Noon news slot. Leslie now co-anchors the “ABC7 Morning Show” from 4:30 am – 7 am. ABWP welcomes her and thanks her for her continued support.
MAJOR. burst into the spotlight in 2016 with the Billboard chart topping hit “Why I Love You,” off his debut EP “i am MAJOR.” The beautiful ballad has since become a love anthem across the world, most notably from comedian Kevin Hart’s E! News Wedding Special and from Patti LaBelle famously covering the song during her shows. The song has now eclipsed almost 108 million views on YouTube, peaked at #3 on the Billboard Urban/AC & Streaming charts in over 20 countries and has been featured on hit television shows like “So You Think You Can Dance,” and “The Voice.” “Why I Love You,” was the precursor to the Grammy Nominated “Honest,” which is also a mesmerizing vocal ride that operates at a level that surfs the sky, while achieving a simple beauty fit for every heart. “Honest,” a successful debut in its own right charting at #5 on the Billboard Urban/AC chart and finding massive streaming numbers contributed by over 20 countries, really went viral following a live performance where MAJOR. serenaded Halle Berry prompting the actress to say that his music has “rearranged her life perspective.” Just a short time later, the singer, now signed to distributor and record label EMPIRE, recently released his debut album, Even More. MAJOR. collaborated with longtime producer Harmony Samuels (Ariana Grande, J-Lo, Maroon 5, Janet Jackson) and Sting’s son, Joe Sumner. His 3rd & 4th singles “Better With You In It” & “Love Me Olé” are featured prominently in the hit OWN television series “Black Love.” The videos have reached over 6 Million Views and still growing. But ultimately no one ascends from thin air. To understand the rise of MAJOR. as a singer, writer, performer and yes, even actor (“STAR”, “Get On Up,” and “Legend”), is to explore his journey.
JUDY BELK is president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation, (Cal Wellness), one of California’s largest public health philanthropic institutions. With nearly $1 billion in assets, Cal Wellness awards approximately $43 million annually in grants and program-related investments that promote health equity, justice and advocacy for communities and individuals whose lives and wellness are too often determined by their race, income, immigration status or where they live. Throughout its twenty-seven year history, Cal Wellness has played a leadership role in promoting violence prevention as a public health issue and is one of the nation’s leading philanthropic voices in funding gun violence prevention efforts. Belk leads the foundation in pursuing its mission to protect and improve the health and wellness of the people of California, with a core belief that access to quality health care is a human right. Belk is also a board member and officer on the Cal Wellness board of directors.

Belk uses her vision and her voice to help Cal Wellness fulfill the vision of functioning as a social justice public health funder. Under her leadership, the foundation invested $13 million in two new initiatives to address health issues that disproportionately impact women of color and launched a mission-related investing strategy to leverage more of the foundation’s financial resources. She strives to integrate Cal Wellness’ commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion into every aspect of the foundation’s operations.

Prior to joining Cal Wellness in 2014, Belk served as senior vice president of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, a global nonprofit founded by the Rockefeller Family committed to helping donors be thoughtful and strategic in their giving; and as vice president of global public affairs at Levi Strauss & Co. where under her leadership, the company was awarded the first Ron Brown Award for Outstanding Corporate Social Responsibility for its fight against institutional racism.

A prolific writer and speaker on organizational ethics, race, and social change, Belk has been published in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, and National Public Radio (NPR) in addition to other news outlets.

Belk currently serves on the boards of the Surdna Foundation, a national New York based family foundation, and Hedgebrook, a women’s writing retreat on Whidbey Island in Washington state that promotes women’s voices and social change. She also is a member of the Northwestern University Council of One Hundred. She has previously served on the boards of the ACLU of Northern California, the Ms. Foundation for Women and the Berkeley Repertory Theater. Belk received a BS in communications from Northwestern University and an MA in public administration from California State University, East Bay where she was recognized as the 1999 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Belk was inducted in the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame in recognition of her writing and public service leadership. She currently resides in Los Angeles.
DR. CHANDRA FORD is Associate Professor of Community Health Sciences and Founding Director of the Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice and Health at the Fielding School of Public Health at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She is lead editor (with Derek Griffith, Marino Bruce and Keon Gilbert) of Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional (APHA Press, 2019). After a doctorate in Health Behavior from the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina, she completed postdoctoral training in Social Medicine at the University of North Carolina and in Epidemiology at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, where she was a W. K. Kellogg Foundation Kellogg Health Scholar.

Most of her research falls into two broad areas: (1) empirical research examining the relationship between specific forms of racism and disparities in HIV diagnosis and care; and, (2) conceptual and methodological work to improve the tools available for studying racism as a public health issue. Her work has been published in the American Journal of Public Health, the Annals of Epidemiology, Social Science & Medicine, the Wisconsin Law Review, and other peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Ford is privileged to have received several teaching awards and notable honors, and she serves the profession extensively. In 2016, she served on a National Academy of Medicine Committee on Community-based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and named co-chair of the Committee on Science of the American Public Health Association’s newly formed Anti-Racism Collaborative. She previously served as president of the Society for the Analysis of African American Public Health Issues. In addition to her academic roles, she has been involved with the Black Radical Congress and has partnered with the Black Coalition Fighting Back Serial Murders.

CHANDRA L. FORD PH.D., MPH, MLIS

Founding Director,
Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing,
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
VARINA CLARK
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Varina Clark is a fourth-year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine (DGSOM) at UCLA from Mount Vernon, NY. She pursued her Sc.B. degree in Human Biology with Honors at Brown University. Prior to starting medical school, Varina was a Clinical Research Supervisor at Memorial Sloan Kettering, and she spearheaded health education initiatives at the Montefiore Family Health Center in the Bronx, NY. After volunteering within inner city clinics and global health settings, Varina became committed to addressing health disparities and providing culturally responsive, comprehensive healthcare to patients. She is also passionate about diversity initiatives and programming within medical education. While at DGSOM, Varina established a new position on the Medical Student Council (MSC)—Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Representatives—to promote diversity-related resources, events and co-curricular learning opportunities. For the past two years, she has served on the UCLA EDI Student Advisory Board, overseeing initiatives on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Varina is an aspiring anesthesiologist and was recognized by international and national societies for her research exploring potential biomarkers that will help to lay the foundation for therapeutic targets for pulmonary hypertension-associated right ventricular failure. She is also actively involved in efforts to recruit and retain early-career women, especially underrepresented minorities, within the fields of anesthesiology and STEMM. As a future physician-leader, Varina is passionate about advocating for underserved communities and mentoring the next generation of Black women physicians.

ALLISON LEGGETT
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Allison Gabriella Leggett is a third-year medical student in the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education program. Growing up in Los Angeles, she was very aware of the health disparities that affected underserved communities—and how essentially your zip code and access to healthcare, education, and nutritious foods could determine your health. At an early age, this experience established the foundations and ardor for both intellectual pursuit and social justice. During undergrad, she attended Loyola Marymount University, where she graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Human Sciences—earning a Presidential citation for her academic achievement, community service and leadership throughout her time at the university. As a current medical student, Allison has served as Co-president of the Class of 2022 Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education program for the past three years, Co-president of the annual Minority Health Conference 2019, Treasurer of the Student National Medical Association, and Service Ambassador at DGSOM. This year, she has decided to open up a plant-based meal prep company, to not only tackle first-hand the food insecurity that disproportionately affects her community, but also demonstrate how fulfilling a plant-based diet can be.

JESSYLYN MAGEE
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Jesslyn Magee is a second year medical student in the ARC (Accelerated Research Careers)-MD program at UC Davis School of Medicine. She is currently interested in tech applications for medical and healthcare delivery innovation and advancement. During her time at UC Davis School of Medicine, Jesslyn has been extensively involved in research to develop standardized protocols to support computer-vision based tools to advance the clinical assessment and treatment of vitiligo. Furthermore, Jesslyn has explored applications of mathematical modelling to execute models for dermal absorption and drug delivery. She is currently interested in pursuing dermatology as a specialty and in the near future would like to contribute tech explorations as it relates to the specialty, drug discovery and health care delivery. Outside of medicine, Jesslyn is interested in learning more about how data science can be used to close health and education disparities. She also enjoys playing golf, reading, and spending time with family.
DENISE MCINTYRE
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Denise McIntyre is a third-year medical student at Charles R. Drew University/UCLA Medical Education Program. She has displayed a fervent commitment to public health and health advocacy in under-resourced communities. She is a graduate of the University of Florida where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. During graduate school, she worked as a community health worker, health department epidemiology intern, domestic violence survivor advocate, HIV clinic coordinator, and pediatric health researcher.

As a medical student, Ms. McIntyre is currently conducting research to examine the neurocognitive impacts of adverse childhood events (ACEs) in children, with hopes of advocating for increased trauma-informed care and influencing health policy. In commitment to mentorship, Ms. McIntyre served as a coordinator for Partnership for Progress, a program aimed at providing mentorship for underrepresented youth in South Los Angeles who are interested in a career in healthcare. She also served as the community outreach chair for the UCLA/CDU chapter of Student National Medical Association (SNMA) and was co-president of the Minority Health Conference, a conference focused on raising awareness about health disparities in minority populations of Southern California and beyond. Denise also served as an anatomy tutor and coordinator of the emergency medicine interest group.

In her spare time, Denise enjoys learning about the stock market, hiking and trying new foods.

ZESEMIYAT MEKONNEN
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

As a third-year medical and master’s student at the UC Berkeley-UC San Francisco (UCSF) Joint Medical Program (JMP), Ms. Zesemayat Mekonnen is committed to a career focused on health equity and advocacy across diverse communities. Ms. Mekonnen graduated from Stanford University in 2010 where she studied Human Biology with a concentration on Child Development and Developmental Biology. Following college, Ms. Mekonnen studied various lung disorders at UCSF and volunteered at local health fairs to educate underserved communities about airway health. She also volunteered at the Women’s Community Clinic in San Francisco, where she served as a Peer Health Educator. In 2015, Ms. Mekonnen completed a post baccalaureate program at UC San Francisco. While in medical school at the JMP, she has volunteered at the student-run Suitcase Clinics and is a co-director of the Health Career Academy, an afterschool program mentoring high school youth about healthcare professions. She spent this past summer continuing her interest in mentoring youth as a Summer Urban Health Leadership Academy Fellow working with marginalized high school youth from San Francisco at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital. Her master’s thesis will explore the relationship between maternal exposure to environmental pollutants and socioeconomic factors that predispose minority women to preterm birth in urban California counties.

SIMONE MONTGOMERY
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

I am a 4th year MD/MPH dual degree candidate at Keck School of Medicine of USC. In 2014, I completed my undergraduate education, receiving a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology from Northwestern University while working with low income youth of various backgrounds during the school year and doing health disparities research with the CHDMM in the summers. This last year, I was awarded the Dean’s Research Year scholarship to complete a year of research in the Keck Department of Dermatology Skin of Color and Pigmentary Disorders Research Fellowship with Dr. Nada Elbuluk.

My passion for health disparities and rebuilding broken relationships between medical professionals and marginalized populations led me to pursue a dual degree program in both medicine and Public Health. Though I had a few experiences in my first two years of medical school that sparked my interest in Dermatology, it was during my third-year rotations that I found my passion and decided to pursue a career in the field. I intend on specializing in Skin of Color, to address health disparities within the field of Dermatology and to ensure access to culturally-appropriate, quality dermatological care for all.

I am currently a mentor to numerous pre-medical, minority students on the USC and UCLA undergraduate campuses and a director of the peer instruction tutoring program at Keck. While I have achieved numerous academic and extracurricular successes, my most rewarding experiences remain mentoring the next generation of minority students, from elementary to those applying to medical school.
2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ONGE OBOH

Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Onome Oboh was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley of Southern California. She began pursuing medicine by attending Xavier University of Louisiana, an HBCU that is “#1 for sending African Americans to medical school”. She graduated from XULA with her degree in Biology having minored in Chemistry with a concentration in Spanish. After undergrad, she went on to attend the University of California at Los Angeles Reapplication program (UCLA RAP) to become a more competitive medical school applicant. During that time, she became an active member of the Association of Black Women Physicians, bringing along many other black women premedical students. After her successful completion of that program, she pursued her Master of Science in Global Medicine (MSGM) at the University of Southern California (USC), because she had a deep, personal interest in vulnerable populations, specifically, maternal and child health.

Onome is now a fourth year medical student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (MSU CHM). Her passions of advocacy, mentorship, and pipeline programming are evident in the effective, sustainable programming that lie in her wake at CHM. Her current passions include founding the “Do No Harm” 5k in Flint, MI, an annual event to bring awareness to issues that affect the Flint community and urban communities at large, and her position as Speaker of the House of Delegates and board member of the Student National Medical Association.

Outside of medicine, she is an aspiring screenwriter and creative.

OOSOE OBOH

Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Osose Oboh is a medical student, visual storyteller, content creator, and advocate for minorities pursuing careers in medicine. She went to UCLA obtaining her B.S. in Biology before going to the University of Southern California for her MPH with a focus on Global Health Leadership. Now, she is now a 4th year at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. This past April, she was sworn in as the National President of the Student National Medical Association for the 2020-2021 administration. Additionally, she is the Student Trustee to the Board of Trustees of the National Medical Association. She will be specializing in Internal Medicine with the goal of completing a fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

JULIANA PAUL

Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Sandra Bankhead, MS Memorial Scholarship

I am a third-year medical student at the Keck School of Medicine of USC and come from Pasadena, California. I have had a strong interest in pursuing medicine since childhood, with an initial fascination with the human body and science. With time, I became increasingly drawn to the aspects of medicine that are not always at the forefront, as well: advocacy, public health and education.

As I want to uplift traditionally marginalized and silenced voices that are largely Black and Latinx, I majored in Spanish as an undergraduate and concentrated my efforts to help these communities. To gain a better sense of public policy, structural competency, and how to analyze populations from a global perspective, I pursued my master’s degree in Global Medicine at Keck.

At school, I have been a part of initiatives to increase minority representation in medicine as the co-chair of the Minority Health Conference and community service chair of the Student National Medical Association, events to discuss important issues like police brutality and Black maternal mortality rates as co-founder and president of the Social Justice in Medicine Coalition, and am working to address health disparities at LAC+USC Medical Center as a member of the Anti-Racism in Patient Care Task Force, with one of our proposals advocating for the elimination of race in eGFR. Due to the need for more efforts to combat the ongoing disparities disproportionately affecting Black women’s health, I would like to specialize in obstetrics and gynecology.
2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

SABINA SPIGNER
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships
Beverly James Memorial Scholarship

Sabina Spigner is originally from Southern California but has lived in Pennsylvania since 2012 for her college and graduate education. She holds an M.S. in Biology from Chatham University and an M.P.H. from the Jefferson College of Population Health. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016 with her Bachelor’s degree in Neuroscience and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. Her passions include medical education, sexual and gender minority health/healthcare, diversity, equity and inclusion, and reproductive health. Outside of being a medical student, Sabina mentors, inspires, and encourages pre-medical students as they navigate applying to medical schools. In her free time, she enjoys dog-sitting for friends, watching TV and movies, and listening to music. Sabina plans to pursue a career as an OB/GYN and aspires to continue working in academic medicine to inspire the next generation of physicians.

NICOLE SYDER
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships
Carmen Parrott-Memorial Scholarship

A third-year medical student at the Keck School of Medicine of USC, Nicole Syder has demonstrated a strong commitment to working for the advancement of underserved communities of color. Nicole graduated from Stanford University in 2016, double majoring in Human Biology and Africana Studies. After graduation, she completed a Post-Baccalaureate Premedical Program at Bryn Mawr College and was awarded a fellowship to conduct research at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. As a medical student, she has served as President of the Student National Medical Association, an organization committed to supporting minority medical students and addressing the needs of underserved communities. Having always been passionate about providing community service opportunities to better connect with the local community, she spearheaded the Tom Bradley pipeline program, organizing workshops that brought USC medical students to Tom Bradley Elementary school to teach the students about health topics and spark their interest in Medicine. Additionally, Nicole has been committed to expanding the literature on skin of color through her research that has sought to investigate topics such as distressing postinflammatory hypopigmentation in darker skin, larger defect sizes after Mohs micrographic surgery in patients of color, and the impact of Vitiligo on the mental health of patients. Nicole plans to continue these advocacy efforts as the newly elected Director of Health and Wellness for the Black Graduate Student Network of USC, where she is currently working alongside administration to streamline mental health resources and services for Black graduate students.

CHARNISE TAYLOR
Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship | Vena Ricketts/ABWP Community Service Scholarships

Charnise Taylor is a third year medical student in the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Prime-Leadership and Advocacy program. She is from Los Angeles, California and completed her undergraduate degree at Loyola Marymount University with a degree in Biochemistry. She has a passion for being involved in health advocacy and has a strong desire to be a physician for the community of South Los Angeles. Charnise is currently enjoying her third year rotations and is planning to apply next year to a Masters Program in Bioinformatics to gain the skills required to approach and resolve issues surrounding health technologies in underresourced Los Angeles clinics.

AUNSHA WILLIAMSON
Anna Smith Memorial Scholarship

Aunsha Williamson is a second year medical student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (MSUCHM) and the first in her family to pursue a medical degree. Born and raised in Riverside, CA as the eldest of ten children, Aunsha has aspired to become a pediatrician since high school. Inspired by the loss of her premature brother, O’Ryan, she has worked diligently to make her aspiration of becoming a physician a reality. She graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 2011 and went on to complete a pre-medical post-baccalaureate certificate program at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) in 2013. While attending CDU, Aunsha became extensively involved in social activism and health programs geared towards assisting underserved populations across Los Angeles. Her passion to serve the community led her to be recognized by CDU as “Most Compassionate”. Additionally, she participated in Autism and ADHD research at the University of California, Irvine and research with the Department of Neonatology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Aunsha has worked in the field of clinical research at both Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. In her role as the Co-Vice President of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) at MSUCHM, she aims to dismantle barriers that prevent disadvantaged communities from accessing excellent care. She plans to continue this advocacy in Flint, MI where she will complete a Master’s in Public Health Certificate Program during her third and fourth year.
Special Scholarship Awards

REBECCA LEE CRUMPLER, MD AND VENA RICKETTS, MD/ABWP COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) established the Rebecca Lee Davis Crumpler, MD Scholarship Awards in recognition of the first Black woman physician in the United States. Dr. Crumpler graduated from New England Female Medical College in 1864, one year before the end of slavery. The scholarship provides assistance to women medical students, and is awarded based on academic merit, financial need and commitment to the ABWP mission, "...improving public health and welfare through the advancement of knowledge concerning women and community health." Deep appreciation is extended to our donors, supporters and friends whose efforts have enabled us to give over $600,000 in scholarship awards since 1982.

CARMEN PARROTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Carmen Parrott was a practicing dermatologist in Los Angeles, CA. She grew up in Maryland and completed her training at University of Pennsylvania. After establishing her practice in Los Angeles, Dr. Parrott was very active and engaged with the Association of Black Women Physicians, including a leadership position on the executive board. She was kind, passionate, engaging and a friend to everyone she met. Her humble and kind spirit combined with her brilliance and skill left an indelible impression on the organization. A memorial scholarship in her name was initially established by her mother who understood her commitment to ABWP, and it has continued to be funded by members of the organization each year since its inception.

ANNA SMITH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Smith was a beloved psychiatrist and an Association of Black Women Physicians lifetime member. She also raised a daughter, Dr. Anne Staveren, who is a charter member and past-president of the organization. Dr. Smith was dedicated to addressing disparities in mental health for people of color and enhancing wellness in underserved communities. Her memorial scholarship was created to honor her career and commitment to these concerns and is meant to support a student with similar passion and dedication.
Cal Wellness salutes
ABWP and its members
for your dedication
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and advocating for better
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October 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 39th Annual Charity Benefit hosted by the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP).

Since 1982, ABWP has represented Black women physicians in practice or training dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of communities of color throughout Southern California and the United States. Through community wellness workshops, advocacy efforts, and mentoring programs for future physicians, ABWP has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving public health outcomes and reducing health disparities among communities of color. Thank you to everyone at ABWP for this enduring effort.

I would like to extend my congratulations to this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award honoree, Dr. Chandra L. Ford, and Humanitarian of the Year honoree, Judy Belk, for their tireless efforts on behalf of communities across Southern California and the United States. Thank you for your service. Congratulations as well to this year’s scholarship recipients. Each of you, though your commitment to equality in health care and the health profession, have helped build a stronger future for our families and our communities.

Best wishes for a warm and memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator
October 18, 2020

Greetings

Congratulations

I am extremely pleased to congratulate the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) on the occasion of your virtual 39th Annual Charity & Scholarship Benefit celebrating 39 years advocating for health justice.

I would also like to congratulate your worthy 2020 honorees: Founding Director, Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing, UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, Ms. Chandra L. Ford, and President & CEO of the California Wellness Foundation, Ms. Judy Belk; both of whom are inspiring leaders and worthy of recognition.

I am always so proud to help celebrate ABWP and your outstanding membership for the important work you do every year raising scholarship funds for deserving healthcare workers in the making. Your work is extremely valuable in supporting the next generation of physicians.

I extend my very best wishes to everyone attending virtually today for a most successful event.

Sincerely yours,

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress
43rd District, California
Greetings

California State Senate
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SENATOR, THIRTIETH DISTRICT

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

It is both a privilege and a pleasure for me to extend greetings to all those attending the 39th Annual Charity & Scholarship Benefit hosted by the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) on October 18, 2020.

Since its founding in 1982, the Association of Black Women Physicians has served as a champion for equity in health care and strives to improve public health and welfare for communities of color. In addition, ABWP’s mission to enhance the personal and professional development of Black women physicians is admirable and deserving of praise.

I join you in recognizing this year’s honorees. Congratulations to Dr. Chandra L. Ford and Judy Belk! I commend you for your continued leadership, dedication, and hard work to ensure the health and safety of our communities in these unprecedented times.

I applaud the achievements of the Association of Black Women Physicians and look forward to working together on issues of mutual interest. Best wishes for continued success!

Warmly,

Holly J. Mitchell
Senator, 30th District
Greetings

October 18, 2020

Association of Black Women Physicians
4712 Admiralty Way, #175
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone to the 39th Virtual Annual Charity and Scholarship Benefit presented by the Association of Black Women Physicians.

You are to be commended for your dedication to the representation of Black Women physicians and to improving public health and wellness.

I offer my congratulations to your honoree, Dr. Chandra L. Ford of the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Judy Bell of The California Wellness Foundation. Their dedication and commitment to the well-being of our community is commendable and worthy of this recognition.

I also extend my appreciation for your commitment to provide a variety of scholarships for medical students. Your dedication and commitment to the well-being of our youth is greatly appreciated and worthy of this recognition. Congratulations to all your scholarship recipients!

On behalf of the residents of the 62nd Assembly District, I applaud all of you for your exemplary accomplishments and offer my best wishes for continued success in the years ahead.

With warmest personal regards,

Autumn R. Burke
Assemblywoman, 62nd District
Greetings

October 18, 2020

Congratulations to the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) on celebrating your 39th Annual Charity Benefit virtually. You have distinguished yourself as an organization that raises funds to support health education programs and advocacy efforts, honors outstanding physicians and community leaders, and awards scholarships to deserving medical students. I applaud ABWP for awarding over $750,000 in scholarships to over 250 deserving medical students.

I salute this year’s distinguished honorees, Dr. Chandra L. Ford, Founding Director for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, who will receive the “Lifetime Achievement Award” and Judy Belk, President & CEO of the California Wellness Foundation, who will receive the “Humanitarian Award”. They exemplify excellence in their respective fields.

I also congratulate the scholarship recipients and wish them great success in their future service. They will all be serving their communities in one of the most challenging times in our nation’s history.

Continue in your dedication to improving the public health and welfare for communities of color through your signature programs. I honor the commitment of the ABWP.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steven C. Bradford
CA State Senator, SD 35
Greetings

October 18, 2020

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Los Angeles, congratulations to the Association of Black Women Physicians on their 39th Annual Charity and Scholarship Benefit.

Since 1982, the Association of Black Women Physicians has been empowering its members to improve public health and advocate for health justice while supporting the personal and professional development of Black women physicians in Los Angeles. ABWP’s programs to mentor, educate, and serve are inspiring the next generation of physicians to continue bridging the health disparities within our Black and brown communities and make our City of Angels a healthier place through devoted care for every patient.

I would also like to commend tonight’s honorees: recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Chandra L. Ford; and recipient of the Humanitarian of the Year Award, Judy Belf. Thank you for all your exemplary work in improving the health of millions of Californians, especially during this unprecedented time. Congratulations on this well-deserved honor.

I send my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

ERIC GARCETTI
Mayor
Greetings

HERB J. WESSON, JR.
COUNCIL PRESIDENT EMERITUS
COUNCILMEMBER, 10TH DISTRICT

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK WOMEN PHYSICIANS

Virtual 39th Annual Charity & Scholarship Benefit
Celebrating 39 years Advocating for Health Justice

On behalf of the residents of the 10th Council District in the City of Los Angeles, I am pleased to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the Association of Black Women Physicians (ABWP) for hosting a virtual charity and scholarship benefit. The COVID-19 crisis has heightened the importance and significance of this event because the proceeds allow ABWP to provide scholarships to qualified and dedicated doctors in training, as well as provide funding and active support to community health education and wellness programs.

As the COVID-19 crisis disproportionately affects black and brown communities, the need for physicians of color is extremely urgent. I commend ABWP’s commitment to develop the presence of African American physicians by striving to remove the cultural, social and economic barriers which have hindered African American women from entering the medical field.

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees and best wishes for a successful and memorable event.

Sincerely,

HERB J. WESSON, JR.
Council President Emeritus
Councilmember, Tenth District
Greetings

Congratulations!

Congratulations to The Association of Black Women Physicians on the 39th Annual Charity & Scholarship Benefit. Thank you for decades of tirelessly investing in the health and wellness of our communities, and for enhancing the lives of so many African American women physicians.

We commend the ABWP for providing a platform where women in the medical field can thrive through collaboration, communication and education. Your programs not only serve to mentor and guide the next generation of black women physicians, but also to enhance and empower our communities to live more healthier lifestyles.

Thank you again for your years of commitment and continued fight for a healthier America in the face of this historic pandemic. As essential workers, we owe you a debt of gratitude for your sacrifices and dedication to keeping our families alive and well.

With Hope,

Marqueece Harris-Dawson

MARQUEECE
COUNCILMEMBER
HARRIS-DAWSON
UCLA Health

and the

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Applaud

Chandra L. Ford, PhD, MPH, MLIS

Founding Director
Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Lifetime Achievement Award

and

Judy Belk

President & CEO
The California Wellness Foundation

Humanitarian of the Year Award

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**Chandra L. Ford**, Ph.D., MPH, MLIS
Founding Director
Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice, and Health
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

and

the Humanitarian of the Year recipient

**Judy Belk**
President and CEO
The California Wellness Foundation

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Kaiser Permanente salutes the Association of Black Women Physicians and its honorees

Chandra L. Ford, Ph.D., MPH, MLIS
Founding Director, Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing,
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

Judy Belk
President & CEO, The California Wellness Foundation

For leading the charge in health and wellness.
Together we make a difference.
Here’s to the risk-takers, the hope-givers and the life changers

Congratulations to today’s exceptional award recipients

Chandra L. Ford, PhD, MPH, MLIS
Lifetime Achievement Award

Judy Belk
Humanitarian of the Year Award

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Chandra L. Ford - PhD, MPH, MLIS and Judy Belk - BA, MA

for their advocacy work

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Congratulations

Association of Black Women Physicians
39th Annual Charity Benefit

2020 Rebecca Lee Crumpler Scholarship Recipients

2020 Honorees

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Chandra L. Ford, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.L.I.S.
Founding Director, Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice & Healing
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
Judy Beck, President & CEO
The California Wellness Foundation

Outstanding Community Service in Pursuit of Health Equity for Humanity

Jessie L. Sherrod, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.P.
Founding Director & Founding President
THE UC RIVERSIDE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

is proud to recognize the

Association of Black Women Physicians

at their

39th Annual Charity & Scholarship Benefit

for their commitment to the improvement of public health and welfare, through the advancement of knowledge concerning women and health of our communities.
Forgiving For Living, Inc. & Wendy Gladney
salute ABWP and the work and leadership of Judy Belk
President & CEO of The California Wellness Foundation

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Thank you!
The California Academy of Family Physicians thanks the Association of Black Women Physicians for the work that you do mentoring and supporting black women family physicians, and promoting a more diverse physician workforce.

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Maria Shriver & the Women’s Alzheimer’s Movement Congratulate the Honorees and Salute the Work of the Association of Black Women Physicians in Pursuit of Health Justice for People of All Color.

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Anne M. Staveren, MD
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Sylvia S. Swilley, MD
ABWP Past President
ASSOCIATION OF BLACK WOMEN PHYSICIANS

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 13
ABWP General Lecture
4-5pm PST

OCTOBER 17
Women’s Empowerment Brunch
SNMA@ UCLA

NOVEMBER 14
ABWP General Membership Meeting
& General Elections

DECEMBER 20, 2020-JANUARY 17, 2021
Office Closed

JANUARY 2021
Installation of Officers

OCTOBER 2021
40th Annual Charity Benefit Gala

Please visit our website for full details.
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