



## AMA Alliance–AMA Foundation Connection

February 2008

**Welcome to the AMA Alliance – AMA Foundation "Connection" e-newsletter**, which you will receive monthly, after the latest monthly [contribution report](#) is posted online. The newsletter will inform you of the AMA Foundation's latest activities and provide dates, deadlines, facts and ideas to help make your fundraising efforts successful.

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### 1. AMA Foundation Scholarship Opportunities

As the cost of medical education continues to increase, financial assistance for medical students is more important than ever. Medical students graduate with an average debt of over \$130,000. Financial issues not only add stress to medical students' lives, they can also affect students' specialty choices and career decisions. Aiming to alleviate these pressures, the AMA Foundation and the AMA Alliance have a long history of supporting young men and women who aspire to become physicians.

The AMA Foundation's 2008 scholarship opportunities are:

- The Minority Scholars Award - Ten \$10,000 scholarships are awarded to first or second year medical students. Deadline: April 15, 2008
- The Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarships – Thirteen \$10,000 scholarships are awarded to rising seniors. Deadline: May 30, 2008
- The Arthur N. Wilson, MD Scholarship – One \$5000 scholarship is awarded to a medical student who grew up in Southeast Alaska. Deadline: June 16, 2008
- The Scholars Fund – Funds are collected for each medical school to distribute to deserving students. Deadline: July 1, 2008

In January, the AMA Foundation sends scholarship information packets to all U.S. accredited medical schools and osteopathic schools. Within each school, the Foundation sends the information to the offices of the dean, student affairs, multicultural affairs and financial aid. Email reminders to each school follow the mailing.

## Did you know?

- Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative agreed to sponsor the Minority Scholars Award in 2003. The AMA Foundation officially launched the award in 2004.
- The AMA Foundation has granted \$410,000 in scholarships to 41 individuals through its Minority Scholars Award Program.
- Less than 7% of practicing physicians in the United States are from underrepresented minority groups.
- The *Minority Scholars Award* was developed in an effort to promote diversity in the medical profession. By providing maximum-impact financial support, the AMA Foundation also hopes to address the problem of spiraling medical school debt load.

Each Dean or Dean's designate can nominate students for the Minority Scholars Award and the Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship. The Foundation organizes selection committees to determine the recipients of these scholarships. For the Scholars Fund Award, the school chooses the recipients and sends the names of the recipients to the Foundation. The Foundation then sends the school their funds. Students can apply directly to the Foundation for the Arthur N. Wilson, MD, Scholarship.

The AMA Foundation has created "hidden" websites for medical school administrators, to provide easy access to scholarship materials. These hidden websites are hard to find on a search engine, such as Google, but are easily accessible if one knows and types the web addresses.

To access descriptive brochures and nomination forms for the Minority Scholars Award and the Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarships, one can visit: [www.amafoundation.org/go/amafscholarships](http://www.amafoundation.org/go/amafscholarships).

To access Scholars Fund account balances, brochure and the recipient information form, one can visit: [www.amafoundation.org/go/scholarsfund](http://www.amafoundation.org/go/scholarsfund). Note that school account balances will be posted by March 2008.

Get to know a 2007 Minority Scholars Award recipient, Michael Nevarez. Visit: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/18035.html>

Read a recent story in Money Magazine about 2 young doctors attempting to manage their debt:  
[http://money.cnn.com/2007/11/16/pf/young\\_doctors.moneymag/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2007/11/16/pf/young_doctors.moneymag/index.htm)

To make a donation to support scholarships, visit:  
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/7611.html>

Remember to check the Alliance Member box when you are filling out the online donation form.

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## **2. 2008 AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Awards**

Join us for the 2008 AMA Foundation Excellence in Medicine Awards in Washington DC on March 31, 2008, prior to the AMA National Advocacy Conference. These awards recognize those who exemplify the highest values of altruism, compassion, leadership and dedication to patient care. You will be inspired by the stories of our exceptional heroes in medicine. Tickets - \$150 per person, \$1350 per table (seats 10).

Visit [www.amafoundation.org/go/excellence](http://www.amafoundation.org/go/excellence) to read about the award recipients and purchase tickets.

### **Pride in the Profession Awards**

- Joyce D. Kirkland Essien, MD, MBA  
Atlanta, GA
- Murli Manohar, MD, PhD  
Canton, OH
- G. Scott Morris, MD, M.Div.  
Memphis, TN

### **Dr. Nathan Davis International Award in Medicine**

- Subramaniam Balasubramaniam, MD  
Anaheim, CA

### **Jack B. McConnell, MD Award for Excellence in Volunteerism**

- Frank Staggers, MD  
Oakland, CA
- Viola Startzman, MD  
Wooster, OH

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### **3. Fundraising Tip of the Month**

Doctors' Day is just around the corner, so why not use March 30th as an opportunity to do some fundraising for the AMA Foundation while honoring your local physicians? If you start today, you should have just enough time to plan a simple but effective fundraiser. Doctors' Day affords an excellent opportunity to further good public relations for the medical profession. Here are three ideas to help get you started. Your local alliance could:

- send out a Sharing Card for Doctors' Day, raising funds for AMA Foundation from those whose names are listed on it
- raffle or silent auction a donated piece of art at your Doctors' Day celebration with the proceeds benefiting the AMA Foundation
- ask medical supply companies, and the like, to make donations to the AMA Foundation in honor of the doctors in your area and then list their names on the invitations you send to everyone you invite to your Doctors' Day celebration. It is much needed advertising for them and much needed funds for our Foundation.

In conjunction with your activities, don't forget about the Doctor's Day advertisement available under the [leadership login](#) on the AMA Alliance website.

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### **4. Celebration of Giving**

The AMA Foundation is still accepting donations for the **Celebration Donor Booklet**. Have a personal message printed that celebrates the spirit of giving. These spaces are available at quarter (\$250), half (\$500) and full pages (\$1000).

To find out more about the *AMA Foundation Celebration of Giving* event or to support the Foundation through a booklet sponsorship, please contact Anne Smith, AMA Foundation Fundraising Coordinator, at [anne.smith@ama-assn.org](mailto:anne.smith@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4701.

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### 5. Fundraising Success Story



In January, attendees of the Southern Regional Alliance Development Conference in Huntsville, AL raised \$1,200 for several of the AMA Foundation's scholarship and public health initiatives programs. How'd they do it? By raffling off a 14K Gold "Caduceus" Gentleman's Tie Tac (or Lady's Lapel Pin) donated by Light's Jewelers and Gemologists of Hattiesburg, MS for \$1 per chance, \$10 per 12 chances, or \$20 per 25 chances.

Additionally, an Alabama Alliance member and wine connoisseur donated five bottles of wine to the raffle from her collection of 10,000 bottles. A total of five prizes were drawn with proceeds benefiting the Scholars Fund, Fund for Better Health and Health Care Recovery Fund.

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[Register online](#) for the [AMA Alliance Capitol Conference](#) at the AMA National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. Be a part of the AMA Alliance's educational sessions on Monday, March 31st, which include a fundraising session from 3 to 4 p.m. Learn tips and strategies in this session to improve all of your fundraising efforts. Close off your day by attending the AMA Foundation's Excellence in Medicine Awards dinner and ceremony. It's a rewarding weekend that should not be missed!

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***Wear your Alliance colors at your next fundraiser!*** Visit the [AMA Alliance website](#) to purchase the new Alliance logo wear.

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### DATES AND DEADLINES

February 26, 2008 | Cut-off date for room reservations at the AMA Alliance Capitol Conference.

Late February | State chairs, contact your medical school deans. Make sure that deans received their commitment letter from the AMA Foundation detailing the funds available.

March 30 | Doctor's Day

March 31 | AMA Alliance Capitol Conference  
Excellence in Medicine Awards Dinner and Ceremony  
Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions or needs, please contact [Harry Bauer](#) at (312) 464-4470, or visit [www.amaalliance.org](http://www.amaalliance.org).

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