

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
Fact Sheet
June 9, 2020

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (ΑΩΑ) is dedicated to improving the profession of medicine and care for all through education, teaching, leadership, humanism, and community service. Its members exemplify the highest levels of competence, character, trust, trustworthiness, leadership, professionalism scholarship, and community service. Members unconditionally represent the Society's motto of "Be Worthy to Serve the Suffering."

ΑΩΑ is committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the profession of medicine and health professional education. ΑΩΑ is committed to overcoming the barriers that may impede underrepresented students and others, and working collaboratively to improve health care for all.

As healers, we condemn racism and bias in all forms, including police brutality. Racism, discrimination, and social injustice are barriers in the care of patients and public health. ΑΩΑ stands with and cares for people of all races, ethnicities, and gender identities. In these times of crisis for our country and world, we must guide medicine to be unbiased, open, accepting, inclusive, and culturally aware in order to "be worthy to serve the suffering."

ΑΩΑ has an elected Board of Directors that include distinguished leaders in medicine, medical students, residents, Chapter Councilors, an organizational representative (currently from the AAMC), and a resident/faculty initiatives member. The ΑΩΑ national office has a physician executive director, a chief of staff, and five additional staff members.

Membership in ΑΩΑ may be attained throughout one's medical career as a student, resident, fellow, faculty member, alumni, clinician, or distinguished leader in medicine. The criteria for nomination is based on demonstrated commitment and excellence based on competence, caring and character, and includes, but is not limited to, scholastic achievement, demonstrated professionalism, leadership capabilities, adherence to ethical standards, fairness in dealing with colleagues., achievement in medicine and/or research, and a record of service to school and community.

Scholastic achievement refers to the qualities of becoming, and being, an excellent doctor—trustworthiness, character, caring, knowledge, skills, demeanor, proficiency of the doctor-patient relationship, promise of future leadership, decision-making, compassion, empathy, altruism, values of the profession, teamwork, life-long learning, and servant leadership.

Depending on the mission and goals of each medical school, achievement in learning may include consideration of unequal barriers candidates faced at any level of education and in their personal lives, and how those were overcome. Measures of excellence vary across the continuum of education, training, and practice. The choices and weighting of these measures are made by each school's faculty, students, peers, patients, and colleagues. ΑΩΑ recognizes these assessments and evaluations

in defining excellence as a physician evolve over time and change to reflect the values of the individual school and medical profession as a whole.

Medical schools may nominate, elect, and submit new AΩA student (third- and fourth-year), resident/fellow (after first year of residency), faculty, and alumni members (at the earliest 10 years following graduation) at any time during the academic year. Each school's election committee, composed of students, faculty, and alumni, the Chapter Councilor and school administrators, determines when they will meet to select that year's new AΩA members.

AΩA's 132 Chapters in medical schools across the country, in Puerto Rico, and in Lebanon have their own timetable for submission of new members, and AΩA receives new members August through June each year. Approximately one-third of schools hold their meetings and nominate in August – October; another one-third submit new members January – March; and the remaining one-third submit April – June.

AΩA has not, and does not, request or solicit to have a membership qualifier added to any employment, recruitment, or continuing educational opportunities.

Becoming an AΩA member recognizes excellence among peers in the profession of medicine with an ongoing expectation of high performance and leadership in medicine and society. AΩA members join an interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary coalition and community of practice.

AΩA has 13 competitive national programs, awards, fellowships, grants that provide nearly \$2 million annually to students, physicians, and medical school initiatives. In addition, AΩA produces a quarterly, peer-reviewed medical humanities journal that includes articles by students, physicians, other health care providers, and non-AΩA members, and has produced three monographs encompassing medical professionalism best practices that are free to interested parties.

AΩA is committed to its ongoing work with its members, medical school administrations, and Chapters to ensure that AΩA elections – for students, residents, fellows, faculty, and alumni – are unbiased and based on the values of AΩA and the profession of medicine in service to our patients. We must be assertive and active in overcoming the barriers and biases faced by underrepresented students, physicians, and others in the medical profession.

As physicians and healers we must continue to guide medicine to be unbiased, open, accepting, inclusive, and culturally aware. We must be the allies to eliminate the social determinants of health and ensure equality and inclusiveness in medicine. We must be the allies against racial, religious, ethical, gender, and other injustices. We must be the allies for our patients and for each other.