



American Medical Women's Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

Dear AMWA Advocates,

Thank you so much for dedicating some of your time towards the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). We know you are insanely busy as you prepare for a career in medicine and appreciate your realization that AMWA has potential for you *now* and well into your *future*.

AMWA has been advocating for women physicians and physicians-in-training for close to 100 years. Our movement has gained momentum and together we have made major advances towards achieving parity for women in medicine. We do not wish to isolate women or request special treatment – our goal is to empower women to reach their fullest potential in whatever field of medicine they desire. We want to ensure that women physicians-in-training, as well as practicing physicians have access to the same opportunities as their male counterparts. Our voices are only growing stronger and louder with time. We are on our way.

A good medical school friend of mine put it best when he said, "There is more to lose in indifference than in action." This has never been more true, especially as we enter this relatively uncertain time in American history. We are hopeful that our individual opinions matter and that our collective voice will be heard throughout the nation. We stand together at this crucial time, transforming our vision into action.

As medical students, we have the unique opportunity to set the pace for our future. If we advocate for equal opportunities and treatment now, we will initiate the positive change that needs to occur within the field of medicine. We will not only strengthen our connection to the medical community, but we will be helping future generations of women physicians to enter the profession on equal ground.

Where do we start? Here. When do we start? Now. Today. This very moment. Instead of focusing on the obstacles before us, let's set our sights on the goals we have for women physicians-in-training. Let's develop a plan for how AMWA can foster the development of these goals and implement it. Let's listen and respect the opinions of each and every member, focusing less on bureaucracy and more on teamwork. For we realize that major advancements are made through holding hands and sticking together. We will respect and honor this principle this year and, hopefully, for years to come.

There are many objectives we have in the student division of AMWA. We are a hopeful and ambitious group. This year, we will focus on rallying anyone and everyone who will listen to our call for parity for women in medicine. We will reach out to other student groups and align our efforts so that we can work together towards this aim. We will utilize the new leadership positions created within the student division to increase and strengthen our membership, thereby increasing our voice. We will offer more incentives for student members and pay careful attention to their specific needs. Moreover, we will EMPOWER members at the local, regional, and national level to dream big. It is our hope that these dreams will develop into effective programming and that this effective programming will increase awareness and attention towards our cause. Most importantly, we will hold hands and stick together.

Thank you for joining us on this mission. We look forward to hearing more about your vision for the future of AMWA and working with you to change history. It all starts with you.

In solidarity,

Misty Richards (AMWA, Student President) on behalf of your 2009-2010 AMWA leadership
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