



American Medical Women's Association

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Media Registration:
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**C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, and Khawaja Shams to Receive
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) Presidential Award
On March 25, 2022, at 8 PM ET, During the 2022 Annual Meeting Gala**

(Schaumburg, IL)—March 24, 2022—On Friday, March 25, 2022, at 8 PM ET, C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, and Khawaja Shams will receive the Presidential Award from American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) president Janice Werbinski, MD. The award presentation will take place during the Gala for AMWA's 107th Annual Meeting, which runs from March 24 - 27, 2022. The AMWA Presidential Award is bestowed by the current AMWA President for excellence in any of the following categories: Science, Medicine, Clinical Practice, Leadership, Humanitarianism, or Philanthropy.

Award recipient C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, serves as director of the Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Center in the Smidt Heart Institute at Cedars-Sinai and serves as the Irwin and Sheila Allen Chair in Women's Heart Research at Cedars-Sinai. Bairey Merz is a prolific clinician-scientist who has dedicated her career to advancing the field of women's heart disease while also playing critical leadership roles in numerous professional societies and organizations.

Dr. Bairey Merz's research interests include women and cardiovascular disease, precision medicine monitoring to predict unexpected cardiovascular events, and the role of mental stress, exercise, stress management, cholesterol and nutrition, and adverse pregnancy outcomes in cardiovascular disease. Dr. Bairey Merz is chair of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)-sponsored WISE (Women's Ischemic Syndrome Evaluation) initiative and has received investigational grants from the NIH-National Center for Alternative and Complementary Medicine (NCCAM), the National Institutes of Aging (NIA) and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program of the Department of Defense, as well as many foundations and research organizations. Her extensive scientific publication record spans 425+ scientific papers, 315+ abstracts, myriad book chapters, and countless peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Bairey Merz is on the Advisory Board of the NIH Office of Research in Women's Health, she chairs the CVD in Women Committee of the American College of Cardiology and serves on the advisory boards of WomenHeart and Women's Heart Alliance. She is a past chair of the Women in Cardiology Committee of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Bairey Merz is receiving AMWA's Presidential Award in recognition of her extraordinary accomplishments as a physician, researcher and leader who has focused a large part of her work on women's biology and health. "Dr. Bairey Merz has had significant impact in elucidating sex differences in cardiovascular health and illness," said Dr. Werbinski. "We feel fortunate to have Dr. Bairey Merz as a keynote speaker at our annual meeting this year. She has much to offer our members in terms of scientific education and as a role model for women's leadership in medicine."

Award recipient Khawaja Shams is an AMWA board member who has been a leader in the high-tech industry for more than 25 years. He is co-chair of AMWA Development Committee and a board liaison for the American Women's Health Service (AWHS).

Mr. Shams has held executive roles at Apple and Google. He has created AI/ML based large scale distributed platforms and organizations to innovate on Digital health, risk management, fraud and abuse detection (malware, content integrity, privacy), mobile payments, cyber security and threat intelligence, differential privacy, search, recommendations, and Apple hardware diagnostics. He is currently a Senior Director of Engineering at Google where he leads AI/ML research, data science, product analyst and software engineering teams to benefit billions of users. At Apple, he founded the Applied Machine Learning team and holds multiple patents.

Mr. Shams is receiving the AMWA Presidential Award in recognition of his pivotal contributions to AMWA through his role on the AMWA Board of Directors, where he has helped with aspects of organizational strategy, technology, and resource development. A passionate advocate for women in healthcare, he has been instrumental in illuminating AMWA's overall mission, establishing scaling mechanisms, and helping energize the broader AMWA leadership team. He has also facilitated or led several global COVID-19 and humanitarian relief programs through the American Women's Hospitals Service.

He advocates for gender pay equity and inclusive medicine and product designs. He has promoted leadership development, strategic thinking, and entrepreneurship among women physicians. Mr. Shams has provided exemplary service and noteworthy contributions in advancing the vision, mission, and goals of AMWA.

"I am delighted to recognize Khawaja Shams with the Presidential Award," said Dr. Werbinski. "Shams has been an active supporter of many of our strategic initiatives, including those focused on Equity and Diversity. He has been an asset to our Board, serving as co-chair of the Development Committee, offering insights and advice on a range of subjects from technology to alliances. We also value the ally perspective that he brings to our leadership team."

About The 107th AMWA Annual Meeting

In response to the strain endured across the healthcare world during the last several years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is focusing its 107th Annual Meeting on uplifting and energizing women in medicine to *Thrive with Tenacity, Humor and Hope*. The AMWA

2022 agenda offers something for every career stage. It features nationally recognized thought leaders who will inspire with their vision and offer strategies to manage the myriad challenges facing women in medicine. CME accreditation is provided by SIU School of Medicine. There are also student and resident tracks, and a 2-day medical school fair. All registrations include a 30-60 minute session with a professional physician coach, and for non-member physicians, registration includes membership in AMWA. For more about AMWA 2022, see our [press release](#) or visit our website: amwa-doc.org/amwa107.

About AMWA

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), founded in 1915, is the oldest multispecialty organization of women in medicine. Our mission is to advance women in medicine, advocate for equity, and ensure excellence in healthcare.

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C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD



Khawaja Shams