

Congratulations to the 2021 AMEF Scholarship Recipients!

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF), the charitable component of the AMCNO, presented six local medical students with \$5,000 scholarships each for the 2021 school year to help ease the burden of student loans.

The AMEF Board of Directors reviews new applications each year and chooses students based on a number of criteria. Applicants are third- or fourth-year medical students who are, or were, residents of Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage or Summit counties, and who have demonstrated an interest in being involved in organized medicine and community activities. They must also possess leadership skills and demonstrate academic achievement.

Each year, the AMEF and the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) highlight the scholarship recipients in our publications. The awardees were asked to provide their photo and short bio, so that our members can learn more about them—such as their interests and future plans. Their information follows.

The AMEF and the AMCNO would like to congratulate these exemplary recipients, and we wish them all the best in their medical careers!

Selena Chandler
*Scholarship Recipient from
Northeast Ohio Medical University*



Selena entered her last year of medical school in July. She has learned a lot from the challenges of medical school and knows that what she has been through will make her a strong and resilient physician. Selena plans on applying for a residency in anesthesiology, with the hope of specializing in pain management, performing procedures to help people have a higher quality of life. Her love for boxing has given her insight on how some of our most precious hobbies that bring us happiness now may bring us some

adverse effects down the road. Her dreams do not stop with wanting to become a physician—she aspires to use her knowledge to help her community and other countries in need. She would love to travel to medically deprived countries and help others who would be without otherwise. Having many challenges growing up and putting herself through school taught her how difficult it can be for all of us to reach our goals, and she wants to take her achievements and aid that has gotten her this far to help make it possible for others to do the same.

Patrick Connell
*Scholarship Recipient from Ohio
University Heritage College of
Osteopathic Medicine*



Patrick grew up in Akron and attended St. Vincent - St. Mary High School. He pursued a bachelor's in biology at The Ohio State University and graduated from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in May. During medical school, he was active in medical professional advocacy organizations, including Ohio University's chapters of AMA/ OMSA, AMSA, and founded a chapter for Students for a National Healthcare Plan (SNaHP). He is pursuing a career in anesthesiology and hopes to one day practice pain management in Northeast Ohio, where he may help those with chronic pain and make an impact on the opioid crisis in his community. With a long history and graduate education with nonprofit organizations, he hopes to help build up his community through development of the arts. In his free time, Patrick enjoys hiking, climbing, skiing, photography, and astronomy.

Heidi J. Huang
*Scholarship Recipient from Case
Western Reserve University School
of Medicine*



Heidi plans to apply into ophthalmology. She has served as a leader in the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) chapter at Case, spearheading community service and research initiatives benefiting the Northeast Ohio Asian American community. She has a research interest in ophthalmology, with experience in cornea and retina. Prior to medical school, she worked on the Drug Product team at Genentech in South San Francisco. She further worked in account management and product implementation at a San Francisco Bay Area startup that creates machine-learning algorithms to provide clinicians with lead time to treat sepsis. Her hobbies include urban gardening and hiking trails in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Heidi aspires to glean all she can from her volunteer, research, and work experiences to innovate her practice of medicine and better serve minority populations.

Joseph Laseter
*Scholarship Recipient from Case
Western Reserve University School
of Medicine*



As a future family medicine physician, Joseph looks forward to infusing mental health services into primary care practice and doing his part to undo the societal inequities that plague the American health care system. He is from Chicago, and received his

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Bachelor of Science in psychology from Princeton. Joseph has a substantial background in research, co-authoring tens of orthopaedic surgery papers, and he is currently researching the disparities that exist between Black and non-minority children with autism. Within the CWRU community, he is part of a committee that successfully increased representation of LGBT and minority identities within CWRU's curriculum. He also organized a vigil that brought together Cleveland medical professionals, students, and community members to put a spotlight on the complicit violence that the medical community inflicts on transgender individuals. Joseph has also led the Pediatric and Urban Health Interest Groups and served as Vice-President of Case's SNMA/LMSA. As VP, he created the first 'Minority Mental Health Panel' and spearheaded an annual publication of minority student advice from which prospective and current students can learn. Outside of school, you can find Joseph running miles at the Metroparks or indulging in anything Nintendo.

Metabel Markwei
Scholarship Recipient from Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU



Born and raised in Accra, Ghana, Metabel came to the United States to attend Yale University, where she majored in medical anthropology and global health. At Yale, she received the Howard Hilgendorf Memorial Award for her senior thesis research, the Vanguard Leader Award for campus leadership, and the Janifer

Lighting Award from the Yale Afro-American Cultural Center. After college, Metabel received her Master of Science at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), focusing on reproductive and cancer biology. She was inducted into JHSPH's Delta Omega Alpha academic society, receiving the society's Lifetime Achievement Award for academic excellence, research, and service. In medical school, Metabel continues to pursue her research and community service passions. As an aspiring OB/GYN, she volunteers at the Cleveland Clinic's annual Celebrate Sisterhood event, teaching minority women about self-breast exams and scheduling them for mammograms. She recently co-founded the Minority Maternal Health Initiative (MMHI), a student navigator program for Black and Hispanic pregnant women, as part of efforts to bridge Cuyahoga County's stark racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality. In her free time, Metabel immerses herself in writing, narrative medicine, long walks/hikes with friends, culinary escapes, and serving her community.

Marija Rowane
Scholarship Recipient from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine



Marija is a native of Northeast Ohio and alumna of Beaumont School and Case Western Reserve University with a Bachelor of Arts in biology and music. Marija studied at the OU-HCOM Athens Campus for her preclinical medical school years, in addition to

local Sigma Sigma Phi Osteopathic Service Fraternity, Student American Academy of Osteopathy (SAAO), Pediatrics Club, Live Healthy Appalachia Live Healthy Kids, and Lifestyle Medicine Club leadership and volunteerism. She continues to publish with the University Hospitals Pediatric and Adult Allergy/Immunology Fellowship and serves as Student Editor of their Scholar 12 virtual research development program. Marija advanced her SAAO leadership to the National Executive Council Chair in the past academic year. She presently directs Regional Coordinator activities and serves on the AAO Education and Publications Committees as Immediate Past Chair. Her career interests include pediatrics, allergy/immunology, lifestyle medicine, and osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal manipulative medicine. She looks forward to exploring pediatrics residencies in Ohio. Apart from her academic and research activities, Marija enjoys her instruments, the outdoors, fitness, and plant-based cooking.

The AMEF is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2021-22 school year. To learn more, visit the AMCNO website at www.amcno.org, and click on the AMEF tab.

Scholarship funds are primarily raised through the AMEF's annual golf outing. This year's event was held at Sand Ridge Golf Club on August 9. **Please consider joining us there once again next year on Monday, Aug. 29.** We, and future students, welcome your support! ■

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