

Permanent Committees

Admissions Committee

Nafees Ahmad, PhD: Admissions committee is an important and time-consuming committee, because it involves a critical task of applying a holistic approach for selecting a diverse group of students not only with good credentials, but also with life experiences, cultural competencies, resilience and passion for serving humanity. The elected faculty and medical students collaborate with the administration to select the best incoming class based on the college mission and vision, including diversity and inclusion.

Ghassan Tranesh, MD, MSc: I have been working with thousands of students and helping them to prepare their careers. I listen to their struggles and counsel them in their options for residency and medical schools. My goal is to help the bright minds reach their goals and support those who need some tips to get admitted to the school that will help him or her to build a strong career.

Zoe Cohen, PhD: I have had the honor of serving on the Admissions Committee for the last 3 years and have had the extreme privilege of helping students fulfill the first portion of their journey to becoming a physician. I feel that I'm uniquely suited for this position due to my knowledge of students who are applying to medical school as well as those who are already enlisted. In addition, I'm the chair of 2 of the pathways into medicine, the APME, and HEAP. Thank you for your vote!

Saif Mashaqi, MD: Currently, I act as the associate program director of the sleep medicine fellowship with a plan to be appointed as a program director of the sleep medicine fellowship (department of internal medicine). My goal is to improve the standards and skills and gain more experience in evaluating medical students or internal medicine residency candidate applications. I'm confident that this committee will help me achieve this goal by interacting and sharing with colleagues who have similar interests and goals.

Lourdes Castanon, MD

Uma Goyal, MD: I am an alumni of the University of Arizona College of Medicine and my vision would be to help the pursuit for diversity and equality in admissions. My values are hard work and dedication. My vision is to provide opportunities to those who may not have the chance at them.

Bijin Thajudeen, MD: I am an associate professor with the department of medicine. I am involved with the selection committees for the Nephrology fellowship program and Internal Medicine Residency. I am a physician champion for diversity and inclusion within the department of medicine. I am interested in promoting diversity and inclusion for COM admissions.

Patricia Harrison-Monroe, PhD: For the past 3 years I have served on the Admissions Committee as a member and sub-committee chair. It has been one of the most rewarding activities I have had the privilege to join in my 16 years as faculty. I will continue to take seriously the responsibility of being part of the selection of a diverse and strong pool of future physicians. As Vice Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, clinician, educator, and mentor, and having provided counseling support to medical students for the past 8 years, I believe I have a thorough understanding of the qualities required of students to successfully move toward becoming excellent clinicians, teachers, and researchers.

Afshin Sam, MD, MSc: Admission committee's task in selecting the right applicant is the first step in creating infrastructure for future of Science of Medicine and our nation and global health. I have been personally amazed to observe students from different walks of life and diverse undergraduate backgrounds grow into highly accomplished individuals, physicians, scientists, and leaders. I, as a foreign medical graduate have been fascinated with medical education in United States with its amazing output and contribution to Science of Medicine and beyond. The journey of my academic career as clinical faculty has been an enriching experience to me by providing service to our community and educating future generations of physicians. It would be my utmost wish to be an active and effective member College of Medicine Admission Committee to not only give back to University of Arizona and my professional community to also fulfill my professional development.

Iyad Mansour, MD: I will help to select the best possible medical student applicant that does meet with the University of Arizona medical school missions and values, select candidates that are socially and intellectually diverse, without influence of political or financial factors, and choose applicants who are motivated to the practice of medicine, and help to identify next generation of physician-scientists who are not just interested to be a great doctor in providing excellent patient care, but also

those who have a great interest in research with a desire and commitment to serve the public in matters of health with a potential contribution to the greater healthcare community.

Appointments, Promotions and Tenure Committee

Saif Mashaqi, MD: Currently, I act as an associate professor of medicine and am working on my next promotion to a full professor of medicine. I think this committee will provide me with the skills and experience to assess and develop the standards required for promotion from one rank to the next rank. I plan to share knowledge and expertise with my colleagues in this committee as part of faculty governance. I also look to develop plans and resources for faculty members to help them get promoted.

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: Since my move to U of A, I struggled to understand the requirements and the milestones that need to be met in order to be promoted to a higher academic rank. Thus, my main goal is to help this committee in its mission of making every promotion smooth and making sure every U of A faculty clearly understands what are the goals that need to be met in order to be promoted, without “room for interpretation.”

Arthur Sanders, MD: As a tenured professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, I'm completing my first term on the Appointments, Promotion and Tenure Committee and served as co-chair in 2020-21. I've also served on my department Promotions and Tenure Committee for many years.

Hina Arif, MD: I identify myself as clinical researcher, I would like to contribute to the promotion and tenure committee with strengthening the development and planning of career tracts focused on clinical scientists, supporting their academic career including promotion and tenure.

Gurusaravanan Kutti Sridharan, MD: I give my best effort to apply my experience, skills, ever-changing technologies, and judgment to each situation. Excellence in everything I do has been my priority in my role as a clinician-educator. I would bring these values to the P&T committee. I will use my experience and knowledge to analyze the strengths, contributions and achievements of candidates and work with other members to ensure timely compliance of assigned project work.

Robert Harland, MD: I have chaired our department's P & T committee for the past 6 years and successfully worked with more than 20 faculty members to prepare dossiers for successful promotion on each of the various academic tracks. I led the development and implementation of our department's mentoring plan and have worked to make our annual review process more transparent and objective, helping individual faculty members as well as division chiefs and the peer review committee as they navigate this process. Another focus has been the recruitment of new faculty to expand existing programs and to launch new clinical and research programs.

Committee of Ten

Edita Navratilova, PhD: I have been associated with the COM-Tucson in different positions as a laboratory technician, graduate student and a faculty member. This experience has given me a broad perspective on the needs of all members of our community. I believe that through hard work, honesty and understanding I can contribute to development of programs that will improve faculty life, facilitate outstanding research at the COM and help students achieve their full potential.

Deepak Acharya, MD: The concept of such a group to me signifies an openness of the University in addressing any important issues in multiple domains, without some of the usual individual departmental or committee constraints. This permits a thorough evaluation of any matter from multiple viewpoints, some close and others distant to the immediate issue at hand, from which important lessons can be learned, both for the problem being addressed as well as the participants. I think I could contribute to this committee as a mid-career clinical faculty with prior divisional, departmental, and university committee experience at COM-T and a prior institution. I also have clinical and academic administrative experience in fellowship and clinical program development which may also be useful to this committee.

Erika Bracamonte, MD: I have been a member of the UofA COM since I enrolled as a medical student in 1999. As Professor of Pathology and Medicine, I have experience working within two clinical departments and am active in the college of medicine curriculum for MS1 and MS2. As a member of the Committee of Ten, I would leverage my experience and team-building skills to assist the dean in responding to the various challenges of our complex environment and partnership with Banner Health.

Vivienne Ng, MD, MPH: With a long term academic strategic plan on the horizon combined with a new clinical compensation plan, our faculty must be united together as we provide exception patient care, education future generations, and push the envelope in translational healthcare. We must also heed ideas and provide solutions that are outside the traditional academic medicine box. As a member of the Committee of 10, I will ensure those voices are heard and give due diligence to innovative ideas.

Cameron Hypes, MD: My name is Cameron Hypes, and I am an Assistant Professor in both the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine. I am running for the Committee of Ten. I have been here at the University since 2013 and on faculty since 2015 and have gained much from my time here. I would like to give back by participating in making our college of medicine community better and contributing to the work of this committee.

Amy Mitchell, MD: I have been faculty in the College of Medicine for 19 years and am interested in serving our community on the Committee of Ten. In the department of OB/GYN, I have served as Residency Program Director and now as Vice Chair for Education. I will be able to especially contribute to the work of the Committee of Ten as an advisory body to the dean in areas of education and clinical affairs. I would like to see the COM increase our visibility within the University community as well as our outreach to the city of Tucson.

Continuing Medical Education Committee

Garrett Pachecho, MD: As the associate program director for the emergency medicine and the combined emergency medicine pediatric residencies I'm responsible for academic enrichment plans to improve the resident's performance for their inservice training examinations. This role is vital as I'm able to aid residents that have performed below their designated standard. I'm able to work with them to develop a strategy and to prepare them for their board certification examinations. I'm able to teach learning strategies throughout their residency career. I'm also very involved with the residency curriculum and education delivered during their conferences. Medical education has always been a great interest of mine and how to foster lifelong learning through continued medical education

Ghassan Tranesh, MD, MSc: I particularly enjoy teaching medical knowledge for postgraduate and undergraduates. I created my own educational channel and champion weekly conference to students worldwide. My goal is to simplify the medical education and connect all aspects of the disease for a better understanding and a better treatment. I also consult many educational corporations to correlate the clinical knowledge with the basic sciences to make learning more practical and easier.

Adrienne Yarnish, MD: I am excited to expand my leadership skills as a newer faculty member by serving in faculty government. I recently completed an emergency ultrasound fellowship after 10 years in community practice. So, I understand the importance of completing CMA in order to maintain current medical knowledge. As medicine becomes more rapidly specialized, I would like to see physicians staying up to date on the latest breakthrough in other specialties. Nowhere is this more important than in the ED.

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: I am a MD/PhD physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. I am actively involved into teaching med students and PhD students, and I have a clear idea on what is needed to succeed in both career paths. Thus, I could be a great addition to this committee.

Allison Thoeny, MD: Serving as the Curriculum Director for Grand Rounds and Faculty Development for the Department of Anesthesiology, I understand first-hand the value of providing high-quality continuing medical education, and the importance of having shared ideals and goals at the institutional level to support such efforts. I would like a seat at the governing table to be an active part of elevating the quality of education as well as ensuring compliance with guidelines set forth by the AACME.

Imran Patel, DMD: I am passionate about learning new things and sharing what I know. I believe that nobody can take away your knowledge from you. My goal is to bring together different professionals (medical, dental, veterinary, business, legal, facilities management, ethics, dining services) to share their experiences, knowledge, and wisdom. It takes a village to care for a patient. We sometimes forget who else is around us that make our work easier or difficult. Hence, inviting them to present to our students, resident, fellows, and faculty will help create awareness that we are not alone when we are taking care of patients.

David Currie, MD: I have previously helped in establishing curricula and policy regarding simulation in my anesthesiology residency and have also served on national anesthesia committees. In these roles, I worked to augment and already strong

simulation curriculum in anesthesiology and helped establish programs with our specialty society to bring even more value to membership. I believe that this experience, as well as my perspective as a young faculty member, would allow me to help in developing policy for continuing medical education and ensuring that all activities meet accreditation standards.

Gurusaravanan Kutti Sridharan, MD: I give my best effort to apply my experience, skills, ever-changing technologies, and judgment to each situation. Excellence in everything I do has been my priority in my role as a clinician-educator. I would bring these values to the CMEC. I would devote my time and use my scientific knowledge to analyze scientific content and the educational quality of materials for review to achieve shared objective of oversight of CME activities and ensure they meet accreditation standards for CME.

Sangeetha Murugapandian, MD: I want to take this opportunity to understand the accreditation requirements and ways to maintain compliance. I would like to explore and assess educational needs of our residents, fellows and faculty and identify ways to assess and adapt educational content based on post-course evaluation I strongly believe that, this will give me a platform to pursue my passion of improving educational tools and delivering effective, goal-oriented topics to our fellow learners.

Chyi Chyi Chong, MD

Chad Viscusi, MD

Helene Felman, MD: I am currently the Division Chief of General Pediatrics within the Department of Pediatrics. I would like to nominate myself for the Continuing Medical Education Committee of the College of Medicine. My prior leadership experiences, passion for advocacy, and breadth of my clinical practice gives me a unique perspective. I hope to be elected to the Continuing Medical Education Committee of the College of medicine, such that I can become more involved in faculty governance and creation of meaningful educational experiences for our faculty, residents and students.

Amy Mitchell, MD: I am interested in serving on the CME Committee due to my long-standing interest in medical education. I have served as the Residency Program Director in the Department of OB/GYN for 11 years and will now be moving to Vice Chair for Education. I am interested in ensuring that our CME activities continue to meet accreditation standards and serve the needs of the faculty and the surrounding community.

Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee

Edita Navratilova, PhD: I have been associated with the COM-Tucson in different positions as a laboratory technician, graduate student and a faculty member. This experience has given me a broad perspective on the needs of all members of our community. I believe that through hard work, honesty and understanding I can contribute to development of programs that will improve faculty life, facilitate outstanding research at the COM and help students achieve their full potential.

Vivienne Ng, MD, MPH: Over the last few years as faculty, I have seen an increased interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion, especially within our college and community. COM-T has also dedicated significant resources to DEI, faculty diversity, and faculty retention. Strengthening these efforts at the faculty level takes interest, passion, and dedication, which I wish to bring to the table. Without these, we as faculty cannot begin to model equity, inclusion, respect, and professionalism to our learners. We must choose to set the bar high.

Marlys Hearst Witte, MD: As a founding COM faculty member, I have served on many elected committees/task forces [e.g., COM Nominating, DFAC (which I helped establish), Dean Review, Dean's Research Council] and Main Campus Faculty Senate, Committee of 11, Research Policy]. This longitudinal perspective and multifaceted involvement have fueled my commitment to strengthening the Faculty's voice in priority setting, academic policy, program development, resource allocation, and equity. Administrators and decision-making should be accountable/transparent through shared governance mechanisms such as DFAC.

Michael Ditillo, DO

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: During my years at Harvard Medical School, and since I moved to U of A, I have served in several committees aimed at enhancing faculty life at 365 degrees, including career development, mentorship, leadership, promotion, and recruitments. Also, I am a physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. Thus, I am well-qualified to provide advice related to all the matters that concern all the aspects related to faculty affairs.

Educational Policy Committee

James Proffitt, PhD: As a teaching faculty, I value collaboration and service. If appointed to EPC, I will coordinate with colleagues to ensure our curriculum continues to bridge scientific and clinical knowledge, focusing on helping students learn skills to succeed in clerkship and beyond. I will also work to help colleagues effectively use technology in class. Lastly, I will liaise with other units (e.g., Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion) to ensure our curriculum is designed to facilitate learning for all students.

Edita Navratilova, PhD: I have been associated with the COM-Tucson in different positions as a laboratory technician, graduate student and a faculty member. This experience has given me a broad perspective on the needs of all members of our community. I believe that through hard work, honesty and understanding I can contribute to development of programs that will improve faculty life, facilitate outstanding research at the COM and help students achieve their full potential.

Allison Huff MacPherson, DHEd: As a health educator, I have been involved in developing curriculum, teaching, and ensuring programs meet accreditation standards and education goals over the course of my career. I've spearheaded a MIVER and an ABET accreditation, both passing with high marks and commendations. I believe that a collective and diverse perspective on developing policies for monitoring student performance and persistence is vital to ensuring student success and educational quality for all students.

Michael Ditillo, DO

Jordana M. Smith, MD: Having served as TEPC chair 2020-2021 I am excited to announce to serve the COM community in curriculum and policy oversight.

Nicola Baker, MD: I am an effective clinical educator who is dedicated to the well-being of residents and medical students and to their development into excellent clinicians. UA COM class of 2010 alum (inaugural class for AZMed curriculum), as a student I represented my classmates on committee to help shape and prune medical school curriculum, and I look forward to carrying this forward on the Educational Policy committee. Background in experiential education, interested in developing non-traditional curriculum.

Arthur Sanders, MD: As a tenured professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, I have been involved in teaching students for more than 40 years. I have been a Society Mentor for almost 15 years and served as Course Director for Intersessions. In the past, I have been course director for the EM course and was co-director of the curriculum revision about 5 years ago. I would like to be involved in curriculum policy as the COM evolves over the next few years.

Teresa Orth, MD, PhD: TEPC has broad expectations that medical education will meet the needs of the students and accrediting bodies as future physicians matriculate towards a profession with deep roots in empathy, compassion, and healing. My goal on the TPEC would be to assist in these strong ideals and insure the adherence to strong values in our upcoming physicians. My values include a commitment to integrity and diversity in medicine and research. I would like to see broad representation of diversity in the educational policies with evidenced-based standards for students from all backgrounds. I would like to uphold the ethical principals in medicine of integrity and justice so that our medical care can deliver equity in outcomes for the graduating physicians from our college of medicine. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Honor Code Committee

Brian Smith, MD: Honor Code Committee serves a vital function in the College, allowing students to hold one another accountable in a manner analogous to their future professional boards. As a former student member and chair of this committee, the faculty members' guidance and wisdom was invaluable in shaping proceeding while ceding leadership to the student members. As a staunch advocate of autonomous learning and physician self-determination, I aim to provide such a resource for future committee members.

MD/PhD Committee

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: I am an MD/PhD physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. I am actively involved into teaching med students and PhD students, and I have a clear idea on what is needed to succeed in both career paths. Thus, I could be a great addition to this committee.

Teresa Orth, MD, PhD: Dual degree programs such as MD/PhD provide opportunities to maximize education and meet requirements while stimulating innovation, leadership, and the next generation of physician-scientists. My goal on the MD/PhD committee would be to assist in selection of candidates. My values include a commitment to integrity and diversity in medicine and research. I would like to see broad representation of diverse candidates and emphasize scholarly work that upholds the ethical principles of integrity and justice. Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy.

Belinda Sun, MD, PhD: My name is Belinda Sun, MD, PhD. I currently work as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Pathology at UA BUMCT, where I provide clinical service as a diagnostic pathologist. Additionally, I teach medical students, pathology residents and fellows as the GI pathology program director and conduct translational research to improve patient care. I am offering my candidacy for the MD/PhD Committee because I believe that a strong MD/PhD program is key to a successful future physician-scientist. I will contribute to recruit students with the potential to succeed in this program.

Saad Sammani, MD, MS: During my medical career, I have invested my medical knowledge and surgical skills in developing pre-clinical animal models of lung diseases and also mentored MD, PhD, and MD/PhD students. Medical research depends greatly on excellent physician scientists. The MD/PhD program is an arduous journey, and it is critical that candidates are wisely selected. I have developed the aptitude to identify what makes program candidates successful. If selected as an MD/PhD committee member, my priority will be to evaluate students best suited for the University of Arizona's MD/PhD program.

Nominating Committee

Ramesh Karra, MD: Diligence in preparation, punctuality/responsiveness, flexibility are values that I believe will serve me well in becoming an active member of the COM Nominating Committee. My vision for the Nominating Committee is one of creative collaboration that respects diversity and recognizes dedication. If elected, I would propose creating a detailed "job description" for all committees so that candidates can make a more informed decision in applying and understanding exactly what is expected of them. Thank you for your consideration.

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: I am a physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. My laboratory collaborates with many clinicians and basic scientists both inside and outside U of A, and I have a broad range of connections. Thus, I would be a great addition to this committee.

Student Appeals Committee

Jennifer Segar, MD

Cameron Hypes, MD: My name is Cameron Hypes, and I am an Assistant Professor in both the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine. I am running for the student appeals committee with the goal of becoming more involved with the medical students. I believe I am fair and impartial and will contribute positively to the work of this important committee. I have experience with similar work as core faculty in the Emergency Medicine residency.

Student Progress Committee

Edita Navratilova, PhD: I have been associated with the COM-Tucson in different positions as a laboratory technician, graduate student and a faculty member. This experience has given me a broad perspective on the needs of all members of our community. I believe that through hard work, honesty and understanding I can contribute to development of programs that will improve faculty life, facilitate outstanding research at the COM and help students achieve their full potential.

Nicola Baker, MD: I am dedicated to the well-being of residents and medical students, and to their development into excellent, professional, and high integrity clinicians. I believe in relevant, timely, and face-to-face feedback. No student should be caught off-guard with negative feedback on a formal eval if it hasn't already been worked through with them in person. I support early identification of students who are struggling, pairing them with a mentor to set them up to succeed.

Jennifer Segar, MD

Standing Committees

Dean's Council on Faculty Affairs

Jordana M. Smith, MD: The role of Faculty Affairs is critical to the continued success of the College of Medicine, and I would appreciate the opportunity to work within the Council to enact supportive policies and give feedback on faculty issues. The clinical perspective is important to ensure that the moving elements as part of the Banner network are addressed and there is support for the educational and research components that brought most of the faculty to Tucson.

Michael Ditillo, DO

Celia Valenzuela, MD: I am currently serving a 1-year term on this committee and have greatly enjoyed being a part of this group. I am committed to promoting the well-being of faculty and have a particular interest in ensuring that faculty have the tools necessary to be successful clinical educators. I would love to continue to be a part of this committee and hope to contribute to initiatives that will further faculty development.

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: During my years at Harvard Medical School, and since I moved to U of A, I have served in several committees aimed at enhancing faculty life at 365 degrees, including career development, mentorship, leadership, promotion, and recruitments. Also, I am a physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. Thus, I am well-qualified to provide advice related to all the matters that concern faculty affairs at 365 degrees.

Hina Arif, MD: I serve as co-chair for Women in Academic Medicine and participate in faculty diversity committee work. I understand the needs of faculty members in College of Medicine including those which intersect with Banner Health. I would like to work towards expanding creatively the initiative through College of Medicine for faculty engagement, well-being, diversity development and enhancement in this role.

David Currie, MD: I have served on national anesthesia committees to help grow membership. I have also served as president of the resident and fellow section of my state anesthesia society, where I increased activity in our resident component. I hope to further encourage activity within our hospital system. Banner offers incredible opportunities for growth for established physicians and recent graduates. I joined as faculty for the opportunity to interact daily with dedicated physicians regarding any matter that may arise. I hope to strengthen this major benefit of our academic environment.

Erika Bracamonte, MD: I have been a member of the UofA COM since I enrolled as a medical student in 1999. As Professor of Pathology and Medicine, I have experience working within two clinical departments and am active in the college of medicine curriculum for MS1 and MS2. As a member of the Deans Council on Faculty Affairs, I would work to enhance the career development and mentoring programs throughout the college, in order to better retain excellent faculty and foster their growth as leaders of academic medicine.

Jennifer Segar, MD

Vivienne Ng, MD, MPH: Our faculty have grit, resilience, and passion. This truth has become especially apparent as of late. We also have limits. No one is superhuman. No one person can effectively balance self-care, family responsibilities, clinical duties, and academic pursuits. We must accept that burn out is real and support each other as we dig out of our holes. The Dean's Council on Faculty Affairs is best suited to lead this charge and provide resources to do so. I firmly wish to be part of those solutions.

Robert Harland, MD: I have chaired our department's P & T committee for the past 6 years and successfully worked with more than 20 faculty members to prepare dossiers for successful promotion on each of the various academic tracks. I led the development and implementation of our department's mentoring plan and have worked to make our annual review process more transparent and objective, helping individual faculty members as well as division chiefs and the peer review committee as they navigate this process. The COM benefits from attracting outstanding faculty members as well as developing and advancing the careers of junior faculty members. As pressures to be clinically productive increase, we need to provide our faculty with skills and resources to function efficiently not only in clinical care, but also as educators and in the pursuit of scholarship.

Chad Viscusi, MD

Dean's Research Council

Edita Navratilova, PhD: I have been associated with the COM-Tucson in different positions as a laboratory technician, graduate student and a faculty member. This experience has given me a broad perspective on the needs of all members of our community. I believe that through hard work, honesty and understanding I can contribute to development of programs that will improve faculty life, facilitate outstanding research at the COM and help students achieve their full potential.

Rui Chang, PhD: My vision is an implementation of a proven successful multi-disciplinary pipeline of precision treatment discoveries for complex diseases across COM-T. Starting with tissue collection by clinicians, multi-omics data will be generated by the functional cores. The data will be analyzed by my cutting-edge computational model to produce testable hypotheses on novel therapeutics, which will be validated by biology labs. Pre-clinically validated therapeutics can then be cycled back to facilitate clinical studies. This pipeline will greatly improve research and funding of COM-T.

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: I am a physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. Also, I have been member of the institutional biosafety committee for 5 years, and member of IACUC and IRB at my previous institution. Thus, I have a clear idea of what the issues related to research are at 360 degree, and I could be a great addition to this committee.

Zong-Ming Li, PhD: Promote collaborative, multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary biomedical engineering research among basic science researchers and clinicians, across departments and colleges.

Alicia Allen, PhD: I have been on the Dean's Research Council for the past two years. As a research-focused, tenure-track, non-clinician, assistant professor, I feel that I bring a unique perspective that is important to the committee. For example, non-clinicians may not have access to various Banner-related resources and may need assistance in another way. Another example is that as an assistant professor, I can speak from the perspective of someone who is just building their research program.

Faculty Diversity Advisory Committee

Yuri Chaves Martin, MD, PhD: I was able to attend college because of a program of quotas in my alma mater. I was an active member of the Mass General Hospital Center for Diversity and Inclusion during my training. I believe it is essential to continue to give access to training to ethnic populations that are underrepresented in medicine. In summary, my background as a Brazilian-American immigrant that was involved with diversity and inclusivity programs throughout my whole career associated with my passion to work with diverse individuals would make me a perfect fit for The Faculty Diversity Advisory Committee.

Sangeetha Murugapandian, MD: There has never been a more apt time to engage in Diversity and inclusion. With growing hate crimes creating an environment where all feel included, and differences welcomed is important. Being a south East Asian I have experienced many hardships and racial inequalities which have taught me the importance of advocating and promoting increased presence of students and faculty, from historically underrepresented groups to help create a culture of inclusive excellence and to help build a better community.

Helene Felman, MD: I am currently the Division Chief of General Pediatrics within the Department of Pediatrics. I would like to nominate myself for the Faculty Diversity Advisory Committee of the College of Medicine. My prior leadership experiences, passion for advocacy, and breadth of my clinical practice gives me a unique perspective. I hope to be elected to the Faculty Diversity Advisory Committee of the College of Medicine, such that I can become more involved in faculty governance and help the College of Medicine embrace diversity and inclusivity among its faculty.

Honors and Awards Committee

Alicia Allen, PhD: I have been participating on the Honors & Awards committee for three years now, with all three years as chair. I am well aware of the various awards for students and the process needed to select them. I am also well aware in the upcoming changes of the Step 2 (pass versus fail) and have a plan to implement how we vote for awardees with this change.

Medical Student Research Committee

Ken Batai, PhD: I am committed to the training of the next generation of physicians and physician scientists, particularly from racial/ethnic minority backgrounds, who are committed to addressing health care needs of the communities that they serve.

Experience in clinical research will provide them with necessary skills to identify the critical needs for improvement in patient care and to deliver equitable healthcare in diverse patient populations.

Franz Rischard, DO

Allison Huff MacPherson, DHEd: I've had success designing, securing external funding, and directing research programs for students. I'll bring to this committee a strong background in evaluating research and developing environments for URMs to succeed. I believe relationship-building with faculty and students is essential to developing research projects and areas of interests and leveraging the strengths of each member of this committee is critical to generating research interest and monitoring research progress.

Tze-Woei Tan, MD: I am writing to express interest in serving on the Medical Student Research Committee. I'm committed to health disparities research focusing on understanding the determinants of racial/ethnic disparities in lower extremity amputation. I'm currently in the 2nd year of a K23 award evaluating limb salvage barriers among racial and ethnic minorities with diabetes. I have been actively serving as a mentor for the Medical Student Research Program over the last few years.

Francesca Polverino, MD, PhD: I am an MD/PhD physician scientist, and I have spent half of my career doing clinical work, the last 13 years doing bench work, of which the last 7 years running my own laboratory. I am actively involved into teaching med students and PhD students, and I have a clear idea on what is needed to succeed in both career paths. Thus, I could be a great addition to this committee.

Zong-Ming Li, PhD: Culture medical students for research development and scholarly work, preparing them as future clinician scientists and leaders of academic medicine.