

BNGAP

Building the Next Generation of Academic Physicians

OUR MISSION

TO HELP DIVERSE MEDICAL STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS EMBARK UPON AN
ACADEMIC MEDICINE CAREER

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Community Members,

I hope you're fully enjoying summertime. Take a moment and visit family, the beach and the park. Recognize and celebrate your achievements last academic year especially during these unprecedented times.

The new academic year brings great excitement. I was able to recently attend the National Medical Association Conference in Puerto Rico and recognize the installation of Brandi Kaye-Freeman MD as President and Michael Knight MD as President-Elect, both have been long term colleagues of BNGAP. View the newsletter for highlights from the NMA Conference.

Next up are the LMSA National Conference, Houston, Texas, September 17-19, 2026 and ANAMS/AAIP National Conference, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 17-20, 2026. Come out and support both conferences virtually or in-person.

As you know BNGAP's 15th Anniversary just passed and we already miss you! We hope to see you for the BNGAP Men of Color in Medicine Conference, Saturday December 5, 2026, NYC (hybrid) and for the BNGAP Women of Color in Medicine Conference, Spring 2027.

Let's not forget to congratulate community member successes. Dr. Cristina Fernandez MD.

J.P. SÁNCHEZ MD, MPH
BNGAP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



UPCOMING EVENTS

**BNGAP Chapter
Orientation
August 2026**

**BNGAP Men of
color conference
Dec 5th, 2026**

**BNGAP Women of
color conference
Spring, 2027**



BNGAP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Snapshots from NMA 2026!



BNGAP ED J.P. Sanchez and NMA President Brandi Kaye-Freeman (Top Left Photo); SACNAS ED Juan Amador, UPR SOM Dean Debora Silva, Dean Ponce, SOM Olga Rodriguez de Arzola, UPR SOM Hispanic Center of Excellence Director América Facundo, J.P. Sanchez and Chief Advancement Officer and Director of the Office of Institutional Advancement, UPR SOM Cynthia Hernández-Otero, MEd, EdDc. (Upper Right Photo) T4D Co-Founder Kameron Matthews, ACOG President Camille Claire and J.P. Sanchez (Bottom Left Photo). J.P. Sanchez and NMA President-Elect Michael Knight (Bottom Middle Photo). NMA Leader and Rutgers NJMS Faculty Member Damali Campbell-Oparaji and J.P. Sanchez.

BNGAP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

LMSA National Conference

Register for the LMSA National Conference at <https://national.lmsa.net/programming/nc2026/> Programming for pre-medical, medical students, residents, fellows, faculty, staff and practitioners!



**FPAC SESSIONS AT
2026 LMSA NATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

Thursday, September 17th to Saturday, September 19th, 2026

SEPT 17 THURS	4:00 PM FPAC Brief Orientation 5:00 PM FPAC Speed Advising 6:00 PM Meet & Greet
SEPT 18 FRI	8:00 AM Opening Remarks 8:30 AM Best Practices in Writing a Book & Lab Writing 2:00 PM Specialty Section Updates 5:00 PM Update on MedEdPORTAL and Academic Medicine 6:00 PM Book Raffle & Signing
SEPT 19 SAT	9:00 AM Opportunities through NHMA /NHHF /NLPD /MiMentor and other organizations 10:00 AM LHS+ Leadership in a Changing Sociopolitical Climate 11:00 AM Highlighting Successful Pathway Programs 1:00 PM Advances in LHS+ Health Equity Curriculum 3:00 PM LMSA Closing Remarks & Photo 4:30 PM FPAC Discussion 7:30 PM GALA

2026 LMSA NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Houston, TX | September 17-20, 2026

CULTURA CURA
HEALING THROUGH HERITAGE



BNGAP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

AAIP's 54th Annual Meeting and Health Conference

EVENT

AAIP's 54th Annual Meeting and Health Conference

September 17th – Sep 20th, 2026



From AAIP:

This year's conference promises to be a powerful gathering of American Indian and Alaska Native physicians, healthcare professionals, students, and community leaders from across the country. Join us as we come together to share knowledge, celebrate our cultures, and advance health equity for AIAN communities. Whether you're reconnecting with colleagues or attending for the first time, this event offers meaningful dialogue, cultural connection, and professional growth. Be sure to register early and secure your hotel accommodations—we look forward to seeing you there!

See more (Abstract submissions, reservations, and more) at:

<https://www.aaip.org/events/aaips-53rd-annual-meeting-and-health-conference>

BNGAP Men of color conference Dec 5th, 2026

Sign up to learn more about the BNGAP Men of Color in Medicine Conference, December 5, 2026

More information to come.

BNGAP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Promotion Announcements

Message from Cristina R. Fernández, MD, MPH, FAAP:

I'm honored and excited to share that I have been appointed Section Chief of Newborn Medicine in the Division of Child and Adolescent Health, Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons.

This appointment is especially meaningful because Columbia has been my academic home for different stages of my professional journey – medical student, pediatric resident, academic fellow, faculty member and researcher, and now Section Chief.

Caring for late preterm and term newborns in the Level I Nursery offers a remarkable privilege to be a child's (and a family's) first pediatrician. We meet families during one of the most transformative moments of their lives, helping them navigate the first hours and days with compassion, evidence-based care, and partnership. Newborn medicine is primary care at its very beginning.

As a general pediatrician and physician-scientist, I study prenatal and early life nutrition, food insecurity and other health-related social challenges, early relational health, and infant and toddler feeding and growth. Newborn medicine provides an opportunity to partner with families at the start, supporting healthy beginnings while advancing research that can support optimal nutrition and growth trajectories.

As I step into this leadership role, my vision is grounded in four guiding principles:

- ✨ Listen with intention. The best ideas come from the people doing the work every day!
- ✨ Inspire innovation. Our Section is home to exceptional clinicians, educators, researchers, and advocates. I hope to foster an environment where creativity, collaboration, and curiosity flourish.
- ✨ Foster transparency, fairness, and faculty growth. Mentorship, sponsorship, equitable processes, and leadership development will remain central to how we grow together.
- ✨ Transform our collective impact. Together, we'll continue to provide outstanding clinical care and elevate our educational mission, strengthen our research footprint, expand our advocacy efforts, and increase the visibility of Newborn Medicine across our institution and the region.

I am deeply grateful to my family and to my mentors, colleagues, trainees, and friends who have believed in me, challenged me, and helped shape the physician and leader I am today. Most importantly, I'm grateful to the incredible Newborn Medicine team. I couldn't be more excited to learn from you, partner with you, and build the next chapter together.

Every newborn deserves the healthiest possible start in life. I'm honored to help lead the team working to make that vision a reality – for every baby and every family we serve.



NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION INSTALLS BRANDI KAYE FREEMAN, MD, AS ITS 127TH PRESIDENT

NMA Inaugurates New President During 124th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly

(SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico – July 29, 2026) The National Medical Association (NMA), the largest and oldest organization representing Black physicians and their patients in the United States, installed Brandi Kaye Freeman, MD, as its 127th President during the 124th NMA Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly yesterday evening. Dr. Freeman succeeds Roger A. Mitchell, Jr., MD. Her presidential theme, “Ensuring Our Living Legacy: Elucidating the NMA Blueprint for Generational Health,” reflects a bold call to action to advance equitable health care, strengthen the physician workforce, and improve health outcomes for communities across the nation. The ceremonial installation took place Tuesday, July 28, at the Caribe Hilton in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



See more at: <https://nmanet.org/>



BNGAP COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

New BNGAP publication!

New MedEdPORTAL Publication by BNGAP Fellows Yemmy Soler PhD and Melissa Armas PhD!

OPEN ACCESS | July 22, 2026

Health Disparities Among Hispanic Patients With Type 2 Diabetes in the United States: An Educational Workshop

Yemmy Soler, PhD^{1*}, Kaitlyn Pommells, MS², Anita Laloo, MD, MPH¹, Melissa Armas, PhD, MPH³

Author Information

https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.11622

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APPENDICES

REFERENCES

RELATED

DETAILS

APPENDICES

- A. Pre-session Evaluation.docx
- B. Post-session Evaluation.docx
- C. Presentation.pptx
- D. Facilitator Guide.docx

All appendices are peer reviewed as integral parts of the Original Publication.

Abstract

Introduction: Type 2 diabetes (T2D) is a major health concern for Hispanic populations in the United States. Hispanic patients experience a higher prevalence of T2D and more severe outcomes than non-Hispanic White populations, driven largely by systemic and structural factors such as limited access to care, insurance coverage gaps, language barriers, and social determinants of health. Access to culturally responsive and humility-based health care approaches remains limited, hindering patient-centered care.

See more at: <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC13388404/>

HEALTH DISPARITIES AMONG HISPANIC PATIENTS with TYPE 2 DIABETES IN THE UNITED STATES — AN EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP —

Addressing inequities. Advancing knowledge.
Empowering communities.



We are **B**uilding the **N**ext **G**eneration of **A**cademic **P**hysicians



Join our community today!
Register at www.BNGAP.org/registration

