

NMA Postgraduate Section Announces Scholarship Winner

The National Medical Association Postgraduate Section represents the medical students, residents, fellows, and newly practicing physicians within the organization. This year, the section sponsored a scholarship and essay contest for 2006-2007. The winner will receive paid travel and accommodations for 4 days and 3 nights during the NMA Annual Convention 2007 in Honolulu, HI. The essay contest was open to any current member of the section and judged based on creativity, feasibility, and quality. We received submissions from all levels of training and from across the country and congratulate all participants. As our section's first essay contest, we are proud to announce the 2007 award winner, Vikisha Fripp, MD.

Dr. Vikisha Fripp was born in Charleston, South Carolina and moved to Decatur, Georgia at age seven where she received the majority of her primary education. She did a combined B.S/ M.D. program at Fisk University and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. During her medical school career she received many honors and was inducted into the medical honor society, *Alpha Omega Alpha*. Next she completed her General Surgery training at Howard University Hospital, graduating as 'Chief Resident of the Year'. She then ventured north to New York City to complete her Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery training at Cornell University.

Dr. Fripp is currently in group private practice in the Greater Atlanta area. Her interests within Plastic Surgery include body sculpting, cosmetic and reconstructive breast surgery, post-Bariatric cosmetic surgery and non-surgical skin care. She believes Plastic Surgery affords the surgeon and patient the opportunity to sculpt individual creations. She has been active in the National Medical Association and currently serves as the Postgraduate Liaison to Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

The topic for the essay was addressing membership recruitment and retention within the National Medical Association. Her winning essay emphasized the need to recruit her colleagues, current and past leaders of the SNMA, and current graduating students. She identified many creative methods to recruitment including website use, listerv, and mass mailings. Although she identified "multiple factors involved in this problem and several solutions that can be implemented to recruit and retain postgraduate members to the National Medical Association...", Dr. Fripp wrote "[t]he most important and rate limiting factor is that the governing body has to be open to change and incorporate the ideas of the new physicians in order to have an NMA for years to come." The leadership of the Postgraduate Section looks forward to continuing to advocate and recruit the energy of its membership, including Dr. Fripp.

For more information, please contact, NMA Postgraduate Section Chair, Kara L. Odom, MD, MPH, at nmapostgradchair@yahoo.com.