

# Student National Medical Association

Saint Louis University School of Medicine



## Mission Statement

Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is committed to supporting current and future underrepresented minority medical students, addressing the needs of underserved communities, and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.

SNMA chapters based at allopathic and osteopathic medical schools throughout the nation, and some colleges, implement our programs and activities locally. SNMA programs are designed to serve the health needs of underserved communities and communities of color. In addition, SNMA is dedicated both to ensuring that medical education and services are culturally sensitive to the needs of diverse populations and to increasing the number of African-American, Latino, and other students of color entering and completing medical school.

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How SNMA is involved in the community & in student life

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M.D., OB/GYN

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## A Letter from the Co-Presidents



We are both ecstatic that our school year has gotten off to such a wonderful start! As a chapter we try to gear all of our activities and community service opportunities to align with the mission of SNMA. We strive to provide health services to underserved communities, ensure that medical education and services are culturally sensitive to the needs of diverse populations, and increase ethnic and cultural diversity within the medical field.

We have a variety of wonderful events rapidly approaching that we encourage everyone to be a part of. Our impact on the community is dependent on the help and support of each individual within the medical community! Feel free to email either one of us if you have any questions or want to learn more about SNMA. You can also visit our Facebook page, our national website, or read about us in the St. Louis American newspaper.



Visit our new website: [www.slusomsnma.wordpress.com](http://www.slusomsnma.wordpress.com)

2012-2013 SNMA Co-Presidents  
Tiffany Adams & Arielle Randolph

### Study Break!

#### Moolah Theatre & Lounge

3821 Lindell Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63108  
*Relax and enjoy a movie on the comfy sofas at Moolah!*

#### J Spain's Waffles & Wings

1901 Washington Ave,  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
*Breakfast the Southern way in downtown St. Louis.*

#### Fork & Stix

549 Rosedale Ave.  
St. Louis MO 63112  
*Northern Thai cuisine: Authentic and delicious Thai food at a price fit for a student's wallet.*

#### The Other Wes Moore

by Wes Moore  
*Two men with the same name. One goes to prison, the other achieves success. It discusses the importance of one's environment.*

### Upcoming Events for Black History Month

- 1 **Documentary Film: *More Than A Month***  
February 8 @ 12pm  
LRC A
- 2 **Kidney Early Evaluation Program Screening**  
February 9 @ 7am  
Shalom Church  
5491 N. Highway 67  
Florissant, MO 63034
- 3 **Documentary Film: *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth***  
February 11 @ 12pm  
LRC A
- 4 **African Dance Workshop**  
February 19  
Grupo Atlántico
- 5 ***The Culture of Medicine and the History of SNMA***  
Dr. Denise Hooks-Anderson and Dr. Reynaldo Anderson  
February 21 @ 12pm  
LRC A
- 6 **What's Wrong and Why Did It Go Wrong?**  
***The History of Black America and Health Disparities in St. Louis***  
Dr. Michael Railey  
February 22 @ 12pm  
LRC B

## What has SNMA been up to?

### Dr. Linda Baker

On November 26, 2012, Dr. Linda Baker gave a presentation on *"The Changing Role of the Physician in Rural and Underserved Areas."* Dr. Baker is an expert in the field of Community Health and Public Service, and is the former Secretary of the Department of Human Services



for the state of Illinois. She currently teaches a medical leadership course for fourth-year medical students at Southern Illinois

School of Medicine. Her presentation centered around the Affordable Care Act, its effects on the practice of medicine, and the concerns of sustainability of healthcare in this new model. SNMA is thankful for Dr. Baker's time and is glad to keep the concerns of underserved populations at the forefront.

### Community Health Coalition

SNMA, in collaboration with Family Medicine and Greatest Gift interest groups, created the Community Health Coalition (CHC) in 2011. CHC is a service program under the professional supervision of SLU SNMA faculty advisor, Dr. Michael Railey. The primary objective of the CHC is to increase Saint Louis University School of Medicine's (SLUSOM) involvement in the community by educating members of an underserved population. In cooperation with Schnuck's, a Midwestern regional grocery store chain, the CHC provides information about nutrition and healthy lifestyles to members of the community. Volunteer students also conduct free



blood pressure screenings and provide an opportunity for individuals to register for organ donation.

The previous CHC events were very well received by the community and successful in educating local residents. The CHC events for the spring are scheduled to take place on Saturdays: February 23rd and April 27th. Given the ongoing success, SNMA will be expanding the program to include smoking cessation information, and head & neck screenings at future events. We are pleased with the increasing impact of the CHC and encourage students to continue to volunteer.

### Dr. Kenneth G. Poole

#### *AIDS in America: Forgotten But Not Gone*

During AIDS Week SNMA and HIV Task Force hosted Dr. Kenneth G. Poole to address the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in clinical practice. Dr. Poole is an Internal Medicine Physician at Mercy Clinic Internal Medicine in Clayton. On Tuesday, December 4th, Dr. Poole gave a presentation *"AIDS in America: Forgotten but not Gone."*

During his presentation, Dr. Poole gave insight into the state of HIV/AIDS in the community and the effects of HIV/AIDS on the minority population, noting the rise of infections in the female African American population.



He also discussed common things that affect people living with HIV/AIDS, such as barriers in access to care and competing needs of patients. In his discussion Dr. Poole stressed the importance of candidness in reference to patient compliance and also ways to reach out to the HIV/AIDS patient population. He discussed helping to manage their disease, but also underscoring the gravity of HIV in the conversation with his patients. SNMA was thrilled to have Dr. Poole speak on his experience and we hope our work will continue to raise awareness and improve health within the community.

### **Bridging the Gap: SLU/WashU Social**

St. Louis, Missouri is a very unique city, hosting two top medical school programs within a three-mile radius. This geographic phenomenon provides great opportunities for medical students to venture beyond their own school and interact with medical students and faculty from various backgrounds with different perspectives on studying medicine in a university setting. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the SNMA chapters at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and Washington University School of Medicine recently hosted a social event at SOHO restaurant and lounge to facilitate networking and relationship building between the two schools. The event was very well received and especially beneficial for minority students who are limited in their representation on either campus. SLU SNMA is grateful for the students that were able to attend and look forward to more inter-campus events in the near future.

## **In Celebration Of Black History Month**

**Dr. Alexa Canady** (1950-Present) was a pediatric neurosurgeon, who became the first African American woman neurosurgery resident in the United States at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Canady graduated *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Medical School, and completed a surgical internship at Yale University. After residency, she worked at Children's Hospital of Michigan, where, at age 36, she became Chief of the Neurosurgery Department. Dr. Canady later spent her academic career at Wayne State University, where she held the positions of Professor and Vice-Chairwoman of the Department of Neurosurgery.

**William Augustus Hinton** (1883-1959) was a bacteriologist, pathologist and educator. He was the first African American professor of Bacteriology and Immunology at Harvard University and an internationally renowned researcher. Furthermore, Dr. Hinton was a pioneer in the field of Public Health through the creation of an accurate test for Syphilis, which was then used in the United States Public Health Service.

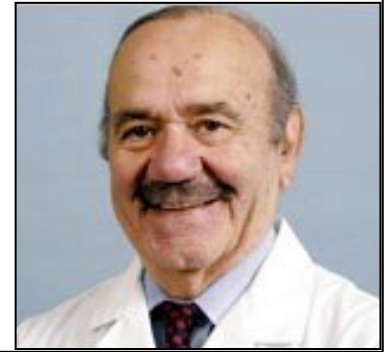
**Dr. Charles Henry Turner** (1867-1923) was the first African American to receive a graduate degree from the University of Cincinnati. In 1907, he became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. A noted authority on the behavior of insects, he was the first researcher to prove that insects can hear and can distinguish pitch. In addition, he first discovered that cockroaches can learn by trial and error and that honeybees can see color.

## **Upcoming Events for February/March**

- 1 **Community Health Coalition**  
**February 23 @ 10am**  
**Schnuck's**  
**3431 Union Blvd**  
**St. Louis, MO 63115**
- 2 **Diversity Talent Showcase**  
**March 4 @ 12pm**  
**LRC A**
- 3 **Pre-Medical Association Mentoring**  
**March 11 @ 4pm**  
**Southern Illinois University: Edwardsville**

## Physician Spotlight: Dr. Roland A. Pattillo

*Dr. Roland Pattillo is an Obstetrics and Gynecology physician who specializes in Gynecologic Oncology. He is the third African American to graduate from SLU School of Medicine and the first African American to complete a medical fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Pattillo serves as the Director of Gynecologic Oncology at Morehouse School of Medicine, and also chairs the annual HeLa Conference at Morehouse School of Medicine. In addition, he is a recipient of the Medallion of the International Trophoblast Society for his stem cell research.*



### **Why did you decide to go into medicine?**

*“It’s one of those stories of your parents and Christmas toys. When I was seven years old I was given a doctor’s set, and from that day on I wanted to be a doctor. (laughing) It’s not very profound, but I used the stethoscope to examine everything in sight. I was haunting everyone with my stethoscope at seven years old. Not very profound, but that’s the truth.”*

### **How many other black students were there during your studies at SLUSOM?**

*There were actually two blacks in my class. I went to Xavier [University] for pre-Medicine in New Orleans, and the first and second blacks were both from Xavier, and I was the third. There was one female, who was actually a senior when I was a freshman.*

### **How did that affect your medical experience?**

*I’ve had interesting experiences. Sometimes the things that you don’t know and refuse to acknowledge, some might say it’s living unrealistically, but others might say it’s living without allowing your circumstances [Brown v. Board of Education, Little Rock, Arkansas, Civil Rights Act, etc.] to influence or to integrate your status.*

### **What was the most challenging part of medical school? (How did you overcome?)**

*When you’re privileged to be at a medical school, and be taught by a Nobel-laureate, you*

*stand in awe of those who go before you. Dr. Doisy was my professor for biochemistry, whose story at SLU is very well known, so I prized very highly the opportunity to pursue an education in which the Jesuits made possible. ...The stories that come out that era are the inhumanities that existed with regard to segregation. I had grown up in Louisiana, and even though you’re a medical student, I was elected from my class to represent SLU at the Southern Medical Association, and at that time, blacks were not housed in the same housing as other members, but I simply did and got away with it (laughing).*

### **What was the most rewarding part of medical school?**

*What has impressed me more, is the thing that impressed me first, which was the pluripotentiality, the capacity for development, and growth, and discovery that evolves from birth, life, and death. So OB/GYN, was a fitting area, at the beginning of life, and then cancer...the first cancer of man is trophoblastic cancer, choriocarcinoma is the first cancer to be cured. It is cured by methotrexate. So it’s persistence, and long-term goals, which have to be established early on, coupled with the daily short-term goals that start off your day, everyday...it is a privilege to be able to continue out. I will be 80 years old in a couple months, and I am able to continue functioning with the good Lord’s help.”*

**What made you decide to go into OB/GYN?**

*I had the good fortune of being taught by the professor of chemistry who was affected by Dr. Gey at Hopkins, by Henrietta Lacks, and it was the drug hydroxyurea that's used for sickle cell disease... all of that impressed me. I was awed by it, and continued to pursue studies in growth & differentiation, that led me into OB/GYN, the beginning of life... I'm a gynecological oncologist, so cancer chemotherapy is one of the things that I do, and have done in the stem cell line, which is derived from a cancer actually of the placenta; of the trophoblastic cells - a stem cell of the placenta, so it's fascinating.*

**How has your perspective changed from being a student in medicine to now being a professor of medicine?**

*It is such a gradual growth process over years that you evolve and you grow as a result of the people around you. You ought to be forever grateful to those who have assisted you and made it possible for you to be able to pursue your goals and objectives. It's never been done alone, never by yourself. ...There have been obstacles you've had to sustain and persist in order to overcome, but you've also had to recognize and be gracious and express the gratitude; and by seeing in others, the same potential that you have been given and you have been blessed with: the intelligence and circumstances and supportive family, [the] sacrifices, so that you might be able to sustain and continue.*

*Realizing your responsibility to share with others the roots that you have been fortunate enough to be able to pursue is a responsibility that you have to society and to yourself. ...Knowing history and reading extensively and being open and maintaining inclusivity rather than exclusivity will [help] you be able to meet and deal with the challenges of the future.*

**When you were in medical school, you mentioned being one of the only African**

**American students & even now African American physicians are rare. How and why do you think, or not think, this has changed from when you were in medical school?**

**What is your perspective on how progress can be made in the future?**

*It's short memories and the belief by some that affirmative action has already done enough, but as you observe there is a paucity of minorities that have the opportunity that the majority population has in either obtaining medical education or pursuing the sciences.*

*...Issues of the past that have involved injustices and are basis for the moral concerns that we have about these injustices. They continue to haunt us. We as a society have an obligation to continue to work toward eliminating [these injustices] and to achieving the goals [of] Dr. Martin Luther King: his vision and dream that one day one would be recognized not by the color of one's skin, but by the integrity of one's character.*

**[Regarding the large gap between African American women & men in medicine] What can we do to encourage students to pursue a career in medicine?**

*We have the Vivien Thomas Institute here at Morehouse. Vivien Thomas was a black male at Johns Hopkins who was the technician of Dr. Blalock who did the first blue baby operation with the cardiologist Helen Taussig who diagnosed the blue baby. Vivien Thomas was from New Orleans and he wanted to be a doctor but that was back in the 40s. Then he moved to Vanderbilt in Tennessee and when Dr. Blalock was summoned from Vanderbilt to Johns Hopkins to become head of the cardiovascular program at Johns Hopkins, Vivien Thomas came with him and he was the technician that actually performed the operation on dogs and designed much of the instruments. ...The Vivien Thomas Institute here at Morehouse is one that gives high school students opportunities to work in the summer alongside researchers and*

*particularly male - who are in the high minority as you say there are more African American females that have overcome the burden of the black male which still relates today to what is called driving while black.*

**To follow up with that, how do you avert this burden of black males feeling or being labeled as less than qualified?**

*... To be able to provide opportunities along affirmative action lines, while at the same time avoiding the pitfalls of the society and peers regarding those who are given assistance as being unfairly given these opportunities. But, the need still exists, and they exist because the equality has not been achieved, and stereotypes are still used to decide acceptance of entry into programs... stoicism, persistence, resilience are all of the things that you pray to be able to have... so reading a lot and praying a lot is what it takes to meet these challenges.*

**Could you tell us a little about the annual HeLa Women's Health Conference that you chair?**

(Note: Henrietta Lacks was an African American woman whose cervical cancer cells were cultured and immortalized, without her permission or the consent of her family, to become the HeLa cell line that is used for research all over the world. Her cells have been used to investigate the nature of cancer, AIDS, gene mapping, the effects of toxic substances and radiation, the effects of sex hormones on cancer cells, and a plethora of other scientific pursuits.)

*It's a CME (Continuing Medical Education) conference that I established here at Morehouse 18 years ago. We brought the [Lacks] family from Baltimore to Atlanta for the first HeLa conference, and we've been bringing them back each year. The conference continues to focus on advances in medicine through the use of HeLa cells, and offshoots from it. ...But it has dealt with all matters of reproductive endocrinology (or biology), cancer*

*chemotherapy, and environmental factors, over the years, each year.... using the basic cell lines in studying the progress of over 60,000 publications; we've made new discoveries using the HeLa cells in the period of time since it was established more than 60 years ago; some 17,000 patents have been issued, and Nobel prizes (i.e. HPV 18 in HeLa cells, and HPV16 in CaSki cells were the basis of the Nobel Prize awarded for the work of Zurhausen).*

**What advice would you give to future physicians, particularly minority students that have or may have experiences similar to yours?**

*I think that the single most important thing that I can say is: have lofty goals. Don't give up on them. Don't fail to use the opportunity to develop a pipeline that will go along with you. Be supportive, [Be] of the good conscience, things that are expected of the person whose head is screwed on right. Realize that the obstacles are going to be there for you, but ... how you overcome [the] challenge of an elephant is one bite at a time.*

*Those are the thoughts that I leave with you.*

## *Labor of Love*

As an undergraduate student at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Alishka Elliott was introduced to the concept of a doula; a person who provides physical and emotional support, advocacy, and comfort measures to a woman during childbirth. Some of the associated benefits include: decreased likelihood of medical interventions and C-sections, better maternal-infant interactions, less postpartum depression and anxiety, and overall greater satisfaction with their birth experience.

Given her lifelong desire to be a doctor, the opportunity to have direct patient contact while also providing a valuable service made the idea of training as a doula very appealing to Alishka. She received the doula training and went on to volunteer as a doula throughout the latter two years of her undergraduate career. In addition to being a doula, Alishka recently worked as the Health Coordinator at a local domestic violence shelter where she learned how to work with clients facing issues regarding safety, self-esteem, life skills, health, and the psyche. These experiences have inspired Alishka to start the program, *Labor of Love*, providing doula services to local victims of domestic violence.

This semester she will be doing a pilot of the program, under the Service, Advocacy and Learning Community (SALC): Vulnerable Populations umbrella. The faculty mentor for the program is Dr. David Schneider, who has done extensive research on the adverse health effects of domestic violence and women's health and is a co-founder of the Academy of Violence and Abuse. Dr. Fred Rottnek will also be involved, providing guidance as the SALC faculty advisor. This pilot program will be in collaboration with a local domestic violence shelter, allowing medical students, and eventually pre-medical students, to be trained in domestic violence along with doula training. Once trained, students will be able to serve as doulas for pregnant women in shelters throughout St. Louis City and County.



## Alishka Elliott

Alishka Elliot is a first-year medical student at Saint Louis University School of Medicine. She graduated from University of North Carolina with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.



# Annual Medical Education Conference

*SNMA in Action: Stepping up to the plate, swinging for success*

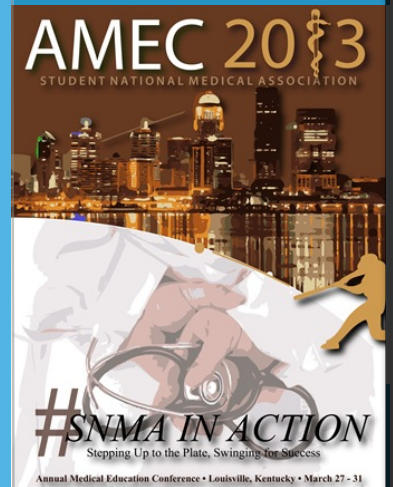
SNMA will be having its Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) this year in Louisville, KY, from March 27th – March 31st. The AMEC is designed to empower attendees with the tools needed to continue performing activities, which positively impact students and communities across the country. Students are given the opportunity to meet and interact with fellow medical students through various activities and workshops. The conference is a great opportunity to network, learn, and have fun during a well-deserved break from the classroom. Some of the features include, but are not limited to:

- A dynamic hall for peer and professional networking
- Insightful and provocative workshops with inspirational speakers
- Board of Directors Banquet and Ball, which celebrates the hard work and achievements of SNMA members nationwide

For more information about the conference, visit [www.snma.org](http://www.snma.org)

SLU SNMA encourages all members to register and attend!

Student National Medical Association



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