

TEN THINGS to know about

AΩA

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

1. **Since 1902, the AΩA mission and motto has remained steadfast and true, and been a time-honored tradition throughout the profession of medicine:**

- » Recognizing high educational achievement;
- » Honoring gifted teaching;
- » Encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community;
- » Supporting the ideals of humanism; and
- » Promoting service to others.

"Be worthy to serve the suffering."

2. **AΩA provides more than \$2 million annually to medical school students, faculty, residents, fellows, and private practice physicians through its 13 programs, awards, fellowships, and grants:**

- » Excellence in Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in Medical Education and Patient Care Award
- » Fellow in Leadership
- » Visiting Professorships
- » Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award
- » Professionalism Award
- » Postgraduate Fellowship
- » Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship
- » Helen H. Glaser Student Essay Award
- » Medical Student Service Leadership Project
- » *The Pharos* Poetry Award
- » Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award
- » Robert H. Moser Essay Award
- » Administrative Recognition Award

3. AΩA is committed to improving **diversity, equity, and inclusion** based on evidence that involvement of talented individuals from different backgrounds benefits patient care, population health, education, research, and scientific discovery.

AΩA values a diverse, fair, and equitable work and learning environment for all. It supports the medical profession in its work to achieve a welcoming, diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment in teaching, learning, caring for patients, and collaboration.

AΩA advocates for diversity in all of its forms – identity, cultural, geographic, experiential, race, ethnicity, gender, age, economic and social status, physical abilities, aptitude, and religious beliefs, political beliefs, and other ideologies.

AΩA is committed to working with its members, Chapters, medical schools, residency programs, and health organizations to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion within the organization and throughout the medical profession.

4. **In 2020, the AΩA Board of Directors amended the Society's Constitution to:**
 - » Recognize in the election of new members the highest levels of excellence in physicianship—competence, character, caring, trustworthiness, leadership, professionalism, scholarship, and service, and to support elections that are inclusive, diverse, and equitable;
 - » Ensure all third- and fourth-year medical students are eligible for nomination to the Society;
 - » Increase the percentage of students elected annually from a class to 20 percent; residents and fellows up to 25 physicians; faculty up to 10 individuals; and alumni up to 5 individuals;
 - » Provide more flexibility to Chapters and value the diversities that contribute to high quality patient care, leadership, service, and scholarship;
 - » Embrace and respect differences and foster creativity in how Chapters and schools celebrate students who contribute in these important ways;
 - » Maintain the attributes of AΩA – academic achievement, research, education, leadership, humanism, professionalism and service;
 - » Ensure the high standards of medical professionalism are adhered to by requiring that nominees have never had a substantiated professionalism issue;
 - » Ensure transparency in the nominations and elections process; and
 - » Commit to an unbiased, inclusive nomination and election process.

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5. AΩA is committed to **physician leadership** and **medical professionalism**, developing today's physicians into tomorrow's leaders through a year-long Fellowship that develops leaders who are inspiring, insightful, engaging, effective, and humble. Leaders who understand that physicians have a unique understanding of both the physician and patient mindset. The Fellowship is based on the principles that great leadership is experiential and is developed through leadership education, training, experience, mentoring, coaching, practice, and reflection. Leadership that is effective, sustainable, and based on core professional and personal values, and a commitment to being a servant leader.
6. Since 1938, AΩA has published the preeminent, peer-reviewed, quarterly medical humanities journal **The Pharos**, with an online index, and local library, of articles for every issue dating back to the first one.
7. AΩA is one of the only interdisciplinary honor medical societies, **accepting members from all disciplines, practices, specialties, and sub-specialties of medicine**. Membership includes representation from private practice, academic medicine, active and retired military and Veterans, public health, laboratory research, and other careers in medicine.
8. AΩA has **136 Chapters** in medical schools across the United States, in Puerto Rico, and in Lebanon.
9. Since its inception, AΩA has elected **more than 205,000 members**, with more than 130,000 who are active today.
10. **The AΩA National Office** is extremely efficient and effective, with 6 staff conducting the work of the office and producing *The Pharos*. As a 501(c)(3) non-political non-profit, AΩA strives to maintain its fiscal responsibility to its members by ensuring that 100% of annual dues (\$75 or less) is returned to the medical community through its 13 programs, awards, fellowships, grants, and *The Pharos*.

For more information, visit the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society web site at www.alphaomegaalpha.org.