

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society announces new Executive Director

The Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AΩA) Board of Directors has named Bradley E. Barth, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, its new Executive Director, effective December 1, 2023. Dr. Barth will be the seventh Executive Director of the Society since its inception in 1902.



Bradley E. Barth, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

Dr. Barth is an At-Large member of the AΩA Board of Directors and has been involved with AΩA for more than a decade, first serving as the Chapter Councilor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (KUSM) for seven years, and on the Councilors' Task Force for six of those years. As a member of the Councilors' Task Force, he was instrumental in working with Councilors and Board members to update the AΩA Constitution to recognize in the election of new members the highest levels of excellence, character, trustworthiness, leadership, professionalism, scholarship, and service, and to support elections that are inclusive, diverse, and equitable. The AΩA Board of Directors accepted the Councilors' Task Force recommendations and amended the AΩA Constitution in October 2020.

While a Councilor at KUSM, Dr. Barth increased the number of newly elected AΩA students traditionally underrepresented in medicine from 6 percent to 24 percent, a trend that has continued since he stepped down as Councilor in 2022. His work on diversity, equity, and inclusion at KUSM has been used as an example of best practice for numerous other AΩA Chapters across the country.

"The AΩA Board of Directors is delighted that Dr. Barth has accepted the Board's offer to be the next Executive Director of AΩA," said Holly Humphrey, MD, MACP, President, AΩA Board of Directors. "While we will miss Dr. Byyny, his leadership has provided a solid foundation for Dr. Barth to advance our Society into the future."

"I would like to thank the Search Committee and Dr. Steven Wartman, Immediate Past President of AΩA, for their guidance and stewardship as we worked through the selection process for the new Executive Director," added Lynn Cleary, MD, AΩA At-Large Board member, and Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee. "The Committee received numerous applications, interviewed many outstanding applicants, and offers its unanimous support to Dr. Barth as the next AΩA Executive Director."

Dr. Barth grew up in rural Kansas, and graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in biology. He went to medical school on a Navy Health Professions Scholarship, and was inducted in AΩA in 1994 as a student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He is an Emergency Medicine physician having completed an internship in internal medicine at the Naval Medical Center of San Diego, and a residency in emergency medicine at the University of California San Francisco Fresno. Following his internship and flight training, Dr. Barth served as the Flight Surgeon for the Black Stallions of Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FOUR, based out of Sigonella, Sicily. During his Naval career, he received the Navy Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the NATO Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Overseas Service Ribbon, and was named the Atlantic Fleet Flight Surgeon of the Year.

"Dr. Barth embodies what it means to 'Be Worthy to Serve the Suffering,'" said Richard L. Byyny, MD, FACP, Executive Director, AΩA. "I look forward to working with him as I transition out of the role of Executive Director, and into solely being the Editor of *The Pharos*."

"I am honored to have been selected to lead AΩA, and appreciate our 120-years of celebrating excellence. I take seriously the importance of ensuring that the AΩA of the future continues flourishing as an inclusive, equitable, and diverse organization," said Dr. Barth. "I look forward to working with the AΩA Board of Directors, Chapter Councilors, Members, and the National Office Staff, as I transition into this new role."