

# National and Chapter news

## AQA announces 2025 cohort of AQA Fellows in Leadership

**A**lpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society is pleased to announce its 2025 cohort of Richard L. Byyny Fellows in Leadership. This year's cohort marks the 12th year of the program which, to date, has included 37 Fellows.

AQA is excited to announce a new partnership with the Kern National Network for Flourishing in Medicine (KNN) which has allowed for the addition of a fourth Fellow to its 2025 cohort. Through the partnership, KNN worked collaboratively with AQA and the AQA Leadership Committee to review submissions and select a candidate who best fits the ideals of KNN as well as the leadership trajectory, qualifications, and successes set forth by AQA in its prior cohorts.

For more information on the AQA Richard L. Byyny Fellow in Leadership program, and to learn more about the 2025 Fellows and all previous 33 Fellows, visit [alphaomegaalpha.org/programs/fellow-in-leadership](http://alphaomegaalpha.org/programs/fellow-in-leadership).

### **Susan Ball, MD, MPH, MS KNN Fellow in Leadership**



Dr. Ball (AQA, City University of New York School of Medicine, 2025, Faculty) is Clinical Professor at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Medicine, and Professor Emeritus at Weill Cornell Medicine. She has spent more than 20 years caring for patients with HIV in New York City, spending most

of her time caring for patients in the clinical setting.

Ball graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in Art History in 1981. She matriculated to Université Catholique de Lille, Faculté de Médecine (Loos, France), then transferred to the Medical College of Pennsylvania where she earned her MD. After completing her Internal Medicine residency at the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center, she earned a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Dr. Ball also holds a Master of Science in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University, which she completed in 2011. Her capstone project for the degree was the completion of a memoir entitled "Voices in the Band," which chronicles the arc of HIV/AIDS in the

1990s, as experienced by her patients, her colleagues, and herself, documenting a decade wherein an AIDS diagnosis transformed from being a death sentence to being a chronic, controllable illness.

She is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and a graduate of the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Educators in Health Professions where her project focused on humanism in medicine. She has received the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, and the inaugural Parker Small Humanitarian award at Dartmouth College.

Dr. Ball's experiential leadership project, "Enhancing the Humanities and Humanism curriculum at the CUNY School of Medicine," will focus on developing accessible, adaptable methods for medical students to gain exposure, awareness, and understanding of the ways humanism and the humanities inform and enhance the practice of medicine. Her mentors for the program and project will be Rita Charon, MD, PhD, Bernard Schoenberg Professor of Social Medicine and Professor of Medicine Chair, Medical Humanities and Ethics Executive Director, Columbia Narrative Medicine, Columbia School of Professional Studies; Lisa Staiano-Coico, PhD (AQA, City University of New York School of Medicine, 2024, Faculty), microbiologist, and the former president, City College of the City University of New York; Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey, EdD (AQA, City University of New York School of Medicine, 2024, Faculty), assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, City College of New York; and Jeff Fritz, PhD, MS, MATL, MACE, associate director for learning and partnership development, Kern National Network for Flourishing in Medicine.

### **Nicole Christian, MD, MSCS, FACS**



Dr. Christian (AQA, University of Colorado School of Medicine, 2011) is Associate Professor, Surgery-Surgical Oncology, the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and Breast Surgical Oncology, University of Colorado Diane O'Connor Thompson Breast Center.

She received an undergraduate degree in History of Science from Harvard University in 2007, and her medical degree from the

University of Colorado School of Medicine in 2011. She completed a fellowship in breast surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

At the University of Colorado, Dr. Christian designed a family/medical leave policy for the General Surgery program, which evolved into leading the development of a University of Colorado GME Toolkit for creating tailored, evidence-based family/medical leave programs compliant with national, state, and board-specific regulations for all ACGME and non-ACGME programs. She has served as an invited panelist at the Association of Program Directors in Surgery panel, and as a speaker for the Association of Women Surgeons Career and Leadership Professional Education Lecture (SCAPELS) series.

Dr. Christian's experiential leadership project, "Integration of a CLER Subcommittee Revision to Improve Performance and Address Institutional Accreditation Requirements," will focus on the intersection between the learner (GME), the clinical learning environment (CLE/hospital), and patient care for the six ACGME core areas: Patient Safety, Health Care Quality, Teaming, Supervision, Well-Being, and Professionalism. Her mentors for the program and project will be Tom Gronow, CEO, University of Colorado Hospital; Marco DelChiaro, MD, division chief, Surgical Oncology, and clinical director, Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Program; Geoffrey Connors, MD, associate dean, Graduate Medical Education, and Designated Institutional Official, and associate professor of medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Mark Nehler, MD (AΩA, University of Colorado School of Medicine, 2003, Faculty), program director, Surgery Residency, and vice chair, Education, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Jay McGregor, MD, MBA, FACS (AΩA, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, 2010), vice president medical affairs, Allina Health, Minneapolis, Minnesota, assistant professor, surgery, University of Colorado School of Medicine, and a 2022 graduate of the AΩA Richard L. Byyny Fellow in Leadership program; and Sarah Tevis, MD (AΩA, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, 2010), co-director, Diane O'Connor Thompson Breast Center, section chief, Breast Surgical Oncology, associate professor, Surgery, University of Colorado, and a 2024 AΩA Richard L. Byyny Fellow in Leadership.

### Angelike Liappis, MD



Dr. Liappis (AΩA, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, 1999), is professor, medicine, and microbiology, immunology, and tropical medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine, and attending physician, infectious diseases, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington, DC, and co-Councilor, George Washington University Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

She serves as the Medical Director for the Washington, DC, Veterans Affairs Medical Center Antimicrobial Stewardship Program. As Lead Clinician for the Capitol Healthcare Veterans Integrated Service Network Antimicrobial Stewardship Clinical Collaborative, she directs the Antimicrobial Stewardship Elective for Internal Medicine residents and is the co-Chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship and Patient Safety Committees at the DC VAMC.

Dr. Liappis received her undergraduate degree from George Mason University, and her medical degree from George Washington University School of Medicine. She is a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Dr. Liappis' experiential leadership project, "Engaging regional VA Antimicrobial Steward Leads in building a leadership coalition and national community of practice," will focus on the importance of, and need for communities of practice. Her mentors are Charles Faselis, MD (AΩA, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, 2004, Faculty), chief of staff, VA Washington DC health care; and Jill Catalanotti, MD (AΩA, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, 2015, Faculty), associate dean, clinical public health and population health, vice chair, academic affairs, and professor, medicine and health policy and management.

**David Caba Molina, MD, MS, MPH**



Dr. Caba Molina (AQA, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, 2023, Faculty) is Division Chief of Surgical Oncology, Riverside University Health System, and Associate Program Director, Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship, Loma Linda University. As chair of the Cancer Committee, he

has been integral to driving institutional change, leading accreditation efforts with the American College of Surgeons Committee on Cancer (ACS-CoC), and ensuring that the hospital meets the highest standards in cancer care delivery.

He received his medical degree from Universidad Anáhuac School of Medicine in Mexico, and completed his residency training at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and subsequently completed fellowship training

in surgical oncology at University of Chicago Hospitals. He holds a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Graduate School of Public Health. Dr. Caba Molina is a collaborator and investigator for multiple cancer research initiatives in basic science, and is involved with clinical trials and translational studies focused on hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal malignancies.

Dr. Caba Molina's experiential leadership project will be to, "Improve ECOG Performance Evaluation in Spanish-Speaking Patients at a Safety Net Hospital: A Leadership Approach with Metrics for Clinical Improvement." His mentors for the program and his project include Alexandra Clark, MD (AQA, Albany Medical College, 1999) chief medical officer, Riverside University Health System, and a 2021 graduate of the AQA Richard L. Byyny Fellow in Leadership program; and Mark Reeves, MD, PhD, FACS (AQA, Loma Linda University School of Medicine, 1992) director, Cancer Center, professor, surgery, Loma Linda University.

## Upcoming Submission Deadlines

October 14, 2025	AQA Professionalism Award
October 21, 2025	Robert H. Moser Essay Award
November 4, 2025	<i>The Pharos</i> Poetry Award
December 2, 2025	Helen H. Glaser Student Essay Award
January 20, 2026	Carolyn L. Kuckein Student Research Fellowship
February 17, 2026	Medical Student Service Leadership Project Grant
March 10, 2026	Richard L. Byyny Fellow in Leadership
April 2026 TBD	Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award
May 26, 2026	Postgraduate Fellowship
Ongoing	Chapter Support Award
Ongoing	Visiting Professorship
Ongoing	Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award