



## Chapter President's Address: Our path forward

*A reflection of 2021 Spring Semester and a forecast for Fall 2021*

To our Tulane SNMA Membership, Alumni, National Medical Association Partners, and all Physician Mentors:

At the beginning of this year, our 2021-2022 Tulane SNMA Executive Board set a goal to “Increase the visibility and impact of SNMA in the City of New Orleans and at Tulane University.” We worked tirelessly in the 2021 Spring semester to provide *sixteen* unique educational, entertaining, and service-oriented events to our students, faculty, and community. To name a few, we successfully organized:

- A 3-day Black History Month celebration that averaged 32 attendees each day.
- Medical school admission panels at Tulane and Dillard undergraduate universities.
- Semester-long service opportunities at the Second Harvest Food Bank and the Grace at the Greenlight organization.
- A nationally-funded health and wellness supply and education drive for women in the local New Orleans Women and Children’s Shelter.
- An advisory panel session for our 3rd-year students on how to succeed on their clinical rotations.
- A match panel to prepare our 4th-year medical students for residency applications and interviews.
- A graduation celebration event for our recently graduated 4th-year medical students.
- A socially distanced game night with Louisiana State University-New Orleans SNMA.
- A lapel pin sale that generated \$615 for our Chapter.

Without a doubt, we took these steps to increase our impact and visibility through the culture of excellence, collaboration, and dedication we share as SNMA members. Despite the pandemic and unquestionable hurdles in medical education, our leadership team was thankful to receive support from our membership, mentors, and each other.

As we prepare for the upcoming Fall 2021 semester, our team has set a new goal: **To tighten the bonds of companionship and community within our SNMA Chapter.** We set this goal to invent a future where 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year SNMA members form strong, lasting relationships with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. We envision a future for our SNMA where our subcommittees and events overflow with member participation and enthusiasm. It is our hope that each SNMA member would deeply understand how valuable their presence, ideas and effort are to our collective success as one body.

At a time when our University is under scrutiny for failing to uphold the values of diversity, equity and inclusion it promises, it is important that we, as SNMA, show up for each other and offer tremendous support that would translate into a powerful alumni network in the near future. Let us rise together this fall to mentor our first-year students, offer encouragement to our second-year students, affirm the diligence of our third-year students and applaud the incredible hard work of our fourth-year students.

As we transition into in-person gatherings this fall, let us create a rich SNMA culture even as we strive to succeed in all our individual endeavors.

Sincerely,



Jonathan K. Allotey, MS  
2021- 2022 Chapter President