

Medical Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting
April 17, 2019

Members Present: Ajjai Alva, Alina Haque, Stephanie Chervin, Soumya Rangarajan, Rishindra Reddy (Chair), Marschall Runge

Guests Present: None

Presenters: Roland Alexander Blackwood, Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics;
OHEI Faculty Lead for the Leaders and Learners Pathways Program

Topic of Discussion: Office of Health Equity & Inclusion Pathways Update

Dr. Reddy opened the meeting and the minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting were approved.

Dr. Blackwood provided an overview of the Pathways Program which is an initiative to establish an academic pipeline in medicine for underrepresented minorities (URM) and disadvantaged individuals. The goal is to reach out and encourage students early (grades K-12) in order to increase the number of highly-qualified URM in academic medicine. The ultimate goal is to bring those students here and produce U-M Medical School alumni.

Dr. Blackwood reviewed various data and metrics related to URM in medical schools. The following was discussed or noted by the group:

- Over a 40-year span (1979-2019), there has only been a 2% increase in URM medical school student population nationwide while the URM has increased to 30% of the population.
- 50% of URM in medical schools are foreign born; American born URM rates are 1/6 the level they should be.
- The URM at U-M Medical School is 13% (combined demographics of the incoming classes of 2010-2013).

Several methods for early intervention were reviewed and discussed including:

- Forming local partnerships and science clubs in elementary and high schools within our communities.
- Mentoring – a combination of continued support and someone to push them to the next level; by graduation, each scholar will produce 1 publication and present their research at a local or national conference.
- Tier mentoring – students mentoring others (paying it forward).

There are several established OHEI programs available for students here at U-M to help prepare for Medical School; notably the Career Development (CDA) program provides a stipend and opportunities for MSTAT studying. Dr. Blackwood noted that 9 URM students were accepted to U-M Medical School for the upcoming year and Dr. Runge remarked that this was a terrific accomplishment.

Dr. Reddy thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

The next MAAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 am in the Dean's Conference Room #7323, Med. Sci Bldg. I