

AMSA Board of Officers 2012-2013 Application



1. Explain your interest in serving as this board position. If you are applying for multiple positions, briefly describe your interest in each.

I have been part of the CEH/Global Health this past year. I am interested in being part of the CEH/Global Health board position because this group addresses community and environmental impacts on health that affect not only people worldwide, but also our local neighborhoods. The United States is a pluralistic society of different groups and cultures, and more and more of its local communities reflect the multicultural variation of the world as well.

Within each community, people bring a piece of the world, their nationality, with them. Thus, whether I choose to practice medicine within my local community or elsewhere throughout the world, it is incumbent upon me to enhance my capability and the capabilities of others in my profession. This means educating me and others to appreciate and work with people from disparate cultures, to relate with them through their lens and through their world views, and to understand their values and their perspectives of the mind and body. It is through such macroscopic understanding that I and all members who seek to join the profession can better serve others. I feel it is incumbent upon me and others to share this wide perspective.

While I have not been part of the Student Life/Publications Committee, I have continued my interests in communications and web publishing as an author and web publisher for the Berkeley Medical Journal. I feel that communications is the lifeblood of any group. It is internal glue that joins members together and makes the organization relevant. For premeds, I see that the newsletter is a tool to keep members sharp and current on local, national, and global health issues that are not only critical in the long term to the practice of medicine, but also necessary in the near term throughout their education in medical school. However, publications of our local AMSA chapter are also the key means by which we broadcast the achievements and relevance of AMSA to the campus and local community. It is a tool by which we build relations with the local community. It is not only a paper, but also the means by which we conduct outreach. Having participated in publishing, this role of the newsletter continues to pique my interests, an interest which I wish to share.

2. Explain your strengths and how they will contribute to your performance as a board member. If you are applying for multiple positions, be specific about how your strengths support each position you are applying for.

Having served as member of the El Camino Hospital Junior Auxiliary Board, I offer the strength of leadership. I have demonstrated capability in directing board meetings, seeking the input of all interested parties, respectfully resolving differences, facilitating discussions, focusing the team on the agenda at hand, and recording and communicating decisions and actions in a timely manner. Likewise, I have exercised many of my skills as part of the many AMSA Community and Environmental/Global Health presentations that I have presented or helped present throughout the past year: climate change and human health, urban poverty, anorexia in Jewish communities, the "stroke belt," health in urban slums, maternal health in developing countries, family planning, and others.

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Cultural sensitivity is another of my strengths. Having studied the languages and cultures of four different societies, I am culturally sensitive to others and understand the different backgrounds, opinions, and attitudes of others. This is a necessary strength and a critical people skill in one who leads and represents the Community and Environmental/Global Health committee that seeks to provide a holistic, academic viewpoint on diverse health issues, especially when issues are polarizingly controversial issues i.e. abortion in third world countries.

As an author of several Berkeley Medical Journal articles and being responsible for the in-process development of the Berkeley Medical Journal website, I continue to demonstrate web based publishing skills that I have acquired since high school. My articles have covered a variety of cutting-edge topics such as translational medicine, industry consolidation in healthcare and the impact on doctors and patients, mobile consumer technology in medicine, global polio eradication, and HIPAA compliance and patient privacy. My strengths in authoring a large variety of topics in medicine and in electronic publishing will be essential to modern media communications essential to the AMSA chapter newsletter.

3. Describe your experience in previous leadership roles.

Two of my previous leadership roles include:

The El Camino Hospital Junior Advisory Board, Member of the Board: Collaborated with other members under direction of hospital administration to plan and drive events including fundraisers for purchase of toys for children and new mothers. Coordinated socials recruiting volunteers. Reviewed policies and procedures, solicited input, and proposed changes for patient service and general hospital improvement. Recommended and hosted outside guest speakers on healthcare careers to enhance service benefits for volunteers. Led monthly board meetings, managing agenda, leading discussions and debates on issues, ensured recoding and distribution of meeting minutes.

Community school of Music and Art, Head Aide: Managed and coordinated a team of Teacher Aides in supporting the Teaching Staff to provide programs to instill in children an awareness of art and its processes through active participation in low cost community arts literacy programs for pre-K to 8th grade elementary school children. Instructed team on policies and procedures. Teacher of Morning Care. Developed, facilitated play and supervised recess activities. Ensured safety of students. Represented the School at volunteer recruiting events, advised high school students, evangelized programs and benefits, and distributed materials. Developed and published the policy manual that is in current use by Head Aides that succeeded me in this role.

4. Describe the goals you have for this position, and how you plan to achieve them. If applying for multiple positions, go into detail about your goals for each position.

For the Community and Environmental/Global Health Committee, I can suggest several goals. First, I envision that the direction of this team will continue to explore and educate members on ongoing critical community and global health care issues. Second, because these issues are so

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important worldwide and have poignant local applicability, I like to see the addition of a few special select events that are open to a wider audience outside of AMSA. These events also serve to promote AMSA and the membership. Third, I also wish to solicit and bring in outside speakers to discuss on critical topics in Global Health of importance to the AMSA membership. These events give our local membership greater exposure to global leaders important in the healthcare industry. Finally, I like to give the AMSA membership the opportunity to get "hands-on" experience in global health issues by applying our knowledge and working with an organization/group of the committee's choice that aims to improve the quality of care for individuals of impoverished communities either locally or globally.

For the Student Life/Publications Committee, I have several goals. First, I wish to make the publication as effective as possible by improving the internal publishing workflow processes to streamline newsletter development. This will ensure timely communications of news, upcoming events, and critical topics. Second, I envision the addition of content that I feel would be useful to pre-medicine majors including links and information to local events of interest. Written articles of local interest are important to our newsletter because localized content is an important unique differentiator for our newsletter. Third, at the same time, the newsletter should promote general knowledge and awareness of national and global health issues. Such information provided through links and top five lists can provide ready access to information that affects all our communities. Fourth, I would like to invite and rotate guest columnists to contribute on a regular basis to the newsletter. The addition of viewpoints beyond our own will provide us an ample wealth of ideas that stimulates our mind, taking us far beyond academia. Lastly, I consider every AMSA publication a tool of outreach into the local community, and I would like to promote a wider distribution of pertinent communications.

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