

American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) selects their first Chief Diversity Officer



Neelum T. Aggarwal, MD, a prominent physician from Chicago was appointed to serve as the Chief Diversity Officer for the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), the oldest women's medical association in the United States commencing March 29, 2014.

"Diversity and inclusion are key to the success of AMWA," said AMWA President, Farzanna Haffizulla, MD, FACP and "I am pleased that Dr. Aggarwal will be leading our diversity and inclusion efforts nationwide. Our ability to provide members with insights around diversity and inclusion topics is predicated on an increasingly diverse workforce that reflects the members and hospitals we serve. It is imperative to advocate and support diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our work and it remains an integral part of transforming healthcare."

As Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Aggarwal, will be responsible for ensuring that AMWA remains an active and inclusive member organization, which enables innovative programming by leveraging diversity as a true professional advantage. She previously served for two terms on the AMWA Board of Directors, and actively advanced inclusion initiatives in her role as Co-Chair of the Mentoring Task Force. In her new role, Dr. Aggarwal, will focus on defining strategic diversity and inclusion objectives alongside senior leadership, enhancing the diversity of AMWA's leadership team, and recruiting and retaining diverse physicians, residents and medical students at all levels and medical specialties. She will also lead AMWA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee Council and resource groups, all of which serve to strengthen recruitment, retention, community outreach, and professional development.

"I am excited to take on a role that focuses on building diverse talent, reflective of the next-generation of women physicians" said Dr. Aggarwal. "I am passionate about diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and I believe they are the vehicle to help not only our physicians, but also our resident and students realize their full potential as we continue to manage more chronic medical conditions in an increasingly aged and diverse population while practicing in changing healthcare environments.

Dr. Aggarwal has dedicated her career to conducting aging research among Chicago's racial and ethnically diverse populations, having performed neurological evaluations in over 2000 participant research home visits over the past 18 years at Rush University Medical Center and the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center. She has served in numerous leadership roles overseeing clinical operations, serving as the principal investigator to numerous NIA/NIH and industry funded clinical trials, grant reviewer, steering committee member and conducting research. Dr. Aggarwal received an Honors Degree in Biology (Hon. B.Sc.) from the University of Windsor and her Doctorate of Medicine from the Rosalind Franklin School of Medicine. She completed a fellowship in Aging and Neurodegenerative disorders from the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

ABOUT AMWA

The American Medical Women's Association, headquartered in Reston, Virginia is a non-profit organization which functions at the local, nation, and international level to advance women in medicine and improve women's health by providing and developing leadership, advocacy, education, expertise, mentoring and strategic alliances. Founded in 1915, AMWA is the oldest national organization of women physicians. Membership in AMWA includes physicians, resident, students, and allied health professionals. For more information, visit <http://www.amwa-doc.org/>

Contact:

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