Who we are

The University of Washington Network of Underrepresented Residents and fellows (UW-NURF) is a resident and fellow run organization founded in the Fall of 2010.

The organization is a diverse body of residents, fellows and faculty representing all specialties. UW-NURF is sponsored by the Office of Graduate Medical Education (GME) and the Center for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI).

Our mission

Our aim is to promote cultural diversity in medicine through community involvement, mentorship, professional networking, cultural humility education, and recruitment of underrepresented students, residents, and fellows into Medicine.
UW NURF Executive Board

Past Chairs

2010–2012 Margaret Onwuka Towolawi, MD (Founder) - Family Resident
2012—2013 Kyle Comrie, MD - Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Resident
2013—2014 Lisly Cherie, MD - Urology Resident
2014—2015 Brandon Haynes, MD - Urology Resident
2015—2016 Estell Williams, MD - Surgery Resident
2016–2017 Shannon Cannon, MD - Urology Resident
2017-2018 Helen Stankiewicz Karina MD, Infectious Disease Fellow

Executive Board 2019-2020

-Chair: Kasee Houston, MD - Pediatric Resident
-Vice-Chair: Ashley Eaves, MD – Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Resident
-Education Chair: Sherise Epstein, MD - Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Resident
-Social Media Chair: Greg Walker, MD Orthopedics Resident
-Community Outreach Chair: Joy Thurman-Nguyen, MD Family Medicine Resident
-HQSC-NURF Chair: Natasha Kwendakwema MD Internal Medicine Resident
-Secretary/Treasurer Chair: Courtney Salinas, MD - Anesthesia & Pain Medicine Resident

Tokunbo Akande MD
Clinical Informatics Fellow
Community Outreach Chair
Advisors/Sponsors

Dr. Byron Joyner
Vice Dean for GME,
Designated Institutional Official, UW

Dr. Leo Morales
Chief Diversity Officer, UW

Nora Coronado
Director of Community Partnership and Development, CEDI, UW

Collaborators

-UW Graduate Medical Education (GME)
-UW Center for Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI)
-Committee on Minority Faculty Advancement (CMFA)
-Doctor-for-a-Day Organization (DFAD)
-Student National Medical Association (SNMA)
-Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)
-Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS)
NURF WELCOME HAPPY HOUR EVENT

Date: August 17th, 2019
Location: Optimism Brewery

NURF Members got together to celebrate the new Academic Year.

CMFA NURF Fall Welcome Reception

Date: October 24th 2019
Location: UW Waterfront Activity Center.
Guest Speakers: Edwin Lindo JD and Dr. Genevieve

This year’s Fall Welcome Event highlighted two individuals. These individuals spoke of the injustices in health care and inspired Medical Students, Residents and Fellows in their pursuit of health care education. Dr. Pagalilauan is a physician at the General Internal Medicine Center at UWMC-Roosevelt and a UW Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine and earned her medical degree from the UWSOM. Genevieve chairs the Service Learning Advisory Committee (SLAC) and is one of the leaders of the Health Sciences Service Learning and Advocacy Group (HSSLA). Both programs work with students across WWAMI who are interested in starting programs in underserved communities. Last year she earned the Health Sciences Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award.

Mr. Lindo earned his law degree from the University of Washington where he serves as Affiliate Faculty. He teaches classes on Race and Law and Latinx Critical Race Theory. He recently took a position in the Department of Family Medicine. Edwin will focus on addressing issues of racial and social inequities found in medical education, the bedside, and in medical research. He is a lifelong activist who’s work seeking justice with/and for marginalized communities. Estelita’s Library which he opened in Beacon Hill with a focus on social justice issues is one of his current projects.
Diversity Lecture Series

NURF hosted two lectures with invited speakers that provided insight into multicultural issues that impact the UW Community.

“Caring for Vulnerable Populations: Legal Rights and Practice Pearls for Advocacy”

October 15, 2018 – Kaiser Permanente
Dr. Elizabeth Dawson-Hahn MD, MPH
Angelica Cházaro, JD

This conference was the first one of the year and had two co-speakers. Each highlighted the importance of educating ourselves in regards to the immigrant populations that Residents/Fellows serve. Elizabeth Dawson-Hahn, MD, MPH is Acting Assistant Professor, Division of Hospital Medicine and General Pediatrics. She works tirelessly to improve the health, growth and development of vulnerable children and families in particular, refugee children and families.

Angélica Cházaro, JD is Professor in the UW School of Law. She has worked at Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP) representing immigrant survivors of violence and has provided immigration legal services to farmworkers.

“Care of and Advocacy for Gender Diverse Patients: Seeing through a Trauma Informed Lens”

January 14th, 2019
Dr. Corinne S. Heinen MD

For our second lecture series Dr. Corinne S. Heinen highlighted Transgender care. NURF also hosted panel during this Lecture Series. Corinne S. Heinen, MD, is an associate clinical professor of family medicine physician who splits her clinical time between her primary care practice at the UW Neighborhood Clinic at Belltown, and her HIV practice at Harborview. She is serving as the physician lead of the UW Transgender & Gender Non-Binary Health Program, working to improve the care of gender diverse patients. She also is the director of the LGBTQ Health Student Pathway in the UW School of Medicine.
Speed Mentoring

April 29th, 2019

Vista Café, Foege Hall.

This event was hosted for medical students to meet faculty, residents, and fellows from various medical specialties. Students had short rotating sessions to ask questions about career in the different medical fields, training options and experiences, and advice was offered on how to be successful during clerkships and sub-internships.

This event has been held each year for the last eight years to provide a beneficial educational and networking experience.

The following programs participated during the 2019 Speed Mentoring:
- Pathology
- Infectious Diseases
- Radiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine UW
- Obstetrics
- Genetics and Genomics
- Orthopedics
- Pediatrics
- Peds PM&R
- Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- Neurological Surgery
- Geriatrics
- General and Breast Surgery
- Psychiatry
- Internal Medicine
The Network for Underrepresented Residents and Fellows and the House staff Quality and Safety Committee held the Second Annual Healthcare Equity Conference on May 7th from 6:00-8:30pm. The conference featured speakers including Keynote Dr. Leo Morales that highlighted work promoting diversity and including within the SOM. NURF had the chance to learn more about the diverse work that is taking place across the campus and the importance of increasing a diverse work pool. The conference also featured small group breakout sessions focusing on the impact of sexual orientation and gender identity, housing security, race, and immigration status in health care, with a goal of identifying a targeted area for intervention and project ideas for each group.

SNMA National Conference

April 17-21, 2019 – Philadelphia

19 members of the University of Washington Network of Underrepresented Residents and Fellows (NURF) traveled on behalf of UW GME to SNMA AMEC conference to highlight the University of Washington’s mission and focus on diversity and to help recruit underrepresented minorities to the UW GME.

Individuals in attendance included Orthopedics Program Chair Dr. Howard Chansky, Dr. Lisa Taitsman Orthopedics Attending, Internal Medicine Program Director Dr. Ken Steinsburg, Dr. Dan Cabrera Internal Medicine Program Director, Dr. Maya Jones Pediatric Attending, along with residents reflecting 9 specialties at the UW. NURF interacted with over 200 medical students from across the nation. Residents in attendance each received financial support from their respective programs in order to travel to the conference and recruit applicants on behalf of their programs. The funding allowed NURF to be present and show face at the conference. Attending’s in attendance highlighted the importance of being present and many programs have filled their Diversity Sub I because of this conference.
LMSA West Regional Conference

March 8-9, 2019 – Stanford University

NURF members represented the UW during the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) West Conference. Approximately 200 pre-med and medical students from the West Coast participated in this event. NURF had a booth at the Professional Career Exhibit where approximately 50 students stopped by our table for information about UW Residency and Fellowship programs.

2 Residents and 3 Faculty Members participated in this conference:

- Residents: Jose Flores Rodarte Family Medicine and Manny Jauregui Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Resident

- Faculty: Dr. Daniel Cabrera, Dr. Estell Williams and Edwin Lindo JD
Doctor for a Day (DFAD)

DFAD is an outreach program that provides youth of color exposure to medical and health professions careers through high-quality, hands-on workshops. DFAD is a collaboration with SNMA, NURF, and CEDI. Faculty, residents, and fellows volunteered leading multiple workshops include intubation, suturing, pathology, physical exam, among others.

DFAD 2018-2019:
#September 15, 2018 YMCA Meridith Matthews
#October 13th, 2018 South Shore School
#December 8, 2019 Harborview WISH lab
#March 23, 2019 Southshore Elementry School
#April 6, 2019: Shoreline YMCA
#May 11, 2019 Kent Meridian High School

Resident/Fellow Events and Committees

NURF members represented UW NURF in numerous Events and Panel Discussion hosted by different organizations. These events provided an opportunity for high-school, undergrad, and med students to ask questions about the process of getting into medical school, residency, and fellowship and to learn what attracted the panel participants to their field. The events also allowed a voice to be present at different events. Events also included working with the greater Seattle/King County area on collective forces to better improve the health care of underrepresented minorities.

Resident/Fellow Panel 2018-2019:
# UW GME Equity Diversity and Inclusion
# February 19, 2019: SNMA Black History Month
# January 2019: CLER Site Visit
# May 2019: African American Health Board Retreat

Med Student/Resident/Fellow Socials

NURF members meet with local and visiting medical students and sub-interns monthly to socialize, provide coaching/mentoring, as well as promote recruitment and networking.
End-of-Year Celebration

June 14, 2019
Bravehorse Tavern

NURF members celebrated the successes achieved during the academic year with a delightful dinner. We also celebrated and congratulated NURF members who were graduating from their residency/fellowship programs.

Thank you!

The NURF executive team thanks GME and CEDI for their guidance, financial and administrative support. We also appreciate the participation and collaboration of all NURF members: the mission of this organization could not be achieved without your participation. Finally, we would like to thank our multiple institutional and community partners that collaborated with NURF during this academic year.

We look forward to the next academic year with enthusiasm and we hope to continue our mission to promote cultural diversity in medicine.

Thank you!