Outstanding medical student honored with AMA Foundation Minority Scholars Award

(CHICAGO) – The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation honored Teresa Gomez with a Minority Scholars Award at the AMA’s Annual Meeting in Chicago, on June 15, 2013.

Teresa was one of only eight medical students in the country selected to receive this award, which was given in recognition of her academic achievement and commitment to the elimination of health care disparities. As an AMA Foundation Minority Scholar, she received a $10,000 scholarship.

Nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population is African-American, Hispanic, American Indian, Native Hawaiian or Alaskan Native, yet only about 9 percent of all U.S. physicians are from these racial and ethnic groups. Meantime, racial and ethnic disparities in care continue to plague the U.S. health care system, according to a federal report.

Teresa has a B.A. from Claremont McKenna College and is a third-year MD/MPH student at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. She is chapter co-president of the Latino Medical Student Association at her school. Committed to serving Latino communities both domestically and internationally, she has volunteered with numerous community organizations as a medical interpreter, diabetes educator, and health education volunteer. Teresa organized a service trip to Mexico where she led other medical students in a week-long midwife training workshop to address high infant mortality rates in rural Oaxaca.

Dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented students in medicine, she serves as a mentor in the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP) for underrepresented high school and college minority students. She worked as a summer intern for the National Institutes of Health and has co-authored six scientific papers.

“The AMA Foundation is proud to support these exceptional medical students,” said Clarence Chou, MD, AMA Foundation President. “Their outstanding academic achievements, leadership experience, and service in their communities speak to their commitment to make a difference in the health of minority populations.”

The AMA Foundation’s Minority Scholars Awards are given in partnership with the AMA Minority Affairs Section, with support from Pfizer, Inc.

The AMA Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation, is dedicated to improving public health by raising funds and providing philanthropic support to high-impact health and medical scholarship programs. Visit www.amafoundation.org to join the AMA Foundation in improving the health of Americans.

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