

The Physician Advocate: Insights, Influence & Innovation

SPOTLIGHT:

2025 CHEF FELLOWS: DR. MICAH NISHIGAKI & DR. SELIKA SWEET
RECOGNITION & ADVOCACY



Micah Nishigaki, MD
TAFP Member of the Month

Dr. Micah Nishigaki, CHEF 2025 Fellow and family medicine physician, was acknowledged as Texas Academy of Family Physicians' October Member of the Month, recognizing her participation as a Climate & Health Equity Fellow.



Greater Greener Gloster held a community listening event in response to MDEQ's decision. **Dr. Sweet presented to the local coalition that has also filed a federal lawsuit against a pellet plant for violations of the US Clean Air Act and state environmental law. Mississippi State Rep. Bennie Thompson (pictured above) was in attendance and reflected on the perseverance needed for progress – whether in public health, environmental protection, or economic renewal.**

SPOTLIGHT:

CHEF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT NETWORK (CAEN)
DR. TRACEY L. HENRY & DR. EARL STEWART JR.

AWARD RECIPIANT

Dr. Tracey L. Henry, an internist in Georgia and 2022 CHEF fellow, **received the first-ever 2025 Jacqueline W. Fincher Advocacy Award, from the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP)** at their Annual Meeting. This award recognizes physicians whose advocacy expands access, strengthens care delivery, and improves outcomes for patients and communities.



Dr. Tracey Henry (on the left), pictured with Dr. Reed Tuckson (on the right) at the ACP Annual Meeting



Dr. Earl Stewart Jr. (on the right), an internist & 2023 CHEF Fellow pictured with Dr. Keisha Callins (on the left), an Obstetrician-Gynecologist & 2025 CHEF.

AMA Climate Caucus

Sat, 11/15, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM ET
2 hours

Dr. Earl Stewart Jr., 2023 CHEF Fellow **attended as a delegate for ACP**, during the American Medical Association (AMA) Interim Meeting. **He presented testimony submitted on behalf of ACP's delegation on a resolution.** The new policies adopted include advocating for funding to support school-based mental health, removing barriers to improve access to opioid use disorder medications, improving health care for veterans, and protecting health care professionals from ionizing radiation.

CHEF IN ACTION

2025 FELLOWS & CAEN TAKING ACTION (CONT.) PUBLICATIONS & OP-EDS

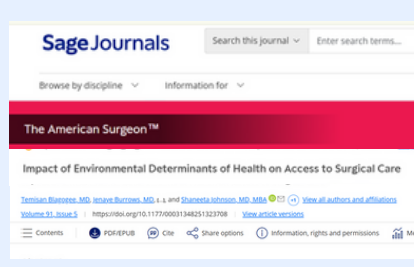
Click the images to visit the respective webpages

LALA FORREST, MD



2025 CHEF Fellow and Connecticut psychiatrist Dr. Lala Forrest, **co-authored a publication on advancing the Indigenous Determinants of Health framework within the UNFCCC, to implement Indigenous rights.**

SHANEETA JOHNSON, MD



2021 Inaugural CHEF Fellow and Director of CHEF and PEECH, Dr. Shaneeta Johnson, **co-authored a chapter in The American Surgeon through Sage Journals. The chapter addressed Environmental Determinants of Health and access to surgical care.**

SELIKA SWEET, MD



2025 CHEF Fellow and family medicine physician Dr. Selika Sweet, was published by the Jackson Advocate for an **op-ed discussing the air pollution along the MS-TN state line and the current and potential adverse health effects on residents.**

DENISE POWELL, MD



2023 CHEF Fellow and family medicine physician Dr. Denise Powell, is leading a group through American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology. As part of this group, she is **hosting several discussions with pediatric providers around the management of type 2 inflammatory conditions.**

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH OUR JAMAICAN FELLOWS AND FACULTY

Our hearts go out to those in Jamaica and the surrounding areas affected by Hurricane Melissa. The escalating impacts of climate change are a harsh reality that many face, often hitting the most vulnerable communities the hardest. The Climate and Health Equity Fellowship stands firmly with those who are suffering during this difficult time. We recognize your pain and hardship, and our thoughts and support are with you as you navigate the challenges ahead.

- CHEF Fellowship

As we approach the holidays, consider donating to those impacted by Hurricane Melissa.

You can do so by visiting the following link to make a secure donation:

Together, Restoring Hope After Hurricane Melissa - Food For the Poor

Link provided by Dr. Cheryl Holder

Toolkits & Guides for disaster preparedness:

Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Guides and Publications

A Medical Professional's Abolitionist Guide to Disaster Relief by Dr. Armen Henderson

2025 CHEF Graduation Celebration

Celebrating 5 years of educational excellence & advancing physician leadership

We invite you to join us for the graduation ceremony for this year's CHEF class. This year we are also celebrating the success of the fifth year of the fellowship!



Please scan the QR code above or click this text to RSVP.

Date:
Saturday, December 13th

Time:
3pm - 5pm EST
2pm - 4pm CST
12pm - 2pm PST

**JOIN US IN MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Scan or click the QR code to apply to the 2026 CHEF application.

Applications are due
12/15/25

APPLY HERE

