

# New Fellow Welcome Guide

Aequitas Health · National Medical Honor Society for Health Equity

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## Congratulations

Your election as an Aequitas Health Fellow reflects your peers' and faculty's recognition of your dedication to improving health outcomes in your community. You've joined a selective national community of medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty committed to turning health equity from an aspiration into action.

Your fellowship is free and it is yours for life. There are no dues, no fees, and no financial obligation — ever. As the organization grows, so do the opportunities available to you.

## What Your Fellowship Includes

**Honor Society Certificate.** A formal certificate from the national organization recognizing your election and commitment to health equity.

**Graduation Cord.** A distinctive cord to wear at commencement, identifying you as an Aequitas Health Fellow.

**Journal Publication.** Access to the Aequitas Health Journal — publish research, commentaries, reflections, case reports, and creative work in an indexed health equity publication.

**National Conference.** Present your work and learn from distinguished speakers at the annual National Conference — free, virtual, and on your schedule.

**Grant Eligibility.** Apply for competitive grants to fund health equity projects. In 2025, \$1,500 was awarded across three \$500 grants for fellow and chapter projects.

**Professional Network.** Membership in a growing national network of physicians and medical students dedicated to health equity — connections that extend well beyond medical school.

## National Conference

Each year, Aequitas Health hosts the National Conference — a free, virtual, asynchronous symposium featuring distinguished speakers from academic medicine, health system leadership, venture capital, and the federal health system alongside fellow presentations and panel discussions. Three conferences have been held since 2023, building a growing archive of health equity scholarship.

- Free & Virtual.** No travel costs or registration fees — accessible to every fellow.
- Asynchronous.** Watch every presentation on your schedule. Nothing is missed.
- Present Your Work.** Fellows present health equity projects to a national audience of peers and leaders.

## Aequitas Health Journal

The Aequitas Health Journal is an online publication for health equity scholarship. Submit research, reflective essays, commentaries, case reports, creative work, and health services research. Articles include Google Scholar metadata for discoverability and academic citation.

Submission guidelines and a detailed Journal Submission Guide are available in the Fellows section of the website to help you prepare your manuscript.

## Grants for Fellows & Chapters

Aequitas Health offers competitive grants to support health equity projects. At the 2025 National Conference, \$1,500 was awarded across three categories:

- Chapter Project of the Year — \$500.** Recognizes the most impactful chapter-led initiative.
- Chapter Project Grant — \$500.** Funds chapter-led community health initiatives.
- Fellow Project Grant — \$500.** Supports individual fellow health equity projects.

Grant applications open annually. Watch for announcements through your chapter leadership.

## Fellow Resources

The Fellows section of the website includes career development tools, project guidance, and professional resources designed specifically around your fellowship experience:

Residency & Career	CV & Resume Guide, Personal Statement Workshop, Residency Interview Guide
Scholarship	Journal Submission Guide, Presenting Your Work
Your Project	Community Health Project Toolkit, Grant Writing Guide
Professional Growth	Networking in Health Equity, Continuing Your Work in Residency

## What's Expected of You

**Complete a Health Equity Project.** Every fellow develops and executes a local health equity project — in your medical school, clinic, or surrounding community. Collaborate with community organizations and healthcare providers to address a real health disparity. Your chapter leadership and the national organization can help with planning, and grants are available to fund your work.

**Contribute to the Community.** Engage with your chapter, attend the National Conference, consider publishing in the Journal, and mentor the next class of fellows. The strength of Aequitas Health depends on fellows who stay involved.

**Represent the Fellowship.** Add your Aequitas Health fellowship to your CV, personal statement, and residency applications. You've earned this recognition — make sure it's visible.

## National Leadership

**Benson Hsu, MD, MBA, FAAP, FCCM** — Founder, President & Chair. Professor of Pediatrics at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. NIH-funded researcher with 70+ peer-reviewed publications. Author of national clinical guidelines at the AAP and SCCM. Bush Fellow, Aspen Health Innovators Fellow, and member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

**Eleanor Turner, MA** — Director of Operations. President and Co-Founder of The Legacy Foundation South Dakota. MA in nonprofit management and child & adult advocacy studies from the University of South Dakota. Published author, LEND graduate, and advocate for special needs families. Originally from the United Kingdom.

## Let's Get to Work

Your dedication to health equity is why you're here. The national team, your chapter leadership, and your fellow fellows across the country are all working alongside you. Stay connected for updates, opportunities, and resources.

**Email:** [health.equity@aequitashealth.org](mailto:health.equity@aequitashealth.org)

**Web:** [aequitashealth.org/fellows](https://aequitashealth.org/fellows)

**Resources:** 10 career & project guides available now