

**Award: Promising Medical Student Surgery
Education Research : Entry # 18635****Basic Information****Your name:**

Priti Parikh PhD

Your title:

Professor, Vice-Chair of Research Education and Professional Development

Your institution

Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State University

Your email address:priti.parikh@wright.edu**Nominee Information****Name of nominee:**

Musunga Mulenga

Nominee's institution

Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State University

Nominee's title

Medical student

Nominee's email address:mulenga.2@wright.edu**Eligibility****Has the nominee completed at least two years of medical school?**

Yes

Has the nominee been an author on a peer-reviewed manuscript or curricular project in surgical education?

Yes

Has the nominee held a leadership role in a course or group related to surgery or surgical education?

Yes

Is the nominee planning to do surgical residency (any specialty)?

Yes

Short Essays

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Why do you think the nominee deserves this award?

I have had the pleasure of knowing Musunga since she was a first-year medical student in our medical school. She has shown an interest in surgery along with surgical education and research, especially in the global surgery area since her first year of medical school. I have found her to be a very bright and engaging individual. I have had the pleasure of working with her on several research projects which she has been a part of from idea conception to publication. She is especially passionate about global surgery capacity building. In working toward this goal, she conducted research with our team exploring the perceived benefit of surgeons who visit surgical facilities in developing countries. This work culminated in a first authorship citation in JAMA Surgery for Musunga and a Grand Rounds presentation at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (please see her CV for details). I believe that such passion and accomplishments at the medical student level is exceptional and astounding. Surgical education involves being a leader. Leadership means connecting others to opportunities that nurture their interests and promote their growth. As the founder of BSOMs chapter of the Global Surgery Student Alliance (GSSA), Musunga helps students establish networks beyond the greater Dayton area. Through the "Medicine Beyond Our Borders" discussion series, medical students connected with peers from other institutions across the nation. Musunga provided opportunities for mentorship from surgeons, OB/Gyns, and anesthesiologists who model sustainable interventions in global health.

On a personal level, Musunga is an outstanding student doctor, she accepts constructive criticism with grace and works to improve her skills both clinically and in global surgery research. She clearly has the right attitude, determination, and grit to succeed in academic surgery. Enthusiastic, motivated, and goal-oriented students and future surgeon educators like Ms. Mulenga are hard to come by. Without any hesitation, I recommend her for this award.

How has the nominee demonstrated passion and enthusiasm for surgery and surgical education research?

Musunga's vision is to become a plastic surgeon and educator who continues to serve the underserved with a focus on addressing patient disparities in access to surgery both domestically and internationally, through multidisciplinary approaches to research and capacity building. She looks forward to a career in academic plastic surgery which would allow her to contribute to the field by training and learning from globally minded trainees.

To nurture her interests in academia, she served as the Co-president of the Plastic Surgery Interest Group at BSOM. This organization strives to increase fundamental knowledge about the field, while providing opportunities for interaction among students, residents, and faculty. To build on this work, she is developing a longitudinal suture curriculum that would allow aspiring surgery trainees to hone their skills from as early as the first year of medical school through their final year. This initiative stems from the body of research indicating concerns regarding skills preparedness extending beyond third-year medical students to both medical graduates entering surgical fields as well as their program directors. Her hope is that incorporating longitudinal basic surgical skills training in the medical school curricula will facilitate the transition to residency.

In working toward her goal of capacity building in Sub-Saharan African countries, she helps lead a research team of 11 medical students from the United States, Uganda, and Zambia. The mission of the group is to cultivate productive international research collaboration and inspire innovation among the young cohort. Part of her role involves guiding team members through the research process and helping them develop skills from idea conception and conducting literature reviews through drafting manuscripts. One of the teams' current projects explores medical students' barriers and facilitators of international research collaboration. The group hopes to understand the difference in research education, opportunities, productivity between medical students in higher income countries (HIC) and Low-middle income countries (LMIC). For Musunga it has been most rewarding for her to see team members submit this work for presentation at local, regional, and international conferences.

Mentorship is another core component of surgical education. As a member of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Musunga had the privilege to mentor sixth and eighth grade students at a middle school in an under-resourced community. These students are characterized as having low school attendance or exhibiting violent outbursts to faculty. Her goal was to provide the girls with some tools to survive and eventually, escape these harsh lived environments. Together they explored themes including self-esteem and behaviors that keep us from souring to decrease truancy rates.

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Additional Information

Please list the nominee's peer-reviewed manuscripts related to surgical education.

- 1) Mulenga M, Rhodes Z, Wren S, Parikh P. "Local Staff Perceptions and Expectations of International Visitors in Global Surgery Rotations." JAMA Surgery. 2021; 156(10):980-982. Media Coverage by Reuters: <https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/954816>.
- 2) Viaud-Murat E, Mulenga MA, Wren S, Parikh P. We See Things Differently: Comparing and Contrasting the Perception of Local Staff and Visiting Healthcare Workers during Global Health Rotations. in review, Journal of the Association for Surgical Education, 2022.
- 3) Mulenga M, Crowley S, Gosman A. "Discussion: Assessment of Gender Disparity and Geographical Variations in Payments from Industry Among Plastic Surgeons in the United States." Plastic Reconstructive Surgery (in press),2022. doi: 10.1097/PRS.00000000000009120
- 4) Parrish A, Anderson S, Mulenga M, Wimalawansa S, Kadakia S. "Revisiting the Cervicodeltopectoral Flap for Reconstruction of Cutaneous Head & Neck Defects: Technique Description and Case Correlates." J Craniofac Surg (in press), 2021. doi: 10.1097/SCS.00000000000007919

Please list any education or teaching awards the nominee has received.

- Arthur L. Garnes PSTM Travel Scholarship 2022
- UC San Diego Division of Plastic Surgery Scholarship for Underrepresented Students for Visiting Sub-internships 2022
- University of Wisconsin Madison URiM Visiting Student Scholarship 2022
- WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine James B. Peoples Silver Scalpel Award 2021 (Awarded to a third-year medical student for doing exceedingly well in surgery clerkship)
- Cannon Student Scholarship 2021 (Nationally chosen to attend the American Association of Plastic Surgeons Annual Meeting)
- WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine Global Health Travel Award Recipient 2019

Please list the nominee's education-related activities (e.g., lectures, programs, presentations, curricula, innovations for teaching or assessment, education-related research).

- 1) Mentor, BSOM Student National Medical Association (SNMA) 2018 – Present
- 2) Team lead, Global surgery research (leads a research team of 11 medical students from the United States, Uganda, and Zambia. The mission of the group is to cultivate productive international research collaboration and inspire innovation among the young cohort.)
- 3) Viaud-Murat,E, Wren S, Mulenga MA, Parikh P. We See Things Differently: Comparing and Contrasting the Perception of Local Staff and Visiting Healthcare Workers during Global Health Rotations, 42nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Surgical Education. Podium Presentation, May 2022.
- 4) Viaud-Murat,E., Mulenga MA., Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Medical Student Research Seminar Series, Oral Presentation, March 2022.
- 5) Shrime M, Green J, Mitchell E, Mulenga MA, Parikh P. The value of surgical mission trips. Invited guest speaker. Royal College of Surgeons Ireland Institute of Global Surgery Grand Rounds, by teleconference, September 2021.
- 6) Mulenga M, Rhodes Z, Wren S, Parikh P. Global Surgery: Local Staff Perceptions and Expectations of International Visitor, 92nd Annual meeting of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association. Podium Presentation, February 2021.

Please list the nominee's leadership roles in courses or groups related to surgery and surgical education.

- 1) Co-President, Plastic Surgery Interest Group 2020 – 2021
- 2) Boonshoft School of Medicine Chapter Founder, Global Surgery Student Alliance 2019 – 2021
- 3) Student Member, Miami Valley Hospital Committee on Operating Room Culture 2020 – 2021

File Uploads

Please upload the nominee's CV.

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- [Musunga-CV.pdf](#)

Personal Statement

- [Personal-Statement_ASEAward_MAM_10_28.pdf](#)

Notes**Admin Notification (ID: 5ba969832d2f1)**

added October 28, 2022 at 2:50 pm

WordPress successfully passed the notification email to the sending server.