



Tribute to Dr. David Kearney McDonogh by Leroy Campbell, Commissioned by Daniel Laroche MD.

On November 6, 2019, National Medical Fellowships (NMF) held the **4th annual Dr. David Kearney McDonogh Scholarship in Ophthalmology/ Otolaryngology (ENT) Lecture and Awards Reception** at Mist Harlem. Dr. McDonogh was born into slavery on a plantation in New Orleans, LA in 1821 and became the first African American physician in Ophthalmology/Otolaryngology in America. The Scholarship and Reception was created in honor of Dr. McDonogh's legacy by a committee of ten New York Ophthalmologists and Otolaryngologists who are dedicated to increasing the number of underrepresented physicians interested in Ophthalmology and/or Otolaryngology specialties. This Scholarship Fund annually awards at least two \$5,000.00 scholarships. Eligible candidates must be currently enrolled in an accredited medical school in the United States; identify as Black, Afro-Latino (a), or Native American; exemplify Academic Excellence, Research, Leadership, and Service, and have an interest in pursuing a career in Ophthalmology/Otolaryngology specialties. The pool of applicants were so strong that the Committee Members awarded four \$5,000, Scholarships.

The 2019 Dr. David K. McDonogh Scholarships in Ophthalmology/Otolaryngology were awarded to the following recipients:



Aaron Dotson is a fourth-year medical student at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Aaron has stood at the forefront of the Black Men in White Coats organization, mentoring dozens of students across the country, and was recently featured on the NBC TODAY Show to discuss the importance of mentorship. As an aspiring Ophthalmologist, Aaron is drawn to the field as it combines surgery, outpatient medicine, as well as acute and long-term patient care. Aaron also gravitated towards Ophthalmology after noticing the major void regarding the representation of African American eye surgeons. Aaron intends to stand on the leading edge as an advocate for healthy vision and regular maintenance for proper eye care. With his knowledge, talents,

and passion, Aaron hopes to enact change, improve, and positively promote the advancement of minority communities both locally, and abroad.

Elizabeth Fairless is a fourth-year medical student at Yale School of Medicine. Born outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Elizabeth is a member of the Choctaw Nation. As a medical student, she serves on the executive board for the Association of Native American Medical Students, a national organization that provides opportunities for its membership across the country. Elizabeth was part of the inaugural class of students participating in the American Academy of Ophthalmology Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring program, and now helps recruit students for the program. She is a volunteer with Pathways to Science, which teaches under-privileged high school students about ophthalmology and careers in eye care. She has volunteered providing ophthalmic care on the Navajo Nation reservation and will return there this summer to work at an Indian Health Service clinic. She has a broad range of research experience that includes basic science work at the National Eye Institute, research on disparities in diabetic retinopathy screening, and most currently, a project analyzing diversity within the field of ophthalmology.





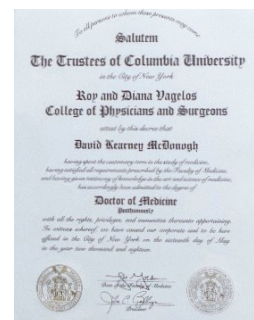
José Sinon is a second-year medical student at SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine. He is a graduate of SUNY Binghamton University where he received Bachelor of Art in Biology and French. José has always put a big emphasis on developing teaching skills, as he sees education as an important tool for social change. As an undergraduate, he tutored French and biochemistry and was a T.A. in French and in introductory biology. His involvement in the community extends to doing vision screenings at health fairs with the ophthalmology club. He is part of the medical educator pathway at Downstate, a pathway that prepares students for a potential career in academic medicine. In the same vein, he has recently started doing research

with Dr. Chaqour of the SUNY Eye Institute, whose work focuses on studying vascularization and angiogenesis in the eye. Through these endeavors, José hopes to develop into a leader in the field of medicine

Mariel Watkins is a fourth-year medical student at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, where she served as President of her freshman Class, President of the American Medical Association-Medical Student Section and founded a student led peer mentor program for USMLE examinations. She currently serves as Vice President of the junior class at Meharry Medical College. Mariel conducted research at Washington University in St. Louis in the T32 Pre-Doctoral Research Training Program in the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. She rotated on a sub-internship in otolaryngology at Vanderbilt University, as well as at Georgetown University and University of Michigan. She is conducting research with Dr. Alan Tate and Dr. Gaelyn Garrett at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in the Department of Otolaryngology and have presented one of the projects at COSM this year. Lastly, she is a member of the executive board for the Meharry ENT Interest Group, which has been essential in spreading awareness and increasing interest in the specialty at an institution that does not have an Otolaryngology department.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, NMF would like to thank all our supporters! A special thanks to the founding committee members: Karen Allison, MD, Ann Arthur- Andrew, MD, Nneka O. Brooks, MD, Jacqueline Busingye, MD, Benjeil Z. Edghill, MD, Rondai Evans, MD, Chaneve Jeanniton, MD, Daniel Laroche, MD (Founding Chair), John Mitchell, MD, and Dwayne Rollins, MD. We would also like to thank committee members, Tamiesha Frempong, MD, and Brandon Johnson, MD. In 2019, we welcomed Ade Obayemi Jr., MD, and added the National Committee with Barry E. Breaux, MD, David J. Brown, MD, and Oswaldo A. Henriquez, MD. A special thanks to our Silver Sponsor: Weill Medical College of Cornell New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center Michael G. Stewart MD, MPH, Chair, Weill Cornell University School of Medicine department of Otolaryngology, NYU Langone Medical Center- Dr. Joel Schuman, Chair, Columbia School of Ophthalmology – Dr. George A. Cioffi, Chair. Bronze Sponsors: New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mt. Sinai – Dr. James Tsai, Chair and Mt. Sinai Icahn School of Medicine – Dr. Gary Butts, Dean for Diversity Programs. Corporate Silver Booth Sponsor Novartis Inc., Corporate Bronze Booth Sponsors: Aerie Pharmaceuticals, Alcon Surgical Pharmaceuticals, Ivantis Inc., New World Medical, Johnson & Johnson Vision, and, our Benefactors for the event: 3 Visions Ophthalmology P.C., Bausch + Lomb, Barry Breaux Sr., MD, Leon W. Herndon Jr., MD, Esteka V. Ogiste, MD, PhD, Lloyd G. Stanford, Benjeil Edghill, MD, James Auran, MD, and MPG Consulting. Finally, we want to thank our in-kind donors for the items in our silent auction, Mist of Harlem, Miller Printing, Mr. Jordan Davis from Prestige Beverage Group, Jerald Cohen from Brands International, African Art by Bertrand Ethnographic Art Collection: Africa in Africa, and Modern Haitian Art. We also want to thank all the donors. Your contributions helped to make this happen.



*Columbia University
2018 degree given to Dr.
David K. McDonogh*

There are less than 2% of Black and Latino (a) Ophthalmologist/Otolaryngologist ENT physicians, yet they represent over 50% of New York City's population. You can change this statistic by donating to this scholarship and support the next generation of ophthalmologists/otolaryngologists ENT.

**Dr. David K. McDonogh Scholarship in
Ophthalmology/Otolaryngology ENT Lecture and Awards Reception
was held on Wednesday November 6, 2019, at Mist Harlem**



Top row from right to left: Mr. José Sinon SUNY Downstate Award Recipient; Dr. Daniel Laroche, MD, Chair, Ms. Elizabeth Fairless Yale University Award Recipient, Mr. José Sinon SUNY Downstate Award Recipient, Dr. Esther R. Dyer President & CEO National Medical Fellowships; The Legacy of Dr. David K. McDonogh Booklet; Dr. Laroche with Ms. Fairless and Mr. Sinon.

Bottom Row from right to left: Norvatis Pharmaceuticals Team; Dr. David K. McDonogh Committee Members': Tamiesha Frempong MD, Daniel Laroche MD, Ms. Elizabeth Fairless, Benjeil Edghill, MD, Chaneve Jeanniton, MD, Ann Arthur-Andrew, MD, and Jacqueline Busingye, MD; Dr. Laroche and Dr. Dyer; and Ms. Fairless.

If you were not able to contribute, you can still [donate here for 2019](#), or next year's Dr. David K. McDonogh Scholarship fund

Click the link below or send a check to:
National Medical Fellowships
ATTN: Dr. David K McDonogh Scholarship Fund
12 East 46 Street Suite 5E
New York NY 10017

For more information on the 2019 Dr. David K. McDonogh please [Click Here](#).