



2026

# National Leadership Conference

June 5-8 • Washington, DC • Making Good Trouble



# WELCOME

2026 National Leadership Conference



**Meena Bewtra**  
*MD, MPH, PhD*  
**President of  
Doctors for America**

It is a privilege to welcome you to this year's gathering of physician leaders, advocates, trainees, and partners committed to advancing health equity and improving the health of our communities through advocacy and action.

At Doctors for America, we believe that medicine does not end in the exam room. Every day, our members work to ensure that health policy is grounded in science, compassion, and the lived experiences of our patients. This conference reflects that shared commitment, bringing together passionate voices from across the country to learn, strategize, and support each other in this important work.

During the next few days, I encourage you to truly engage: ask questions, share ideas, build new relationships, and take inspiration from the remarkable expertise and dedication within this community. The challenges before us are significant, but so is our collective ability to create meaningful change.

Finally, please use the NLC to develop new friendships and renew existing ones. Simply put—let's have fun! As we well know from our training, hard work and long struggles are infinitely easier with friends by your side.

Thank you for being part of this movement and for all you do to advocate for healthier patients, stronger communities, and a more equitable future.

**With gratitude,**

**Meena Bewtra, MD, PhD, MPH**  
**Board President**  
**Doctors for America**





# TEAM & BOARD

Meet the leaders guiding DFA's mission

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Meena Bewtra**  
MD, MPH, PhD  
President



**Reshma Ramachandran**  
MD, MPP, MHS  
Vice President



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MD, MPH  
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PhD  
Board Member



**Hannah Brennan**  
JD  
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**Eric Fethke**  
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Board Member



**Jeffrey Gordon**  
MD  
Board Member



**Alyssa Lambrecht**  
DO  
Board Member



**Rab Razzak**  
MD, FAAHPM  
Board Member

## STAFF MEMBERS



**Angie Bakke**  
Executive Director



**Raaya Alim**  
Program Manager,  
CHP & HJE



**Tierney Monagas**  
Membership and  
Development Specialist



**Sophia Phillips**  
Program Manager,  
FDA Task Force



**Kyle Shields**  
Digital Strategist





# FDA Pre-Conference **FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

**Location: National Ballroom A**

Breakfast, lunch, and beverages will be provided.

8:30 am – 9:15 am



## **U.S. Food and Drug Administration 101**

**Jan Krommes, MD**, the FDA Task Force Chair at DFA, gives an overview of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

9:15 am – 10:30 am



## **FDA at an Inflection Point: Workforce, Authority, and What It Means for Patient Care**

**Juli Tomaino, MD**, Canal Row, former FDA  
**Cartier Esham, PhD**, Alliance For a Stronger FDA  
**Robert Steinbrook, MD**, Public Citizen & Yale School of Medicine

10:45 am – 12:00 pm



## **Fast Tracks or Fault Lines? Rethinking FDA Approval and Evidence**

**Adriane Fugh-Berman, MD**, PharmedOut  
**Reshma Ramachandran, MD**, Doctors for America  
**Michelle Tregear, PhD**, National Breast Cancer Coalition

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm



## **From AI to Algorithms: Evaluating Digital Health, Machine Learning, and Evidence Standards**

**Henry Bair, MD, MBA**, Wills Eye Hospital  
**Jessica Jackson, PhD**, Therapy Is For Everyone  
**Corbin Evans, JD, MBA**, American Psychological Association

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm



## **Access Interrupted: Drug Shortages, Supply Chains, and Regulatory Levers**

**Tim Casey**, U.S. Pharmacopeia  
**Marta Wosinska, PhD**, Brookings Institution  
**Mariana Socal, MD, PhD**, Johns Hopkins

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm



## **Regulating in the Crosshairs: Courts, Congress, and the Future of FDA Decision-Making**

**Joel McElvain, JD**, Democracy Forward  
**Kimberlee Trzeciak, MA**, Former FDA Commissioner  
**Jennifer Black, JD, MPH**, House Energy & Commerce Committee





# Welcome Mixer **FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

**Location: National Ballroom B**  
*Building Community and Physician Power*

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

## **DFA Welcome Mixer**

Meet fellow physician and trainee advocates from across the country.

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

## **Over 60-Years of Good Trouble**

**Tom Ellison, MD, PhD**

Dr. Tom Ellison of Birmingham, AL, embodies a lifelong commitment to social justice, beginning with his first march at just five years old. After participating in hundreds of marches and enduring numerous beatings, Dr. Tom continues to stand on the front lines.



8:30 pm – 9:00 pm

## **Against Medical Advice: A Comedy Set**

**Rab Razzak, MD, FAAHPM**

Rab Razzak is a palliative care clinician educator at Sutter Health West Bay Medical Group, Sutter Health in San Francisco, CA. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.





# National Leadership Conference **SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

**Location: Grand Ballroom A**

*Morning: Meeting the Moment & Building Advocacy Skills*

**8:00 am – 9:00 am**

## Welcome Breakfast hosted by DFA's Board of Directors

DFA Board President Meena Bewtra kicks off the conference with opening remarks at 8:50 am.

**9:00 am – 10:00 am**

## The Mandate: Health in All Policies

**Stella Safo, MD, MPH**

Dr. Safo is a Harvard-trained, board-certified HIV primary care physician, an innovator in designing health care delivery models, and an advocate committed to gender and racial equity and civic engagement in healthcare. She is a founding member of Equity Now at Mount Sinai, VoteHealth 2020 and the Coalition to Advance Antiracism in Medicine.



**10:00 am – 10:15 am**



## Organizing for Power: Framing the Work Ahead with Daniel Skinner, PhD

**Daniel Skinner, PhD** sets the stage for how physicians translate policy challenges into action for the Impact Area breakout session.

**10:30 am – 11:30 am**

Breakout sessions



## Access to Affordable Care & FDA

**Meera Ragavan, MD, MPH**

**Jan Krommes, MD**



## Community Health & Prevention

**Alyssa Lambrecht, DO**

**Elle Saine, MD, PhD**



## Health Justice & Equity

**Raaya Alim, MPP**

**Saramarie Azzun**





# National Leadership Conference **SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

**Location: Grand Ballroom A**

*Afternoon: Tactical skills*

11:45 am – 1:30 pm

## Lunch & Copello Fellow Presentations

Hear from DFA's emerging physician advocates as they present projects advancing health equity, policy change, and patient advocacy.

1:30 pm – 3:15 pm

Breakout rooms



## Organizing for Power: Impact Area Strategy Sessions

### Let's Get Social: Physicians Online

**Location: Grand Ballroom A**

Explore how physicians are harnessing the power of social media beyond the exam room with **Bijoya Basu, PhD.**



### Write to Ignite: Op-Eds That Drive Change

**Location: Grand Ballroom B**

Join **Mark Lopatin, MD** as he teaches how to transform your insights into published pieces.



### Your Voice, On Record: Making It Count

**Location: Thomas Circle A**

Learn how to how to draft legislative testimony with **Reshma Ramachandran, MD, MPP, MHS**



### Inside the Room: Winning Over Lawmakers

**Location: Thomas Circle B**

**Jan Krommes, MD**, gives an inside look at the strategies that matter most when advocating for your cause.



### From People to Power: Organizing That Wins

**Location: Thomas Circle C**

Participants will learn how to activate their advocacy plan with **Meg Olson, MA, Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.**

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

## Physician Action Lab: Turning Advocacy into Action

Participants work in small groups to develop real advocacy strategies around key DFA priorities.

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

**Break**





# National Leadership Conference **SATURDAY, JUNE 6**

**Location: Grand Ballroom A**

*Evening: Inspiration, Recognition & Community*

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm

## Founder's Awards

DFA's Founders Awards Celebrate and honor the history of the National Physicians Alliance and Doctors for America. There are seven categories for the Founders Awards:

Copello Fellow Advocate (2024-25) & (2025-26) • Medical Student Advocate • Resident/Fellow Advocate • Physician Advocate • Retired Physician Advocate • Health Advocate

## 2024 FOUNDERS AWARD RECIPIENTS



**Alyssa Lambrecht**  
Copello Fellow (23-24)



**Anand Singh**  
Copello Fellow (24-25)



**Raj Reddy**  
Medical Student



**Pauline Wiltz**  
Resident



**Hallah Akbarnia**  
Physician



**Eleanor Greene**  
Retired Physician



**Christopher Morten**  
Health Advocate

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm

## Dinner

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm



## The Beginning of a Movement: How Physicians Change Policy

**Rab Razzak, MD**, and **Manisha Sharma, MD**, share how their experiences caring for patients led them to step into public leadership and change policy.







# National Leadership Conference **SUNDAY, JUNE 7**

**Location: Grand Ballroom A**  
*Afternoon: Organizing for Action*

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm

## Networking Lunch

Interactive discussions on critical advocacy priorities:

- Gun violence prevention
- Reproductive health and access to care
- Health equity and justice
- Protecting science, vaccines and the FDA
- Defending Medicaid and the social safety net
- White Coats in Retirement

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

## Break

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

## The Courage to Lead *Kameron Matthews, MD, MD, FAAFP*

Dr. Matthews is the Chief Health Officer of IMPaCT Care, a public benefit corporation that helps organizations manage a technology-enabled CHW workforce at scale. She formerly served as Chief Health Officer with Cityblock Health, a value-based advanced primary care practice integrating services for Medicaid and low-income Medicare beneficiaries.



2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

## Closing Remarks from DFA Board President Meena Bewtra

Thank you and keep making *good trouble!*

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm

## Advocacy Briefing: Preparing for Hill Visits

This session is only for attendees staying through Monday.

4:15 pm

## Free time to explore DC!





Advocacy in Action on the Hill  
**MONDAY, JUNE 8**  
Location: Thomas Circle Suite

7:30 am - 9:00 am

**Breakfast & Final Prep**

Participant teams depart for:

- Congressional Hill visits
- Advocacy meetings with policymakers
- Partner organization briefings

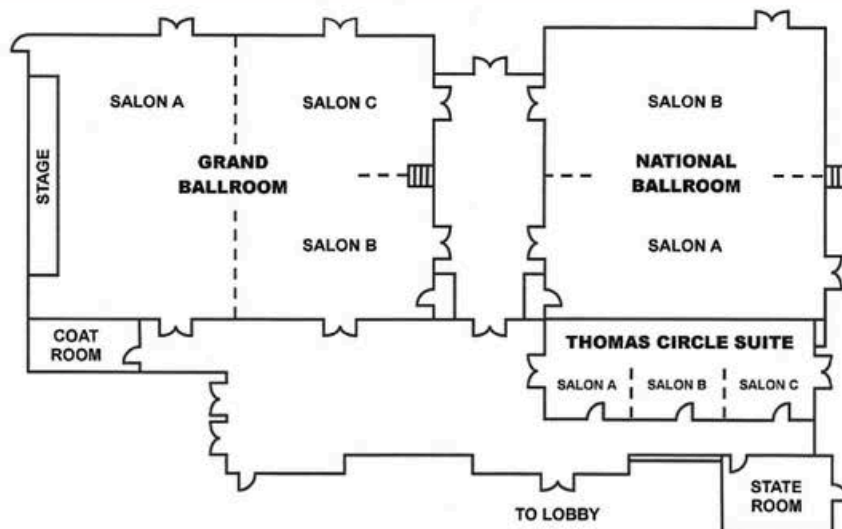


The AAFP has reviewed National Leadership Conference 2026 and deemed it acceptable for up to 16.50 Live AAFP Prescribed credit(s). Term of Approval is from 06/05/2026 to 06/07/2026. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

**AMA/AAFP Equivalency** - Providers may choose to include the following in addition to the AAFP credit statement:

**AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the American Medical Association as equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 credit(s)<sup>™</sup> toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. When applying for the AMA PRA, Prescribed credit earned must be reported as Prescribed, not as Category 1.**

**[All CME surveys can be found here](#)**





\*As we gather for the NLC, we invite you to join the conversation on **Roon**, a free physician-only platform where doctors connect, discuss ideas, and share insights with colleagues across specialties.

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# THANK YOU

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