

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18

OTA HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Planning Committee

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OVERVIEW

This program was launched in 2022 and due to its success as a first-time event and OTA's high value for diversity, equity, and inclusion it is OTA's desire to offer the Orthopaedic Trauma Association High School Scholars Program to run concurrently with the OTA Annual Meeting each year.



OTA recognizes despite the growing diversity of the US population; orthopaedic surgery has remained one of the least diverse surgical subspecialties in medicine. The slow increase in underrepresented minority (URM) senior faculty reflects the lack of underrepresented orthopaedic residents. Many barriers to URM students seeking careers in orthopaedic surgery include lack of exposure, in-home obstacles, high school peer pressure, lack of URM role models and even negative stereotyping of URM students at all educational levels. The OTA Diversity High School Scholars Program provides a pipeline that will provide early orthopaedic exposure with a goal of increasing diversity in orthopaedic surgery.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS PROGRAM

- 1) Provide early orthopaedic trauma exposure to local high school women and underrepresented/underserved minority students at the OTA Annual Meeting.
- 2) Encourage orthopaedic careers in students from communities that are significantly underrepresented in orthopaedic surgery.
- 3) Provide hands-on exposure to orthopaedic procedures.
- 4) Profile additional career paths that intersect with medicine and orthopaedic surgery.



The course will be a half day program which includes an ice breaker, career panel, and hands-on experience where students will experience casting, x-ray interpretation, orthopaedic hardware placement and ex-fix.

More details at ota.org.