

## Bridging Medical Gaps Collaboration

### June Newsletter

#### Welcome

Rinki Goswami MD MS, President

Hello everyone and welcome to our first edition of the BMGC Newsletter! I hope everyone is staying healthy as they continue to do the critical work to keep our communities safe! I want to take a minute to thank the wonderful board that has brought this project to life, and thank YOU for being our first members and supporters! The mission of BMGC is to connect interdisciplinary expertise to work at the intersection of medicine, public health, and business - and we cannot do that without a network of folks dedicated to doing so within their own communities.



We have had a busy first month getting our IRS 501c3 status approved, launching our website, deciding our policy priorities and developing the content you see below. We are also in the process of applying for grant funding for more developed projects! We hope this has piqued your interest further and you will consider sharing our work with your professional networks. We have created this space for collaboration - especially with you! We have a space to feature YOUR work, share your ideas, and we have space on our committees for your contributions! So welcome, we are thrilled to have you on board and we hope to see you all involved as we move forward!

Stay safe!

[Visit our Website](#)

### Featured Articles

#### **NEW: COVID-19 Related Healthcare Workforce Impacts**

With nearly 15 percent of the country unemployed and models projecting unemployment to exceed 20%, how is America's healthcare workforce impacted? In this article, we take a dive into how healthcare and public health workers are impacted and what services are experiencing shocks, and what are some mitigating solutions



[Full Article](#)

**Direct-To-Consumer Advertising:**

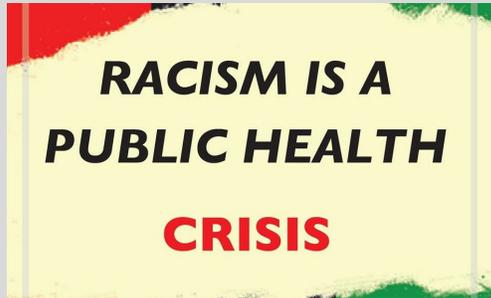
## Vices and Virtues

The United States pharmaceutical industry spent over \$6 billion in 2018 on advertising prescription drugs directly to consumers (DTC). Are these advertisements an important tool for consumer education, or a harmful source of misinformation? How much should be done to regulate DTCs?



[Full Article](#)

## Policy Corner



### **NEW: Why We Must Declare Racism a Public Health Emergency**

We have created a letter template for those who wish to write to educate their representatives regarding the race disparities in healthcare. This template will work better at the state and local level so we advise seeking those representatives out.

[Full Text](#)



### **Student Debt Relief in Pandemic**

We have created a letter template for healthcare professionals who wish to write about student debt relief. Student debt continues to be a serious barrier for many wishing to enter the medical field or primary care specialties - and creates a breakdown in public health.

[Full Text](#)

## Policy Priorities

Part of our vision to “empower global public health and medicine” is to support and enable our members to be politically engaged and promote policies that create a healthier society. With this in mind, the BMGC policy committee has identified our current policy priorities. They are:

- Pandemic Preparedness
- Climate Change
- Affordable Health Care and Improved Coverage for Underinsured
- Women's Access to Care (including disparity in care, access and right to choose)
- Underserved Access to Equitable Care (including refugees, immigrants, minorities, low income)
- LGBTQ Access to Care
- Student Debt Burden
- Worker Health Protections
- Food Insecurity
- Housing Insecurity and Homelessness
- Prison Healthcare
- Mental Health

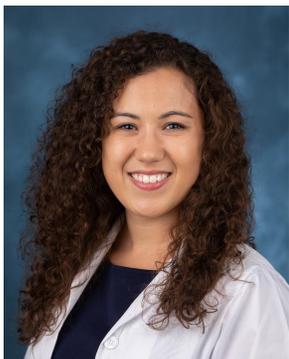
More information on BMGC's commitment to policy change can be found [here](#)

## Want to get involved?

[Join a Committee](#)

[Submit an Article](#)

## Author Spotlight



### Rebecca Fujimura MD

Rebecca Fujimura is a family medicine resident physician at MedStar Georgetown/ Washington Hospital Center in Washington, DC.

Her article, "[Defunding the World Health Organization in the Middle of a World Health Crisis](#)" is available here to read on the BMGC website.

**What do you think is currently the biggest issue in healthcare?**

*Healthcare Disparities. The inequalities of healthcare access, disease burden, and treatment is something that affects this country, as well as occurs globally.*

**If you had the ability to change one aspect of healthcare, what would it be?**

*I would make healthcare accessible and available to all individuals, in any part of the world. Here in the United States, I believe starting with universal insurance coverage should be a top priority in achieving this.*

**What is your day job?**

*One of the reasons I love being a Family Medicine Physician is that this question is difficult to answer. I get to practice in all aspects of medicine, with a wide variety of patients, making every day different and my job hard to define.*

**What are some of your hobbies?**

*I enjoy running, hiking, reading and theater. I have an additional degree in theater, and I enjoy participating in and watching plays, musicals and other forms of performance art.*