

# Why **CHANGEMAKERS** in Medicine is **IMPORTANT**



## OUR MISSION

We aim to increase access for talented and motivated students from low socio-economic backgrounds, including refugees, to achieve their career potential in medicine and support their return to underserved communities to mitigate the shortage of clinicians.



## THE PROBLEM

Students from low socio-economic backgrounds and refugee communities have long experienced inequality in educational opportunities. These inequities are attributed to many factors, including economic barriers, limited community resources, underfunded schools, and more. As a result, underrepresented students who aspire to become doctors face significant obstacles on the pathway to their goals. This lack of diversity in medicine lowers the overall quality of care for patients.

## STATISTICS HIGHLIGHTING THE ISSUE

**Medical School Enrollment:** In 2020, only 20% of medical students came from families in the lowest 40% of income distribution, despite making up a significant portion of the population.

**Physician Workforce:** Approximately 8% of practicing physicians in the U.S. come from low-income backgrounds, far below the representation needed to reflect the general population.

**Educational Attainment:** Refugee students and those from low socio-economic backgrounds have a high school graduation rate of 70%, compared to 88% for their higher-income peers.

**Patient Outcomes:** A study published in JAMA found that racial and socio-economic concordance between patients and physicians can lead to a 33% reduction in hospital readmission rates for minority patients.

# Why the Issue Persists

These educational barriers greatly impact students' chances of success, which is reflected in today's medical school acceptances. Although the number of underrepresented students applying to medical schools has increased, the acceptance rate remains fairly stagnant. For instance, the acceptance rate for low-income applicants to medical schools has only increased by 5% over the past decade.

### UNDERLYING CAUSES

**Economic Barriers:** The disparity in wealth in the United States is one of the root causes of this problem. For example, the median household income for White families is \$71,000, compared to \$41,000 for Black families and \$51,000 for Hispanic families.

**Limited Resources:** Many schools in underrepresented communities receive 15% less funding per student compared to schools in higher-income areas.

**Systemic Inequities:** Structural barriers within the education system contribute to lower academic achievement and reduced access to higher education for students from low socio-economic backgrounds and refugee communities.

## What We Can Do

Disparities among medical school acceptances have led to a significant lack of diversity in the medical field. Our organization seeks to tackle this problem by providing underprivileged students with the necessary resources to succeed.

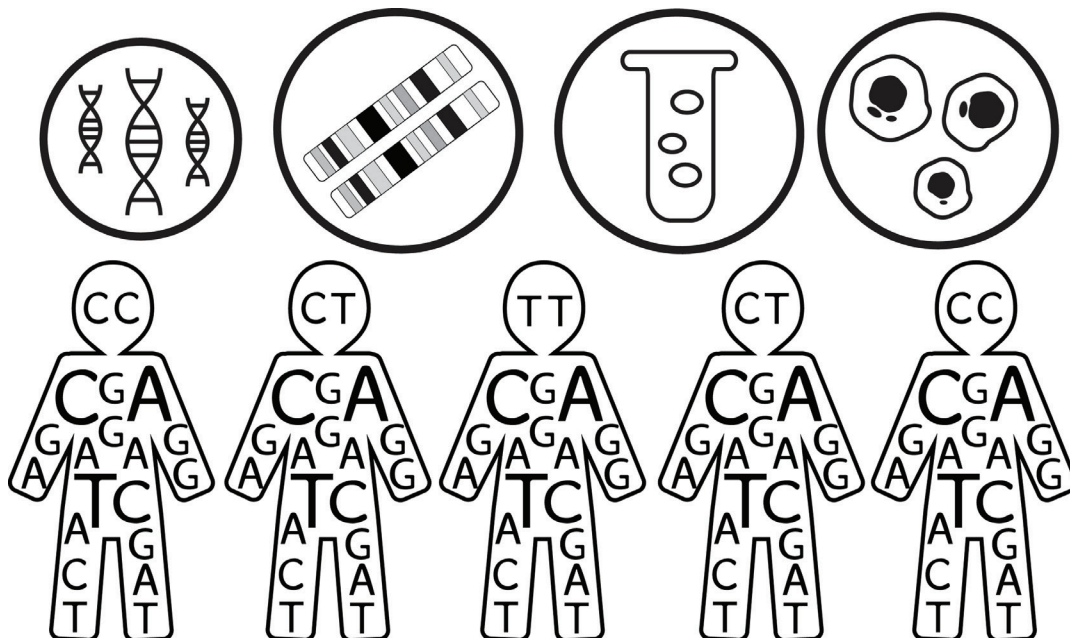
**Mentorship Programs:** Connecting students with mentors who can provide guidance, support, and advice throughout their educational journey.

**Financial Assistance:** Offering scholarships and grants to alleviate the economic burden of medical education.

**Community Outreach:** Raising awareness about the importance of diversity in medicine and encouraging students from all backgrounds to pursue medical careers.

**Educational Resources:** Providing access to study materials, tutoring, and other educational supports to help students excel academically.

**By addressing these issues, we can help create a more diverse and inclusive medical community that better reflects the population it serves, ultimately improving healthcare outcomes for everyone.**





## Contact Us

For more information about the Changemakers Program, please contact us at:

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**Join us in our mission to foster diversity and inclusion in the medical field.  
together, we can make a difference.**