

## **Med student elected chair of national group**

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Justin Halls, a third-year student in the Tulane University [School of Medicine](#), will represent medical students from across the country as chair-elect of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Organization of Student Representatives. Halls is the first Tulane student to be elected to the prestigious position.



Justin Halls is the first Tulane student to be chosen chair-elect of the AAMC Organization of Student Representatives. (Photo by Paula Burch-Celentano)

His peers elected Halls to a three-year term at the 2013 AAMC Annual Meeting held in November. He serves as chair-elect during 2014, chair in 2015 and post-chair in 2016.

While campaigning for the post, Halls highlighted his passion for medical education and diversity among medical students. Prior to entering the Tulane medical school, Halls worked as a teacher and co-founder of New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy.

Because of that experience, he had insight into the barriers that minority students face upon entering college. After helping these students pursue a college education, he wanted to assist them further.

"I want to help underrepresented minority students enter medical school," says Halls. "One of the main reasons that I wanted to be involved in the AAMC was to

brainstorm ways to support a pipeline program that could be implemented at medical schools across the country.”

Halls' colleagues responded to his passion for expanding access to medical education by voting him into the chair-elect position.

He serves as one of 12 members of the governing board for the national student organization. In the coming year, Halls will serve as a representative on various groups and panels and organize the 2014 national meeting. He also will act as a facilitator for the student constituents and serve as a liaison to the various groups within the AAMC and medical community.