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VIRGINIA TECH CARILION MEDICAL STUDENT WINS AWARD FOR SERVICE BY A MEDICAL STUDENT OR RESIDENT

RICHMOND, Va. (Oct. 16, 2017) – The Medical Society of Virginia (MSV) Foundation announced today that Omar Salman will receive the Foundation’s 2017 Salute to Service Award for Service by a Medical Student or Resident.

Omar received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from Vanderbilt University and is currently a third year medical student at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM) in Roanoke. His leadership and community involvement spans multiple organizations including: Vice Chair of LGBTQ+ Issues for the American Medical Association (AMA), Volunteer at the Roanoke Diversity Center, Founder and President of the VTCSOM Student National Medical Association, and Recruitment Vice Chair for the MSV.

In his leadership positions, Omar has collaborated with leading LGBTQ advocates and organizations such as the AMA LGBT Advisory Committee, Lambda Legal and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association to improve LGBTQ focused resolutions and AMA Medical Student Section (MSS) conference programming. Several programs Omar has organized for AMA MSS conferences include “LGBT+ Health Literacy” and a blood drive in remembrance of the PULSE Orlando shooting victims during the 2016 AMA MSS Interim Meeting in Orlando. Omar is dedicated to advocating for the LGBTQ community and uses this passion to drive change toward health care equality.

“A key goal in his medical training is to better understand the nuances of his patients’ intersectional identities and to provide effective care groups that are often marginalized by our healthcare system” said Jenny Young, Senior Membership Manager for the Medical Society of Virginia. “Due to his experiences, it has always been Omar’s belief that healthcare is a universal human right, but that it’s critical to think about how to delivery healthcare in a way that is both equal and equitable.”

The MSV Foundation created the annual Salute to Service Awards in 2004 to recognize outstanding efforts of physicians, medical students, and alliance members who are dedicated to creating and nurturing a caring health promotion and disease prevention environment by providing service on behalf of

patients everywhere. The MSV Foundation will present the 2017 Salute to Service Awards at this year's Physicians' Gala, set for October 21 at Hilton the Main in Norfolk, Virginia.

Other winners include:

- *Leigh Grossman, M.S., M.D., of Charlottesville, Service to the International Community*
- *LoAn Nguyen, M.D., PhD, F.A.C.P. of Ashburn, Service for Advancing Patient Safety and Quality Improvement*
- *William Fleming, M.D., of Richmond, Service to the Uninsured and Underserved*
- *Randolph Gould, M.D., F.A.C.S., of Norfolk, Service to the Profession*

About the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation

Placing an emphasis on the needs of the uninsured and underserved, the MSV Foundation advances opportunities for physicians to participate in health improvement efforts in Virginia, and supports educational programs for physicians and the public. For more information, visit www.msvfoundation.org.

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