

Dear MCMS Award Committee,

I would like to nominate Dr. Karyne Vinales for the award of Junior Physician of the year. Dr. Vinales is one of the most outstanding early career physicians that I ever met. She excels in education, research, diversity, and inclusion, and as a clinician.

Karyne has deep passion for medical education. She is the associate program director of the endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism fellowship. I have worked very closely with her since I arrived in the valley. She has demonstrated that she cares about the future of medicine. When she started been an APD, she helped me in the restructuring the program, combining two major hospitals during the 24 months of the fellowship. She also focusses on teaching residents and creates development assessment tools for them. In collaboration with Internal Medicine at UACOMP, she coordinates the endocrine didactics lectures. She believes that collaboration is the base of success, so she slowly is building partnerships among multiple academic and healthcare systems so they can see that the endocrine division is a model for successful care.

Karyne has become an expert in transgender medicine. At the local level, she has been an advocate for the transgender community. Through the Phoenix VAMC, she has been involved at a national level on establishing the protocol and policies for this population. She also has become involved with multiple societies to decrease the bias and stigma on this specific population but also creating policies that protect them. As an example, Dr. Vinales submitted a resolution to Arizona Medical Association to consider transgender medicine as part of the healthcare system. This resolution passed after much discussion. This achievement was because of the passion Dr. Vinales has for serving the underserved.

I have seen how Dr. Vinales approaches patients clinically. The patient considers her as family. She has gained the respect of patients and colleagues for her professional manner and communications style. She is one of the leaders at the VA on making changes that are needed for better care of our veterans.

Karyne joined MCMS in 2020 when I asked her to become a leader in our county. She has been the secretary of the society and chair of the DEI committee. Karyne is a unique human being who always tries to find a way to give back to her profession and her community. I want to emphasis that Dr. Vinales has been a fantastic chairwoman of the MCMS DEI subcommittee, organizing webinars and using our voice to stand up for minorities. She has injected enthusiasm and hard work to the medical society. Dr. Vinales creates partnerships with other institutions and sends the message that MCMS cares about patients, physicians, and our community.

Thank you for your consideration,

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