

# HCMS Women Physicians Section 2023 Candidate Profiles

## Chair Nominee

**Renee J. Flores, M.D.**

*Current Section Vice Chair*



## Vice Chair Nominee

**Victoria C. Chang, M.D.**

*Current Section Officer at Large*



## Officer at Large Nominees

### **Cristina Bardita, M.D.**



My name is Cristina Bardita, and I am asking for your vote as officer at large. I am a pulmonary and critical care physician with a PhD in Pharmacology and a Master's in Healthcare Administration. My work has taken me across the country, but I have recently settled in the Houston area. Throughout my training and post-graduate studies, I have been blessed with inspiring women mentors who were accomplished researchers and leaders. I have also witnessed firsthand the gap women face in highly competitive specialties and leadership positions. As a result, I am deeply compelled to give back.

Even though in 2020s more than 53% of medical students were women, only 18% were deans and 19% department chairs. In my own specialty, the number of women has remained between 25-30% for the past decade. Other specialties may fair better or worse such as cardiology, orthopedics, or urology. While it is well recognized that women lead with high integrity and empathy and create a legacy of visionary leaders behind them, we are severely underrepresented at the top as well as in important healthcare matters. Many times, we are uncomfortable discussing healthcare finances and strategy or feel that our negotiation and business skills need yet to be honed; this holds us back from new opportunities. Still, as the former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi said: "The best way to get a seat at the table is to pull up a chair."

We need to ensure that women have equal visibility and opportunities to advance in their careers and lead in medicine. If they wish, they should also have the capability to scale up their practice and become successful entrepreneurs. With these goals in mind, we must create short and long-term strategies on how to accomplish them. I look forward to working together with HCMS and empowering other women physicians on their journey ahead.

**Additional nominees on page 2**

## Officer at Large Nominees continued

### Katie Fung-Yip, M.D.



I have been a member of the HCMS since 2011 and appreciate the advocacy and services the society offers to the physicians serving Harris County. As an OBGYN, I believe in promoting women's health and feel strongly about the importance of women's voices and independence. I look forward to the opportunity to promote success for all women physicians as a member of the executive committee.

Since graduating residency in 2008, I have experienced the practice of medicine in various types of employment set-up, from a full-time employee to being an independently contracted physician. These experiences have greatly shaped my perspectives and I look forward to sharing them with all the women physicians as the Officer at Large.

I also currently serve as the Director at Large for the Houston region of the American Medical Writers Association Southwest Chapter. I greatly enjoy meeting fellow physicians and scientists and working together to enhance the field of medicine for all.

My interests outside of medicine include personal finance, yoga inversions, and taking long naps when it rains.

### Yvette Ho, M.D.



I am admittedly new to HCMS. However, I grew up in the area (I graduated from Klein High School) and am just newly returned after many years of education, training and working in other states.

I have been thrilled to start a new job with UT Health Houston and be back in my hometown. I would love to be given the chance to serve on the executive committee of the Women Physicians Section. I have recently been appointed to the Diversity Committee at McGovern Medical School, as well, but I am eager to get involved with my community on a larger scale.

As an orthopedic surgeon, I am in a field that is still predominantly (>90%) male. I know the only way I have gotten to where I am today is through the tireless efforts and adversities of innumerable women before me. However, there is clearly still substantial room for improvement of the professional environment for women throughout all medical fields. I am passionate about promoting and supporting other women and other underrepresented groups. And I am excited to help further prospects for women in medicine and society as a whole—both now and for future generations.

### Laura Jimenez-Quintero, M.D.



I am a practicing pathologist in The Woodlands as Founder, Director, and CEO of Precise Pathology Associates, PLLC. I bring multiple years of leadership experience in organized medicine, having compassionately served as President of the Houston Society of Clinical Pathologists, President of the HCMS North Branch, and in several board and committee positions with HCMS and TMA, including the Board of Ethics, Membership Committee, and HCMS Physician Wellness Committee. I currently sit on the TMAIT Board of Trustees. Recently, I was recognized for my service as recipient of the national 2021 College of American Pathologists Foundation Gene and Jean Herbek Humanitarian Award. I appreciate the opportunity and would be honored to contribute to the HCMS Women Physicians Section.