

MEDICINE@ NJMS

“OUR INCLUSIVENESS IS INTENTIONAL BECAUSE EXCELLENCE REQUIRES A DIVERSE COMMUNITY...”

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FALL 2017



Alfonso Waller, M.D.
Assistant Professor

Growing up in Northern New Jersey, to immigrant parents from Cuba, Alfonso H. Waller, MD, says “There was a great emphasis on hard work and education.” After completing his residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiology at NJMS in 2009 and 2012, respectively, Dr. Waller then pursued additional training in advanced cardiovascular imaging at Brigham and Women’s Hospital – Harvard Medical School. Two years later, Dr. Waller returned as an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Radiology, and as the Director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging at Rutgers New Jersey Medical

School. He was also selected as Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) faculty scholar, and say “I appreciate the support I have received from both the HCOE and my Departments. The Department of Medicine has always been supportive throughout my early career, including training, and HCOE has been amazing for my continued development as a faculty member.”



Shoba Swaminathan, M.D.
Associate Professor

I grew up in India, a country with one of the most diverse population where people from various backgrounds, religions, languages and traditions. I was also raised in a multi-generational family and these interactions and experiences that I had throughout my life enabled me to develop a capacity to connect to people from all walks of life and speak 5

different languages. Therefore, I was very excited to come to work in Newark, NJ at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (previously known as UM-DNJ) once I completed my training in Infectious Diseases and pursue a career in the field of HIV clinical care and research. I provide care to patients from diverse backgrounds (ethnic, racial, socio-economic, sexual orientation etc.) and everyday continue to learn from them and their experiences. Lastly, I am blessed to able to work in an environment that has promoted and accepted diversity both in the workforce and also in the population we serve.



Lisa Dever, M.D.
Professor

I have been a faculty member in the Department of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) for over 23 years and serve as the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Director and Vice Chair for Faculty Development. I am also President-Elect of the Medical Executive Committee at University Hospital. I have had an incredibly rewarding and enriching professional experience that has offered me

insight into the needs and concerns of students, house staff, faculty, staff, and patients. I take great pride in being part of a department and institution that so highly values and supports diversity at every level. I am a strong advocate for our trainees and faculty and am dedicated to supporting career advancement of women and under-represented minorities and developing their professional and leadership skills. While progress has been made in narrowing the academic gap for women and minorities (rank, compensation, leadership positions), there is still much work to be done. I believe that NJMS is uniquely equipped and committed to fostering a diverse and vibrant community and can be a model for other institutions to follow.



Nelson Aluya, M.D.
Assistant Professor

My name is Nelson Aluya and I am an Assistant Professor and an attending physician in the Department of Medicine, New Jersey Medical School. The dedication of the faculty and staff to service, passion and community responsiveness as well as the supportive culture for career growth

was a major attraction to NJMS. I have had the opportunity to train and prepare culturally sensitive and socially competent young physicians over the years. Originally from Nigeria I understood the need develop a uniquely dedicated Sickle Cell Transition clinic to achieve a more comprehensive care. I have also led and coordinated numerous community outreach programs a platform upon which other physicians can build upon all of which has resulted in multiple local, regional awards.

About Rutgers New Jersey Medical School

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS) is part of Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences, one of the country’s largest academic health centers. NJMS is dedicated to excellence in education, research, clinical care, and community outreach. Some pertinent facts:

- NJMS has 21 academic departments and many world-renowned scientists and doctors.
- In 2015, NJMS was named #1 in the state for NIH funding.
- NJMS is located in Newark, NJ, where African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, and Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise more than 90 percent of the city’s population and face many socioeconomic, educational, and health challenges.
- Underrepresented minorities made up 21 percent of the medical school’s enrollment in 2015-2016.
- NJMS ranks in the 80th percentile for underrepresented minority graduates and 85th percentile for minority faculty, according to the 2014 AAMC Missions Management Tool.

INTERNAL MEDICINE @ NJMS

"OUR INCLUSIVENESS IS INTENTIONAL BECAUSE EXCELLENCE REQUIRES A DIVERSE COMMUNITY..."

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CLAUDIA MIRANDA, MD, RESIDENT

I was born in Lima, Peru, near the tail-end of a terrorist regime. My family and I emigrated to the United States — like many others — with the hope of a better future. My father, a physician, showed me the meaning of hard work and dignity; my mother, likewise, was an example of perseverance and faith. When it came to choosing a medical school, I knew I wanted a place that was invested in that human connection — a place that took very seriously the holistic nature of medicine. Rutgers New Jersey Medical School provided that experience for me. When the time for residency came, I knew that this place was the best match for me. The program's camaraderie and sense of family is palpable, and I can think of no environment that is more supportive in cultivating a rewarding career in medicine!



**EMAN RASHED, MD,
RESIDENT**

In the lengthy years of training, it's easy to forget why you chose to go into medicine. We get so caught up in the evaluations, the schedules, and thinking about the "next step" that we forget how much good we can do right now. To be able to help people, to utilize our training for the purpose of easing the suffering that is rampant in the world, is an immense gift and responsibility. My participation in a mission trip to Jordan in 2015 left me with a renewed sense of purpose, a fresh dedication to my craft, and a larger perspective on what it means to be a physician. The faces and the stories all live on in my mind, for better or for worse. I wasn't sure how much I could give to my patients, but that didn't matter. I did my best, and they gave me so much more in return.

ADAM KIBOLA, MD, RESIDENT

Growing up in rural Tanzania, I saw my grandfather patiently attend to the needs of his community as a pastor. As I listened to him, I started to develop the desire to be involved in the kind of work that improves the lives of others. At the end of medical school, I worked with a team from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) on a project that involved creating a MSc in health monitoring and evaluation at Mzumbe University in Tanzania. Working with Tanzanians at Mzumbe University and the Ministry of Health helped me appreciate the management and policy issues associated with health care delivery in a resource-poor country. This experience led me to seek a residency program that offers the opportunity to learn from leaders who know creative ways to deliver cost-effective health care to a diverse patient population. The Rutgers NJMS residency program proved to be the right fit!



BRITTANY GLADNEY, MD, RESIDENT

I was born in Illinois. My father was an engineer and my mother majored in finance. If you asked my five-year-old self what I wanted to be when I grew up, you would need to pull up a chair and get comfortable because my list of future professions was long. Medicine was part of the list, along with ballet dancing and journalism. Theatre was one of my early detours, then came engineering. Finally, the yellow brick road led me to medicine. I was familiar with Rutgers NJMS's internal medicine residency program since I received my MD degree from NJMS. I knew about the exposure to a diverse patient population with clinical pathology ranging from the common to the rare. I knew about the distinguished faculty whose passion for teaching would be a critical part of my training. What I didn't anticipate is how welcome I would feel. If I need anything, whether it is a recipe for lunch or fellowship advice, I don't have to look farther than my fellow residents. I am very proud to call myself a part of this amazing team of physicians.

