

Surgery @ NJMS

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

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SPRING 2018

Anne Mosenthal, MD

Chair of Surgery and Professor



Throughout my career I have been privileged to work among diverse leaders in academic medicine who have inspired me to make significant contributions in the field. As the Chair of the Department of Surgery at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School for the last five years, I have been proud of the diversity of our faculty and trainees. At the time I was appointed Chair I was one of only six women surgery chairs in the country; today the number has grown to over twenty. I hope through our recruiting and training this total will continue to increase. One of the strengths of the NJMS surgery department is our diversity of faculty and trainees and I believe this helps us excel within the community we serve. We are inspiring a culture of collaboration and mentorship here in the Department of Surgery!

Anastasia Kunac, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor



As a member of a first-generation immigrant family from the former Yugoslavia who grew up in the United States, I have always acknowledged that my beliefs and traditions were different than others I went to school with. As such, I valued the breadth of perspective that comes from living and working in a diverse community. I came to NJMS because the institution as a whole and the Department of Surgery celebrate the diversity in our community and our medical school. As Program Director of our General Surgery Residency Program, I am extremely proud that we recruit women and men who are diverse in their racial and ethnic identities, sexual orientation, and belief systems.

Dorian J. Wilson, MD

Professor



I have spent essentially my entire career in academic medicine at Rutgers (legacy UMDNJ) NJMS. It is difficult, in fact, to imagine how I might have successfully evolved as an academician, clinician and educator anywhere else. Now, Professor of Surgery in the Division of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery, I recognize that, even early on, I was consciously aware of the unique opportunities readily available to me in an enormously diverse and multi-cultural setting. Finding myself at the outset in a complex field where precious few shared my racial background or cultural identity, I received critical support from individuals and mentors on all levels. They in turn created a collective awareness and an environment that was poised in a unique way to understand the challenges I faced as a man of color. More importantly, I was granted the privilege to evolve naturally, using talents that have allowed me to become a leader in educational efforts geared at humanism in medicine and the critical role it plays in patient-centered care.

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 20 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 23 percent of the medical school's enrollment in 2017-2018.
- NJMS ranks in the 80th percentile for underrepresented minority graduates and 85th percentile for minority faculty, according to the 2014 AAMC Missions Management Tool.

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Jesus Rosado, MD

Resident



NJMS and the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) has been a major part of my life since the age of 16. I was a young Hispanic male with a dream of becoming a doctor and helping people. But coming from a single parent home where no one in my family had gone to college, becoming a doctor was just a dream. Everything changed the moment I was accepted to participate in the Summer Youth Scholars Program. It was there I would meet other people just like me. I was inspired to pursue my dreams and make them into a reality. Today I am a surgical resident and have reached my goal of becoming a doctor, but not without the help of so many. I thank the HCOE and everyone who works with it for giving me that opportunity and showing me that dreams are always attainable with hard work and perseverance.

Franchesca Hwang, MD

Resident



I was born and raised in South Korea until I moved to the States with my sister in middle school. I've always embraced my identity as a Korean immigrant, and I chose NJMS for my general surgery residency because I knew I'd be very comfortable with who I am here. On the day of the interview, I was pleasantly surprised by how diverse the residents were in this program and also by how everyone genuinely enjoyed spending time with each other. My experience here has only reaffirmed my decision to come and spend a total of 7 years of my life here. My co-residents and I are here for each other in good times and in bad, and I can't imagine any other residency program where I can get this much support from the faculty and staff. Over the last 5 years, I have grown to become a more competent surgeon and along the way have made unforgettable memories. I am excited to embrace more people like myself who are willing to join us at NJMS.

Adriana I. Suarez-Ligon, MD

RBHS Instructor, Director of Breast Surgery



I am a first generation Cuban American. I first joined the NJMS family in 2005 as a medical student. After completing medical school, I continued my journey at NJMS as a General Surgery resident. After a decade of education and training at NJMS, I traveled down south where I completed a Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship at Emory University. Fellowship was fantastic because of both the training and the southern living, however, I never once thought I wouldn't come back home. I joined the NJMS Department of Surgery as faculty in 2016. It is with great pride that I embrace this chance to be on the teaching end of the community, faculty, staff and patients, that taught me and formed me into the surgeon I am today.

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