

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION @ NJMS

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

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FALL 2017

Ondrea McKay, MD

Fellow, Traumatic Brain Injury



I graduated NJMS in 2013 and completed my residency at Rutgers NJMS/Kessler in 2017. As a student here, I was able to see firsthand how much the faculty and staff care about the resident experience. The clinical experience is great, too. I knew that when I graduated, I would feel like a complete physician. With its proximity to the Jersey shore and to Manhattan, and plenty of great restaurants right in the area, the medical school's location is ideal and affords plenty of places and opportunities to hang out with your fellow residents.

Sharon Bushi, MD

PGY-3 Resident



My journey at NJMS began as a student, slowly growing in knowledge and experience from the variety of teaching opportunities provided to me. From the didactics to the clinical rotations, the education gave me a solid foundation to build on during residency. I was especially interested in PM&R and the interdisciplinary approach the field takes toward patient care. With this in mind, I completed a year in internal medicine further that strengthened my foundation in general medicine. I am currently completing my second year of the PM&R residency where I am rewarded by the progress I see in my patients every day. I am continuously inspired by my attendings and peers and hope to find my place in the world of rehabilitation medicine in the near future.

Laurie Dabaghian, MD

PGY-4 Resident



As an Armenian, I lived my life juggling my Armenian American identities. Born in Saudi Arabia, to parents who were born in Lebanon, I spent a lot of my life discovering and embracing different cultures and identities. Medicine always felt like a calling for me, as I believed it was a profession and art that focused on the care of all people. My experience as a medical student at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and now as a resident in PM&R has further fulfilled my passion of helping those in need across different cultures. This school and department have fostered my belief and focus on improvement a patient's quality of life.

Jasmine Ng, MD

PGY-3 Resident



I am fourth-generation Malaysian Chinese. Raised in a Malay village, I knew my family was different but we nonetheless contributed and flourished. We later moved to China, where my schooling instilled values of hard work and tenacity, eventually leading me to the US for college and medical school. Being so far from home took a toll, so I took a year off to join a medical NGO in rural China working in a cerebral palsy clinic. There, amongst children with special needs, I discovered my passion for PM&R. I am grateful for the opportunity to realize my dream through NJMS.

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 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.

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION @ NJMS

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

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | FALL 2017

Monifa Brooks, MD

Medical Director – Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, West Orange
Residency Program Director, Fellow Traumatic Brain Injury



Growing up in Baltimore, Maryland, I initially planned to become a veterinarian. Multiple allergies later, I turned my attention to improving the lives of people, rather than their much-loved pets. As the first physician in my family, I did not have a blueprint to follow to navigate the world of medical education. I was fortunate to have many mentors to assist me along the way. As a residency program director, I understand the importance of providing encouragement and guidance to physicians in training. I believe learning to provide excellent patient care to a diverse patient population is key to developing into an outstanding and empathetic physician. The Rutgers system consistently strives to provide world-class treatment to every patient throughout the continuum of care. I consider it a privilege to contribute to that delivery of care.

Anthony H. Lequerica, Ph.D.

Senior Research Scientist, Kessler Foundation

One of my lines of research is on issues of cultural diversity in brain injury rehabilitation. Clinically my caseload has become 90% Spanish-speaking patients who need a neuropsychological evaluation in Spanish. As a Puerto Rican, it is a blessing to work in an environment where diversity is valued and I'm thankful for the support I have received from my department to pursue my career goals in working with underserved populations. As I celebrate 10 years at NJMS, I look forward to many more, educating students and residents about research and through ongoing collaboration with faculty.



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 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.