

ORTHOPAEDICS @ NJMS

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

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SPRING 2017



KAREEM SHAATH, MD, RESIDENT

I applied to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Rutgers because of its excellent reputation. I have been interested in orthopaedic traumatology since day one and there is no better place to train for that during residency. The department has been extremely supportive in helping me prepare for a career in academic medicine. Being of Arab descent, a population that is not well represented within the orthopaedic community, I am extremely supportive of minorities in academic medicine.



**JESUS JUAREZ, MD,
RESIDENT**

The NJMS orthopaedic program initially drew my interest due to its urban location with a highly diverse patient population. Diversity in the community can present challenges in providing care in the form of language barriers or the ability to empathize with patients. We have an excellent group of orthopaedic residents from varied backgrounds, allowing us to provide a greater level of care for our patients – whether it's speaking another language or being familiar with different cultural beliefs. Also, having the opportunity to participate in mentorship roles to underrepresented minorities in medicine via student interest groups at NJMS, including the Men of Distinction program, has been an invaluable experience.

KIAUNTEE MURRAY, MD, RESIDENT

I was born at Newark Beth Israel Hospital and raised in Jersey City. I entered NJMS particularly interested in serving this community. Through my role as co-president of the NJMS chapter of the Student National Medical Association, I was in a unique position to witness the many ways the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement faculty and staff serve the greater Newark area. NJMS's faculty plays an essential role in cultivating a community of service for trainees. A diverse academic community necessitates respect for alternative opinions and approaches. Many members of the NJMS orthopaedics faculty facilitated early shadowing, research, and mentor opportunities that helped to guide my career as a medical student. This willingness to be present and engaged was essential in my decision on where to train, as this is the type of clinician I aspire to be.



JAMES R. NUTTALL, MD, FELLOW

The immediately evident culture of acceptance of the LGBTQ community that exists at NJMS is what attracted me to this institution. Working closely with the multidisciplinary team at NJMS, I have always felt comfortable fully engaging in the complex professional and social dynamics of the hospital. From the initial interview, I felt I had the freedom to fully integrate into the close relationships that are essential to a successful surgical fellowship. The supportive atmosphere greatly enhances the learning and teaching experience. The wonderful community at NJMS has facilitated my training as an orthopaedic oncologist.



O. FOLORUNSHO EDOBOR-OSULA, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Division of Pediatrics

Growing up in Queens, New York, to immigrant parents from Nigeria, there was a great emphasis on hard work and education in my household. When I started my job search, I knew that I wanted to work in an inner city community because that is where I felt I could make the biggest impact professionally, clinically and personally. My department has supported me in all of those endeavors. From the moment I stepped onto the Rutgers NJMS campus I was welcomed with open arms. With the support of the Office for Diversity and Community Engagement and my department, I have attended several conferences and workshops designed to teach me how to succeed as an underrepresented minority in academic medicine. Working in Newark has been quite a rewarding experience for me. I have the pleasure of taking care of some of the most unique and challenging patients.



IRFAN AHMED, MD, MBBS

Assistant Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Division of Hand and Microvascular Surgery

Diversity benefits not only benefits patients, but also physicians. We can all learn from each other, with communication being a key part of this process. In addition to the outstanding faculty and commitment to teaching, one of the things that made this job appealing to me was the diversity in the staff as well as the residency program. Now more than ever, cultural awareness should be part of patient care and that cannot happen without adequate representation within the field.



KATHLEEN BEEBE, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Orthopaedics, Division of Musculoskeletal Oncology

I am fortunate to have been supported and encouraged for 18 years by my department and the medical school in the field that I love. Regardless of whether I was the only woman in the department or was joined by others, I have always had equal opportunities to succeed. Having participated in track and field, cross country and road racing since the age of 11, I have always been comfortable toeing the line alongside my male colleagues. Being comfortable in this arena has allowed me to thrive in a field that is generally male-dominated. In both settings, our differences are celebrated but our common goals are the same. It doesn't matter where we come from or how we got there. Using our medical knowledge and individual strengths to care for patients is what brings us together. The medical school and department understand that we all have different and unique assets and nurturing these assets makes us stronger as a whole.



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 19.4 percent of the medical school's enrollment in 2014-2015.
- NJMS ranks in the 90th percentile for underrepresented minority graduates and 70th percentile for minority faculty, according to the 2014 AAMC Missions Management Tool.