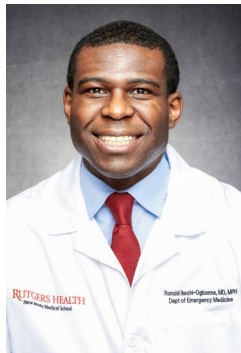


EMERGENCY MEDICINE @ NJMS

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

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Ronald Ikechi, MD, MPH

Resident

I am excited to be at Rutgers-NJMS because of its dedication to foster diversity not only through gender, race, and ethnicity, but also through perspective and experience. I am a first generation American-born Nigerian; and as many can imagine, becoming the first medical doctor in my family is an extraordinary accomplishment. As an “endangered species” in medicine, I am grateful for the opportunities and support afforded to me through my non-traditional journey through physician hood. With opportunities to collaborate in community and urban health through the emergency department at Rutgers-NJMS I am excited to continue my passion of working with the underserved.



Chifaa Bouzidi, MD

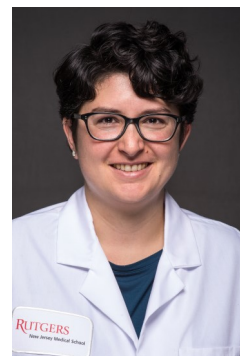
Resident

The first day I walked into Rutgers NJMS I was a 19 years old college student starting the NERA program. I walked in afraid and lacking confidence that a Moroccan-American female could become a physician...today I'm an Emergency Medicine resident in the same institution. NJMS has helped build me into the professional I am today. The most beautiful thing it had to offer me was its diverse faculty, students, staff, physicians and patients.

Michelle Davis, MD

Resident

As an out lesbian, mixed Iranian-American, and non-traditional medical trainee, I am proud to be an emergency medicine resident at Rutgers NJMS. At NJMS, I have learned to view my intersectional identity and life experiences as an asset to the practice of medicine thanks to an inclusive institution and faculty that understand and champion diversity in our colleagues as well as our patients. I look forward to further serving our community as a fierce advocate for LGBTQ and pediatric health equity.



Sharmi Elamin-Davis, MD

Resident

I am proud to be a part of a program whose faculty and leadership not only understand the value of a diverse team, but also the importance of recruiting physicians who resemble the population they are treating because of the positive impacts this has on the health of underserved patients and their career aspirations. As the first person in my family to earn a medical degree, I know first-hand how challenging it can be. As a Black woman and a mom, these are core parts of my identity and I am proud to have matched into a program that views the contributions of diverse individuals as an asset. As a medical student, I developed a passion for mentoring students who aspired to be health professionals and for talking to the community about issues that impact their health. I am excited about the vast opportunities and resources that are available at NJMS so that I can continue this passion in the Newark community.



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 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 2017 AAMC Missions Management Tool.

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Cindy Amilcar, MD

Resident

As a first-generation Haitian-American woman, I have had the opportunity that most people dream of. I had the support of friends and family as I navigated the waters that is academia. My arrival to Emergency Medicine was not an easy one. I silently struggled with anxiety throughout medical school in fear of being seen as weak or not smart enough if I asked for help. When I was brave enough to ask for help, I was shocked by the number of resources available to me. In the black community, mental health is something we don't talk about. It's stigmatized and swept under the rug. NJMS serves a large African-American population and has a first-hand view of the damage of untreated mental health in the black community. Being an EM resident at NJMS has put me at the forefront of not only seeing, but impacting, changing and improving the state of mental health in the black community.

Enoch Obeng, MD

Resident

As a Ghanaian who was lucky enough to be raised in the States, the importance of giving back is stressed constantly. For me, giving back means working with a diverse community. These diverse groups tend to be disproportionately poor, but don't let that fool you; Newark is on the rise and I love being a part of that. As a minority rising through the ranks, I see a lot of myself in Newark. And just as NJMS has made it a point to care for this community, they have provided me with opportunities to learn and grow. As a resident here, I have been able to explore passions such as global and community health while advancing as a culturally sensitive clinician.



Lindsey Hastings-Spaine, MD

Resident

As a first-generation, Sierra Leonean-American woman, I aspire to be a socially conscious physician with a strong commitment to clinical excellence, diversity, and service. The residency's commitment to diversity and the medically underserved community of Newark is unmatched. Our leaders understand the value of having a diverse training program, as well as the importance of understanding the health needs and barriers of the community we serve in order to provide high-quality medical care. Every day serves as an opportunity to provide healing to all who enter the doors of the department, and further promote wellness in the lives of our most fragile and vulnerable populations. It truly is a privilege to work in a diverse department, with genuine and compassionate healers, fighting the good fight for our patients.

Marc Berenson, MD

Resident

Throughout my time as both a resident and medical student at Rutgers NJMS, I have found a welcoming and accepting home here. I am the son of a new immigrant from Nicaragua, an out-and-proud member of the LGBTQ+ community, and a second-career physician. Rutgers has encouraged me to use these different lenses through which I see the world to meaningfully contribute to medicine, including academic work researching, developing, and publishing curriculums to teach medical students how better to care for historically disenfranchised groups. We have a strong group of faculty with interests in the Social Determinants of Health who are both ready and willing to mentor residents and transform them into leaders in this field, and I feel lucky to have the privilege to learn from these outstanding physicians.

