

## EMERGENCY MEDICINE @ NJMS

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



### Alexandria Cooper, MD

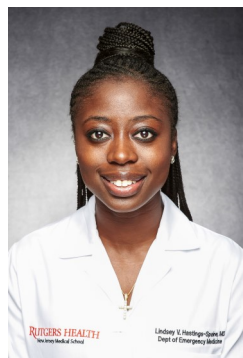
Resident

As a new mom and second-career physician entering her medical career during a pandemic, making my Match List was a daunting task. I only had a few short virtual encounters with faculty and residents to try to get a sense of the culture of each program I was considering. I was heartened by my interviews at Rutgers-NJMS: it was clear that the residents were excited about the program and community, loved the faculty, and were truly a family. At NJMS, I have found a welcoming community of dedicated clinicians committed to service and education. I have been well-supported in my entry into medicine, valued for my perspectives as a former nurse, and have found camaraderie among my social justice-minded colleagues. I look forward to my training at NJMS and continuing to build relationships across our tight-knit program.

### Duniel Coke, MD

Resident

I consider Rutgers NJMS my home hospital. I am fortunate to have family members alive today due to the care provided by medical professionals at this very hospital; some of those same family members who still reside in Newark and the surrounding cities. I am proud to consider this my home hospital for many reasons; the main reason is the dedication to diversity I see within this facility, especially within the emergency department. The commitment to serve the community is what keeps me in awe. It is important for healthcare providers to resemble the population they are providing care, and this program shares this ideology. It is especially important within the emergency department because we are among the first physicians a patient may see, and we want to instill a level of comfort immediately. It is humbling to hear the patients I have come across here tell me how proud they are of me and share how they appreciate having a doctor that looks like them. This shows the importance of diversity, and Rutgers NJMS understands this. I see first-hand how much this program does for the community and it is an honor to be a part of this program. I am excited to continue serving this community.



### 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.

