

PEDIATRICS @ NJMS

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

OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT | SPRING 2018



Nassali Mugwanya, MD

PGY I Resident

As a first generation American I have had what I now realize is the privilege of growing up immersed in two quite different cultures. My family routinely travelled back to Uganda making many stops around the world. As a result I have grown up with a unique view of the world and a strong sense of community. When deciding to go into medicine it was important to me that I maintain that view and train in a place where diversity and community are priorities both in patient population and faculty members. The pediatric program here at NJMS is exactly that. With the opportunity to care for children from various cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds, and the chance to learn from physicians with such varied clinical training, I feel that when I finish I will be prepared to serve in any community.

Dominga Padilla, MD

Associate Professor

As a Latina, raised by a single parent, born in the Bronx and raised in Jersey City, I developed an appreciation for cultural diversity that would influence many of my academic and professional decisions. Newark and NJMS have become my second home. As a pediatrician, my current clinical, research, and educational activities are focused on adolescents, in particular, those at high risk for HIV infection and HIV-positive adolescents. I attribute my successes in large part to the guidance and support provided through the Hispanic Center of Excellence. I happily state that I have received much, so much is expected in return. NJMS has allowed the opportunity to serve the youth, making the Division of Adolescent & Young Adults Medicine (DAYAM) their home.



Rhanda Darville, MD

PGY III Resident



I was born and raised in the Bahamas, an English-speaking developing Caribbean country, and left the island essentially only for vacations and to further my education. I attended undergrad in the southern United States and medical school in the Dominican Republic. During my interview with the NJMS Pediatrics Department, it was highlighted that we serve diverse populations in a largely urban setting. Once I joined the department, I was also struck by the diversity within the department itself. We are made up of providers from all corners of the globe and of many ethnicities. Learning to appreciate our own diversity helps us to appreciate that of our patient population. We are living proof that we are actually more alike than we are different. I am also excited by the fact that our patients get to see health care providers who look like them and speak the same languages. Many of us come from similar backgrounds and have had similar experiences. This program clearly fosters a culture of diversity and inclusion and I am proud to complete my training here.

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.