



# BLACK MEN IN WHITE COATS CHICAGO YOUTH SUMMIT

**MARCH 7, 2020**

1901 W. Carroll Ave,  
Chicago, IL



Hosted by:





**Black Men in White Coats (BMWC)** is an organization created by Dr. Dale Okorodudu to inspire young black males to enter medical school. The program offers career exposure, inspiration, and mentoring.

<https://www.blackmeninwhitecoats.org/>

   TeamBMWC



Health & Medicine Policy Research Group is a Chicago based non-profit working to improve the health of all people in Illinois by promoting health equity. Founded in 1981, it was formed as an action-oriented policy center—nimble, independent, and focused on regional health issues. Health & Medicine’s mission is to promote social justice and challenge inequities in health and health care. It conducts research, educates, and collaborates with other groups to advocate policies and impact health systems to improve the health status of all people.

In our work to improve health, we recognize that developing a robust, highly-trained, and culturally-humble healthcare workforce is critical. Health & Medicine responds to this challenge through our Chicago Area Health Education Center (AHEC), which works to recruit, train, and retain a diverse health professions workforce committed to underserved populations.

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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9:00 AM

Welcome & Keynote

10:00 AM

Concurrent Workshops

11:40 AM

Lunch

12:15 PM

Black Men in White Coats Panel

1:00 PM

Mentor Mixer



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DALE OKORODUDU, MD



Dr. Dale Okorodudu founded Black Men In White Coats in 2013. He is also the founder of Diverse Medicine Inc. and co-founder of PreMed STAR. Dr. Dale has published two Amazon Best-Selling Books, *How to Raise a Doctor: Wisdom From Parents Who Did It!*, and *PreMed Mondays: 52 Letters of Mentorship to a Future Doctor*. He is also the recipient of several awards including the National Medical Association's Top Healthcare Professionals under 40. As a triple board- certified physician, Dr. Dale practices Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine at the Dallas VA Medical Center. He is also an Assistant Professor at UT Southwestern Medical Center where he serves as an Associate Program Director in the Department of Internal Medicine, and the director of the House staff Emerging Academy of Leaders. His passion is to serve others by developing tomorrow's leaders in medicine. To achieve this goal, he leads organizations focused on helping premedical students excel and matriculate into medical school.



# PRESENTERS & MODERATORS



**Dr. Pierre Johnson**

**Panelist: Black Men in White Coats Panel**

Dr. Pierre Johnson is an obstetrician/gynecologist and has been in private practice since 2013, specializing in high risk obstetrics, minimally invasive Gynecologic surgery, and pelvic floor repair. He is a Chicago native, born and raised on the south side. He experienced substandard medical care rendered to his family as a child and vowed that he would dedicate his life to making a difference. Despite all odds, Dr. Johnson overcame all the obstacles faced by a young black male growing up in a turbulent environment, and persevered to become a well respected, board certified surgeon. Dr. Johnson has a passion for educating and inspiring people. He was featured in The New York Times Magazine article, “A Prescription for More Black Doctors,” in 2015.



**Dr. Brian Williams**

**Panelist: Black Men in White Coats Panel**

Dr. Brian Williams is an Associate Professor of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery at the University of Chicago serving Chicago's South Sid. He graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering and, after six years on active duty, followed a different call to serve, enrolling at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. He did his general surgery residency at Harvard Medical School (Brigham and Women's Hospital) in Boston, MA, and a fellowship in trauma and surgical critical care at Emory University (Grady Memorial Hospital) in Atlanta, GA. Upon completion of his training, he served on the faculty at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX, where he led the team that treated victims of the July 7, 2016, Dallas police sniper attack.



**Dr. Adonis Ducre**

**Panelist: Black Men in White Coats Panel**

Dr. Adonis Ducre is the Chief Operating Officer/Chief Pharmacy Officer Local Health, Inc. Adonis earned his Doctorate of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences where he specialized in Nuclear Pharmacy. Adonis spent 10 years with one of the largest retail pharmacy chains in the United States such a working on the buyout and acquisition team that acquired two large pharmacy chains; one in New York City and one in Arkansas. Adonis also conducted drug research at Virginia Tech and the University of Wisconsin– Madison that landed him as a co-author on a published paper in the Journal of Chemical Physics.





### **Dr. Trevonne Thompson**

#### **Panelist: Black Men in White Coats Panel**

Dr. Trevonne M. Thompson is an emergency physician and medical toxicologist at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System. He is a tenured associate professor of Emergency Medicine & Medical Toxicology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Dr. Thompson has extensive experience in managing poisoning outbreaks and has investigated novel antidotal therapies. He advocates for the elimination of health disparities and for the diversification of the physician workforce. Dr. Thompson is the Associate Dean for Admissions at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.



### **Dr. Eric Whitaker**

#### **Moderator: How to Raise a Doctor**

Dr. Eric E. Whitaker is a physician-entrepreneur who is founder and CEO of Zing Health, Inc., a tech-enabled Medicare Advantage health insurer focused on African American and Latinx seniors. He also co-founded Symphonix Health Holdings, LLC (Medicare Part D insurance) and sold the company in January, 2016. Dr Whitaker was a co-founder and founding chair of Next Level Health, an Illinois-based Medicaid managed. Until March, 2013, Dr. Whitaker was the Executive Vice President, Strategic Affiliations and Associate Dean of Community-based Research at the University of Chicago Medical Center where he lead the Urban Health Initiative (UHI) where he and his team sought to find solutions to urban health problems that would improve health outcomes on Chicago's southside but could also be replicated in urban areas around the US. Dr. Whitaker received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Grinnell College in 1987, and in 1993 a master's degree in public health from the Harvard School of Public Health and a medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He is trained in both Primary Care Internal Medicine and Preventive Medicine/Public Health.



### **David Sanders**

#### **Panelist: How to Raise a Doctor**

David Sanders serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Malcolm X College entrusted with the vision, leadership and execution of the strategic plan for the iconic Center of Excellence in Healthcare college for the district. He previously served and assisted the Chief Operating Officer in the vision and management of all operating aspects of City Colleges of Chicago including all colleges and satellite locations.





### **Rita Amadi**

#### **Panelist: How to Raise a Doctor**

Rita Amadi is a mother of three children who is interested in careers in the health science field. She juggles multiple responsibilities as a mother, wife, and a full-time employee but she enjoys being all three. Her children have participated in many different health science enrichment programs to help enhance their knowledge base about health and the health science fields and to help them accomplish their goals. Prominent among these are the UIC Early Outreach Program, UIC Medicina Academy, National Youth Leadership Forum-Medicine, and the I Am Abel foundation. As a mother, her role has been to support her children while they engage in these programs and she will continue to support them as they pursue their collective dream of becoming healthcare professionals.



### **Ted Amadi, Sr**

#### **Panelist: How to Raise a Doctor**

Ted Amadi Sr. is an accountant and a father of three children who are interested in careers in the health science field. As a father, his role is to support his children and to help them strategize and streamline their interests, so that they can maximize their potentials and eventually fulfill their dreams. He enrolls his children in different health science enrichment programs and supported them in ensuring their active participation in the programs. He believes a committed father can make a significant difference in whether a child accomplishes their set goal or not.



### **Dr. LaMenta "Sweetie" Conway**

#### **Panelist: How to Raise a Doctor & Diversifying the Healthcare Pipeline**

Dr. LaMenta Conway is the Deputy Chief of Medicine for the Illinois Department of Health. Dr. Conway and her team are responsible for the medical care of +40K offenders in custody in the Illinois State Prisons. She was born and raised in Englewood and defied immeasurable odds to arise successfully from a community many describe as blighted and hopeless. Today she is living out her childhood dream of becoming a doctor. Trained in both Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Illinois, she has celebrated over 22 years as a physician with most of her career teaching in top academic hospitals in the Midwest.





### **Maggie West**

#### **Panelist: How to Raise a Doctor**

Maggie West is an Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) Representative. ISAC is the college access and financial aid agency in the state of Illinois that administers scholarship, grant, prepaid tuition and student loan repayment/forgiveness programs. ISAC's mission is making college accessible and affordable for all Illinois students. She is an expert at simplifying the world of financial aid. She has given presentations that covers college costs, types of financial aid, how to apply for financial aid (including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA), financial aid award packages, and other important information such as loan forgiveness and repayment options.



### **Collins Mbachu**

#### **Panelist: Diversifying the Healthcare Pipeline**

Collins Mbachu is a second-year medical student at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago (UIC COM), Collins Mbachu has shown great dedication to aiding and empowering underserved communities through his mentorship and volunteer work. He graduated from Loyola University Chicago in 2018 with a degree in Biophysics. As a UIC COM Urban Health Program and UIC COM Hispanic Center of Excellence scholar, Mr. Mbachu serves as a curriculum consultant and clinical sciences instructor for multiple health career pipeline programs.



### **Dr. Kenneth Fox**

#### **Panelist: Diversifying the Healthcare Pipeline**

Dr. Kenneth Fox does community pediatrics. He was appointed Chief Health Officer of Chicago Public Schools in December 2016. A Chicago native, Dr. Fox has worked in primary care for over 25 years in Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia – in university and community clinics, hospitals, mission teams, an orphanage, a psychiatric ward and in private practice. He's worked on a range of editorial and non-profit boards and received grants and fellowships from the Ford, Fulbright, Robert Wood Johnson (RWJ) and Kellogg Foundations, The Open Society Institute on Medicine as a Profession, and the Institute for Health and Social Justice. He's written and lectured widely on cultural and social justice issues in health and care and collaborated with Partners in Health and Physicians for Human Rights.





**Dr. Darryl Pendleton**  
**Panelist: Diversifying the Healthcare Pipeline**

Dr. Darryl D. Pendleton joined the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry (UIC) in November 2002. He currently serves as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity Affairs, Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatric Dentistry. In addition, he serves as the Executive Director of the UIC Urban Health Program, Honors College Faculty and Fellow, Co-Chairs the COD Admissions Committee, Diversity Advisory Committee, Student Faculty Relations Committee and Student Disciplinary Committee.



**Tom Lewis**  
**Panelist: Diversifying the Healthcare Pipeline**

Tom Lewis is the CEO/ Founder of the Oink Group. The Oink Group was launched in 2011. They offer support, resources, and guidance to families seeking help with early college preparation, debt free college funding, and the college selection process. He started his first business at the age of 6 years old going from door to door selling newspapers on the weekend. Then started studying economics and stocks at the age of 13. His family has been entrepreneurs for 300+ years and has been in the financial consulting industry for 19 years. While studying Organizational Behavior at Northwestern University in Evanston he started a business in my sophomore year and was able to sell it a few years later.



**Dr. Linda Rae Murray**  
**Moderator: Black Men in White Coats**

Dr. Murray has spent her career serving the medically under served. She has worked in a variety of settings including practicing Occupational Medicine at a Workers Clinic in Canada, Residency Director for Occupational Medicine at Meharry Medical College, and Bureau Chief for the Chicago Department of Health under Mayor Harold Washington. Dr. Murray worked as Medical Director of the federally funded health center, Winfield Moody, serving Cabrini Green Public Housing Project in Chicago. Dr. Murray has been an active member of a wide range of local and national organizations including serving as a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Board of Directors of Trinity Health ( a large Catholic Health system). Today she serves as an Honorary Attending of Cook County Health and is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois School of Public Health (Occupational & Environmental Health and Health Policy & Administration Departments). Dr. Murray is devoting the rest of her career to being an enthusiastic full time trouble maker. She has been a voice for social justice and health as a basic human right for over fifty years.



# PLANNING COMMITTEE



**Melissa Martin**

**Director, Chicago Area Health Education Center**

Melissa Martin joined Health & Medicine Policy Research Group in January 2019 as the Director of the Chicago Area Health Education Center. Melissa has several years of experience working in public health workforce development. Most recently Melissa worked as a training and technical assistance (T/TA) specialist at a national T/TA center, building the capacity of the public health workforce to address substance misuse priorities.



**Rachel Lackland**

**Coordinator, Chicago Area Health Education Center**

Rachel Lackland joined Health and Medicine as a Chicago AHEC intern in 2014 when she was pursuing her Associate in Arts in Health Science at Malcolm X College. Rachel went on to graduate from Malcolm X and finished her college education at Chicago State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with Honors in 2018. Her choice of degree was inspired by her commitment to youth and reformation of the criminal justice system as well as her involvement with Health & Medicine's Court-Involved Youth Project through Chicago AHEC.



**Sheronda Kimbrough**

**President & CEO of Trinity Mobility Company**

Sheronda Kimbrough is the President and CEO of Trinity Mobility Company, a non-emergency medical transportation provider for the state of Illinois. Prior to assuming the role of president and CEO of Trinity Mobility Company. She served as an educator and program manager for the Chicago Public Schools. Sheronda is committed to developing equitable healthcare workforce opportunities for traditionally disenfranchised populations.



**Cindy San Miguel**

**Assistant Director, Center of Excellence in Maternal & Child Health**

Cindy San Miguel currently serves as the assistant director of the Center of Excellence (CoE) in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) within the University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public Health. Cindy also coordinates the Title V MCH Internship Program, a prestigious national internship program out of the National MCH Workforce Development Center. Cindy is passionate about addressing root causes of health and values using a Life course Approach in maternal and child health.





**Karen Aguirre**  
**Program Manager, West Side United**

Karen Aguirre is a health researcher, policy advocate, and civic engagement youth mentor interested in promoting health equity within communities of color who have been marginalized by structural violence. She currently serves as program manager for West Side United and oversees initiatives for the collaborative.



**Vennetta McCray**  
**Medical Director, Malcolm X College**

Vennetta McCray currently works as a Medical Director in the Health Science Department of Malcolm X College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Vennetta has held several roles in the field of pharmacy and education and has a passion for giving back to the community. She is currently the advisor for the Black Student Union at Malcolm X College where she strives to promote academic and professional excellence regardless of race, gender, or socioeconomic class.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**The Otho S. A. Sprague Memorial Institute Lou Malnati's Pizzeria, The International Museum of Surgical Science & The Field Museum**

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**Our event volunteers!**

**Our Event Sponsors (at the time of printing):**

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