

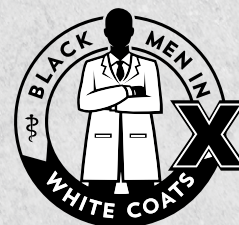


Black Men In White Coats **YOUTH SUMMIT**

NOVEMBER 9, 2024



Saint Mary's Hospital
Trinity Health



Black Men In White Coats YOUTH SUMMIT



Welcome Letter from Dr. Okorodudu



Greetings!

On behalf of the entire Black Men in White Coats team, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Connecticut's first-ever Black Men in White Coats Youth Summit, hosted by Saint Mary's Hospital! We are excited that you've chosen to join us and discover the countless opportunities that a career in medicine can offer.

It's often said that a single moment can change your life. As a pulmonary and critical care doctor, I can reflect on my own childhood and clearly identify those pivotal moments—whether it was a word of encouragement from my parents, a teacher recognizing my potential, or a coach pushing me to go the extra mile. Those moments shaped my journey, and my hope is that today will become a defining moment for you. Many people have poured their time, resources, and energy into making this day special just for you!

Over the past decade, I've been asked countless times, "Why did you start Black Men in White Coats?" While I could give you a detailed explanation, the core reason is simple: we need more Black boys and girls to explore careers in medicine. We need your intellect, compassion, and creativity. And while our mission emphasizes Black children, it extends to all children—our goal is to inspire and empower the next generation of medical professionals.

Before we dive into this incredible day, let's take a moment to give a huge "THANK YOU" to Saint Mary's Hospital for their commitment to YOU! While many institutions talk about supporting their community, Saint Mary's Hospital has taken meaningful action with this event. The fact that you're reading this letter is a testament to their dedication, and we are deeply grateful for such a devoted partner.

Today promises to be an unforgettable experience. Make new connections, embrace every opportunity, and soak in every moment of the summit!

Sincerely,

Dale Okorodudu, M.D. (Dr. Dale)

Founder of Black Men in White Coats

Black Men In White Coats YOUTH SUMMIT



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Thank you to the following partners for their
gracious contributions to the event: Aroma Joe's, UConn Waterbury,
Palace Theater, 1Care360, Post University, City of Waterbury.

Black Men In White Coats YOUTH SUMMIT



Agenda, November 8, 2024

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.

Registration/Check-In

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

Welcome &
Founder's Address

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Breakout Sessions for All Students
at UConn Waterbury

Breakout Sessions for Educators,
Community Leaders & Parents
at the Palace Theater

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Mentoring Lunch

1:15 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Black Men In White
Coats Panel Discussion

2:00 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.

Black Women In White Coats
Panel Discussion

2:45 P.M. – 2:55 P.M.

Closing Remarks, Event Survey,
and Survey Prize

3:00 P.M.

Event Concludes

Black Men In White Coats

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Shawnette Alston, M.D.



Shawnette Alston, M.D., is the Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Saint Mary's Hospital. She completed her undergraduate studies at New York University (NYU) and earned her medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Following a residency in Internal Medicine, with a focus on Primary Care at Yale

New Haven Hospital, Dr. Alston has dedicated her career to medical education and patient care. With a passion for mentoring future physicians, Dr. Alston leads the residency program, fostering a dynamic and supportive learning environment at Saint Mary's Hospital. She has guided many students in their various careers, sharing her insights and experiences. A dedicated community advocate, Dr. Alston enjoys participating in local events and initiatives, and serving her community.

N. Chineye Anako, MPH, CHES



N. Chineye (Chi) Anako is a public health practitioner whose work has focused on the intersection of public health and health equity solutions. Chi is currently the Regional Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for Trinity Health Of New England and Trinity Health New York Region, both

part of the Trinity Health system. She also oversees the 3+1 Language Services Program, which provides cultural and linguistic services to patients.

In addition to her role at Trinity Health, she is also an Adjunct Instructor at Sacred Heart University, in the College of Health Professions. Chi has consistently been a leader and thought partner in several communities. Currently, she serves on the board of Copper Beech Institute (CBI) and Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut. She is also a member of the Connecticut Chapter for the National Association for Health Services Executives (N.A.H.S.E), and was a past president. Similarly, through her participation in UConn's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences' Women's Mentorship program, Chi contributes to the development and growth of a new generation of leaders.

Chi has received numerous accolades and recognition for her contributions to the field, including being named 2020's "Healthcare Hero" at the height of the pandemic by Martti, for her work in increasing access to health care services through the provision of multilingual services. In 2021, Chi was given the Outstanding Service & Leadership Award as an Emerging Professional, presented by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing; in the same year, Chi was awarded the LGBT Ally Award at the Tri-State LGBTQ+ Unity Summit for her work in the roll-out of the Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation initiative at Trinity Health. Most recently, she was named as one of the 2022 Healthcare Diversity Leaders by the National Diversity Council and served as a moderator for TedXNewHaven.

Chi holds a Master's Degree in Public Health with a concentration in Health Promotion from Southern Connecticut State University and a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from the University of Connecticut. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and an EPIC Summer Scholar at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Kwame Asante, M.D.



Kwame O. Asante, M.D., is Chairman of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Director of Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital. Prior to joining Trinity Health Of New England, Dr. Asante was Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, MA.

Board-certified, Dr. Asante earned his medical degree with honors from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society. He then completed an internship in internal medicine at University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago. After that, he had training in dermatology at Penn State Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania, followed by Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Training at Temple University Hospital/Moss Rehabilitation Hospital in Philadelphia, where he served as a chief resident.

Vira Boatright, EdD



Vira Boatright, EdD is an experienced educator with a passion for student success. With a Doctor of Education degree from Northeastern University, a master's degree from Central Connecticut State University, a bachelor's degree from Post University, and some course work from North Carolina Central University, Dr. Boatright brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the field of education. She is also a member of the Greater Waterbury Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Before embarking on a career in education, Dr. Boatright spent over 15 years at various companies in the business industry working in a corporate setting. This diverse background provides a unique perspective and practical approach to educational leadership.

Dr. Vira Boatright has held various roles within the education system, including long-term substitute teacher, adult education instructor, paraprofessional, college and career advisor, classroom teacher, and most recently Supervisor of College and Career Readiness for Waterbury Public Schools. With experience in districts such as Wethersfield, Cheshire, Plainville, Waterbury, and New Haven, Dr. Boatright has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing students and educators today.

In addition to her teaching and professional work experiences, Dr. Boatright is an extremely proud parent of three adult children; one who is in his first year of medical school rotations, one who is in her junior year at Providence College, and her youngest who is a freshman at Penn State.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Jordan Green



Jordan Green currently works as the Director of Reaching Back Services and Community Engagement for Hartford Promise. Jordan knows firsthand the importance of a college education, and what it can mean for Hartford high school students, and to the community. Jordan was born in

Hartford and is a graduate of Trinity College. As a first-generation college student, Jordan is personally committed to encouraging students to reach higher, and to helping them succeed. Throughout his successful career as a widely respected youth counselor, advisor, and educator, he has helped catalyze over \$73,000,000 in scholarships and grants for high school students.

George Hayes, Jr.



George Hayes Jr. has a deep passion for empowering individuals from all backgrounds and is dedicated to sharing his expertise and multicultural perspective with adolescents and adults alike. Throughout his career, he has specialized in urban adolescent development, supporting legally involved youth, providing life-skills training, addressing addictions, and assisting those who have experienced complex trauma.

George's journey has been shaped by a decade of public service within Waterbury Public Schools, where he served as a full-time school social worker. Working closely with middle-school and high-school inner-city youth, he had the privilege of witnessing their growth and transformation firsthand. Additionally, George has worked as a university counselor and adjunct professor, guiding young adults through the challenges they faced in both their social and academic lives.

In addition to his work with adolescents, he has also offered individual counseling sessions in TF-CBT (Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), addiction recovery, and parenting to adult women and men. With a holistic approach to therapy, he strives to provide support and guidance to individuals at all stages of life.

George has served as the Director of an adolescent treatment program for a decade before his current endeavors. This experience has provided him with invaluable insights into the unique struggles and needs of this demographic.

In every aspect of his work, he has been committed to fostering a safe and empathetic environment, where individuals can explore their challenges, discover their strengths, and embark on a journey towards personal growth and well-being. He firmly believes that everyone has the potential to overcome adversity and lead fulfilling lives, and it is his privilege to support them along this path.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Jacquelyn D. Jordan, Ph.D., MSN, BSN, RN



A Waterbury native and a Vietnam era Army veteran, Dr. Jordan was very active in city affairs since the age of 13 until leaving Waterbury in 1998. Mentored along the way by several African American Waterburians, she was elected in 1982 to the city's Democratic Town Committee. In 1991 she also ran for the Board of Aldermen losing the "Primary" by 12 votes. In 1997, she was honored to receive distinction as Waterbury's Black Mayor for a day.

Dr. Jordan was the Founding Chair of the "Greater Waterbury Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women (NCBW) in 1988" and received the group's "Leadership Award" in 1993. While maintaining membership with the local Waterbury chapter, Dr. Jordan has been active on the national level of NCBW since 1998 and served as Board member and National Treasurer. As part of NCBW's National Health Commission, Dr. Jordan was appointed to serve on the "Obamacare" initiative with White House personnel for six years. In 2020, she was elected as the National 1st. Vice Chair of the NCBW Board of Directors.

Dr. Jordan moved from Waterbury in 1998 to accept a dean's position at Howard University's College of Nursing where she remained for six years until accepting another Dean's position at Towson University, Maryland. From 2009–2013, Dr. Jordan commuted to Westfield State University in Massachusetts, where she was recruited and hired to develop and direct the university's first nursing program. She has held teaching positions at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), Mattatuck Community College (later named Naugatuck Valley Community College NVCC), and as an adjunct in Yale's

Nurse Practitioner program. Prior to academia, Dr. Jordan practiced as a staff nurse at Waterbury and Saint Mary's Hospitals, and the Visiting Nurses Association. She was employed as a Neuroscience Nurse Specialist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Hartford for several years. She has held management positions at Bristol and Bridgeport Hospitals. She currently practices as an independent Nursing Education Consultant for Baccalaureate and Graduate Nursing Programs. Dr. Jordan is a member of several nursing organizations including the International Honor Society of Nursing.

She has received numerous awards and honors for both academic and community involvement. An alumnus of Western Connecticut State University, she received its "Centennial Award for Excellence" in 2002. In 2007, she received Western's Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. Other honors include the "Leadership in Community Service Award" by the Department of Higher Education and the Connecticut Commission on National and Community Service. She holds three Congressional Awards for leadership and community service; and several Nurse Educator Awards. She has served as Commencement Orator at NVCC and Waterbury's Granville Academy.

Dr. Jordan earned a Ph.D. in Nursing from Adelphi University, a Master's Degree in Neuroscience Nursing from Yale University, a baccalaureate degree in nursing from WCSU and an Associate Degree in Nursing from Mattatuck Community College. She also completed the 1996/97 "Management Institute for Women in Higher Education" at Wellesley College. She is the proud mother of Ayanna R. Jordan, RN, BSN and Derek Jordan, BS in Justice & Law Administration.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Laura Inamagua, M.D.



Laura Inamagua, M.D., was born in Ecuador and immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of nine. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the University of Central Florida, followed by a Master's in Biomedical Science from Barry University. Pursuing her passion for medicine, Dr. Inamagua attended St. George's University in Grenada, where she completed her medical education. Currently Dr. Inamagua is a first-year resident (PGY1) in Internal Medicine at Saint Mary's Hospital, where she provides compassionate care while continuing her medical training. Outside of medicine, Dr. Inamagua loves exploring different cuisines and trying new foods, as well as hiking and enjoying the great outdoors with her family and dog, Zeus.

Roy A. Kellerman, M.D.



Roy Kellerman Jr., M.D. was born in Hartford, Connecticut. Raised in Bloomfield, he attended Amherst College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts. He then attended Howard University College of Medicine, where he graduated in 2011, returning to Connecticut for training in Internal Medicine at the University of Connecticut Medical Center. Dr. Kellerman joined Trinity Health Of New England as a Hospitalist at both Saint Francis Hospital and Johnson Memorial Hospital after completing Internal Medicine residency. Dr. Kellerman has received various awards including The Emerging Leader Award and Provider of the Year at Johnson Memorial where he is currently serving as President of the Medical Staff. Dr. Kellerman has spent time abroad volunteering with medical missions to various underserved countries such as Haiti and Honduras. He continues to have a passion for mentoring and advising young people of color who are seeking careers in medicine.

Wes Knauff, M.D.



Wesley Knauff, M.D. is an anesthesiologist with Woodland Anesthesiology Associates, a private practice that provides anesthesia services for all Trinity Health Of New England locations. He currently serves as the Vice President of the group. He is also the Chairman of the Anesthesiology Department at Saint Mary's Hospital and has served as the President of the hospital Medical Staff for the past 3 years.

Samuel J. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.



Samuel J. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., is a fellowship-trained orthopaedic surgeon and joint replacement specialist with Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics & Spine Specialists. Dr. Laurencin performs a specific and innovative total joint replacement not commonly practiced, anterior approach to hip arthroplasty, which is a highly effective and efficient procedure.

He completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Connecticut Health Center, serving as chief resident during his final year of training. Dr. Laurencin then completed an adult reconstruction fellowship through Harvard University, with appointment as assistant in orthopedic surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). The Harvard-MGH adult reconstruction fellowship is the oldest continuous arthroplasty training program in the United States.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Sean Mosley



Sean M. Mosley, son of (Ret.) Judge Maurice B. Mosley, and Esther Mosley, is a lifelong resident of Waterbury and a graduate of Waterbury Public Schools (WPS). Sean earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University, a Master of Teaching—Secondary Education and a Certificate of

Advanced Studies in Education from Sacred Heart University, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut School of Law along with a Certificate in Law and Public Policy. Since 2008, Sean has worked for Waterbury Public Schools in various capacities, currently serving as the Administrator for the Early College High School, a program which aims to increase access to higher education by affording WPS students the opportunity to earn an associate's degree through Post University. Sean also serves on the Districtwide Equity Leadership Team.

Sean has volunteered on various local boards and committees including the Waterbury Board of Police Commissioners and the Mayor's Diversity Committee, where he serves as the Law Enforcement Subcommittee Chair. Through his work on the committee and as a police commissioner, Sean has committed himself to ensuring the concerns of communities of color, as they pertain to policing and the recruitment and retention of officers of color, are heard and addressed.

Sean is the Board Treasurer for Waterbury Promise, a last-dollar scholarship program that provides support for Waterbury students earning their bachelor's degrees at Connecticut universities. He serves on the Scholarship Ministry and the Men's Ministry, as well as a brother

and past President of the Eta Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. at Grace Baptist Church of Waterbury.

Sean has a passion for civic engagement and youth empowerment and is thankful to have the opportunity to serve the city in which he was born and raised. Sean has held officer positions in the Waterbury Black Democratic Club as well as on the Waterbury Democrat Town Committee, working to increase the participation of communities of color in the electoral process. In 2014, Sean served as Chair of Waterbury's Charter Revision Commission.

As the past chair of the Connecticut Education Association's Ethnic Minority Affairs Commission, Sean worked to advocate for legislation to support the causes and concerns of African American and Latino students and staff, including the passage of the requirement for the African American and Latino studies course to be offered at Connecticut High Schools and legislation to support efforts to recruit and retain teachers of color.

Sean also serves on the board of the Leever Foundation, the Community Advisory Committee for The Connecticut Health Foundation, and the Black Giving Circle.

In 2023, Sean was elected to the Board of Aldermen in Waterbury, representing Waterbury's 3rd Aldermanic District. Sean also serves as the Vice Chair of the Board's Finance Committee and the Aldermanic Liaison to the Zoning Commission. In 2024, Sean was named the African American Mayor for the Day. Sean was also named Administrator of the Year for Waterbury Public Schools.

Sean currently lives in Waterbury with his wife, Aza, and daughter, Serena.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Karana M. Pierre, DPM



Karana M. Pierre, DPM, is a native of Loreauville, Louisiana, and has been practicing for 23 years in Podiatry. She received her bachelor's degree from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, with a major in Biology Pre-Med, and a double minor in Chemistry and French. In 2001, Dr. Pierre received her Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine from The New York College of Podiatric Medicine in New York City. She then completed her residency at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center, where she obtained Rotating Podiatric (RPR) and Podiatric Medicine and Surgery (PM&S-24) Certificates.

After completing her residency, Dr. Pierre relocated to Connecticut, where she served as a Podiatrist/Clinical Coordinator and Infection Control Chairperson at Optimus Healthcare, Inc. in Bridgeport, CT, for 13 years. Dr. Pierre consulted in Podiatry for 11 years with The Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, serving the Norwalk, Stratford, Torrington, and Southbury sites.

She also served as a Science Teacher at Wilby High School, with the Waterbury School District for one year. Dr. Pierre also served as a Medical Officer Podiatrist with Tohono O'odham Nation Healthcare in Santa Rosa and San Simon Service Units in Arizona, and at the Kyle and Wanblee Service Units on The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

She currently serves as a Physician Surveyor for Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Bureau of Public Health Centers, and Federal Healthcare Centers with The Joint Commission.

Because of her vast patient base, which began to develop while practicing in Connecticut and presented multiple

cases of diabetic foot diseases and wounds, her interest began to grow in this area. In 2008, she was designated as a member of the speaker bureau with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and as a Regional Speaker for Pfizer in 2010, with focus on diabetic peripheral neuropathy in the lower extremities.

Dr. Pierre serves on the Board of Directors for The American Board of Multiple Specialties in Podiatry. She is also a member of the Standing Committee on Equity and Inclusion for Patient Experience in Healthcare for The Beryl Institute in Nashville, Tennessee, and The National Committee on Health Disparities for the American Diabetes Association.

Dr. Pierre is an active member in professional organizations focusing on Podiatry, wound care, and healthcare leadership.

When Dr. Pierre is not practicing Podiatry, she continues with her invested interest in helping to structure community health events in Connecticut and Arizona, as well as partnering with educational organizations in STEM, medical, and healthcare programs for the students of The Waterbury Public School District and Granville Academy of Waterbury.

Because Dr. Pierre believes that self-preservation is vital in maintaining the capacity to serve others effectively, she loves spending time with her family and friends, international and domestic travel, gardening, cooking, and enjoying different types of world cuisines as a "foodie," enjoying musical and sporting events, photographing nature, dancing, and playing the piano and flute. Regularly engaging in these activities helps her to restore and maintain balance as a healthcare provider.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Dr. Veronica Maria Pimentel, M.D., MS, FACOG



Dr. Veronica Maria Pimentel, M.D., MS, FACOG, is a board-certified Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, Director of Research for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program, and Site Director for the MFM Sub-Internship at Trinity Health Of New England/ Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. She is also an associate professor of OBGYN at the Frank H. Netter M.D. School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University and an assistant professor of OBGYN at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

Dr. Pimentel is known for her regional and national advocacy work. Throughout the years, she has collaborated with professional organizations, such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), as well as national, state, and community stakeholders, including the March of Dimes. Notably, she petitioned and worked closely with ACOG to recognize enslaved Black women's contributions to the OBGYN field and created the Betsey, Lucy, and Anarcha Days of Recognition. She hosts ACOG's Labor of Love Podcast, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At Saint Francis Hospital, Dr. Pimentel established the Diversity, Inclusion, Community, and Education Program for the OB/GYN residency to enhance the care of our patients.

Dr. Pimentel is a sought-after speaker whose work has been published at HuffPost.com, ScaryMommy.com,

kevinMD.com, BlackDoctor.org, and the Harford Courant. Several newspapers and magazines have quoted her in their articles. She has been invited to participate in several social media health advocacy events, including in 2020, as an expert panelist with the United States Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy.

Dr. Pimentel is recognized for her advocacy and leadership. She is a 2021 National Association of Health Services Executives CT C-Suite Honoree for championing equity and health services delivery for immigrant populations. She is also a 2022 Robert C. Cefalo National Leadership Fellow. This year, she was selected as an emerging leader of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

Dr. Pimentel is the author of many research studies. Her research centers on improving pregnancy and postpartum care through the lens of equity. She has presented at international, national, and local conferences. This year, she was one of the professors at the ACOG Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting Stump the Professors. Dr. Pimentel is a member of the ACOG Committee on Continuing Medical Education and a past member of ACOG's Scientific Program Committee. Additionally, Dr. Pimentel is the treasurer for the CT Chapter of the National Medical Association.

Dr. Pimentel obtained her MFM fellowship training at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed her OB/GYN residency at Boston University Medical Center. She is a graduate of the University of CT School of Medicine.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

Pastor Kristopher Reese



Pastor Reese has been the senior pastor of the Grace Baptist Church since September 2015. He has instituted various ministries over the past nine years that have impacted the congregation.

Pastor Reese has a heart for the Waterbury community. He has partnered with local businesses such as Starbucks, Panera Bread, Wal-Mart, Brooklyn Bakery, Shop-Rite, Dunkin Donuts, Via Al Paraiso, Target, Stop & Shop, to help aid and assist families and individuals who struggle with trying to live daily. Grace sponsors the Adopt-A-Family Christmas drive every year, providing Christmas joy to families who are unable to provide for their children. For the past several years Grace has blessed over 250 families in Connecticut including families in the Waterbury school district and Brass City Charter School. Grace provides hot meals for about 100-150 seniors every weekend, free of charge. Every Thanksgiving Grace recognizes first responders by providing a Thanksgiving breakfast to the Waterbury Police Department and Waterbury Fire Department. With Pastor Reese's Human Resources background, twice a year he offers free resume and interview workshops for Waterbury residents. In 2022, Grace held its first career fair where local companies attended to recruit candidates for their open positions. In 2021, Pastor Reese and Grace Baptist Church adopted Brass City Charter School to bring community resources to enrich the lives of the students. Under Pastor Reese's leadership he implemented Jewel of the Month, acknowledging students who exemplify certain characteristics with a certificate and a \$100.00 gift card of their choosing. During teacher appreciation week Grace provides all teachers with a free breakfast or lunch to

show appreciation for their hard work. Pastor Reese partnered with Granville Academy, Waterbury School District, Brass City Charter School and Saint Mary's Hospital in 2022 to offer a Shadowing Mentoring Program for students seeking careers in healthcare.

Pastor Reese serves on the following organizations: Interfaith Action Fellowship of Greater Waterbury, Vice-President for the Western Connecticut Area Agency for Aging, board member for Monitor My Health, Connecticut Community Foundation Pathways Committee, Social Justice Advisory Committee, Co-Chair Waterbury's Diversity Committee, Chief State Attorney's Community Engagement Board, and Bridge to Success council. Pastor Reese served as the former Education Chair for the Greater Waterbury NAACP, Moderator for the Zebulun Association – Connecticut State Missionary Baptist Convention, State Regional Vice President for the New England Missionary Baptist Convention, member of the Interfaith Action Fellowship of Greater Waterbury, and Saint Mary's Hospital Community Board.

He holds an associate degree, Bachelor of Science Degree, Master's Degree in Education and Master's Degree in Religion and a honorary Doctorate degree in Strategic Leadership from Wayland Baptist Theological Seminary.

On February 15, 2023, Pastor Reese was named Waterbury African American Mayor of the Day for his outstanding community outreach to the residents of Waterbury. Pastor Reese was named as one of Connecticut's 100 Men of Color, class of 2025.

Pastor Reese is happily married to the former Nicole V. Sparkman, and the proud parent of five children: Donte, Trynity, Eli, Zion, and Roman.

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Meet Our Moderators & Panelists

David Smith, M.D.



David Smith, M.D., is a Jamaican American product of Waterbury, Connecticut and a Kennedy High School graduate, UCONN graduate, invasive cardiologist, and a clinical trial principal investigator. After graduating the Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, he did clinical and basic science fellowships at Yale University, epidemiology training at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and a Foundations in Clinical Research program at Harvard Medical School's Department of Post Graduate Medical Education. He brings a unique experience in integrative, evidence-based, translational cardiovascular medicine. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Yale, father of 4 amazing scholar-athlete kids, and lives with his basketball Hall of Famer wife in Charlotte, NC.

Phelese Smith, M.D.



Phelese Smith, M.D., is a physician currently in her Internal Medicine Residency at Saint Mary's Hospital. She completed her medical education at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, her home country. She is passionate about improving healthcare in the Caribbean, particularly in the area of cardiovascular disease. Outside of medicine, she enjoys beach days, creating vegan recipes, and immersing herself in different cultures.

Kerry-Ann Stewart, Ph.D.



Kerry-Ann Stewart, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences and an Assistant Director in the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health. She received her Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Stewart assists in directing programs focused on the health professions and the health sciences for middle school, high school, and college students sponsored by the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs. Throughout the years, Dr. Stewart has been actively involved in mentoring students, which has allowed her to continue to develop her interest in planning, implementing, and evaluating educational programs. Furthermore, she recruits students to the medical, dental, and public health programs held at UConn Health and presents at local and regional meetings and conferences.

Dr. Stewart has served on various committees including Master of Public Health and Master of Science capstone and thesis committees, and other advisory committees for the School of Medicine. She has also contributed to the planning of a graduate certificate program through the Department of Public Health Sciences, and co-advised a group of medical and dental students on summer research projects. Dr. Stewart works with faculty, and medical and dental students to engage with communities and school systems in Connecticut to inform them of health resources, as well as educational support for future health careers.



Let's get Social



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Saint Mary's Hospital Medical Staff Proudly Supports Black Men In White Coats and their commitment to our community!



Thank you to the Saint Mary's Hospital Medical Staff for your support with the Black Men In White Coats mission! We are grateful for your commitment to providing a personalized patient experience centered around our patients.

To find an expert primary care provider near you, please schedule by calling us at 833-C-YOU-NOW (833-296-8669) or by scanning our QR code.



56 Franklin Street, Waterbury, Connecticut 06706





Preparing the Next Generation of Healthcare Providers

Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pathway College Programs

Who We Are

At UConn Health, the Department of Health Career Opportunity Programs strives to create a pipeline of medical and dental students who are historically underrepresented, first generation, or from educationally under-resourced areas. Through the Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative Pathway Programs, college students can enroll in several programs to help them realize their dreams of becoming physicians, dentists, or bio-medical researchers.

Annual Bridge to the Future Health Career Pathways Mentoring Conference

Coming in the fall, this is a conference for college students interested in medical careers.

- Interacts with UConn medical faculty and students.
- Tour UConn Health & participate in team based learning exercises.
- Learn about research conducted by UConn medical students.

Visit our website for more details & register:
health.uconn.edu/hcop

Our Summer Programs

Health Disparities Clinical Summer Research Fellowship Program

- An eight-week program for college students interested in medicine or Ph.D. programs in biomedical or behavioral health research.
- Participants perform clinical research and shadow at community health centers.

Summer Research Fellowship Program

- An eight-week program for college students interested in medicine or Ph.D. programs in biomedical research.
- Participants receive a personalized research experience in a basic science laboratory.

Medical/Dental Preparatory Program - MCAT Program

- A seven-week program for college students with MCAT preparation.
- Participants also have clinical shadowing and health systems exposure.

Learn More

To apply to our programs, visit our website at:
health.uconn.edu/hcop



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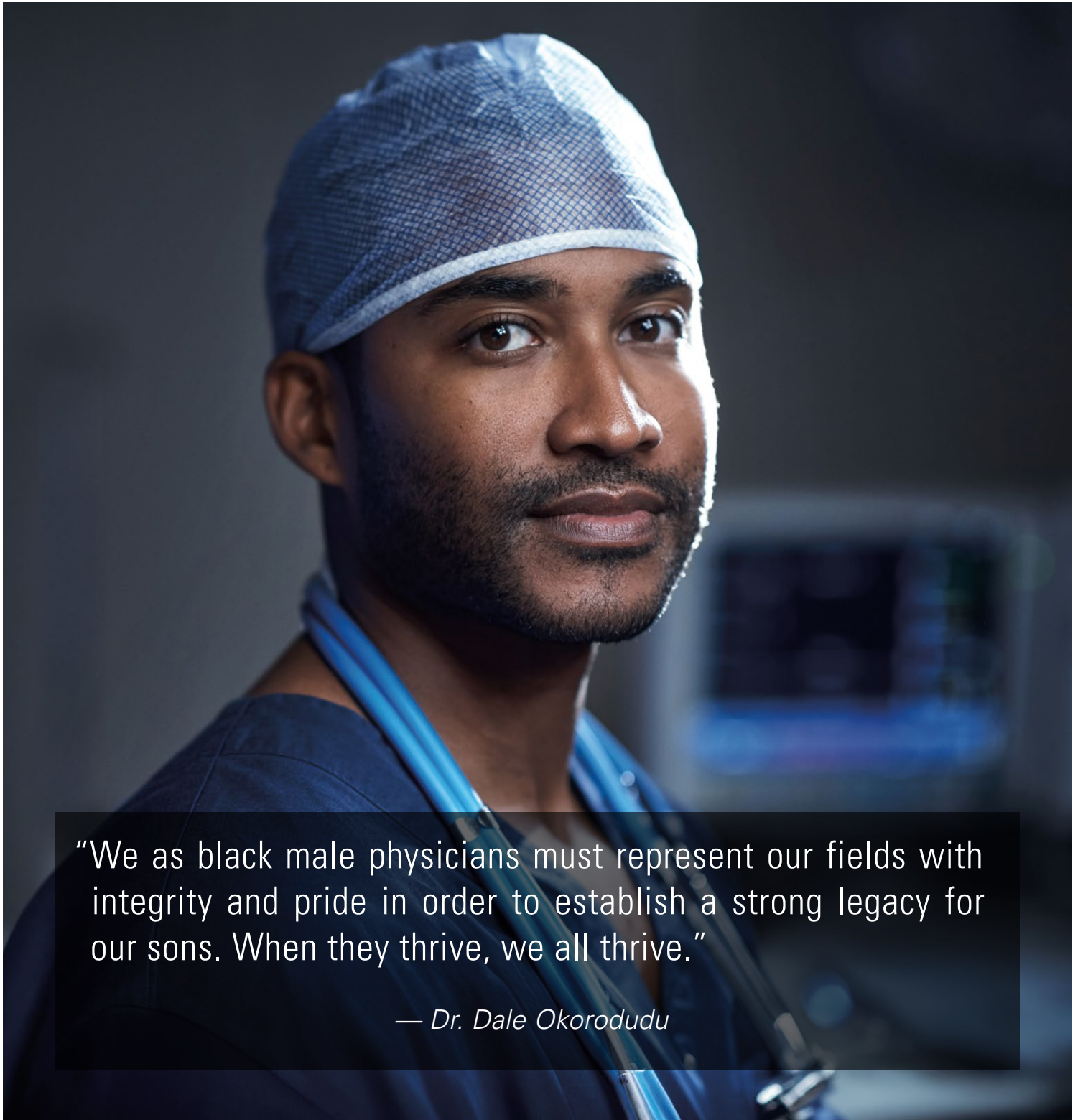
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— *Dr. Dale Okorodudu*



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