



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

College of
Medicine

Institute for Women's Health and Leadership

2021 Marion Spencer Fay Award Honoree

Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI



Dr. Consuelo H. Wilkins is senior vice president and senior associate dean for health equity inclusive excellence, and professor of medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) where she oversees a portfolio of programs in clinical research, education and population health. Dr. Wilkins, an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine, is a widely recognized thought leader in health equity and has pioneered new approaches to engaging marginalized and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in clinical research.

Dr. Wilkins is a principal investigator of three NIH-funded centers – the Vanderbilt-Miami-Meharry Center for Excellence in Precision Medicine and Population Health, which focuses on decreasing disparities among African Americans and Latinos using precision medicine; the Vanderbilt Recruitment Innovation Center, a national center dedicated to enhancing recruitment and retention in clinical trials; and the Vanderbilt Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (CTSA), which serves as the home for clinical and translational science at VUMC. Her team, the Wilkins Health Equity and Engagement Lab (WHEEL), has developed new methods and tools intended to catalyze health equity research broadly, including instruments to assess trust in African American men (funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and a measure of the person-centeredness of research (funded by the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute). She is currently director of the Engagement Core of the All of Us Research Program, a national precision medicine project that will enroll one million participants.

Prior to her current roles, she was an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, with secondary appointments in Psychiatry and Surgery (Public Health Sciences) at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

Dr. Wilkins earned a bachelor of science in microbiology (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) and doctor of medicine from Howard University. She completed residency

training in internal medicine at Duke University Medical Center and a geriatric medicine fellowship at Washington University School of Medicine/Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Following her medical training, she earned a master of science in clinical investigation from Washington University School of Medicine.

She is being honored with the 2021 Marion Spencer Fay Award for her groundbreaking accomplishments in advancing innovative, high-impact health equity work spanning research, education and health delivery; her pioneering approaches to engaging underrepresented populations in research; and her contributions to community-engaged research and health equity that will positively impact health outcomes for generations.