

Ala Stanford – 2023 Woman One Honoree



Ala Stanford, MD, is a national leader in health equity and a health care policy advisor. She is a trusted messenger and an advocate for vulnerable populations in the United States and globally. Dr. Stanford recently served as the regional director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services of the Mid-Atlantic, appointed by President Joe Biden, overseeing the health and wellbeing of all Americans.

A practicing physician for over 20 years, Dr. Stanford is the former director of the Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities at Temple University School of Medicine and former director of Pediatric Surgery at Abington Memorial Hospital. She is board certified by the American Board of Surgery in both pediatric and adult general surgery. She serves as a medical

and health correspondent for national media outlets.

Dr. Stanford gained international recognition during the COVID-19 pandemic for using the infrastructure of her pediatric surgery practice to create a grassroots organization focused on education, testing, contact tracing and vaccination in communities devoid of access to care and resources. Her focus on those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 saved lives. The Black Doctors COVID-19 Consortium, which she founded, directly served more 100,000 and reached countless others with their work.

Dr. Stanford subsequently opened a Center for Health Equity in a Philadelphia community with the lowest life expectancy, providing expert health care and improving health outcomes.

She has received many accolades. She was named a 2023 STATNews Status List Changemaker in Health and Medicine and a 2021 Top 10 CNNHero. She was included on Forbes Magazine's list of Most Influential Women in 2021 and 2022 and on Fortune Magazine's 2021 World's 50 Greatest Leaders list. She received a 2021 George H.W. Bush Points of Light Award and the City of Philadelphia commissioned a street in her name. In April 2023, Dr. Stanford delivered a TEDTalk at the University of Pennsylvania on the subject of medicine and social justice. Simon & Schuster will share her memoir and roadmap for achieving health equity in 2024. Dr. Stanford is a wife and mother to three teenagers.

Dr. Stanford is being honored with a 2023 Woman One Award for her visionary leadership and strong commitment to health equity.