

Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion



The Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI) seeks to develop, implement and evaluate creative solutions to eliminate health disparities through collaborative research, innovative university- and community-based educational opportunities, and establishment of trusted community partnerships.

Founded in 2015 and with the ongoing support of Drexel University College of Medicine Dean Charles Cairns, MD, and directed by Associate Dean Ana Núñez, MD, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI)

serves as a hub and catalyst for promoting diversity and inclusion within the College of Medicine community through events, programs, educational training and health equity scholarship and research.



Student groups we oversee and collaborate with:

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)

Black Women in Medicine

Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)

Military Medicine

Student National Medical Association (SNMA)

LGBTQ+

First Generations

Black Doctor's Network (BDN)

Other interested parties

ODEI gives academic support by easing the transition to medical school, supporting competitive applications to prestigious institutions for summer scholarship experiences and guiding students in residency preparation. We encourage leadership through Diversity Ambassadors and attendance at national conferences, participation in Diversity Week, and the Senior Diversity Dinner. ODEI individualizes our students' medical school experience through focused mentorship leading to research and clinical scholarships. We also foster personal growth via networking opportunities and leadership training workshops.

The Philadelphia Ujima Health Collaborative

The Philadelphia Ujima Health Collaborative was a model of community engagement created by Dr. Núñez in 2007. It was a network of 28 community-based organizations that were faith-based, social service-oriented and educational—all connected to health improvement in Philadelphia.

Scholar Tracks

ODEI offers two scholar tracks—the Health Equity Scholars' Program and Women's Health Education Program (WHEP). These programs are independent, mentored educational opportunities that target first- and second-year medical students and are completed over the course of three to four years. The curriculum includes a rich complement of academic and experiential activities that prepare students to develop the knowledge and skills needed to become high-quality academicians and health professionals committed to increasing awareness as well as reducing health disparities and promoting health equity.

Students also have an opportunity to link with faculty mentors as they work through their projects and can explore various disciplines while working on their projects. During

the scholars program, students received one-to-one mentorship and project management support from faculty in the ODEI in order to promote their success. Students present their work at Discovery Day, national and regional meetings and Seminar Series. Some students have also published abstracts or articles based upon their work.

Workshops and Courses in Health Equity

In addition to the existing Women's Health Seminar Series in sex/gender health disparities, new courses and workshop sessions in Health Equities are being developed for medical students. The first is The Buzz: Flipping the Disparity to Equity course and the second is a fully online electronic Health Disparity course.

In The Buzz, students hear from faculty experts and student scholars on issues such as homelessness, violence and health, immigrant health, minority health and special needs children. They then have the opportunity to work through the topic as they explore their individual health disparity questions.

Additional dive-in and pop-up workshops and sessions that are driven by student interest and experiences are constantly being developed and presented.

ODEI serves as a resource for capacity-building. Areas of expertise include:

| **Cultural Competency**

| **Health Service Research**

| **Community-Based Participatory Research**

| **Gender-Informed Approaches**

| **Theoretical Frameworks**

| **Quantitative/Qualitative Approaches**

| **Girls'/Women's Health**

| **Infectious Diseases**

| **Effective Minority Outreach Strategies**

| **Health Literacy**

| **Patient Engagement Techniques**

| **Micro Aggression and Climate Improvement Workshops**

| **Restorative Justice**

Get in touch!

Ana Núñez, MD

Associate Dean, ODEI
Director, WHEP
an33@drexel.edu

Leon McCrea, MD, MPH

Assistant Dean, ODEI
lm978@drexel.edu

Kristen Ryczak, MD

Assistant Director, WHEP
kmr443@drexel.edu

Bernadette Campoli

Interim Program Director, ODEI
bc858@drexel.edu

2900 W. Queen Lane
Suites 228 and 239
Philadelphia, PA 19129

Phone: 215.991.8450
Fax: 215.843.0253



Visit drexel.edu/medicine/diversity for more information!