



School of Medicine's "Belong, Include, Empower" - December 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the last weeks of December, I want to thank you for your continued commitment and collaboration. Our last edition of the year provides many resources.

I recently attended the AAMC's Annual Conference "Learn, Serve, Lead" in Atlanta, GA. I want to share some valuable lessons on leadership, equity and the critical need for accessibility, inclusion for diversity and the need to stay true to our values in academic medicine. You are invited to [read](#), reflect and take action as it applies to your role on issues in health care and medical education. The future of academic medicine is in your hands. I'd like to highlight a few sessions:

60 Minutes journalist Scott Pelley was the opening keynote speaker and emphasized the importance of finding courage and connection in an increasingly polarized world. He urged us to foster empathy and collaboration and to not let differences stop us from being kind and taking action.

Uché Blackstock, M.D. emergency physician and former associate professor of emergency medicine at the New York University School of Medicine reminded us that addressing health inequities requires sustained intentionality and that everyone – regardless of their role – has a part to play in creating a more equitable and accessible health care system.

Lastly, a powerful session focused on the pathologizing of disability in medicine. A panel of physicians with lived experience of navigating a medical career shared their insights on the systemic barriers embedded in medical education as they relate to disabilities. The discussion called for a paradigm shift, urging academic medicine to prioritize accessibility and rethink the structures that often exclude talented individuals with disabilities from fully participating in the profession.

Again, thank you for all you do to support our mission.

With gratitude,

Leslie Garcia, M.P.A., Ed.D.
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OHSU School of Medicine

DEIB enrichment

All events are listed in Pacific Time, even those hosted in other time zones.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 10 a.m. | Institutional Programs to Support Allyship

Speakers will share insights into how to institutionalize allyship efforts at institutions. This webinar is part of the AAMC IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-racism) Learning Series.

Wednesday, Dec. 11, noon | Diversity and Equity in Medical Research Seminar: Health Literacy as a Barrier to Care

Join the Knight Cancer Institute's speaker series, as part of our continued efforts to understand the history and impacts of race and racism on medical research. Evan Thornburg, M.A. is an expert in intersectionality in systems of healthcare and public health, specializing in policy/legislation, equity-based program development and comprehensive training on health equity, health disparities, social determinants of health and the inclusion of vulnerable populations in system-level redesign.

Dr. Allison Empey chosen for highly competitive TRANSFORM program



The yearlong, multi-faceted program builds senior leadership and career development as well as institutional sponsorship for advancement in academia.

Global medical research fosters cultural collaboration



OHSU Neurology Instructor Emerita Valerie Palmer has dedicated her career to research that focuses on historically neglected neurological disorders that impact populations across the world, especially those in low and middle-income countries.

On the pulse

- [Experiences with diagnostic delay among underserved racial and ethnic patients: a systemic review of the qualitative literature](#)
- [Family medicine presence on labor and delivery: effect on safety culture and cesarean delivery](#)
- [Medical schools should help students exercise free speech while upholding professional standards](#)
- [The pathologizing of disability: Why academic medicine must prioritize accessibility](#)
- [AAMC Center for Health Justice invites the public to participate in their request for information by Dec. 9](#)
- [Currently recruiting Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network \(ORPRN\) Projects](#)

Funding opportunities

- [Mary Kay Ash Foundation Cancer Research Grants, apply by Dec. 13](#)
- [NCI Pathway to Independence Award for Outstanding Early-Stage Postdoctoral Researchers, apply by Dec. 16](#)
- [Center for Women's Health Circle of Giving, apply by Jan. 8](#)
- [Notice of National Institute of General Medicine of Sciences interest in research to address biological sex differences](#)

- [Notice of intent to publish a funding opportunity: Reaching equity at the intersection of HIV and substance abuse \(R34\)](#)
- [Notice of intent to publish a funding opportunity: Reaching equity at the intersection of HIV and substance abuse \(R01\)](#)
- [Aging research dissertation awards to promote diversity \(R36 Clinical trial not allowed\)](#)

Spotlight: Tayler Tobey, M.D. class of 2026



Tayler Tobey (pictured second from left) with OHSU medical students and dermatology fellows who provided free skin checks at an OHSU Mobile Health Coalition event. Read more [here](#).

"For me, it's about creating opportunities for compassionate care to reach those who need it most. By working directly with underserved communities, we provide essential health care services and education, building trust and fostering meaningful connections that empower individuals to take control of their health. It's rewarding to see the impact these efforts have in places that often go overlooked, knowing that every person, no matter their background, feels valued and supported," said Tobey.

Tayler Tobey, Med26 is a native Oregonian and a current research fellow in the [Leachman Lab](#) and the [War on Melanoma](#). Growing up on the Oregon coast instilled in her a deep appreciation for the sense of community she experienced.

"Witnessing the health care challenges in rural communities like mine ultimately propelled me toward a career in medicine. I am dedicated to expanding access to medical care in underserved populations and believe strongly in the importance of education to empower patients in managing their health."

Her work centers on leading outreach efforts that aim to expand health care access, particularly for underserved and disadvantaged communities. Through these events, the team provides skin cancer screening exams and education on sun safety, partnering with community organizations to reach individuals across diverse geographic, socioeconomic, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

“I am also excited to be working on a new project focused on enhancing teledermatology access and wound care education for patients in rural communities. These initiatives allow me to promote equitable health care and empower patients to take proactive steps in managing their skin health.”

Over the next year, and beyond, the team will continue the expansion of statewide skin screenings through mobile outreach events, teledermatology and e-visits. The aim is to build on the growing network of dermatologists, primary care physicians and community partners so that together they create a unified state of comprehensive skin health awareness.

Outside of medicine, Tobey enjoys learning new recipes, exploring nature, playing board games and petting as many dogs as possible!

Inclusivity during the holiday season

As we approach the winter holiday season, let’s reaffirm our commitment to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for every member of our community. In keeping with this commitment, please review the set policies and resources for both the learning and work environments. If you would like to seek religious or spiritual accommodation, please visit this [page](#) to connect with the appropriate offices for support. Thank you for your continued efforts in helping strive for an inclusive environment. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season!

Need a DEIB consultation?

Let us know how we can assist. Please, email the SoM DEIB Office at somdiversity@ohsu.edu.

[Religious Holiday Calendar](#) | [OHSU Office of Civil Rights Investigations and Compliance](#)

This monthly newsletter is sent to members of the OHSU School of Medicine. This space is dedicated to the valuable role of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) practices in promoting resources and information.