



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



Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging

Dear OHSU School of Medicine Community:

Recently, numerous health care and medical associations have made statements in support of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) as a means to continue supporting and improving the health of all communities.

An AAMC co-authored [statement](#) on medical school curriculum says, "Doing so increases the likelihood for better health care and healthy lives for all patients, including individuals who have been historically marginalized by the health care system."

Similarly, the OHSU School of Medicine recognizes the critical educational and health equity benefits associated with cultivating a diverse learning and working community. Our commitment stands to advance our strategic DEIB plan in alignment with the university.

To that end, we would like to recognize the departments, centers, institutes, programs and committees working in collaboration with the school's DEIB Office to build a stronger partnership.

We recognize the complexity of DEIB in academic medicine and together we will continue to build unity and cultivate authentic collaboration. My team and I are available for consultation and partnership.

Sincerely,

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

April Health Observances



[National Minority Health Month](#)

This year's theme, *Be the Source for Better Health: Improving Health Outcomes Through Our Cultures, Communities, and Connections*, is about understanding how the unique environments, cultures, histories, and circumstances (known as social determinants of health or SDOH) of racial and ethnic minority populations impact their overall health.

[National Deaf History Month](#)

National Deaf History Month is celebrated March 13-April 15 each year to commemorate the achievements of people who are deaf and hard of hearing. The National Association of the Deaf (NAD) first introduced National Deaf History Month in 1997 and in 2006 the American Library Association partnered with NAD to support and spread awareness of this observance. [Explore current data and research](#) about the postsecondary experience of deaf people.

National Autism Awareness Month

In the U.S., about 4 in 100 boys and 1 in 100 girls are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Data suggests that the racial gap for diagnosis is closing. Read more [here](#).

DEI Enrichment

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

Tuesday, April 9, 10 a.m. | Sharing the Experiences of Faculty with Disabilities in Academic Medicine (Part 2 of 4)

This webinar will feature a discussion with faculty in academic medicine who share their experiences with navigating the academic environment as an individual with a disability. We will hear from physicians and researchers (and those who take on both roles) about unique challenges they encountered as they advanced in their careers, and where they found support within the institution or broader community.

Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 p.m. | Can We Achieve Health Equity Without Ending Mass Incarceration?

This session will address interventions that mitigate the impacts of incarceration. Emily Wang, M.D., M.A.S. is a professor in the Yale School of Medicine and directs the SEICHE Center for Health and Justice. The SEICHE Center is a collaboration between the Yale School of Medicine and Yale Law School working to stimulate community transformation by identifying the legal, policy and practice levers that can improve the health of individuals and communities impacted by mass incarceration.

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m. | National Trans HIV Testing Day at Oaks Park Gay Skate Night

This annual event brought by the Quest Center offers cost-free and confidential HIV and STI testing. Testing kits are provided by Multnomah County.

Wednesday, April 17, 8 a.m. | Strategies to Increase Clinical Trial Participation for Diverse Communities

This National Minority Health Month, the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity (OMHHE) invites you to join a panel discussion with the OMHHE REACH Consortium to improve clinical participation among racial and ethnic minorities, rural, urban and other communities.

Friday, April 19, 7:50 a.m. | 8th Annual Adult Mental Health Conference: Strategies for Primary Care

The goal of this conference is to better equip primary care providers to deliver effective mental health care to their patients including rural communities. Location: Portland Marriot Downtown Waterfront. This conference will be live-streamed to satellite locations in Coos Bay and Klamath Falls. Register for one of the [remote locations](#).

[Monday, April 22, 9 a.m. | Disability Resource Professionals: Supporting Disability, Equity and Accessibility \(Part 3 of 4\)](#)

Disability Resource Professionals (DRPs) are the designated leaders at health professions institutions who facilitate access for individuals with disabilities, including students in M.D. and Ph.D. programs and advanced trainees. DRPs lead the interactive process of determining reasonable accommodations and removing disability-related barriers. In their role, DRPs utilize creativity, leadership, and their knowledge of medical education, clinical, and research environments to progress towards achieving equity for the disability community and creating accessible environments where people with disabilities can thrive in medicine and research.

[Monday, April 22, 4:30 p.m. | Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Community Event](#)

The School of Medicine's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging invites its learners, faculty and staff to attend a social gathering in support of community building. Please, [RSVP here](#). The event will take place at the BICC Gallery.

[Tuesday, April 30, 9 a.m. | Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: Medical Students and Residents with Disabilities \(Part 4 of 4\)](#)

Medical students and residents with disabilities play crucial roles as future leaders in healthcare, driving efforts to promote health equity and enhance the presence of physicians with disabilities. In this webinar, learners with disabilities will discuss their experiences applying to and entering medical school and residency, ways they have found support and mentorship at their institutions, challenges they have faced on their journeys, and their work and leadership enhancing genuine disability access and inclusion in medicine.

[Wednesday, May 8, 8 a.m. | 2024 Northwest Women's Health and Sex/Gender Differences Research Conference](#)

This year's theme is the 'Power of Collaborative Research' and will take place at OHSU's Auditorium. This conference is part of Research Week 2024 and co-sponsored by the Oregon BIRCWH K12 Program, Center for Women's Health and the Department of OB/GYN. Registration is [open](#).

Editorial from AAMC Research and Action Institute Explores Rural Health Challenges



In a new editorial published in the *Marshall Journal of Medicine*, Atul Grover, M.D., Ph.D., executive director of the [AAMC Research and Action Institute](#), asserts that placing more physicians in rural communities does not necessarily result in better health. “While primary care physician proximity and recruitment are importantly emphasized in federal and state legislative bodies, to truly solve the rural health crisis, policymakers must also be willing to invest in educational opportunities and anti-poverty programs and address the stigma surrounding mental health and substance use disorders,” he writes.

[Download: More Physicians Alone Won't Solve Rural America's Health Care Problems, Marshall Journal of Medicine](#)

Episode: Language Equity in Medical Education



On a new episode of the “[Academic Medicine Podcast](#),” Pilar Ortega, M.D., M.G.M., Débora Silva, M.D., M.Ed., and Bright Zhou, M.D., M.S., discuss strategies to address language-related health disparities and enhance language-appropriate training and assessment in medical education. The episode is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and anywhere podcasts are found. Article collections from the AAMC’s peer-reviewed journals [Academic Medicine](#) and [MedEdPORTAL](#) on the topic of language equity are also available.

[Listen here.](#)

On the pulse

- [Men and mental health. What are we missing?](#)
- [OHSU series equips future PAs to better serve patients with disabilities](#)
- [States are banning gender-affirming care for minors. What does it mean for patients and providers?](#)
- [Personalized medicine is coming, but who will have access to it?](#)

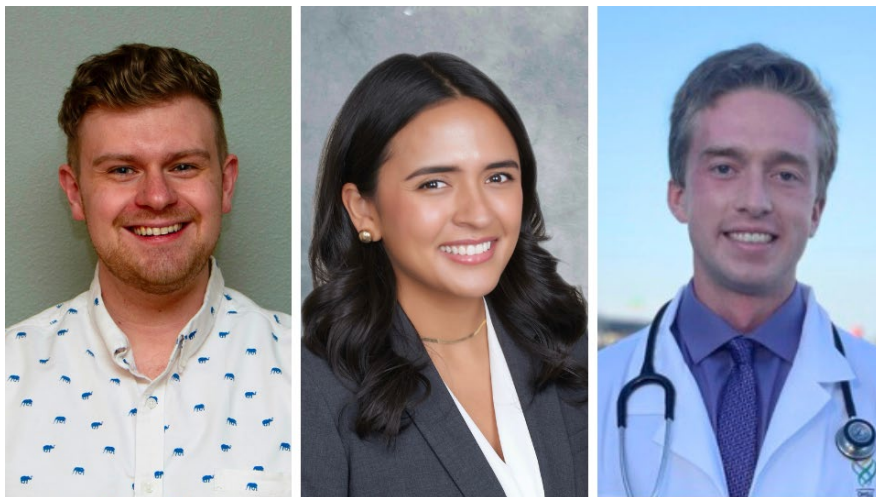
- [OHSU recording: The Dynamics of Cultural Humility and Piillars of Prejudice and Discrimination, Scott Finnie, Ph.D.](#)

- [OHSU recording: What Kids and Kidneys Can Teach Us About Health Equity in Portland, Ray Bignall, M.D.](#)

Funding opportunities

- [Building trust through Diversity, Health Care Equity, Inclusion and Diagnostic Excellence in Internal Medicine Training](#)
 - [BIRCWH \(Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health\) K12 program, apply by May 1](#)
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Congratulations!



(L-F) Medical students Spencer Hills, Elena Paz-Muñoz and Tyler Yeager are The Foundation for Medical Excellence Scholarship recipients.

“We received outstanding student essays and applications. In one of our scholarship essay prompts, we asked our applicants to “take the microphone before a sold-out crowd at Taylor or Beyoncé’s concert venue and share your vision of a better health care system”. Their vision is for healthier built environments, stable food supplies, disease prevention and equitable care delivery. We are honored to support these talented students take the next steps in their career journeys.” - The Foundation for Medical Excellence

Spencer Hills: Joseph Bloom Scholarship

Spencer is passionate about rural health care delivery, nutrition and primary care. He has experience volunteering in clinics for Portland’s unhoused population. He enjoys clinical teaching in direct primary care and is described as “effervescent” by friends and colleagues. We support his passion for service and teaching.

Elena Paz-Muñoz: Walter McDonald Scholarship

Elena’s leadership in teaching and service, her passion for equity and her support of diverse communities (especially the OHSU Hispanic student community) wowed the scholarship selection committee. Elena looks forward to becoming a dermatologist and serving her community in clinical practice.

Tyler Yeager: Steven Jones Scholarship

Tyler shared his moving personal story of illness and recovery during medical school. He is honored for his deep passion for improving rural health care delivery, his research in applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) models to health care, and his resilience in the face of complex health challenges. He looks forward to becoming a pathologist in a rural health system.

Spotlight: Mohamed Alyahouri, M.P.H.



The School of Medicine is proud of Mohamed Alyahouri's leadership and is honored to spotlight his contributions. Mohamed Alyahouri is the Administrative Director of the Division of Hospital

Medicine at OHSU. He oversees program development and all administrative functions for the division's more than 100 inpatient hospitals at OHSU and the Hillsboro Medical Center. Previously, he managed primary care teams at the OHSU Hillsboro and Beaverton sites.

His experience spans public, private and international settings, including the World Health Organization and Harney County, Oregon's largest county with 33 community health center organizations and 200 sites. Alyahouri's passion for health care innovation is evident through his forward-thinking work in integrating patient care, information technology and clinical operations.

Alyahouri has a deep passion for civic engagement and community transformation. He actively contributes to community building, social justice, interfaith bridge building and partnerships and public health.

In 2017, he was elected to public office in Oregon, serving for two terms on the seven-member Portland Community College board of trustees. As chair (2021-22) he led the college through uncertainty surrounding the pandemic closures, social justice protests and the hiring of a new college president.

Governor Kate Brown recognized his dedication by appointing him to the Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (2019-22).

Alyahouri is bilingual and currently serves on two boards: Portland Community College Foundation and Northwest Health Foundation.

Need a DEIB consultation?

Let us know how we can assist. Please, email us 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.

School of Medicine
Apr 5, 2024,