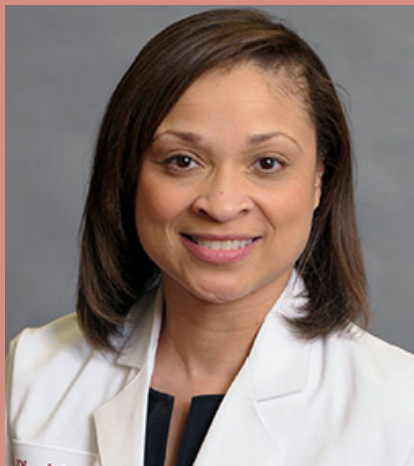
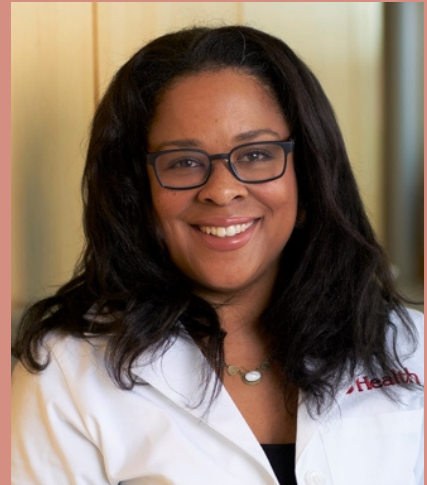


Celebrate Women's History Month!

Thank you for your contributions to the OU family!



DON'T SKIP A BEAT

A Monthly Insight from the Office of
Diversity, Inclusion and Community
Engagement

DON'T SKIP A BEAT

A Monthly Insight from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement

STUDENT STORIES WITH ANOUSHKA MULLASSERIL

OU COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,
CLASS OF 2024



What made you pursue a career in the Medical Field?

I have been interested in medicine ever since I was in high school when my favorite teacher was diagnosed with breast cancer. I remember feeling extremely frustrated and helpless because I wanted to help her get better but all I could do at the time was try to support her as she went through treatments. I realized that in order to do the most I could for people like her, I needed to become an oncologist, and I would not be satisfied until I did so. Thus began my journey to pursue a career in medicine. Since then, I have shadowed many physicians and volunteered in medical settings, confirming that I want to spend the rest of my life serving others as a physician.

Why did you choose OU Medical School?

I chose to attend OU College of Medicine for many reasons. I felt especially excited about having experiences at Stephenson Cancer Center, the only NCI-designated cancer center in Oklahoma. I was also drawn to the prospect of having many hands-on and enriching opportunities to practice my skills at our state-of-the-art simulation center. Finally, I am from Oklahoma, so attending OU has allowed me to be near my support system, which includes my family and friends who have helped me tremendously.

HEALTH IS WEALTH

- Get ready to Spring clean! here are some helpful [tips](#).
- **Don't forget to continue to wear your mask!**



STAY IN THE LOOP

- Prospective Student Summer Programs: [Click here](#)
- So You Want to go To Medical School? Info Session [Register Here for April 9, 2021](#)
- Mark Allen Everett M.D. Skin of Color Symposium April 23, 2021



CULTURE CORNER

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8.



DON'T SKIP A BEAT

A Monthly Insight from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement

Tell us about your journey to medical school and why you decided to become a doctor.

My journey into medicine has been a journey of constant learning, dedication, resilience and a daily reminder of the rewards of focusing your inner strength.

I always dreamed of being a doctor, and I'm the first doctor in my family. I immigrated to the US as an 11 year old after leaving Nicaragua during political strife. Dedication and perseverance led me to achieve a full scholarship at Brown University and then a medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California. I went on to complete a residency in OB/GYN at the University of Miami and a fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery from Johns Hopkins.

I am the first Latinx to achieve the rank of Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at OU, and have achieved national and international accolades as an expert in my field. I'm proud to be a bilingual physician, and to provide medical care to patients who would otherwise struggle to understand their doctor. I want young women who are considering medicine as a career to know that you can forge your own path with courage and determination. I'm a female surgeon, clinician scientist, wife and mother of two. **Yes, you can do it all!**

I recognized early in my career that women are underrepresented in academic medicine. It is true to this day. Look around you and you are witness to this disparity. It is especially true of women in surgical specialties, and I found it motivating to become a leader in my field. The journey has been hard, but so worth it.

I always gravitated towards strong female leaders, and to this day, I seek career advice from mentors and sponsors on a national level. Now more than ever, we need to reach out to other women in medicine and motivate them to work hard to achieve their goals. I find it important to be a role model and a sponsor to other women doctors (sometimes a "pusher" is a good thing too!). We need to encourage them to firmly believe in their convictions and capabilities. My best advice is to seek out and build your support network early in your medical career. Remember that women still need to try harder, and speak louder to be heard. I live that reality every day, as a woman and as a minority. Step forward, believe in yourself and count on me to help. We are all rooting for each other, and together we rise up!

DOC TALK WITH DR. LIESCHEN QUIROZ

Professor
Section Chief, Female Pelvic
Medicine & Reproductive Surgery
Medical Director OU Physicians
Women's Pelvic and Bladder Health



*Empowered
Women
Empower
Women*



TULSA SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

WITH THE STUDENT SERVICES SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM



What is the Health Resources and Services Administration Grant?

The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine (OU) received a 4-year grant to expand and enhance the medical school curriculum to increase primary care physicians serving tribal, rural, and medically underserved sites in Oklahoma. This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$4,704,476 with 10% financed with nongovernmental sources. HRSA desires to expand how we identify and nurture career interests in primary care, and develop future physicians knowledgeable and empowered to deliver high quality, transformative primary care to meet the needs of tribal, rural, and medically underserved communities in Oklahoma.



What is Healthcare Pathways Academy?

Here at OU-TU SCM, we have implemented the beginning stages of Healthcare Pathways Academy (HPA). HPA is an overarching program that will serve as a hub for resources, pipeline programs, and digital outreach projects. The program is designed to spark and retain K-12 students, undergraduates, and all prospective students' interests in OU-TU SCM's programs, curriculum and projects. Embedded within each HPA project is the emphasis for TRU-OK (tribal, rural and underserved/underrepresented) outreach and mentoring, aligning with the goals of the HRSA grant.

High school students receive pins and white coats as part of MASH Camp, a week-long summer HPA program that allows for health career exposure and mentorship at OU-TU SCM.



Club Scrubs high school seniors pose for a picture with medical student coordinator, Katie Martin, and program coordinators, Jabraan Pasha, MD and Angela Surratt, MHA during the end of the year celebratory appreciation. Club Scrubs is a program that allows OU-TU SCM faculty to educate and interact with students.

TULSA SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

WITH THE STUDENT SERVICES SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM



Who is the Student Services Special Projects Team?

The Student Services Special Projects Team (SSS), is in charge of creating and designing the resources, programs, and projects that fall under HPA. The SSS Projects Team consists of Special Projects Coordinator, Angela Surratt, MHA, Director of Student Services and Admissions, Meredith Talley, MHR, and Grant Temporary Workers, Catherine Beasley and Samuel Alvarado. Supervising faculty include Dean of OU-TU SCM, James Herman, MD, MSPH, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Jeanne Hayes, MD, MPH, and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Jabraan Pasha, MD, FACP.

What is the SSS Projects Team working on?

We, the SSS Projects Team, have sought to involve students and faculty in a variety of social media initiatives. These initiatives are meant to facilitate access to health career information that students may not be receiving by using platforms that are used regularly. Some of those initiatives include Instagram Live Q&A discussions with OU-TU SCM faculty and social media "Takeovers" with current OU-TU SCM students. In January, our team kicked off the first live Q&A discussion with Dr. Jabraan Pasha. Throughout the discussion, viewers had the opportunity to learn and ask questions about Dr. Pasha's life, his role at OU-TU SCM, and his advice for TRU-OK students. Medical students, Auston Stiefer, MS3 and Allyson Rowe, MS2 launched the first SCM Takeovers, both revealing what a day in the life of a medical student involves and the unique courses associated with them. The Instagram Q&A discussions and Takeovers will continue throughout the semester, each revealing new ideas and opportunities. Other current projects include K-12 digital resources for the OU-TU SCM social media and an HPA newsletter that highlights stories from TRU-OK faculty and students. We are also developing future projects that incorporate a variety of video projects as well as further developing and expanding the OU-TU SCM pipeline programs. Our hope and ultimate goal, is that by using these platforms, in addition to creating new content and programs, we can reach prospective students and expose them to health care professionals and careers.



High school students pose during MASH Camp Graduation. MASH Camp is open for 9th-12th graders who are interested in learning about health careers.