

School of Medicine Appoints Denise Hooks-Anderson, M.D., FAAFP, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Denise Hooks-Anderson, M.D., FAAFP, has been named Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, effective August 10, 2020.

The Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion is a new position in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Hooks-Anderson will serve as interim until the position is permanently filled following a search.

“I am grateful to add this essential position to the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This role will have a significant impact on our commitments as we move forward with our diversity initiatives for the School of Medicine,” said Robert Wilmott, Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. “I am delighted Dr. Hooks-Anderson will serve as interim; she has a rich background working with diverse and underrepresented populations.”

In this role, Hooks-Anderson will serve as a liaison to all clinical departments to support their diversity and inclusion efforts. Additionally, she will also support URM students and trainees with a focus on recruitment, campus climate, and successful matriculation.

Hooks-Anderson is an Associate Professor in Family and Community Medicine and physician at SSM St. Mary’s Hospital and SSM Saint Louis University Hospital. She started her career at a community health center, where her patients were diverse in socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and gender. She also served as a staff physician and Associate Medical Director at Family Care Health Centers, President at Wellness Healthcare Associates, and a staff physician at Southern Illinois Regional Wellness Center before joining Saint Louis University.

Hooks-Anderson received her undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi and her Medical Degree at the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City, Iowa. Following medical school, she completed her Family Medicine residency at Lincoln Family Practice in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Additionally, Hooks-Anderson is an accomplished writer and advocate for the underserved populations of St. Louis. Serving as Medical Editor of a local newspaper with a readership of 70,000+, she writes a column on issues about health disparities in the African American community. Among her many awards and accolades, her efforts earned her the Dr. Norman A. White Award for Engaged Scholarship and Service. The award is named for longtime faculty member Norman A. White, Ph.D., who was highly respected as both a scholar and a community activist. She was also recently honored for her work advocating on behalf of those impacted by health disparities, poverty and inequality and her extraordinary efforts earned her the Donald Brennan Humanitarian Award.