

Carl Earl Lambert, Jr., MD, FAAFP is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at Rush University Medical College in Chicago, IL. He is involved with academic medicine as well as mentorship, recruitment, and retention of underrepresented minority students into medicine. He enjoys providing thorough, compassionate, and whole-person continuity and preventative care to people from all communities and walks of life in the Rush University Family Physicians group.

Aside from clinical practice, Dr. Lambert remains very involved in the Rush community in several capacities, including being a committed and engaged clinical teacher and preceptor, a small-group clinician educator and facilitator in Rush's integrated curriculum, director of the Rush Family Medicine Leadership Program, director of the service-learning curriculum, an executive member of the medical school's Admissions Executive Committee and Rush University's Racial Justice Action Committee, as well as faculty advisor for both the Rush Christian Fellowship as well as for minority medical students in the Rush chapter of the Student National Medical Association.

Dr. Lambert is a member of the American Association of Family Physicians, a diplomat of the American Board of Family Medicine, a member of the Christian Community Health Fellowship, an academic advisor for the National Medical Fellowship Minority Primary Care Leadership Program, and the Chicago Area Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program. His special interests include community-based medical services, integrating faith into medicine, child & adolescent wellness, family planning, and men's health. He is happily married to his lovely wife Adrienne, and remains engaged in his home church, Bellevue Baptist Church, in Chicago, Illinois.

Christina Wells, MD, MPH, FAAFP is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Family Medicine in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Dr. Wells has a strong interest in the health and education of vulnerable populations. She has worked at a Federally Qualified Health Center for the past 12 years where she provides care to underserved communities. She also volunteers her time to provide health seminars and coordinate health fairs for communities in need. She has a passion for medical student education and serves in various academic roles including as the current college-wide director of the Medical Colloquia course at the University of Illinois College of Medicine and as the Assistant Director for the Patient Centered Medicine Scholars Program in the Family Medicine Department. She specializes in both preventive health services and management of chronic diseases, with an emphasis on lifestyle medicine. She has additional training in HIV, addiction, and mental health care. She graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 2006. She also has a Masters of Public Health degree with an emphasis in Nutrition and Wellness. She currently provides patient care at the University of Illinois Mile Square Health Center. She also serves as an IAFP board member.

Dr. Stephanie LaBedz, MD is a pulmonary and critical care physician practicing in Chicago, IL. Dr. LaBedz's clinical interests include long-COVID, obstructive lung diseases such as COPD and asthma, and acute respiratory failure. In addition to her clinical practice, Dr. LaBedz conducts clinical research with an interest in medication adherence and addressing social factors that contribute to poor health in patients with chronic lung disease.



Heather M. Prendergast, MD, MS, MPH, MHA

Professor

Associate Dean Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine

Executive Director, University of Illinois Physician Group

Vice Chair Academic Affairs, Department of Emergency Medicine

University of Illinois Chicago

PHYSICIAN | SCIENTIST
PHYSICIAN | LEADER

Dr. Prendergast is a physician-scientist and leader recognized for developing high-quality medical programs and creating strategic alliances while fostering positive hospital, physician, and community relationships. She has successfully increased engagement through effective retention strategies that focus on developing and mentoring staff, faculty, and students.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Prendergast's passion and focus have been on minority health, particularly for individuals seeking care within the emergency department, together with community engagement. Her research has been well funded; most notably, she has been the recipient of continuous funding since 2007. She currently serves as the Principal Investigator for the 1st Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) funded by NHLBI focused on addressing asymptomatic undiagnosed/uncontrolled hypertension in a predominate minority population being discharged from the emergency department.

As a physician-leader, Dr. Prendergast led the efforts to establish the 1st off-site University of Illinois Multispecialty Ambulatory Clinic (2020). She also spearheaded the submission to the Illinois Department of Health & Family Services (HFS) for the Inaugural Healthcare Transformation Initiatives Collaborative on behalf of the University of Illinois Physicians Group, with a subsequent award of 17.2 million dollars. This award established the 55th and Pulaski Health Care Collaborative, the 2nd off-site University of Illinois Multispecialty Ambulatory Clinic (2022).

Dr. Prendergast has received several awards, including the Dean's Award for Excellence in Healthcare Leadership (2022), the National Medical Association (NMA) Distinguished Service Award (2021), the University of Illinois University Scholar Award (2021), the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks-Black History Maker Award (2021), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)/Vituity Dr. Wes Curry Award for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (2020), and the Chicago Defender Women of Excellence Award (2018).

She received an MD degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, and completed a Residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore, MD. She received her Masters in Public Health, Master in Clinical & Translational Science, and Masters in Healthcare Administration from the University of Illinois School of Public Health.