

Dr. Conrad Smith



The council is named after Dr. Conrad Smith, an African-American Associate Professor of Medicine in Cardiology and pioneer in the management of complex coronary artery disease. Dr. Smith is the Director of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Presbyterian Hospital of UPMC. As the Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, he is overseeing the development of our cath lab database system which will provide a wealth of research potential to evaluate various aspects in interventional cardiology. His clinical interests are in the areas of interventional cardiology where he has a very active practice in coronary intervention. He also has extensive experience in the treatment of mitral valve stenosis with mitral valvuloplasty, an alternative to surgical therapy for mitral valve disease in selected patients. He has worked with Dr. Dennis McNamara to develop a database of coronary intervention patients in which we are currently evaluating the potential genetic basis of cardiac disease.

With his extensive clinical experience, Dr. Smith travels internationally to share his perspectives on the practice of interventional cardiology. Dr. Smith also serves as the Governor of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology where he has the unique opportunity to directly impact the practice of cardiology in this region.

Contact Us



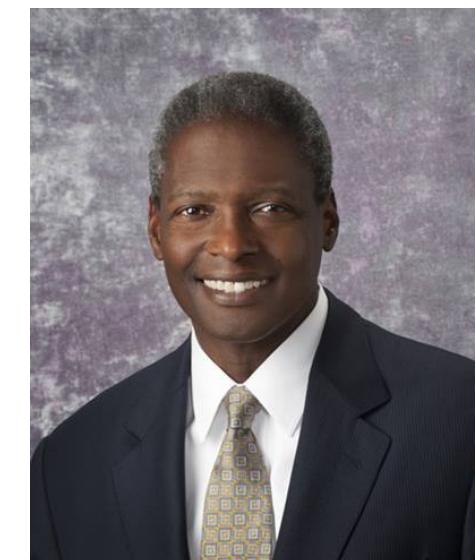
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Conrad Smith Leadership Council



UPMC
LIFE CHANGING MEDICINE

Council Overview

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Medicine (DOM) feels a critical need to establish The Conrad Smith Leadership Council (CSLC) to increase its capacity for both recruiting, retaining and promoting those interested in minority health and improving health outcomes for the nation's underserved groups.

According to 2018 Census Bureau statistics, the nation will become "minority white" in 2045, when whites will comprise 49.7% of the population in contrast to 24.6% for Hispanics, 13.1% for blacks, 7.9% for Asians, and 3.8% for multiracial populations. At the same time, many studies have demonstrated that the most vulnerable populations in our country -- racial minorities and those who are poor ---- are more likely to engage in preventative healthcare if that care is provided by a physician aware and sensitive to their specific cultures and health challenges. Furthermore, we know from recent data, that minority physicians are more likely to study health disparities and that these studies are less likely to be funded by the NIH. For all of these reasons, it is incumbent upon Pitt to meet the healthcare demands of ethnic and racial minorities by recruiting physicians uniquely interested in their health outcomes and by supporting their development into local and national leaders around these issues.

Especially over the last two decades, Pitt's DOM has accumulated an exceptional reputation, with multiple training programs in the top 10 nationally as well as NIH training grants in each of its subspecialties. In addition to those accolades, we are looking to emerge as leaders in diversity and excellence in issues surrounding minority health.

The CSLC was created specifically to address this need in our community by supporting the recruitment of elite medical school graduates passionate about healthcare equity.

Council Aim

The medical school graduates we seek will be in very high demand by top residency programs across the country, the CSLC was intentionally developed to tip the scale toward Pittsburgh when it is time for students to make that crucial decision for residency.

The Conrad Smith Leadership Council aims to not only attract high-quality diverse residents to train and work here in Pittsburgh, but also to increase our commitment overall to develop and nurture programs that significantly increase our capacity to provide healthcare equity in our region.

Strengthening the pipeline of physicians dedicated to improving healthcare outcomes across all races, genders, sexual orientations, disabilities, ethnicities, nationalities, cultures, religions, geographies and socioeconomics is important more than ever. The time for Pitt to more intentionally recruit outstanding residents with a passion for addressing the health needs and challenges of minority populations (thereby positively impacting their health outcomes) has most certainly arrived.



(From Left to Right) PGY-3 Olufunso "Funso" Agbalajobi, International Scholars Track and PGY-2 Sikemi "Kemi" Ibikunle, Global Health Track

Council Resources

The goal of the Conrad Smith Leadership Council (CSLC) is for every council member to be equipped with the tools needed to thrive throughout residency and to contribute to academic medicine with clinical and scholarly excellence.

The future health of our country dictates that we train a diverse workforce and train the next generation of leaders in academic medicine.

Four (4) first-year General Internal Medicine residents at UPMC are eligible for this annual opportunity.

Each council member is eligible to receive these resources during their residency:

- Tuition support for training in the Institute of Clinical Research and Education or support for classes at the University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business
- Travel support to academic meetings
- Mentoring and personalized career advising
- Individualized executive coaching