



Biography: Gwendolyn R. Williams, MD, FACP, FHM

Dr. Gwendolyn Rowena Williams is a first-generation American of Indo-Caribbean heritage whose lived experience has fueled a lifelong commitment to health equity, belonging, and inclusive leadership in medicine. A Hospital Medicine Physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University Health, she has built her career advocating for historically marginalized voices—particularly women in medicine.

During her nine-year tenure at Sentara Health, she made history as the first female President of the Medical Executive Committee at Sentara CarePlex Hospital and led the impactful “Celebrating Women in Medicine” campaign. She also championed the implementation of paid parental leave for physicians, addressing systemic barriers faced by women in healthcare. In addition, Dr. Williams has collaborated with Chief Operating and Safety Officers to develop targeted campaigns and interventions addressing workplace violence in healthcare settings and using the EMR to identify patients at risk of violence. She brings strategic expertise in crisis management to this work, helping institutions build safer, more resilient environments for healthcare workers.

Dr. Williams’ advocacy has extended beyond institutional policy to national recognition. She was instrumental in leading physician wellness initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on vaccine equity, access, and combating misinformation in underserved communities. Her leadership has earned her the 2023 Society of Hospital Medicine Unsung Hero Award, the 2024 Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities Humanitarian Award, and recognition as one of Hunter College’s Top 40 Under 40. She has presented three didactics at Converge in the past. She was also invited to the SSM Health System annual lectureship to speak about rebuilding trust in healthcare.

Dr. Williams continues to shape a more equitable healthcare landscape—one where inclusion, dignity, and compassion are foundational for all who give and receive care.