

# MedStaff Update

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## MEDSTAFF SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Ekene Enemchukwu

Assistant Professor of Urology & OB/GYN (Urogynecology),  
by courtesy

Director, Urology at Stanford Pelvic Health Center

Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Department of  
Urology



As a pelvic reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Ekene Enemchukwu helps improve the quality of life for men and women who have developed pelvic floor problems from childbirth, trauma, cancer treatments, and the aging process. Passionate about increasing access to care, Dr. Enemchukwu has researched overactive bladder and incontinence treatment outcomes for vulnerable and underserved populations and recently published findings demonstrating that minorities and other vulnerable populations are less likely to receive advanced therapies for overactive bladder. Dr. Enemchukwu is also the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Department of Urology and a leader in Stanford Medicine's efforts to become a more diverse and inclusive institution for patients, faculty, trainees, and staff.

#### **Could you please tell us a little bit about your work at Stanford Medicine?**

I am a pelvic reconstructive surgeon, which means I help improve quality of life for men and women who have developed pelvic floor problems from childbirth, cancer treatments, and the aging process. My work is very rewarding, because I have a platform that allows me to help

patients; teach residents, fellows and medical students, and share my research findings across the world.

### **What projects are you most passionate about?**

I am currently working on strategies to improve access to essential therapies for a condition called overactive bladder and incontinence for vulnerable and underserved populations. This condition is associated with significant societal and economic costs due to the impact on work productivity, institutionalization, injuries, and overall quality of life. My lab has spent the last two years studying utilization rates and recently published our findings that demonstrated that minorities and other vulnerable populations are less likely to receive advanced therapies for overactive bladder.

### **When you think about your work at Stanford Medicine, what are you most proud of?**

I am most proud of my relationships with my patients, my research and clinical collaborations with colleagues across the medical center, and my relationships with my trainees. I pride myself on always giving my very best to every patient, colleague, or trainee that I encounter. Additionally, as Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Department of Urology, I am very proud of the work our department faculty, staff, and trainees have put forth to address any racism, sexism, and implicit bias in the department, at the medical center and beyond. We are all dedicated to seeing Stanford become a more diverse, equitable AND, inclusive institution for patients, faculty, trainees, and staff.

### **Why do you work at Stanford Medicine? What is it about Stanford that drew you here and keeps you engaged each day?**

I have been fortunate to train at world-class institutions, and each institution holds a special place in my heart. Similarly, Stanford is a special place. The opportunities to do impactful work through research and the clinical training of the future leaders in medicine are truly unparalleled. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to incorporate teaching and research with my clinical work - all things that are passions of mine. At Stanford, we train some of the best and brightest medical students, residents, and fellows, making my work even more rewarding. In addition, we have access to world-class research facilities, resources, and colleagues that allow me to advance my field. These resources are all important, but if one feels isolated due to a lack of diversity and lack of feelings of belonging, they will not feel compelled to stay. I believe this starts at the top. Stanford School of Medicine Dean Lloyd Minor's and Stanford Health Care Chief of Staff Megan Mahoney's genuine commitment to improving diversity and inclusion at Stanford keeps me here. Programs like the LEAD (Leadership Education in Advancing Diversity) program keep me engaged. Stanford University recognizes that All lives only matter when Black Lives Matter too and backs this up with genuine actions to create lasting change. At the end of the day, recognizing the many contributions we ALL make to the Stanford community keeps me engaged.