



Tyler K. Smith, MD, MPH, FAAP

Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
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Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship Program Director
Children's Mercy Kansas City

Tyler K. Smith, MD, MPH, FAAP is a board-certified general academic pediatrician. Her career journey in medicine began with earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from her “home by the sea,” Hampton University, a historically Black college and university in Hampton, Virginia. She went on to earn her medical doctorate at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, South Carolina and completed pediatric residency training at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. She continued her medical education with completion of the General Academic Pediatrics Fellowship Program at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and earned a master’s degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Her professional and scholarly interests include advocacy; diversity, equity, and inclusion; health care disparities and inequities; resource-limited, marginalized, and minoritized communities and populations; mentorship/sponsorship/coaching; medical education; leadership; and physician wellness. She has published research and commentaries as well as completed reviews in peer-reviewed journals. She currently serves on the task force about healthcare for incarcerated youth lead by past American Pediatric Society President. With a desire to help resource limited communities and persons of color, she worked as a general pediatrician at federally qualified community health centers in the greater Baltimore area for over six years providing medical care to children and adolescents while also teaching medical students and pediatric residents. In her current position she serves as Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Medicine. As the first physician serving as the Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence, she provides content expertise as a member of the Admissions Committee, Coordinating Committee, Council on Curriculum, Council on Evaluation, Student Appeals, Graduate Medical Education Committee, Health Sciences Council on Diversity and Inclusion, and School of Medicine Council of Inclusive Excellence. She collaborated in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of the Inclusive Excellence Program for medical students. Dr. Smith received awards for her work in diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence including the 2021 Children’s Mercy Kansas City (CMKC) Department of Pediatrics Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Early Career Faculty Achievement Award, 2021-2022 University of Missouri – Kansas City Chancellor’s Award for Embracing Diversity, the 2022 Special Achievement Award from the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recognizing outstanding work in diversity, equity, and inclusion for the children and pediatricians of Kansas, the 2023 UMKC SOM Award for Excellence in Diversity and Health Equity, and the 2023 CMKC Department of Pediatrics DEI Established Career Faculty Achievement Award. She is a physician in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at CMKC where she is the Fellowship Director for the Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship Program accredited through the Academic Pediatric Association (APA).

Dr. Smith is extensively involved in mentoring current and future generations of physicians. She actively mentored pre-medical and medical students, residents, and junior faculty members since 2005 by providing expertise from her past experiences to assist with the career trajectory of her mentees. She mentored 10 pediatric residents in the national Association of Pediatric Program Directors Advancing Inclusiveness in Medical Education Scholars and the APA New Century Scholars Mentoring Programs, respectively. She mentored one pediatric resident at CMKC for four years collaborating on manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals with her mentee being one of the first Black Chief Residents at the institution. She mentored 18 medical students and residents over four years in the UMKC SOM Students Training, in Academia, Health, and Research Mentorship Program. Dr. Smith served for two years as the rotation director for the CMKC Mercy+ME Rotation, a funded clinical elective for historically underrepresented in medicine (UIM) students to gain an enriching experience and exposure about clinical training, research, and mentorship at CMKC. She is the 2018 recipient of Mentor of the Year for the 40 Under 40 Society at Hampton University awarded for excellence in professional and community achievements.

Dr. Smith is actively involved in the community on the local, regional, and national level. Governor Laura Kelly appointed her to serve on the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund which manages an over \$100 million budget for grant funding to support early childhood initiatives. Dr. Smith has held numerous leadership positions in professional medical organizations. She served for two years as the co-chairperson for the Committee on DEI for the Kansas Chapter and most recently serves as a member of the National Conference Planning Group and the Kansas Chapter Board of Directors for the AAP. She was elected to the national nominating committee for the APA. Dr. Smith is a member of the Board of Directors for Mission Vision Project KC, a greater Kansas City-based, non-profit, community organization designed to provide historically UIM students with exposure to careers in health sciences. She is a member of the Association of Pediatric Program Directors, National Hispanic Medical Association, and the National Medical Association. She is a lifetime member of the Student National Medical Association, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the public service organization, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Dr. Smith lives by the Frederick Douglass quote, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress."