



Valencia P. Walker, MD, MPH, FAAP

Vice Dean for Health Equity and Inclusion
Geisinger College of Health Sciences

Dr. Valencia P. Walker (She/Hers) joined Geisinger College of Health Sciences in January 2023 as Vice Dean for Health Equity and Inclusion. Prior to her role at Geisinger, she was the Associate Chief Diversity and Health Equity Officer for Nationwide Children's Hospital and simultaneously held joint appointments as Associate Division Chief of Health Equity and Inclusion for the Division of Neonatology and inaugural Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Department of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. As a practicing neonatologist, Dr. Walker champions the elimination of health inequities for pregnant people and their infants. This includes her position as Co-Founder and President for [Birthing the Magic Collaborative](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering Black pregnant people with knowledge and confidence to navigate their pregnancies and birthing experiences. Additionally, she shares her expertise in the areas of microaggressions, intersectionality, and anti-racist praxis for application in science, engineering, and medical education. Dr. Walker's recent research has focused on professional identity formation, medical education, and addressing health inequities experienced by pregnant people and their infants.

A physician leader within organized medicine, Dr. Walker is an Executive Committee member for the AAP's Section on Minority Health Equity and Inclusion (MHEI) and former Program Chair for MHEI. In 2022, she was elected to the Administrative Board for the AAMC's Council on Faculty and Academic Societies after previously serving as the Central Region Representative for the AAMC's Group on Diversity and Inclusion. Within the California Medical Association (CMA), Dr. Walker has held several leadership roles, including Chair for Los Angeles County Medical Association's Delegation to CMA's House of Delegates, Chair for CMA's Ethnic Minority Organizations Section, and Chair for CMA's Council on Legislation. She also previously served as president for the [Association of Black Women Physicians](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to diversifying the physician workforce, advocating for historically excluded communities, and promoting health equity.

Dr. Walker completed her undergraduate studies at Florida A&M University then obtained her medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine. She finished her Pediatrics residency at University of Tennessee – Memphis, before completing her Neonatology fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She also holds an MPH in Health Policy from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.