

Dara A. Kass, MD

Board certified Emergency Medicine physician with federal government experience who approaches issues from innovative, entrepreneurial, and strategic perspectives. Experienced communicator who connects policy, people, and public health in an accessible and compassionate way.

WORK EXPERIENCE

US Department of Health and Human Services

Nov 2021- Present

Region 2 Regional Director, serving NY, NJ, PR, USVI and 8 Federally Recognized Tribes

- Presidential appointee chosen to lead the NY based office, serving as the political lead for engagement with all elected officials in the region, managing the office and its career staff.
- Led strategic collaboration with the leadership of the other HHS operating divisions including Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health, Health Resources Services Administration, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Community Living and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to support healthcare programs and policy implementation.
- Directed engagement with stakeholders such as health centers, state health offices and community-based organizations.
- Raised public awareness of administration priorities and accomplishments via speaking tours and public events, including scalable outreach programs implemented nationally to engage communities on the Inflation Reduction Act, advances in Medicare, public health messaging campaigns during the COVID public health emergency and expansion of programs supporting maternal and reproductive health care.
- Strategic advisor to the office public- private partnerships, an office created to combine the Department's capabilities and resources with those of our partners from the non-Federal government sector.
 - Key Projects included newborn baby kits delivered to mothers in maternity care deserts with Baby2Baby and expanding access to contraception technical assistance and training with Upstream.

Columbia University Medical Center

Oct 2018- Oct 2021

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

Inaugural Director of Departmental Inclusion and Diversity

- Clinical attending physician (including resident, student, and physician assistant supervision) at an urban, academic emergency department (Columbia University Hospital) and an urban community hospital (the Allen Pavilion). Served as a core member of the virtual urgent care (telehealth) team.
- Developed their first mentorship program for women physicians, including scholarships for programs focused on career advancement and peer support programs for young and mid-career faculty.
- Served on numerous departmental committees, including the simulation and philanthropy committees.
 - Key projects included implementing innovations in resident education and training, and collaborations with the development office to identify endowable projects for philanthropists that further the institution's mission.

FemInEM

Sep 2015- Sep 2021

Founder and CEO

- Conceived of and launched a profitable multi-media platform and conference organization focused on advancing gender equity in Emergency Medicine.
 - Developed a website to share policies supporting gender equality in the workplace and discuss issues surrounding implementing those policies.

- Launched a job board to allow physicians to search for employment based on criteria reflective of the changing workforce.
- Hosted a podcast on gender equity in medicine, a virtual journal club and other asynchronous education models to accelerate the implementation of evidence-based practices for women physicians in the workplace.
- Created the first ever speaker's bureau for women in Emergency Medicine to increase the representation of women speakers at conferences.
- Founded the FemInEM Idea Exchange, an annual 3 day sold out CME course dedicated to gender equity in medicine; scaled event to global reach, generating tens of millions of Twitter impressions to expand community engagement. Hosted almost 1,000 on-site participants during final year.
- Attained profitability (income over costs) within 6 months, allowing incremental scaling of products and services without additional capital investments.
- Employed dedicated staff, including through the COVID pandemic, to support the mission of the organization and its members.

New York University Langone Medical Center

Jul 2013- Jul 2018

Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, New York University School of Medicine

Director of Undergraduate Medical Education

- Clinical attending physician (including resident, student, and physician assistant supervision) at public Level 1 hospital (Bellevue Hospital Center), private tertiary care hospital (NYU) and orthopedic hospital urgent care (Hospital for Joint Diseases). Part of the inaugural telehealth (virtual urgent care) team at program launch.
- Overhauled the academic department's medical student education program for all medical students, creating standardized lecture scheduling, evaluations processes and implementation of innovations, including digital and asynchronous learning modules.
- Implemented a paired mentorship program for rotating and local medical students interested in Emergency Medicine to ensure more valuable standardized letters of recommendation for residency match success.

Staten Island University Hospital

Jul 2007- Jun 2013

Attending Physician, Emergency Medicine

Associate Residency Program Director

- Clinical attending physician (including resident, student, and physician assistant supervision) at a tertiary care community Level 1 hospital (Staten Island University Hospital- North) and a smaller community hospital (Staten Island University Hospital- South).
- Started the Staten Island University Hospital Emergency Medicine Residency, from program inception to ACGME application and accreditation, to implementation and graduation of the first three residency classes.
- Implemented innovative teaching methods including, simulation education, advanced ultrasound procedures and the "flipped classroom" pedagogy to prepare learners for content prior to classroom based experiences.

VA Harbor New York Medical Center

Feb 2021- Present

Volunteer Attending Physician, Emergency Department

- Served as a volunteer physician in the Manhattan VA Emergency Department 2-3 evenings monthly to maintain clinical skills and acumen.
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EDUCATION

SUNY Downstate, Kings County Hospital

Jul 2003- Jun 2007

Resident in Emergency Medicine

SUNY Downstate, Kings County Hospital

Sep 1999- May 2003

Medical Doctor

University of Maryland College Park, University Honors Program

Sep 1995- Dec 1998

BS in Neurobiology/ Physiology

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Medical Entrepreneurship/Health Care Innovation:

Call9

2015-2019

Advisor, early investor

- Advised this early-stage startup created to keep nursing home patients in place while delivering advanced care via telehealth with onsite physician extenders.
- Developed care and staffing protocols to maximize advantages of telehealth care for patients and physicians.

Amplify This

2020-2021

Founder

- Founded a rapid response messaging operation for front line healthcare workers to communicate accurate information in the face of the COVID19 pandemic.
- Secured philanthropic seed funding for administrative support to sustain this effort during the first six months of the pandemic.

TIME'S UP Healthcare

2018-2021

Co-Founder

- Co-founded affiliate of TIME'S UP; lead media, outreach and membership committees that drove new policies to engender more balanced, diverse, and accountable leadership in healthcare.
- Led the brand, marketing, and strategic funding initiatives.

Media Experience:

Yahoo News

Apr 2020- Apr 2021

Medical Contributor

- TV: Appearances on MSNBC, CNN, FOX, CBS News, PBS, C-SPAN, BBC
- Articles: Published and Quoted in NY Times, Washington Post, USA Today, The Hill, Slate, VICE
- Digital: Featured on Yahoo Finance, NBC NewsNow, Yahoo News

Community Activities:

Shaarei Tikvah COVID Committee (Member: 2021-2022), Biden for America (Policy Committees: 2020) Pete for America (Fundraising and Policy Committees: 2018-2020), Columbia University Transplant Forum (Executive Committee: 2014 - 2021), Alpha 1 Antitrypsin Foundation (Executive Committee: 2013 - 2015)