

# ATS Highlights 2021:

## Critical Care Assembly Early Career Professionals



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#### ***Tell us about yourself.***

I was born and raised on the West side of Chicago where I still reside. After attending Spelman College, a historically black all women school in Atlanta, I completed medical school, residency, and chief residency at Loyola School of Medicine and my pulmonary and critical care fellowship at Northwestern Medicine where I am currently faculty. I am a wife and mother of a 4 year old daughter.

#### ***What is your current role?***

I was recently promoted to Assistant Dean of Medical Education where I focus on evaluation of our curriculum and environment to make it a more inclusive and bias-free, and faculty development in the space of diversity and inclusion. Additionally, I am co-director for the Adult ICU clerkship and I run the pulmonary inpatient and outpatient electives for our 3rd and 4th year medical students.

#### ***Tell us about your path.***

My path has been a winding road. During fellowship, I took the opportunity to perform basic science research evaluating the impact of hypercapnia on innate immunity, ultimately developing a mouse model of hypercapnia impacting *Pseudomonas pneumonia*. I was the recipient of a K award, successfully opened my own lab, and submitted an R01 that was scored on the first submission. However, while I loved research, my heart desired more educational experiences and influence, and, with the support of my division, I made the decision to transition to a career in medical education.

#### ***Do you have an inspirational quote?***

“Not everything that is faced can be changed; but nothing can be changed until it is faced.” – James Baldwin.

#### ***What are your passions in life?***

Providing the best and most equitable care for my patients and educating my trainees and my colleagues on the need to positively change the societal and structural influences on medicine.

#### ***Where do you see yourself in five years?***

I plan to continue my work as an educator and to embrace and answer the call for both more equitable healthcare and for more diversity and inclusion in medicine and in academia specifically.

