

Dr. Fritz Francois – Opening Keynote Speaker

Dr. Fritz Francois, Executive Vice President and Vice Dean, Chief of Hospital Operations, oversees all patient care activity on the Manhattan campus, ensuring the highest levels of quality and safety. Dr. Francois previously served as chief medical officer and professor in the Division of Gastroenterology in the Department of Medicine at NYU Langone Health. In this role, he led transformative efforts around value-based management and guided the 2018 opening of Kimmel Pavilion and Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone. Dr. Francois also served as a frontline architect of key operational initiatives to standardize quality patient care, proactively develop patient safety risk reduction strategies, and improve patient satisfaction.

Throughout his career, Dr. Francois has been recognized for his research and efforts to foster diversity and reduce health disparities. His work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the American College of Gastroenterology, among others. His many honors include five American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Diversity Minority Research awards; the Academic Champion of Health Award from the National Medical Fellowships for his work with underserved minority students; the NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital Frauenthal Award for service to human health following earthquake relief efforts he led in Haiti; and the 2011 NYU Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award for embodying and exemplifying the characteristics promoted by Dr. King. Dr. Francois currently serves as a collaborator and advisor for the NYU Langone Institute of Excellence in Health Equity and remains committed to mentoring individuals across the professional landscape.

Dr. Francois completed his medical degree at NYU Grossman School of Medicine, where he stayed for internship, residency, chief residency, and gastroenterology fellowship. He has over 70 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and presentations in his research areas of interest, which include esophageal disease, H. pylori, hepatitis C, and colorectal cancer screening in minority populations.