

September 13, 2024

Dear Prospective GW Resident,

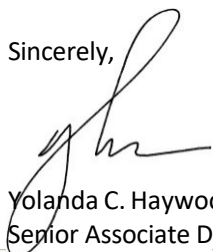
On behalf of the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences (SMHS) Office of Diversity and Inclusion, we would like to welcome you and thank you for your interest in pursuing a residency here at The George Washington University.

The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences is among the oldest schools of medicine in the United States, and the first in the nation's capital. In 1884, the school enrolled its first female student, distinguishing itself for decades as one of the only medical schools in the nation to admit women. This groundbreaking work paved the way for the growing diverse populations at the university and its clinical partners. The result has been enormous opportunity for growth in our mission to teach with creativity and dedication, heal with quality and compassion, and discover with imagination and innovation. In 2020, SMHS appointed its first female dean, Dr. Barbara Bass, and under her leadership has established the Anti-Racism Coalition, an initiative that seeks to create a culture of equity, equality and opportunity for all. With dozens of top-tier residency programs which embrace the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion, SMHS is a competitive and esteemed destination for medical school graduates across the country.

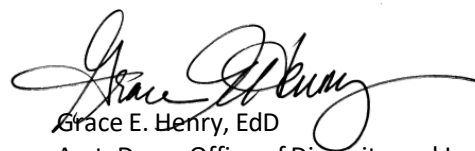
The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision on the use of race as a factor in admissions criteria has left many wondering what the commitment to diversity will look like throughout academia. Please know that we continue to affirm the critical importance of representation in the health care workforce to optimize the quality of care we provide to our patients and communities. In fact, the George Washington University embraces the challenge of eliminating health disparities and transforming health care to enrich and improve the lives of those we serve. To that end, the efforts and initiatives of the SMHS Office of Diversity and Inclusion are focused on *fostering a diverse community, promoting a positive institutional culture and climate, and creating a community of excellence* where all are welcomed and valued. We believe that a diverse environment enriches the educational experience and prepares our residents to work in an increasingly multicultural and global society. We strive to train a physician workforce which understands the importance of mutual respect, teamwork and cultural sensitivity in providing the best patient-centered care.

The SMHS Office of Diversity and Inclusion is here to serve as a resource to all GW students, staff, faculty and residents. Thank you for considering The George Washington University as you embark on the next phase of your medical career. We welcome hearing from you and can be reached at any time during your time at GW at smhsodi@gwu.edu or visit us as Ross Hall Suite 730.

Sincerely,



Yolanda C. Haywood, MD
Senior Associate Dean, Diversity & Faculty Affairs



Grace E. Henry, EdD
Asst. Dean, Office of Diversity and Inclusion