

Humans of CDI

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Chair, Resident and Fellow Committee
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Michelle Diop, MD, ScM was born and raised in Boston, MA. She attended Columbia University for college where she majored in Anthropology and then completed the MD-ScM program in Population Medicine at Warren Alpert Medical School. She finished Internal Medicine Residency at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in the Primary Care Program in 2022. She is currently a fellow in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at Mass General Brigham/Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Some of her interests within the field of Hospice and Palliative Medicine include improving access to care, integrating Palliative Care across other specialties, and expanding ambulatory programs. In addition to Palliative Care, she is passionate about wellness, diversity, equity and inclusion, and medical education.

To learn more about Michelle and her journey, keep reading.

What is the RFC and how have you been involved?

The [Resident and Fellow Committee \(RFC\)](#) is a board of UiM residents and fellows from different specialties that works closely with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) to build community and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives on a larger scale. We do so through social events, career development and networking efforts, mentorship, and community outreach. I first learned of the RFC when interviewing at MGH for internal medicine residency. I attended a CDI recruitment event, which in the pre-COVID era was held in the CDI conference room. That reception was key in helping me feel like I could be happy and successful at MGH. An important factor was hearing about the RFC, which seemed like a wonderful way to connect to others within the UiM community and explore leadership opportunities, especially within the DEI space. I first joined the RFC's Public Relations subcommittee and then transitioned to Vice Chair/Chair in the following years. Over the years, one of my major goals was to help strengthen and expand the relationships across our community.

What excites you most about being RFC chair?

It's been a true honor to be the RFC Chair this year. I was very excited to have the chance to continue collaborating with wonderful people who are not only fun to work with but also deeply dedicated to DEI work. Additionally, I was excited to be able to create more initiatives to support the UiM community. This position provides a unique opportunity to work closely with leadership and learn more about the MGH systems, as well as windows for change. The RFC has been such an important piece of my MGH experience, and through this role, I hope to be able to give back to the community that made me feel so welcomed when I first started my journey here.

How does the RFC build community?

One of the main ways we foster community is through organizing social events. From summer BBQs to sports games to gatherings at local venues or the Charles River, we host events where people can come together, relax, and get to know at least one person they might not have met otherwise. We also organize professional development opportunities and community outreach, which serve as additional ways to meet other UiM trainees and faculty and bond over shared experiences. **We are always looking for new ways to expand our efforts so please reach out if you have an idea and or would like to join!**

When you think about your experience with CDI and the RFC, what makes you the proudest?

I am most proud of our growing UiM community and hope this growth continues. Not only is having a diverse workforce important for the patients we serve, but it is also critically important for our experience as trainees and medical providers.

If you were to give one piece of advice to our UiM trainees, what would it be?

I deeply believe that having excellent mentors, who you trust and with whom you connect is paramount to success and happiness. Finding a mentor who truly understands what's important to you and can help guide your journey in medicine is one of the greatest treasures, so hold on tight once you've found them. Additionally, never worry alone.

How has this institution changed since you arrived?

Two of the most important developments since my arrival at MGH were 1) Mass General Brigham United Against Racism Initiative and 2) Mass General Structural Equity 10-Point Plan, which is now in full alignment with UAR. While there is still much work to be done to dismantle racism and inequity, these two efforts were tremendous, hospital-wide steps in the right direction.

What are the most exciting things happening in your world right now?

From a CDI/RFC standpoint, recruitment season is always a highlight for me! Not only is it fun and energizing to get to know UiM applicants, co-trainees, and faculty members, but I also learn something new during each session. In terms of my training, I'm loving Hospice and Palliative Medicine fellowship! Palliative Care is a passion I've been exploring for over a decade, and I am so excited to continue building my career in this incredibly humbling field.

What gives you hope?

Seeing sustained change.

Do you have a favorite quote?

"Don't forget: beautiful sunsets need cloudy skies." - Paulo Coelho

What do you do for fun?

Traveling, watching and photographing sunsets, hiking to great views, campfires, anything involving the water including, kayaking, paddle boarding (new interest), and swimming, basketball, swimming, expanding my plant family, and learning about people and their stories