

Recognizing Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew, outgoing co-chair, FYC Action Team 1

You want collaboration, accountability, a transformational change agent on structural racism, FYC knew it was very important for us to secure Dr. Larkins Pettigrew to lead Action Team 1 for three years. We are so grateful for her leadership. She will be rotating off this leadership position at the end of this month to relocate back to Pittsburgh; her leadership in Cleveland will have a positive impact for decades to come. She spent countless evenings and weekends leading FYC Action Team 1 with great success. Under her leadership, all local Labor and Delivery systems of care have incorporated racial bias testing and training, based on consumer focus groups, the healthcare systems have created posters and videos highlighting the experience of the expectant and new parents of color, has presented the film Toxic to hospital leadership groups and led candid discussions on racism within our systems of care. She has presented FYC's work at national conferences and facilitated an impactful partnership between FYC and Cook Ross, an evidenced based bias training organization. She has been a media spokesperson for FYC and aided Cleveland.com editorial Board in having a full understanding of structural racism and its negative impact to maternal and child health outcomes.

For many years, Dr. Margaret Larkins-Pettigrew has been University Hospitals' community impact, equity, diversity and inclusion officer. She has spent her career working to improve the health and well-being of those in Northeast Ohio and beyond.

From launching a program to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ employees and patients at University Hospitals to serving as a driving force behind a local market that addresses food insecurity, Larkins-Pettigrew seeks ways to better address community needs and eliminate health care disparities.

She is results-oriented, relationship based and holds herself and others around her accountable for results that matter. She is passionate and works up to 20 hrs. a day improving systems of care. FYC staff often wonders if she even sleeps most days.

Margaret's accomplishments include recruiting, retaining, mentoring and promoting underrepresented minority trainees and faculty as the Edgar B. Jackson Jr., M.D., Endowed Chair for Clinical Excellence and Diversity at UH Cleveland Medical Center. She is also an associate professor and head of global health programs in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Biology at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

She founded W.O.N.D.O.O.R. (Women and Newborns, Diversity, Outreach, Opportunity and Research), which educates physicians through local and international health care collaborations. An active volunteer health consultant to many organizations, she also serves on numerous professional and nonprofit organization boards and committees.

We also want to recognize and thank her husband and grown children. We know this important work took away family time and we know above everything else her family is her greatest joy.