

LAMERCIE SAINT-HILAIRE

An Interview with Lamerchie

What does diversity mean to you? To me, diversity is more than just meeting a certain quota of demographics. To be truly committed to diversity, you must not only value the unique contributions everyone can offer, but create a culture that respects everyone's personal history and celebrates people's differences.

Why is diversity important? Diversity is important because we are finally taking initiative to recognize the decades long history of oppression and marginalization and take steps towards a more just society that benefits all. Personally, a lot of the opportunities I have had come from diversity efforts.

Who are you? I am a proud graduate of the FCM residency program. I was a chief resident and am starting as an Assistant Clinical Professor and providing primary care at Tome Waddell Urban Health clinic.

Tell us about your family or upbringing? I am the 5th child of 8. My family immigrated here from Haiti when I was a baby and currently live in Florida. I grew up very poor and we moved around a lot before settling in Florida.

Are there other social identities that you have? Queer, Black, Haitian-American, woman, daughter, partner, vegetarian, healer, feminist...the list goes on :)

How has this lead to opportunities or lead to barriers? My mother always stressed the importance of an education as a way out of poverty. Since middle school I wanted to be a doctor to serve underserved communities like the one I came from. I was drawn to Family Medicine because it allows me to serve the entire family in a holistic way that also involves social aspects of health.

Tell us about your work! My partner Diana Wu and I created an Anti-Oppression curriculum to raise awareness of structures of oppression in medicine and provide skills for healthcare workers to address them through the process of Allyship. I currently am a John A. Watson Faculty Scholar which will give me protected time to develop this curriculum further and do research on its effects.

Just for Fun 😊

We heard you are obsessed with dancing. Tell us about it. I love to dance! I heard that you can store your emotions and trauma in your hips and dance is my therapy. Throughout residency I used dance as a form of self care and community building. I enjoy Afro-Haitian, hip-hop, mirror dancing, vogue and interpretive.



Lamerchie Saint-Hilaire, MD
Assistant Clinical Professor

INSPIRATIONS

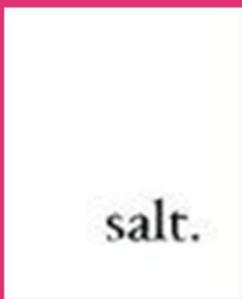
Family: My mother.



Colleague: Diana Wu

Place: Tucson, Arizona

Book: Salt, by Nayyirah Waheed



Song: Tightrope, by Janelle Monae



Quote:

If there is no struggle there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters.

This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, and it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will.

-Frederick Douglass