

A  
Message  
From

## The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



*To Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine,  
faculty, staff, students and trainees and Johns  
Hopkins Medicine leadership*

Dear Colleagues,

**We are pleased to announce the appointment of Robert Higgins, M.D., M.S.H.A., as the new senior associate dean for diversity and inclusion for the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.** Dr. Higgins will assume this new role on July 1, and will continue in his current positions as The Johns Hopkins Hospital's surgeon-in-chief and director of the Department of Surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Diversity and inclusion are integral to the excellence and success of Johns Hopkins Medicine, where trust and healing are essential to the delivery of an extraordinary experience for each of our patients, faculty, staff, students, trainees and community members. As the senior associate dean for diversity and inclusion, Dr. Higgins will be an important member of the Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity and the Office of the Dean, where he will lead the school of medicine's initiatives to recruit, retain and advance diverse faculty, staff, trainees and students.

Working with school of medicine and department leadership, administrators, faculty, staff, trainees and students, Dr. Higgins will provide guidance and serve as a resource to help identify diverse candidates and address potential bias in the screening and selection process for positions throughout the school. He will also develop and implement new initiatives to enhance diversity and inclusion, collaborating with the school of medicine affinity groups, including the offices of faculty and faculty development, women in science and medicine, medical student diversity, graduate student diversity, student pipeline programs, and the university Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

A leading authority in the field of heart and lung transplantation and in coronary artery bypass surgery, Dr. Higgins joined Johns Hopkins Medicine in 2015 with a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion. He has championed increased access, mentorship and sponsorship for medical students, residents and early career faculty, particularly underrepresented minorities in medicine. At the grade school, junior high, high school and undergraduate level, Dr. Higgins has worked with local schools to expose underrepresented and women students to careers and opportunities in medicine and science. In this new role, he will continue to serve as a mentor to faculty, staff and learners from underrepresented groups and support education in diversity, cultural and linguistic competency, health equity and multicultural instruction.

Dr. Higgins obtained his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and went on to earn his medical degree from the Yale School of Medicine, followed by a master's degree in health services administration at Virginia Commonwealth University. He completed a residency in general surgery and served as chief resident at the University Hospitals of Pittsburgh. He was a Winchester scholar and fellow in cardiothoracic surgery at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Higgins served as a senior registrar in transplantation at Papworth Hospital, the U.K.'s largest cardiothoracic surgical program and its main heart-lung transplant center. He also served as a major in the United States Army Reserve Medical Corps.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Higgins on his appointment and supporting him as we work to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for all who work, learn, teach, and provide or receive care across Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Rothman, M.D.  
Dean of the Medical Faculty  
CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine

Landon S. King, M.D.  
Executive Vice Dean  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Sherita Hill Golden, M.D., M.H.S.  
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