

Dr. Abdullah Hasan Pratt, is an Assistant Professor and Emergency Medicine Physician at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Known as “Dee”; Dr. Pratt’s goal has always been to have a career advocating for underserved communities and addressing systemic healthcare disparities. Though 2020 will mark his 10th year on the campus of The University of Chicago, it has been the 30 years of experiences over his lifetime as a resident of Chicago’s Southside that have shaped and guided his career to this point. He attributes this commitment to his childhood experiences witnessing the poor health conditions, premature deaths, and day to day struggles from a lack of access to proper healthcare by the people he cared about. This was most evident in the wake of his older brother’s murder secondary to gun violence, where in coping with the loss, he dedicated his efforts towards mentoring at risk youth, coaching, and community organizing around violence prevention. As an Emergency Medicine physician, he continues to vigorously work to improve health literacy and emergency preparedness through teaching South-Side residents how to properly respond to cardiac arrests, penetrating traumas (gunshot victims), and strokes prior to the arrival of medical assistance.

A pivotal point in Dr. Pratt’s career came in the year between his third and fourth years of medical school, where he directed his actions toward advocating for a new Level One Trauma Center for Chicago’s Southside. It would be the experiences he gained during this work with both the protesting community organizations as well University of Chicago administration, that would fuel Dr. Pratt’s desire to have a career within Emergency Medicine. In this capacity, his daily exposure to gun violence, drug abuse, and emergencies related to chronic diseases could direct his community outreach efforts to prevent these Emergencies from taking place. As an Emergency Medicine resident, he has vigorously worked to improve health literacy and emergency preparedness through teaching Southside residents how to properly respond to cardiac arrests, penetrating traumas (gunshot victims), and strokes prior to the arrival of medical assistance. To give a sense of Dr. Pratt’s commitment to improving the social determinants of health and health literacy within underserved communities, having just received the highest of honors as a new member of The Alpha Omega Alpha(AOA) medical honor society, he ranks his awards for community service and outreach in equal regards.

Dr. Abdullah Pratt’s journey as a physician has clearly been shaped by the training he has received as a medical student and resident at The University of Chicago, but he has emphatically stated that what has led to his success was the enormous amount of support, opportunities, and guidance he has received from mentors, faculty, and peers. This guidance and mentoring Dr. Pratt received during his training has been the catalyst of his most enjoyed work; to cultivate more medical professionals from underserved communities such as his own. His work on Chicago’s South and West sides focuses on inspiring, guiding and supporting students along their tumultuous paths pursuing medical careers.

From serving as a ringside/sideline team physician, to cultivating the next generation of healthcare professionals, to simply fighting to preserve lives both in and out of a level one trauma center; it isn’t important to Dr. Pratt what activities he engages in, but rather where and to whom he dedicates his time. He is truly a believer that it is for those suffering most from the ills of healthcare disparities, where the most of his pursuits should exist. By initiating events first within the underserved communities closest to his home and hospital where he works, he hopes to help bring change by playing a small roll with others, with hopes of making an impact for all.