



Joseph L. Wright, MD, MPH is the newly appointed Chief Health Equity Officer and Senior Vice President for Equity Initiatives of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). He most recently served as inaugural Chief Health Equity Officer of the University of Maryland Medical System and prior to that was tenured Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at the Howard University College of Medicine. He spent more than two decades in leadership at Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC where he provided strategic direction for the organization's advocacy mission, public policy positions, and community partnership initiatives while also serving 17 years as the inaugural State Pediatric Medical Director within the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems. Dr. Wright maintains appointments as adjunct professor of emergency medicine and health policy at George Washington University, and teaches as professor of health policy and management at the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

Academically, Dr. Wright is among the nation's original cohort of board-certified pediatric emergency physicians with scholarly interests that include injury prevention, prehospital pediatrics, and the needs of underserved communities. He has contributed over 120 publications to the scientific literature, served 30 visiting professorships, and was a principal investigator of the NIH-funded DC-Baltimore Research Center on Child Health Disparities.

Dr. Wright has chaired the AAP's Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Task Force on Addressing Bias and Discrimination, Board of Director's Committee on Equity, and is lead author of several Academy policy statements including the Role of Pediatricians in Youth Violence Prevention, Ensuring the Health of Children in Disasters, and Eliminating Race-Based Medicine. He has been recognized for long-standing leadership as recipient of three AAP career achievement awards for humanitarianism and distinguished contributions to emergency medicine and injury prevention, respectively, as well as, the Academy's inaugural Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Excellence Award. Dr. Wright has also recently been recognized with the 2023 George Armstrong Award by the Academic Pediatric Association and the 2023 Distinguished Terrapin Award which is the highest honor conferred by the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

Dr. Wright provides national leadership through advisory and governance service to several health and human service entities including the Association of American Medical Colleges, the March of Dimes and Safe Kids Worldwide. He previously served as an Obama administration appointee to Food and Drug Administration's Pediatric Advisory Committee, and was an appointed study committee member of the National Academies recently published report on Addressing the Long-Term Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and Families. Dr. Wright regularly presents invited testimony before Congress, state and municipal legislative bodies, has made numerous media appearances, and lectures widely to both professional and lay audiences.

Dr. Wright earned a BA from Wesleyan University, MD from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, and a Master of Public Health in Administrative Medicine and Management from George Washington University.