Truth in Tension: Reflections on Racism in Medicine

Ndidi Unaka, MD, MEd
Associate Program Director, Pediatric Residency Training Program
A6NS Unit Medical Director
Associate Professor, UC Department of Pediatrics
Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center

Presentation Overview:
We must come to terms with the pervasiveness of racism in our country. And we must own the existence and consequences of racism’s ills in medicine, which impacts our patients by way of significant health inequities. This talk will highlight how racism in medicine renders Black people wounded, isolated, and unseen, with a particular focus on the dark history of exploitation of Black people for the sake of medical research.

Speaker Bio:
Dr. Unaka is a faculty member in the Division of Hospital Medicine at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) and Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School and completed her pediatric residency and chief residency at CCHMC. Dr. Unaka has served as the Associate Program Director of the Pediatric Residency Program since 2011 and is the Medical Director of A6CN, a 41-bed unit that serves as the primary inpatient home for patients admitted to the Hospital Medicine service. Dr. Unaka also spends her time working on institution-level community health initiatives which reflects her passion for diversity, inclusion, and health equity. From a scholarly perspective, she utilizes her formal training in medical education and quality improvement to enhance family experience and optimize communication with patients and families.