



Dr. Magdala Chery

Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Board Certified Internist,
Speaker, Educator

Dr. Magdala Chery, DO, MBS, is a doctor, speaker, and educator on a mission to connect the linkages between societal and physical ills in both her professional and public life. In her professional capacity, Dr. Chery serves as a primary care general internist and assistant professor at Rowan Medicine in New Jersey. Dr. Chery's holistic approach to patient care includes a focus on women's health, lifestyle behavioral coaching, addressing health disparities in vulnerable populations, and mental health. At Rowan, her passion for bringing a culturally competent lens to her medical practice--that takes into account the number of social and economic barriers that may impact patients--led her to create a longitudinal "Health Equity" curriculum in her medical school course for second year students at the medical school. This curriculum was a game changer and put a sharp focus on the holistic needs of patients in providing impactful care. Dr. Chery's dynamic and unique medical approach has already led to her recognition as a leading practitioner in her field: in 2018, Dr. Chery was named a Top Physician by *South Jersey Magazine*.

A New Jersey native, Dr. Chery attended Montclair State University for undergrad and obtained her master's degree (MBS) and a medical degree from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM). During medical school, she was elected into the Gold Humanism Honor Society for her exemplary service, integrity, clinical excellence, and compassion. At graduation, in recognition of her substantial contributions to the Rowan community, Dr. Chery was presented with the prestigious Dean's Recognition Award. Dr. Chery then went on to complete an internal medicine residency program at the University of Connecticut (UCONN) with a concentration in

primary care. Not only did she serve as her Residency class graduation speaker but she was also awarded the Richard A. Garibaldi Humanitarian Award.

Dr. Chery is passionate about addressing health policy topics and issues impacting women and girls. As an Albert Schweitzer Fellow, she created and implemented a yearlong after-school program in Camden, NJ called Project S.I.S. (Strong I Stand) for adolescent females addressing Healthy People 2020 initiatives. This gave way to her being selected as a PASP (Paul Ambrose Scholars Program) Scholar allowing her the opportunity to conduct a dating violence workshop in Camden. In recognition of her community engagement work, Dr. Chery was presented with the Changemaker Award in spring 2016 and invited to attend the First United State of Women Conference/Summit put on by the White House.

Dr. Chery's interest in health care and health disparities also extends beyond US borders. She completed a Yale University/Stanford University Global Health Fellowship which granted her the opportunity to do amazing work in South Africa in the area of HIV/Tuberculosis Management. Dr. Chery also participated in additional medical trips to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Puerto Rico. All these experiences have aligned and enforced Dr. Chery's focus on women's health and addressing disparities/gaps in the care of women and minorities. Most recently she served as a 2018 New Leaders Council (NLC) Fellow for the New Jersey Chapter. As a 2018 New Leaders Council-NJ Fellow, she has been recognized as an emerging progressive leader who is truly making her mark on the public health conversation in New Jersey.

Beyond her professional experiences, Dr. Chery has been a fervent champion for expanding the conversation on primary care and mental health in minority communities. An in-demand speaker, Dr. Chery has spoken at numerous conferences, meetings, engagements, and other venues to spread the message about how this important conversation needs to be included at the forefront of every public health discussion. In addition, as a Black female doctor, and noticing the dearth of like candidates in the field, she has also worked passionately in the community to increase the number of girls of color entering STEM careers.

Dr. Chery also uses serves as a freelance writer for BlackDoctor.org. Blackdoctor.org (BDO) is a powerful resource for African-Americans. The site is devoted to providing the most effective strategies, tactics, and health advice to help blacks live healthier, happier lives! As a physician of color, Dr. Chery sees this as an opportunity to merge her love for black culture, mission to help close health & socioeconomic gaps in the minority community with her background in medicine. In her most recent article for BlackDoctor.org she tackles the topic of creating safe spaces for men of color to discuss mental health. In April 2019, she was featured on the [Therapy for Black Girls Podcast](#), where she discussed the importance of developing a partnership with your PCP for better health outcomes, especially when it comes to mental health.

In her spare time, Dr. Chery loves mentoring students and serving her local community. She feels she has been gifted with a passion to serve and believes we all have a responsibility to fight wrongs, advocate for those in need, and commit to making the world a better place. She is currently a new member of the National Coalition of the 100 Black Women Southern New Jersey Chapter. Through her service with NCBW-SNJ is able to come together with likeminded women to help fight for equality and equity for black women and girls.