



Heather M. Prendergast, MD, MS, MPH, MHA, MBA

University of Illinois College of Medicine

Professor of Emergency Medicine

Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Executive Director of the University of Illinois Physician Group

Vice Chair for Academic Affairs in Emergency Medicine

Dr. Prendergast is a physician-scientist and leader recognized for developing high-quality medical programs, creating strategic alliances, while fostering positive hospital, physician, and community relationships. She has demonstrated success in increasing engagement through effective retention strategies that focus on developing and mentoring staff, faculty, and students.

As a physician-scientist, Dr. Prendergast's passion and focus has been on minority health particularly for individuals seeking care within the emergency department along with community engagement. Her research has been well funded and most notably, she has been the recipient of continuous funding since 2007. She served as the Principal Investigator for the 1st Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT) funded by NHLBI focused on addressing asymptomatic undiagnosed/uncontrolled hypertension in a predominately minority population being discharged from the emergency department.

As a physician-leader, Dr. Prendergast led the efforts to establish the 1st off-site University of Illinois Multispecialty Ambulatory Clinic (2020). She also spearheaded the submission to the Illinois Department of Health & Family Services (HFS) for the Inaugural Healthcare Transformation Initiatives Collaborative on behalf of the University of Illinois Physicians Group with a subsequent award of 17.2 million dollars. This award established the 55th and Pulaski Health Care Collaborative, the 2nd off-site University of Illinois Multispecialty Ambulatory Clinic (2022).

Dr. Prendergast has received several awards, including the Chicago Defender Women of Excellence Award (2018), the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)/Vituity Dr. Wes Curry Award for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (2020), the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Blacks-Black History Maker Award (2021), the University of Illinois University Scholar Award (2021), the National Medical Association (NMA) Distinguished Service Award (2021), and the Dean's Award for Excellence in Healthcare Leadership (2022).

She received an MD degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, and completed a Residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore, MD. She received her Masters in Public Health, Masters in Clinical & Translational science and Masters in Healthcare Administration from the University of Illinois School of Public Health. In 2024, she received her Masters in Business Administration from the UIC Business Liautaud Graduate School.