

Dr. Ada D. Stewart was born and reared in an underserved urban area of Cleveland, Ohio. Stewart earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy from Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio in 1985. Realizing she wanted to have a more direct impact on patients' lives and well-being, she returned to school many years later, completing her Medical Degree at the Medical College of Ohio (now The University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences), and her Family Medicine Residency training at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital (now Prisma Health) in Columbia, SC. Stewart is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She has the AAFP Degree of Fellow, an earned degree awarded to family physicians for distinguished service and continuing medical education. Stewart is a Board Certified Hospice Medical Director as well as a Certified HIV Specialist.

Ada D. Stewart, MD, FAAFP, a family physician with Cooperative Health in Columbia, South Carolina. Stewart is Past Board Chair (2021-2022) of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and Past President (2020-2021)– the first African American Female to hold this distinct honor. Stewart continues to advocates on behalf of the medical community and patients to inspire positive change in the U.S. health care system as well as ensuring that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice is a major focus in the work that she does. Stewart currently serves as a Chair of the AAFP Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness in Family Medicine. In the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, Stewart enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves and has achieved the rank of Colonel. Stewart is currently active in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Stewart has been a practicing Family Physician in Columbia, SC with Cooperative Health aka Eau Claire Cooperative Health Centers, since 2012 and currently serves as Lead Provider and HIV specialist. Stewart has held many leadership positions on the local, state and national level. Stewart has been a staunch advocate for marginalized populations, individuals living with HIV/AIDS and those of trans experience. Stewart has received numerous awards for her service and continue to be the epitome of a servant leader.

Stewart was highlighted nationally as spokesperson during the COVID -19 pandemic recognizing the importance of vaccinations. She has written and quoted in over 100 items including radio, TV, news articles, papers and press releases on various topics – including CNN Health, USA News Today and Martha Stewart Living.

Locally, Stewart was appointed by Governor McMaster to serve on the Veteran's Trust Fund of South Carolina in 2022 (where she is still serving). She has been recognized by the SC House of Representatives as well as the South Carolina Senate for her work to improve the health of South Carolinians as well as her advocacy and leadership accomplishments. Stewart recently concluded her 4 year tenure on the national Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS appointed by then President Trump in 2019.

Most recently, she was the Keynote Speaker for “World AIDS Day” (December 2024) at the South Carolina State House.

In October 2023, Stewart was named to the East Technical High School Hall of Fame – (her former high -school in Cleveland, Ohio).

She is a preceptor for nurse practitioners, medical residents and medical students, and has received numerous awards, including the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society 2012 Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award for her precepting at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. She continues to participate as an instructor /presenter in continuing education programs, webinars and other outreach media opportunities relating to HIV, health disparities, advocacy, leadership, DEI, Wellbeing, transgender care, women’s health, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, Hospice and Palliative Medicine and Hepatitis C. Stewart currently serves on the Speakers Bureau for Gilead Sciences – Hepatitis C division and HIV Division as well as Speakers/Faculty for Hologic Inc. in the Women’s Health and STI Division. She continues to work to advocate for women’s health and is a co-facilitator for “Healthy Women” – addressing the health and wellbeing of servicewomen.

Stewart reports her hobbies include traveling and meeting people – her most memorable moment includes being invited to the White House for World AIDS Day in 2021 and meeting Dr. Anthony Fauci. She enjoys spending time with her two cats – Jackson and Lukas and spoiling her nieces and nephews.