

Sharon Denise Allison-Otley, M.D.

Board of Trustees, National Medical Association

Dr. Sharon Allison-Otley is a fellowship trained Geriatrician and residency trained in Internal Medicine. She is currently in practice with COSHAR Medical Inc. and serves as the Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, she is one of the founding board members of the COSHAR Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on impacting the health of the nation, one community at a time. She completed residency training at Union Memorial Hospital in Internal Medicine. It was during her residency training that she developed a keen interest in the elderly. Dr. Allison-Otley completed her fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine and is one of the few geriatricians in the country. Her training allows her to take care of patients from puberty thru “the golden years” and she enjoys treating this vast range of patients. Dr. Allison-Otley also has a special interest in Women’s Health and is recognized for her expertise among her peers in medicine as well as communities throughout the country. She received her medical degree from East Carolina University School of Medicine in Greenville, NC. She is a proud alumna of North Carolina Central University in Durham, NC where she earned dual degrees in Biology and Chemistry and minors in Physics, African American History and English with honors.

She has received a multiple accolades from patients, peers and faculty for her work with individuals under her care. She is an avid medical researcher with numerous publications and national presentations. Dr. Allison-Otley was named the American Geriatric Society’s 1999 Investigator of the Year for her pioneering work in AIDS in the Elderly and is one of the first to publish on this topic. Additionally, she was awarded 1st place in research presentation competition at the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Physicians’ Associates meeting in May 1999. Throughout her career she has been involved actively with biomedical research and until relocation to Maryland, served as a Scientific Consultant in Neurobehavioral Toxicology to the United States Environmental Protections Agency. Dr. Allison-Otley’s current research focus includes the Role of Spirituality in Medical Outcomes, Health Literacy, Osteoporosis in African Americans

and Direct to Consumer Marketing's effect on physicians and patients. She continues to teach medical students, residents and fellows in Maryland. She is a consultant for several Fortune 500 companies, medical organizations and professionals. She serves on several national and state appointed commissions and continues to advocate for improved health care and the elimination of health disparities.

Dr. Allison-Otley has long encouraged the integration of academic success with civic duty and leadership with particular emphasis of the African American community. She is active in numerous medical, political and civic organizations and is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of the National Medical Association, which is the oldest and largest association of African American physicians. It is notable that she was the youngest elected Trustee in the 105-year history of the National Medical Association.

Additionally, she is an active member of the American Medical Association, American Geriatric Association and the American College of Physicians. She is a Fellow of the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks. Dr. Allison-Otley has received many awards and citations from organizations and the community, however one of the most notable is being the youngest to ever receive the Scroll of Merit of the National Medical Association in 2002. This award is the highest award of the association and Dr. Allison-Otley was cited for her service to the organization, research and commitment to the health of the nation. Additionally, she is the first female (and only to date) to be awarded the title Chairman Emeritus of the Student National Medical Association. Dr. Allison-Otley is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Allison-Otley stresses the need for education and empowerment of patients and provides a wealth of knowledge with each visit. She loves patient care and despite her busy schedule always finds time for personal care and attention to her patients. As with all the physicians of COSHAR Medical, she stresses prevention and early detection. She has further clinical interests in Women's Health and Alzheimer's disease and Depression in the primary care setting.

Dr. Allison-Otley actively participates in community initiatives and medical missions. She is known to take medicine outside of the walls of her private medical practice. She is a well-respected and requested lecturer for peers at national scientific meetings as well as local and regional events and serves on several national speakers' bureaus. Additionally, she is a frequent guest on Black Entertainment Television as well as on other local and national television programs with an emphasis on healthcare. Dr. Allison-Otley is the co-host of the popular Docs for You weekly radio broadcast heard in the DC, MD area. She is also the monthly writer of Gospel Today magazine's, Health In Action column and frequent interviewee or contributor to several other national publications. Because of her colorful and "down to earth" manner in which she addresses health, Dr. Allison-Otley is a well-recognized and requested speaker for churches, community groups and has presented at many women's and couples conferences. Dr. Sharon Allison-Otley is the wife of Dr. Colin C. Otley and resides in Maryland.