

Akman Innovation Fund Bio
Final Draft for Tracy Church, Exec. Manager/Composed by Rachel Korr

Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences Jeffrey S. Akman, MD '81, RESD '85, also the Walter A. Bloedorn Professor of Administrative Medicine, will be stepping down from his roles as vice president and SMHS dean following nine years in these administrative positions.

Dr. Akman was named vice president for health affairs (VPHA) and dean in 2013 after serving as interim VPHA and dean since December 2010. Among his many achievements, Dr. Akman led the development and implementation of a transformational strategic plan for the SMHS, promoted a restructuring of the relationship between the university and the GW Medical Faculty Associates (MFA), and secured the Liaison Committee on Medical Education's full accreditation in 2016 for an eight-year term.

From the beginning, Dr. Akman displayed unwavering commitment to momentum and growth, overseeing significant expansion in research for neuroscience, microbiology, and cancer, and spearheading the creation of the GW Cancer Center. In addition, he is celebrated for his mission in HIV/AIDS and has recruited nationally-recognized physicians, healthcare professionals and scientists while broadening research opportunities for students. In collaboration with the leadership of the GW University Hospital and the GW MFA, he also directed the extension of the clinical enterprise including in transplantation, neurosciences, trauma, and cardiovascular and critical care.

As a double alumnus and a teacher of thousands of GW medical and health sciences students and residents, Dr. Akman prioritized SMHS alumni outreach and engagement. Under his guidance, SMHS made substantial investments in student scholarships and faculty development, including opening a new Clinical Learning and Simulation Skills (CLASS) Center and introducing innovative curricular revisions to the M.D. and Physician Assistant programs. He also collaborated with the leadership of the GW University Hospital to expand training opportunities with cutting-edge technology in health care.

Dr. Akman has been a forceful voice and leader for diversity and inclusion efforts, creating a deanship in diversity and inclusion and launching the SMHS Office of Diversity and Inclusion. At the start of the 2018-9 academic year, the MD program welcomed its most diverse class in SMHS history.

Community and urban health has been another lifetime passion for Dr. Akman and inspired further initiatives. SMHS efforts in health education and outreach increased significantly with the goal of achieving health equity for residents in the District of Columbia and the surrounding region. With his supervision, international affiliations grew to more than 150.

Dr. Akman is the recipient of numerous honors and awards including the GW Distinguished Alumni Service Award. He is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society, an elected member of the American College of Psychiatrists and a Distinguished Life Member of the American Psychiatric Association. He serves on the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic and served on President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.