



CENTER FOR  
HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING & PATIENT SAFETY  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

PROVIDING BETTER HEALTHCARE THROUGH  
SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

## Disabusing Disability™: Demonstrating That DISability Doesn't Mean INability

Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S.



**Monday 11/15 at 4:30 PM ET**

All seminars will be held in-person in IOE 1680 as well as virtually on Zoom. For the Zoom link and password, [RSVP here](#).

**Dr. Oluwaferanmi Okanlami** is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, and Urology at Michigan Medicine, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, and the Director of Student Accessibility and Accommodation Services at the University of Michigan, where he oversees the office of Services for Students with Disabilities, two Testing Accommodation Centers, and the Adaptive Sports & Fitness Program. He also serves as the Spokesperson for Guardian Life in their Equal & Able Partnership.

“Dr. O” was born in Nigeria before immigrating to the US at a young age. He attended High School at Deerfield Academy and college at Stanford University where he also ran Track & Field, serving as captain his last two seasons and achieving Academic All American recognition.

He then earned his MD from the University of Michigan before matching into Orthopedic Surgery at Yale. At the beginning of his 3rd year, he experienced a spinal cord injury, paralyzing him from the chest down. After two surgeries and intense rehabilitation, he was blessed with some return of motor function, and navigates the world as a proud wheelchair user, managing the other long-term sequelae of an incomplete cervical spinal cord injury.

He went on to earn a Master's in Engineering, Science, and Technology Entrepreneurship from The University of Notre Dame, and completed his Family Medicine Residency at Memorial Hospital in South Bend, Indiana. He served on the St. Joseph County Board of Health, appointed by (former South Bend Mayor, and current Secretary of the Department of Transportation) Pete Buttigieg; and is on the board of the River City Challenged Athletes, a non-profit supporting the area adaptive sports teams. He was featured on Robin Robert's Good Morning America Series “Thrivers Thursday,” and has a catchphrase, “Disabusing Disability®,” hoping to demonstrate that DISability doesn't mean INability. He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honors Society, received Michigan Medicine's Distinguished Early Career Alumni Award in 2020, and was given the “A Teacher's Teacher Award” by the Academy of Medical Educators.

Nationally, he serves as the Disability Issues representative on the Steering Committee for the Group on Diversity and Inclusion at the AAMC, and sits on the National Medical Association's Council on Medical Legislation. He speaks around the country on topics related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, including, but not limited to creating a health system that is accessible to and inclusive of both patients and providers with disabilities, and providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities in higher education. He has been featured on CBS News, PBS News Hour, and MSNBC's Morning Joe, and is passionate about adaptive sports and fitness, striving to provide access to physical fitness and inclusive recreational and competitive sports for all.

This seminar series is presented by the U-M Center for Healthcare Engineering and Patient Safety (CHEPS): Our mission is to improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery through a multi-disciplinary, systems-engineering approach. For the Zoom link and password and to be added to the weekly e-mail for the series, [please RSVP](#). For additional questions, contact [CHEPSseminar@umich.edu](mailto:CHEPSseminar@umich.edu). Photographs and video taken at this event may be used to promote CHEPS, College of Engineering, and the University.