

## REBECCA VARGAS-JACKSON, MD



Rebecca Vargas-Jackson, MD, received both her bachelor's and medical degrees from The San Fernando School of Medicine in Lima, Peru. For over **25 years, she has worked as a surgeon, infectious disease specialist, and expert in cultural competency in healthcare**, with a main focus on underserved populations, racial/ethnic minorities, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT)-focused groups including LGBT Blacks/African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos. She is the co-organizer of the annual International Stigma Conference at Howard University and was one of the co-authors of the US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) in Health and Health Care. **She is currently an** Infectious Diseases Specialist research faculty member with the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University (GMU) in Fairfax, Virginia. As part of the GMU research faculty, she teaches principles of global health and health and disease to graduate and undergraduate students and facilitates partnerships between the University and community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to close major health gaps and disparities affecting primarily new immigrant and/or disenfranchised communities throughout the US.

Dr. Vargas-Jackson was also Senior Vice President for Research at National Association of People With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA). There she led projects with goals to increase awareness and knowledge of HIV prevention and treatment and develop community mobilization interventions. These projects are geared toward increasing participation in testing campaigns to facilitate access to healthcare, prevention, treatment, and follow-up services. She has served as the Executive Director of Health and International Programs at WRMA, Inc in Rockville, Maryland, and Co-Principal Investigator and Director of Research at Whitman Walker Clinic in Washington, DC. In addition, she has lead and directed a variety of programs and projects for groups and institutions such as Howard University Hospital, The George Washington University, Northern Virginia Community College, Department of Health and Human Services, Hispanic Committee of Virginia, DC Tobacco Coalition, DC Asthma Coalition, American Lung Association,

National Latino Behavioral Health Association, and National Latino Council on Alcohol and Tobacco Prevention.