



# LEADERSHIP COUNCIL PROFILE

Representatives serving on the Leadership Council advise, assist, support and advocate on issues of strategic importance to the operations and functions of the SelfMade Health Network in fulfillment of its mission.



## **Darrell M. Gray, II, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Deputy Director, Center for Cancer Health Equity  
Director, Community Engagement and Equity in Digestive Health  
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology & Nutrition  
OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center/The James Cancer Hospital**

At the Center for Cancer Health Equity, Dr. Darrell Gray supports vulnerable populations across Ohio including low-income, uninsured, refugee, and racial and ethnic minority populations by promoting cancer screenings and healthcare-related educational initiatives.



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Dr. Gray believes there needs to be a more concerted effort to tackle the factors contributing health disparities outside of healthcare settings. Change is more likely to be driven within the community, so his work meets community members where they are. He works with area organizations who have a proven record disseminating healthcare information in the community to ensure accurate and culturally-focused materials. Dr. Gray's team also

provides low-to-no cost colonoscopies to uninsured and underinsured individuals who are not up-to-date on colorectal cancer screening and uses a mobile mammography van to provide breast cancer screening in underserved areas.

Dr. Gray and his team lead educational events and frequently partner with Federally Qualified Health Centers and community organizations across Ohio to reach populations with limited access to quality health care, particularly cancer screening tests, and those who underutilize it. Additionally, he believes that continuing provider education will also help improve patient-provider relationships and build stronger communication methods.

**“ We need to break down people’s stigma and fear of cancer screening and attempt to increase screening utilization by continuing work with FQHCs, clinicians and hospitals. We’ve had success but there is a lot more work to be done. Overall, mortality rates from preventable cancers are down but certain communities are still adversely affected. ”**

Dr. Gray joined the Leadership Council in May 2017. Find him on Twitter at @DMGrayMD.

*The SelfMade Health Network is a member of the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s consortium of national networks established to advance prevention efforts related to tobacco-related and cancer health disparities among vulnerable populations, specifically those with low socio-economic characteristics.*