

Anita Fernander, PhD

Executive Diversity Officer/Professor

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center School of Medicine

Biography:

Dr. Anita Fernander was recently appointed as the Executive Diversity Officer in the School of Medicine in the College of Health Sciences at the University of New Mexico. Prior to joining UNM's School of Medicine she served as the inaugural Chief Officer for Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine and Interim Department Chair & Professor in the Department of Population Health at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Dr. Fernander also served on the faculty in the University of Kentucky's College of Medicine for 19 years. She held key diversity roles at University of Kentucky College of Medicine, where she was founding faculty of the Center for Health Equity Transformation and received the Inaugural Excellence in Diversity Faculty award (2021) and the Inaugural Diversity Champion Award (2018). She has been engaged in leadership, teaching, research, and community engagement to address health inequities, enhance patient advocacy through cultural humility as a de-biasing strategy, and exploring transformational interventions to address historical and contemporary racism embedded in the political and social determinants of health. Her primary area of research has focused on the impact of race-related stress on health inequities among African Americans.