

HEALTH & MEDICINE

Dr. Karen DeSalvo

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Karen DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc is the C. Thorpe Ray Chair in Internal Medicine and Vice Dean for Community Affairs and Healthcare Policy. She has been the Section Chief of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics since 2000. She is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the Tulane School of Medicine and has adjunct appointments in the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in the both the Departments of Health Systems Management and Epidemiology.

Dr. DeSalvo has been active in health sector recovery efforts in Louisiana since Hurricane Katrina. She has represented Tulane University in several forums in her capacity as the Special Assistant to the Tulane University President for Health Policy. In addition, she has been a leader in post-Katrina health care reform and an advocate for primary care and vulnerable populations such as the uninsured and elderly. She lead the post-Hurricane Katrina development of a neighborhood based primary care clinic to care for the underserved, the Tulane Community Health Center at Covenant House, where she serves as Executive Director. She is now leading the University's continued expansion of care options for the underserved. She was selected as a founding member of the Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum Board and chairs its Medical Home Committee. She is on the Board of the Coalition of Leaders for Louisiana Healthcare, a group dedicated to expanding coverage of the uninsured.

She received her Bachelor of Arts from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts in Biology and Political Science. She matriculated to Tulane University Health Sciences Center where she simultaneously received her Medical Doctorate and Masters of Public Health. She remained at Tulane as a resident, Chief Resident in and Fellow in Internal Medicine. She was a fellow in the Program in Clinical Effectiveness at Harvard University. She received a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health in May of 2002. She was a Robert Wood Johnson Generalist Physician Faculty Scholar and a recipient of the NIH sponsored institutional K12 faculty development award. She is completing a mentored research award funded by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Dr. DeSalvo's research and policy interests focus on improving primary care quality and effectiveness with a particular focus on vulnerable populations.