

## EDITORIAL

# Lisa C Larkin, MD, FACP, MSCP, IF 2023-2024 President, The Menopause Society

The Menopause Society is pleased to announce that Dr. Lisa C. Larkin was elected as The Menopause Society's 2023-2024 President during The Society's meeting of the Board of Trustees in September 2023 at its Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Larkin succeeds Dr. Susan Reed as President and will serve a 1-year term.

"It has been a privilege to serve on The Menopause Society Board of Trustees with Dr. Lisa Larkin," says Dr. Reed. "She has brought a unique skillset to the board and will be a fantastic President. Dr. Larkin has straddled the worlds of academia, private practice, and business—thereby representing a broad swath of our membership. Her experience as founder and CEO of Ms.Medicine made her an exceptional Board Treasurer. She is a specialist in menopause care for breast cancer survivors and a world-renowned expert in this area. Lisa's energy, creativity, and ability make her an outstanding leader for our organization. She is fully committed to serve, guide, and engage with all members of The Society."

Dr. Larkin is a board-certified internist and women's health clinician in private practice in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is an Alpha Omega Alpha graduate of Yale University School of Medicine and completed her internal medicine residency at the University of Chicago. She was associate professor and division director of Midlife Women's Health and Primary Care at the University of Cincinnati's Women's Health Center before developing Ms.Medicine, a national membership organization for women's health clinicians and a concierge women's health primary care network whose vision is to advance women's health through innovation in care-delivery models, provider networking, and consumer and clinician education.

"We are truly lucky to have Dr. Larkin as President of our society," says Dr. Stephanie Faubion, medical director of The Menopause Society. "She is a dedicated, passionate, and caring clinician, colleague, and friend who has spent her lifetime advocating for women, educating colleagues, and fostering the development of the next generation of women's health professionals. She is a strategic, critical thinker whose innovative ideas have helped move The Society forward. I look forward to collaborating with her in the coming year."

Dr. Larkin is a fellow of the International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health. She serves on the editorial board of *Menopause*, the official journal of The Menopause Society. She was elected to a first term on The Menopause Society's Board of Trustees in 2019 and has served as the 2023 Chair of the Scientific Program Committee for The Society's Annual Meeting.

Dr. Larkin is also owner and president of Lisa Larkin, MD, and Associates, an independent, multispecialty practice offering direct primary care (DPC), concierge primary care, and women's healthcare in Cincinnati.

"The Menopause Society is fortunate to have Dr. Larkin serve as our leader for the upcoming term," says Dr. Rebecca Brightman, assistant clinical professor at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. "Her vast clinical experience and practice of evidence-based medicine has helped countless numbers of women make informed decisions. As members, we will all benefit from her knowledge, enthusiasm, and tireless commitment to medical education."

Over the span of her career, Dr. Larkin has spent more than 15 years in both academics and private practice, which affords her a unique perspective about healthcare delivery and opportunities to raise the standard of care. She spent the first 10 years of her career as academic faculty in the Internal Medicine Department at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where she cultivated her niche in midlife women's health. In 2002, Dr. Larkin left the University of Cincinnati and opened her own internal medicine and women's health practice that, over 10 years she grew into a multispecialty women's health practice employing six other healthcare professionals, including four primary care professionals and two gynecologists.

In 2012, Dr. Larkin sold her practice and returned to the University of Cincinnati faculty in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, specifically to design, build, and serve as director of the UC Health Women's Center, the region's first comprehensive, primary care-based medical home for women. In May 2013, Dr. Larkin successfully opened the 26,000 square-foot UC Health Women's Center, where she served as director until June 2016.

Dr. Larkin returned to private practice in 2016 with renewed enthusiasm and a commitment to providing outstanding personalized primary care and women's healthcare to her patients and to advancing women's healthcare in areas of unmet medical need. With this vision, she reopened her primary care and women's



health practice as a DPC practice, offering patients affordable, accessible personalized medicine. Since opening, Dr. Larkin has developed her practice into a robust and successful multispecialty women's health practice offering primary and specialty care including menopause care, sexual health, gynecology, gastroenterology, nutrition, weight management, pelvic floor physical therapy, breast cancer risk assessment, and therapeutic yoga.

"When I think about colleagues I respect and admire, Dr. Larkin is at the top of my list," says Dr. Marla Shapiro, professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. "Clearly Lisa is an excellent evidence-based physician who is academic and up-to-date, but that is obvious. Her passion for education and knowledge translation is unparalleled. Her commitment to her patients and her colleagues is without bounds. She not only had a vision of what healthcare for women should look like, she took that vision and created a healthcare delivery model that spans the country.

"The Monday night lectures that she organizes are delivered by equally minded academic colleagues. She has created a collective of learners that has come to depend on this as a source of up-to-the-minute group learning that changes how we practice. Lisa is tireless in her efforts, yet always has the time to take a call for a quick opinion or lend an ear of support. It is an honor to call Lisa a colleague and more important, a friend."

A breast cancer survivor, Dr. Larkin's passion is women's health, particularly menopause management, female sexual health, cancer survivorship, breast cancer risk assessment and prevention, and cardiovascular disease. She is a tireless advocate for her patients and in the community, frequently lecturing on women's health topics, drafting articles for community publications, and appearing on local news outlets to discuss women's health issues. Notably, she spoke at FDA in 2015 as part of a group advocating for the approval of flibanserin, the first FDA-approved medication for female sexual dysfunction, and again in 2016 as part of a group advocating for a label change for local vaginal estrogen.

"For decades, Lisa Larkin has been a close friend, colleague, and mentor of mine and of many others," says Dr. James Simon, clinical professor at George Washington University. "Above all, Lisa is a survivor. Rising above losses no one should ever endure, Lisa operates in both her personal and professional life without anger or bitterness, instead, channeling her inner strength and tenacity to help others in the advancement of science and the healthcare of women. Lisa is an amazing role model for all of us. A phenomenal leader, she can use sarcasm and the single word, 'really?' to motivate, question, and inspire. The Menopause Society is in spectacularly talented, innovative, and secure hands."

Dr. Larkin has been an active member of The Menopause Society since 2001 and a Menopause Society Certified Practitioner (MSCP) since 2002. Her contributions to The Society include serving as a member of The Society's Foundation Board, Awards Committee (Chair, 2015-2018), Education Committee, Scientific Program Committee, Poster Judging Panel, and MSCP Task Force. She has authored *Practice Pearls* on immunizations for adult women, migraine, and the genitourinary syndrome of menopause (GSM). She was a member of the editorial panel for The Society's Consensus Recommendations on GSM in women with or at high risk for breast cancer. She also served on the editorial board for The Menopause Society's 2020 GSM Position Statement. She has been a speaker at The Menopause Society's Annual Meetings.

Dr. Larkin's plans as President of The Menopause Society are to expand clinician education offerings beyond the Annual Meeting to include virtual programs; to expand internal medicine and family medicine membership at The Menopause Society; and to grow philanthropic support beyond our membership.

A devoted clinician educator, Dr. Larkin is well-published and lectures frequently at continuing medical education programs and educational events on women's health topics. Named one of Cincinnati's "Top Docs" every year since 1991 (by *Cincinnati* magazine), she is recognized by her peers, patients, members of the community, and the media as an exceptional provider, advocate, educator, and innovator.

"Rarely will you encounter someone more dedicated to advancing women's health than Lisa Larkin," says Dr. Steven Goldstein, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine. "She is someone who works tirelessly in educating both patients and healthcare professionals, as well as delivering world-class evidence-based clinical care day in and day out while also trying to develop and nurture other professionals into a network to do the same. We are so fortunate to have her at the helm of our Society."

Over the years, Dr. Larkin has been recognized for her innovation, both locally and nationally. In 2016 and 2017, she was recognized by the *Cincinnati Business Courier* for launching the first DPC practice in the region and was named one of eight "Women Who Mean Business" by the same publication. In 2018, she was recognized as a "Changemaker in Medicine" by *Medical Economics* and was interviewed on the topic of DPC for the syndicated show, *Full Measure*.

Dr. Larkin is passionate about her friends and family. She loves spending time with her husband, Dr. Arthur Pancioli, and their blended family of six children. Together, they enjoy active travel, including mountain climbing, hiking, tennis, and skiing.

*The Editors*