

Thea James, MD, is Vice President of Mission and Associate Chief Medical Officer at Boston Medical Center (BMC). She is the Director of BMC Violence Intervention Advocacy Program and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. James has primary responsibility for coordinating and maximizing BMC's relationships and strategic alliances with local, state, and national organizations to foster innovative and effective models of care that are essential for patients and communities to thrive. Integrating upstream interventions into BMC's clinical care models are critical in achieving equity and health.

Dr. James' passion is domestic and global public health. Dr. James served on the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine 2009-2012 as chair of the Licensing Committee. As the Supervising Medical Officer on the Boston Disaster Medical Assistance Team under the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. James has deployed to New York City post 9/11; New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005; Bam, Iran after the 2003 earthquake; and Port-Au-Prince, Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

Globally, she and colleagues have worked with local partners in Haiti and Africa to conduct sustainable projects. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Equal Health, an organization that supports sustainable medical and nursing education systems in Haiti.

She was awarded the Boston Public Health Commission's 2008 Mulligan Award for public service; the Suffolk County District Attorney's 2012 Role Model Award, and the Schwartz Center 2014 Compassionate Care Award. She received The Boston Business Journal Healthcare Hero Award in 2012 and 2015. The Boston Chamber of Commerce awarded Dr. James the Pinnacle Award in 2015 and she was a 2019 Massachusetts Public Health Association Health Equity Champion. In 2020, Dr. James received the American College of Emergency Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award; a History Maker Award from The History Project; and the inaugural Thea James Social Emergency Medicine Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians.

A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. James trained in Emergency Medicine at Boston City Hospital, where she was a chief resident.