



Connected healthcare,
better outcomes

International keynote speaker and Kurt Aaron Orator – Thursday 1 August 2019



Dr James (Jim) Withers

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James Withers, MD FACP, is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh and member of the teaching faculty in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Mercy Hospital.

In 1992, Dr Withers began to dress as a homeless person and make “house calls” under the bridges and along the river banks of Pittsburgh in the company of a formerly homeless man. This led to the founding of Operation Safety Net (OSN), one of the first full time, comprehensive medical services of its’ kind for the unsheltered homeless. Medical care is delivered directly on the streets, along the river banks and in the abandoned buildings of Pittsburgh, with full social service and housing follow-up. Through extensive national and global travel, his “street medicine” model spread as both a delivery model and unique educational resource.

In 2005, Dr Withers established the annual International Street Medicine Symposium (with current partners on six continents) to foster collaboration in the care of those sleeping on the streets. In 2009, Dr Withers created the Street Medicine Institute to focus on helping communities establish Street Medicine programs, improve existing practice and promote the “classroom of the streets” model in medical education. There are now over 30 medical schools with associated street medicine programs. In July 2019, Dr Withers will launch the first Street Medicine Fellowship at UPMC Mercy Hospital. Dr Withers enjoys numerous volunteer activities, Board memberships, and medical teaching appointments. He is most proud of the many students who have gone on to careers in service-oriented medicine.

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