

PAGING Dr. Lisa

Ledge Magazine recently sat down with Dr. Lisa Fitzpatrick, Board Certified physician in both Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Lisa's desire to work with young people played a role in her move from the CDC to Howard University Hospital. Dr. Lisa talked to LM about her experiences abroad, the importance of knowing your status, and what she would tell incoming students about staying healthy on campus. This is part one of our conversation with Dr. Lisa.

LM: What are some tips you would share with students who are sexually active or who are thinking about becoming sexually active?

Dr. Lisa: I would tell them to always, always, always know your status. You gotta get an HIV test and you have to know the status of your partner, especially if you're gonna sleep with someone without protection. You got to get tested and it's so easy now.

LM: I guess it would make more sense if you got tested with your partner.

Dr. Lisa: That would be a beautiful thing. We need to figure out how to popularize getting HIV tests and knowing your status. And that's something we should be talking to students about.

LM: Sometimes just speaking to the college students is not enough.

Dr. Lisa: You're right. One of the issues that I've heard students talking about is the lack of involvement on the parent side. The students feel like the parents just don't know what to say. Another option we should be looking at is parent intervention. So while they're dropping their kids off we should round them all up and have a few 30 minute sessions and let them ask questions so they know how to approach the subject.



Dr. Lisa Fitzpatrick's work and volunteer experience for the past 10 years reflects her ongoing commitment to eliminating racial health disparities nationally and internationally, beginning with her service as an international medical volunteer and consultant in Africa in 1994, 1995 and 1998. Since that time she has led investigations of disease outbreaks for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both in the US and internationally, focusing on both HIV and TB.

Dr. Lisa treats patients at Howard University's Center for Infectious Disease Management and Research (CIDMAR).