

May 17, 2021

JEREMY J. BIGGS, MD, MSPH, FACOEM NAMED CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Department of Family and Preventive Medicine is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeremy J. Biggs to the position of Division Chief for the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health. Steven Lacey, PhD, CIH, CSP, has served as Interim Division Chief for the past six months.

Dr. Biggs' career in providing educational and medical service to the University of Utah and the state is reflected in his impressive breadth of appointments and achievements. He has multiple Medical Directorships, including for the Hospital Workwellness Clinic and the RedMed Employee Health Clinic, in addition to serving as a Medical Director of Occupational Medicine for the University of Utah Environmental Health and Safety Office. His expansive list of specializations includes firefighter and police officer health and safety, impairment ratings, functional capacity evaluations, workers compensation causation analysis, and OSHA/MSHA mandated physical examinations (also known as hazmat/fitness for duty examinations). During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Biggs was instrumental in developing an organized response to the lack of PPE in the state and across the country, creating a new group of "PPE Czars" to address the shortages and contributing to efforts to develop new and better environmental protections for health workers and their patients. In recognition of this work, he was named one of 2020's Healthcare Heroes by *Utah Business Magazine*. "I am delighted that we have a leader with the talent level and national recognition like Dr. Biggs to lead our OEH Division and I am confident that he will sustain and increase the outstanding accomplishments of faculty, staff, and students in the OEH division," said Kola Okuyemi, MD, MPH, Professor and Chair for the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. "I am grateful to Dr. Steven Lacey for doing an outstanding job serving as Interim Chief for the OEH division for the past seven months."

Dr. Biggs' clinical and educational experience is reflected in the distinction of his academic record. He earned a Master's of Science in Public Health in 2002 from the University of Utah and went on to earn his medical degree in 2006 as a junior member of Alpha Omega Alpha, earning the Dean's Award for his distinguished scholarship. Following his degree, he interned at LDS hospital and completed his occupational medicine residency, also at the U.

"I am excited to work with everyone in the department to continue progressing our goals," said Dr. Biggs of his appointment to Division Chief. "I hope to focus on partnerships that will allow us to use our expertise to help our University and the surrounding employees in health and safety."