

LESSLIE PEKAREK, M.D.

AVP FOR STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES



Lesslie Pekarek serves as assistant vice president for student health and wellness services. In her role, she also serves as executive director of Student Health Services, Clemson University's comprehensive outpatient healthcare organization.

Pekarek took on the position of interim executive director in 2023 after serving as director of medical services since 2019. During the 2023-24 academic year, she held administrative responsibility for Redfern Health Center's three divisions — including Medical Services, Counseling and Psychological Services and Healthy Campus.

As medical director, Pekarek was in charge of a team of physicians, nurse practitioners, laboratory and radiology services staff. She first joined the Student Health Services staff in 2016 as a physician.

Pekarek earned the Student Affairs Staff Excellence Award in 2020 for health, safety and wellness largely due to her work as a public health strategist during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was instrumental in Clemson's response, serving as a clinical consultant for the University's testing lab and working closely with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on isolation and quarantine protocols.

Prior to her time at Clemson, Pekarek spent six years as a family physician at Baptist Easley Hospital. She earned her M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina in 2007 before completing a residency at Self Regional Healthcare in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Pekarek graduated from D.W. Daniel High School and earned an undergraduate degree in microbiology from Clemson. Pekarek was heavily involved as an undergraduate at Clemson, serving as chair of the health and human services committee for student senate, a tutor in the Student-Athlete Enrichment Center and as an Orientation Ambassador.

She and her husband, Jeff, have two sons, J.B. and Will.