



Lesslie Pekarek, M.D., FAAFP
Assistant Vice President for Student Health and Wellness Services

Lesslie Pekarek serves as assistant vice president for student health and wellness services. As a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, she utilizes her expertise and passion to serve our students. In her role, she oversees our Redfern Health Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, and Healthy Campus. She continues to also serve 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 received the Degree of Fellow from the American Academy of Family Physicians in 2024, a distinguished honor reserved for members in acknowledgment of their service to family medicine, advancement of health care and professional development through medical education and research.

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. As a staff member, she was a member of the eighth cohort of the President's Leadership Institute in 2023.

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