

## **Marilyn Bibbs Freeman, Ph.D., M (ASCP)**

Since 2019, Dr. Marilyn Bibbs Freeman has served as the deputy director for the Virginia Department of General Services Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS), Virginia's State Public Health Laboratory. DCLS performs clinical, environmental, and food testing for a number of stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. Bibbs Freeman is a graduate of James Madison University ('99), where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, she matriculated at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where she obtained a Master of Science degree ('01) in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, specializing in Clinical Microbiology. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree from Walden University in Public Health ('14), with a concentration in Epidemiology. With special interests in infectious diseases as well as disparities in healthcare and health outcomes, her dissertation focused on the social determinants of health and how they relate to the acquisition and transmission of comorbid HIV and syphilis infection.

After completing her degree at VCU, Dr. Bibbs Freeman accepted employment at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where she worked as a medical technologist in virology within the pathology laboratory. After leaving Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dr. Bibbs Freeman returned to Richmond, Virginia and was briefly employed with the Laboratory Corporation of America, performing testing on human samples to identify bacterial, parasitic, and mycological infections before being offered a position at DCLS, as a technical supervisor in the viral bioterrorism program. Since arriving at DCLS, she progressed through the career ladder to also serve as the laboratory's manager of virology and immunology, moving next to director of laboratory operations responsible for leadership of the chemical terrorism, bioterrorism, biomonitoring, immunology, virology, microbiology, molecular detection, and sample handling work groups, before being promoted into her current role as deputy director.

Dr. Bibbs Freeman is an American Society of Clinical Pathologist – certified laboratorian with 20 years of progressive experience in Microbiology, Immunology, Chemistry, Quality, Safety and Management which she uses to support the DCLS mission of promoting health through quality laboratory services. While Dr. Bibbs Freeman has extensive education and experience in laboratory science, she also possesses knowledge and experience in the epidemiology of disease, and health promotion and prevention in communities. She is a current member of the Association of Public Health Laboratories, where she serves on the Sexually Transmitted Disease Subcommittee; Laboratory Systems and Standards Committee; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. She regularly speaks on topics of scientific interest to audiences ranging from students to scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She was a contributing author on articles published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly* and *The Journal of Medical Virology* and was the recipient of a Governor's Award for Teamwork in 2012.

When not promoting the health of citizens within the Commonwealth of Virginia, you can find her at home with her husband and two children, volunteering within the community as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, supporting the faith-based initiatives of her church as well as investing in the arts within her community.