

James G. Taylor VI, M.D., is a professor of microbiology who serves as Director of the Center for Sickle Cell Disease at Howard University. A board-certified pediatric hematologist/oncologist, Taylor earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin, completed his residency in pediatrics at Washington University in St. Louis, and pursued advanced fellowships in pediatric hematology/oncology and genetics research at Johns Hopkins University and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). His academic training, including postdoctoral fellowships in vascular medicine and genomics at the NIH, positioned him to become a national leader in translational research on sickle cell disease.

Taylor's clinical and research career has focused on the genetic and physiological underpinnings of pain in sickle cell anemia, particularly within African American populations. He has led groundbreaking studies on pain phenotyping, genetic admixture, and central sensitization in sickle cell disease, significantly advancing understanding of disease complications and informing more precise, personalized approaches to care. As director of a center that serves more than 350 adult sickle cell patients, Taylor oversees a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and scientists, helping bridge research and clinical care to reduce health disparities in hematologic disorders.

With prior roles at Johns Hopkins Hospital and the NIH, Dr. Taylor has received numerous honors, including the NIH Top Science Advance award and citations from the City of New York for his contributions to sickle cell advocacy. His scholarly output spans high-impact journals, and he has held influential roles on grant review panels, editorial boards, and advisory committees. Through his leadership at Howard University and as a co-investigator with the Center for Hemoglobin Research in Minorities (CHaRM), Taylor continues to champion equitable, research-driven solutions for patients historically underserved by the healthcare system.