



"I am so grateful to you, Dr. Michele Wright, Ph.D., and Terry Wright. You are the very reason I'm getting the care I deserve and have desperately needed. I wouldn't have found my way to Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Cousar, MD, and National Jewish Health without you all and the National Organization of African Americans with Cystic Fibrosis (NOACF). I'm forever in your corner and can't wait to help your advocacy for other BIPOC to find the care they need and deserve!"

Rachel (Rae) Alder
NOACF Patient Ambassador
Diagnosed with CF at Age 26

Rachel (Rae) Alder is a transracial adoptee and queer black woman who displays a life's work and passion in the art of advocacy and authenticity. The first black Miss North Ogden (Miss America Scholarship Organization), a dual sport collegiate athlete (water polo & swimming), a current board of directors for the Utah Pride Center, and a 2022 Collegiate Forensics National Champion in public speaking; she recently overcame racial bias, health disparity, and rapid health deterioration to finally receive the correct diagnosis of cystic fibrosis (CF) in January 2023 at the age of 26.

This is where the National Organization of African Americans with Cystic Fibrosis (NOACF) comes in. Rachel came to know Michele and Terry Wright and the NOACF foundation they co-founded through a pleading post for help she posted on social media. They then quickly connected her with Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Cousar, Professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at National Jewish Health, who formally diagnosed her with CF. She credits both NOACF and Dr. Taylor-Cousar's life work and advocacy with saving her life. She is deeply honored to be officially named and to serve as NOACF's first-ever patient ambassador.