

Chris McGowen
Director of State Government Affairs
Novo Nordisk

Chris McGowen is the Director of State Government Affairs at Novo Nordisk and one of the leading African American lobbyists in the pharmaceutical industry. Chris began his political career in 1992 as a producer for C-Span and later became Press Secretary to Congressman J.C. Watts. In this role, Chris helped pass welfare reform and was instrumental in facilitating the “Contract with America” agenda. Through this experience, Chris gained an appreciation for the vital role health care plays in public policy.

Over next several years, Chris lobbied in the state of Georgia on behalf of multiple organizations including the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Turner Broadcasting and Cohn & Wolfe Public Affairs. In Georgia, Chris built on his Capitol Hill and legislative experience and developed an extensive knowledge of Medicare and Medicaid policy.

Since joining Novo Nordisk in 2003, Chris has moved the national diabetes crisis to the forefront of states' legislative agendas. As a diabetic and person living with an auto-immune disease, Chris brings a unique and personal perspective to the job. He is driven to change the course of diabetes and stays attuned to the challenges that diabetics face. Chris has also collaborated with the Institute for American Futures to create "What Diabetes will look like by 2025." This powerful study and colloquium has shed light on the mounting human and financial costs of diabetes state by state.

Chris is a member of the Washington Government Relations Group, American League of Lobbyists, the Press Club, Public Relations Society of America, and a board member of the Public Affairs Council. He is also a mentor in Novo Nordisk's Trenton High School Student Mentoring Program.