

Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

*Reducing Health Disparities Through
Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy
Communities*

November 13-16, 2013

Sugar Bay Resort and Spa

6500 Estate Smith Bay

St. Thomas, USVI 00802



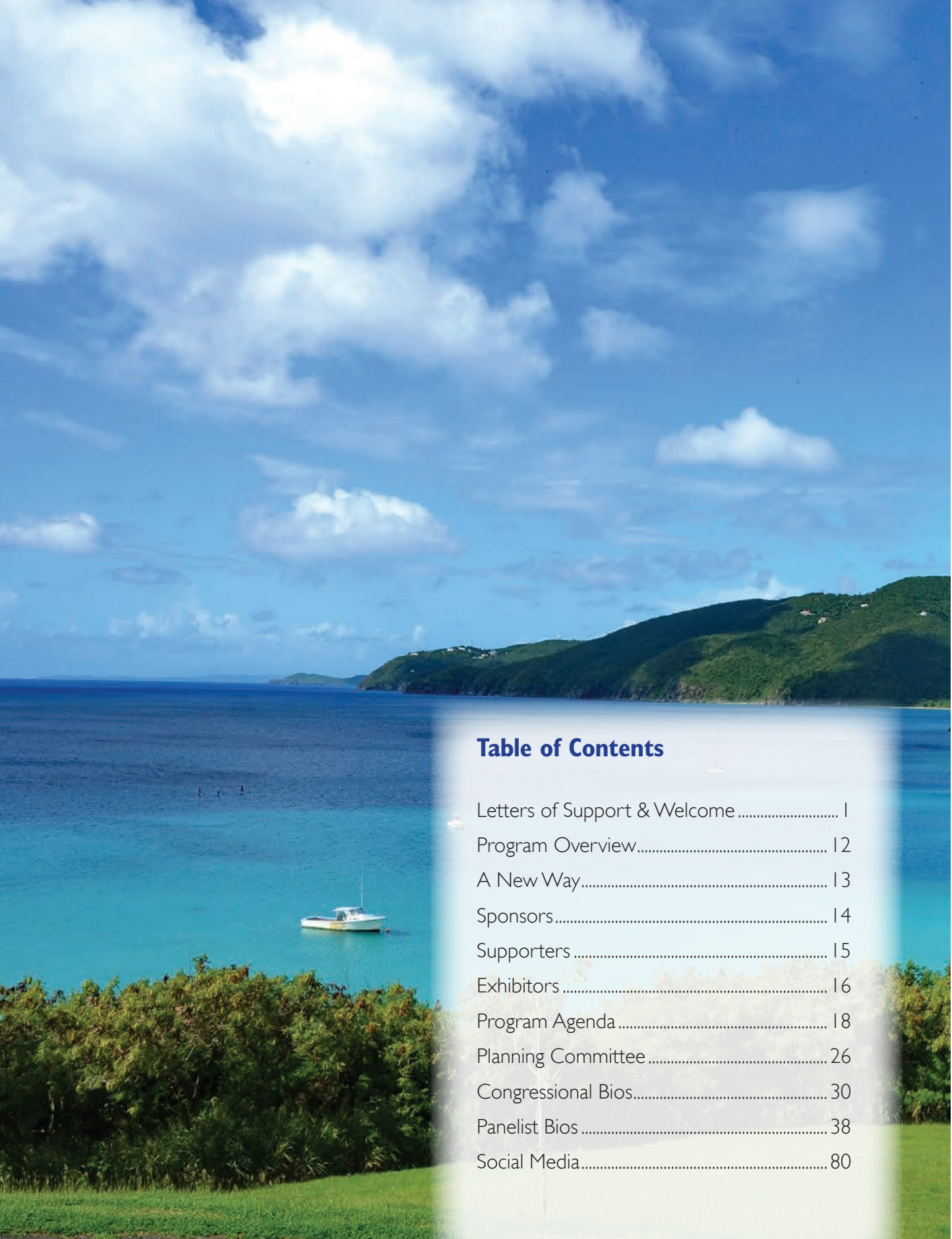


Table of Contents

Letters of Support & Welcome	1
Program Overview.....	12
A New Way.....	13
Sponsors.....	14
Supporters	15
Exhibitors	16
Program Agenda	18
Planning Committee	26
Congressional Bios.....	30
Panelist Bios	38
Social Media.....	80



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

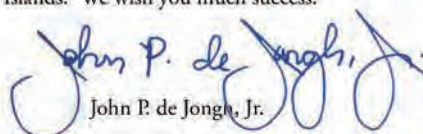
November 13, 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

On behalf of the people and Government of the Virgin Islands, it is a pleasure to welcome all participants to the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. We are thrilled that the Territory has been chosen as the site location for two National Conferences, the 2008 held on St. Croix and now the 2013 conference on St. Thomas. More importantly we are pleased to note that the agenda includes panel discussions devoted exclusively to health disparity issues facing the Caribbean Basin region. Speakers from various V.I. Government agencies, the University of the Virgin Islands, and our community's private organizations, as well as elected officials, will share their expertise, research, and knowledge of health care and socio-economic conditions in the region.

The National Conference on Health Disparities spotlights the imbalance in health and health care services received by many of our nation's residents, due to race, poverty, rural locations, lack of education, inadequate access to medical facilities, lack of health insurance, language barriers, and other regional factors. Our nation spends more on health care and wellness than other developed nations, approximately \$2.6 trillion in 2010 according to the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services. However, half of the amount spent on health care is used to treat just five percent of the population, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Other statistics are just as alarming. Our nation only ranks 50th in highest total life expectancy in the world, and in 2005 the United States ranked a low 30th in infant mortality rates. While chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, and asthma continue to afflict about 25 percent of the population, the amount being spent on health care in our nation is only helping a small percentage of our population with their health issues.

I look forward, with great anticipation, to learning the vitally-important recommendations for change in policies and programs as a result of the National Conference on Health Disparities. I understand that the individuals attending the conference, as well as the speakers and experts on hand, will explore the factors surrounding the imbalance in health care and emphasize prevention of disease through lifestyle changes, community involvement and education. I applaud both this approach and the individuals who are at the forefront of this issue. The conference's mission to eliminate health disparities from the nation is so important to all citizens, including those of us in the Virgin Islands. We wish you much success!


John P. de Jongh, Jr.



MESSAGE FROM THE DELEGATE TO CONGRESS

I am pleased and sincerely honored to welcome you to the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. As the Congresswoman from the U.S. Virgin Islands, I want to extend a warm welcome to all the conference's panelists and participants to beautiful St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. I hope that you take advantage of the thoughtful perspectives that will be shared throughout the conference's numerous sessions, workshops and networking opportunities, and that you use some of your free time to explore the rich beauty and culture on our island.

The continuing theme of the conference – **Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities** – is more than a theme, it is our life's work. It is vitally important because while we – as a nation – have made several significant steps forward in the fight to reduce health disparities in recent years, the truth is that we will never achieve health equity unless our collective efforts start at the community level.

This year's National Conference on Health Disparities – with its emphasis on the social determinants of health; the impact of translational research and prevention on health disparity reduction; and public-private partnerships that seek to reduce health disparities by identifying the health strategy in every policy – will undoubtedly provide everyone in attendance with the information they need to do just that. Further, the impressive gathering of Members of Congress, other elected officials and renowned health equity experts from the community and local, state and national level create the perfect venue for leaders dedicated to health equity to share ideas and lessons learned about an issue that affects every American.

As the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, I am very proud to lend our support to this important conference and I applaud the Medical University of South Carolina, and the other organizers and sponsors of this event for their unwavering commitment to ensuring that we make health equity a reality for every American.

Good luck and best wishes for a successful and lively event, as well as for a safe and enjoyable visit on St. Thomas!

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

Chairman:

Committee of the Whole

Vice Chairman:

Committee on Culture, Historic
Preservation, Youth & Recreation



Member:

Committee on Rules & Judiciary

Committee on Economic
Development, Agriculture &
Planning

**Office of The Senate President
Shawn-Michael Malone**



A Message from Senate President Shawn-Michael Malone

On behalf of the senators and staff of the 30th Legislature, I welcome all those participating in the 7th Annual Health Disparities Conference to our beautiful shores. I thank you for once again choosing the United States Virgin Islands for this important forum.

Your work is so critical to all Americans and particularly to the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands given our challenges in providing adequate health care services, especially at the preventative level. Poverty, substandard housing, inadequate education, language barriers and environmental pollution have all played a role in the challenges we are currently encountering here in our territory. The problems are complex as will be the solutions, however I remain confident that together we can make significant and lasting improvements.

I thank each of you for your hard work and research in this regard and I truly hope this will be a most productive endeavor. I wish each of you a most enjoyable stay here on St. Thomas.

Shawn-Michael Malone

Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands
P.O. Box 1690 St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00804
Office: (340) 693-3529 Fax: (340) 693-3642
senatormalone@gmail.com



**MESSAGE FROM UVI PRESIDENT
DR. DAVID HALL**

On behalf of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) family, I am honored to welcome you to the *Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities*, which is being held on November 13-16, 2013, at the Sugar Bay Resort and Spa in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

As the only institution of higher education in the territory, UVI has a unique responsibility to address the challenges that impact the territory and the region. As we reflect on the beauty of the U.S. Virgin Islands - the sun, sea and turquoise waters - we need to remain mindful of our mandate to vigilantly develop policies and programs to reduce health disparities that adversely impact the safety and health of our citizens.

This year's conference will provide us with practical information on how to protect our most valuable resource - our people - while propelling us one step closer to our goal of becoming a healthy, educated and prosperous community. I am especially pleased that the University of the Virgin Islands will play a role in the attainment of this goal.

I encourage you to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge that will be shared at the conference and use this occasion to strengthen inter-agency and intra-Caribbean relationships. Use this opportunity to network with your colleagues and learn how - together - we can strengthen our healthcare resources in the nation and the Virgin Islands, in particular.

Best wishes for a most productive conference.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Hall".

Dr. David Hall
President



**GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**



November 13-16, 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

It is an honor to extend my warmest greetings to the participants and organizers of the U.S. Virgin Islands Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

The conference provides a great opportunity for leaders, policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, educators and stakeholders to come together, share expertise and experience, and examine health disparities that affect the entire community.

The conference theme, “Reducing Health Disparities through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities,” is relevant with the passing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Eliminating health disparities that affect the Virgin Islands is one of Governor John de Jongh, Jr. –Francis Administration’s top priorities. From the introduction of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, a Virgin Islands Health Reform Task Force was established to implement healthcare reform, improve quality and access to healthcare for all of our residents. The Reform Task Force is also committed to supporting initiatives and programs that address diseases and chronic illness that disproportionately impact our community.

I thank you for the support of this conference and those who are working to improve the quality and delivery of healthcare services to all underserved communities across our country. My best wishes for an informative and productive conference.

With Warm Regards,

Darice Plaskett

Darice Plaskett

***The Virgin Islands Department of Health
“To Reduce Health Risks, Increase Access to Quality Healthcare and Enforce Health Standards”***



Office of the President
Colcock Hall
179 Ashley Avenue
MSC 001
Charleston SC 29425-0010
Tel 843 792 2211
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www.musc.edu

November 13, 2013

Friends,

It is my great pleasure to join in welcoming you to the Seventh Annual Conference on Health Disparities: Reducing Health Disparities through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities. It was an honor and privilege for the Medical University to sponsor the first six conferences and we are excited to partner with other sponsors and co-sponsors of the 2013 Conference.

Over time, our nation's health care providers and policy makers have come to understand that the well-being of each American impacts the well-being of all Americans. Conference presenters and participants will discuss solutions, review "programs that work" and recommend policies that strengthen and enhance the current "medical model" of health through diverse, multi-disciplinary partnerships and perspectives.

We are pleased that you've chosen to join us at this year's conference and look forward to three rewarding days of participation. Thank you for coming and for sharing your expertise and excitement with us.

Have a great conference!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark S. Sothmann". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mark S. Sothmann, PhD
Interim President



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Attendees:

Morehouse School of Medicine, along with the Medical University of South Carolina, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and University of the Virgin Islands, is honored to co-sponsor the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

This year the beautiful island of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands is welcoming nearly 700 healthcare thought leaders, providers, researchers, patients, community health advocates, government officials, and members of the Congress.

Over the next three days, brilliant scholars, academicians, policymakers, and citizens will discuss, interact, and strategize to find solutions. This year begins enrollment in the Affordable Care Act and significant changes must still occur to meet our community's current healthcare needs. We are challenged to transform our culture from the medical model of curative to one of disease prevention and health promotion - a new beginning!

As we continue our excellent work, I challenge each of our participants to take a broader view of health and healthcare. We need to continue the discussion about our shared responsibility for improving the health and health outcomes of our communities. We need to continue our focus on understanding the varied determinants of health disparities, as well as how some citizens live long, healthy lives and others in the same community live in ill health and have much shorter lives. We must continue to take a critical look, discuss, and document the enabling and resilient factors that enhance the health and well-being of individuals, groups, and communities.

This annual conference is a necessary part of the continued national dialogue on health. With participants willing to have candid conversations about health inequities, population health, and personal health responsibilities, we can focus more attention on matters of justice and fairness, rights and privileges.

The burden of health inequities requires a multi-faceted process sustained over many years. We are all required to actively engage in the health of our communities. A culture of optimal health and wellness has to be embraced if we are to close the disgraceful gaps in minority health-status. It will take togetherness, partnerships, and extraordinary leadership to achieve the best possible intellectual, emotional, physical, socio-economic, and spiritual aliveness for our communities and future generations.

I wish you an inspiring and productive conference, and I look forward to seeing results in practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John E. Maupin Jr.".

John E. Maupin Jr. DDS, MBA
President

720 Westview Drive SW - Atlanta, GA 30310-1495
Telephone: (404) 752-1740 - Facsimile: (404) 756-8974

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www.uamshealth.com

Daniel W. Rahn, M.D.
Chancellor



I am delighted that the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is a partnering sponsor for the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD). I am also pleased that UAMS is only one of several Arkansas organizations participating in this conference.

Last November, UAMS had the distinct pleasure of welcoming the 6th Annual NCHD to Little Rock, Arkansas. The honor of co-sponsoring this important national conference on health disparities in 2012 has since evolved into a vital collaboration with the Medical University of South Carolina, the Morehouse School of Medicine, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and other national health equity stakeholders committed to “sustaining and strengthening healthy communities.”

As Arkansas’ only academic health center, UAMS’ role is to provide leadership in helping build healthy communities throughout our state and provide leadership to address the many unique, diverse challenges our state faces in a constantly evolving health care landscape. UAMS has taken many steps toward meeting these new challenges from the inside out. We are taking steps to restructure ourselves internally in order to adjust to the health and health care needs of our diverse and largely rural population. We have done this through the support and encouragement from our UAMS Arkansas Center for Health Disparities, our Center for Diversity Affairs, and our institutes, programs and colleges both on campus and spread throughout Arkansas. Our unique value, shared with other academic health centers throughout this nation is our ability to combine educational, research and health care initiatives to craft new approaches to the challenge of health disparities present throughout our state, the nation, and eventually the world.

We are committed at UAMS to embrace the complexity of how social, economic, educational, geographic, behavioral and biological factors interact to produce disparate health outcomes across our populations. These issues can only be addressed through new partnership and new thinking. We believe that population health and variations in health among different population in society is a key measure of whether we live in a just society.

As Chancellor, I am proud to have with me a group of leaders from many diverse backgrounds and organizations in Arkansas, several of whom have speaking roles this week. We anticipate an equally strong student representation from Arkansas presenting research. I am proud of the large and significant contribution we are able to make to this conference. It is a tribute to, and a reflection of, the commitment to impacting communities from the capital city of Little Rock to the farmlands of the Arkansas Delta.

We look forward to not only sharing our stories, but learning from everyone else here as we work together toward incorporating new ideas into policies and programs that reduce health disparities and enhance the world’s overall health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel W. Rahn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "R".

Dan Rahn, M.D.
Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences



Leading America in Health Care
Solutions for the Underserved
and Chronically Ill.

Michael A. Rashid
President and Chief Executive Officer

November 13, 2013

Dear Conference Participants:

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the seventh annual National Conference on Health Disparities. AmeriHealth Caritas is proud to join in sponsoring this conference and to contribute to this critical conversation on eliminating disparities in health care.

This year's focus – sustaining and strengthening healthy communities – is one that AmeriHealth Caritas has pursued for nearly 30 years. We are experts at serving communities at risk for disparate access to health care, and we have seen the positive outcomes that result when we help providers connect with patients and communities at their own level and on their own terms.

In 1966 Doctor Martin Luther King said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Yet, across our nation today, we continue to see gross disparities in access to quality health care.

These inequities underscore the need for the kind of dialogue fostered during the National Conference on Health Disparities. Such conversations help spark innovative approaches, and by working together to eliminate barriers to quality care, we can drastically improve lives and entire communities across the United States.

I look forward to joining all of you in a meaningful and productive dialogue over the course of this conference. Together, we can generate ideas and strategies that can leave a positive and lasting impact in our most vulnerable communities.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Rashid



National Forum for Black Public Administrators

777 North Capitol Street, N.E. • Suite 807 • Washington, D.C. 20002
Telephone: (202) 408-9300 • Facsimile: (202) 408-8558 • www.nfbpa.org

November 13, 2013



Dear NCHD Participants:

On behalf of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), welcome to the 7th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. The 2013 conference will focus on policies and programs to reduce health disparities through sustaining and strengthening healthy communities. Several panels will address these issues and how to implement the policies and programs in our community, particularly in the Caribbean region.

It is especially important at this point in time that we embrace the Affordable Care Act of 2010 to assist with the reduction of chronic and infectious disease rates that continue to disproportionately affect people of color and underserved communities. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 offers a solid blueprint to address these challenges through comprehensive public policy. The law addresses key limitations in our health care system, including a lack of focus on primary care and prevention, adequate insurance coverage, and a well-trained, diversified health care workforce. At the same time, Public Administrators know that we must continue to understand and address the broader social factors which compromise health for many and promote more health-conscious decision-making by individuals and communities.

NFBPA commend the Medical University of South Carolina for continuing to lead the development of the National Conference on Health Disparities and are pleased to support this conference. We hope that the information you acquire over the next three days will strengthen your resolve to fight for the elimination of health disparities and the achievement of health equity. Collectively, we can and must work to advance our communities toward optimal health for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Verdenia C. Baker'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Verdenia C. Baker, President
NFBPA



CARIBBEAN EXPLORATORY (NIMHD) RESEARCH CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

University of the Virgin Islands, School of Nursing

Funded by Grant #P20MD002286
DHHS, National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities



The Staff, Researchers and Advisory Board of the University of the Virgin Islands, School of Nursing, Caribbean Exploratory NIMHD Research Center of Excellence (CERC) are proud to partner with and
CONGRATULATE
Medical University of South Carolina on its 7th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

The CERC is leading the charge in health disparities research in the Caribbean

Principal Investigator and Director: Gloria B. Callwood, PhD, RN, FAAN,

Major research projects and activities:

- “Integrated Risk Reduction Intervention for Abuse African Caribbean Women”.
- “Understanding Transition to Insulin Resistance in Children”.
- “Protecting Haitian Women and Children Earthquake Survivors from Violence and Abuse”. (Study being conducted Haiti.)
- Mentoring of student research assistants and Research Scholars.

We are proud to be a part of this capacity building activity in our community

Visit us at <http://cercvi.com> or

www.facebook.com/caribbeanexploratoryresearchcenter.cerc

OVERVIEW

Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

The Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities will take place November 13-16, 2013, in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Like its six predecessors, the 2013 conference will focus on policies and programs to reduce health disparities, with several panels addressing issues of particular importance in the Caribbean region. Presenters will emphasize the role of social determinants, personal responsibility and prevention in initiatives that reduce disparities.

Why is this conference important to all Americans, and not just our nation's minority citizens? Over time, our nation's healthcare providers and policy makers have come to understand that the well-being of each American impacts the well-being of all Americans. Truly healthy communities and their citizen-leaders recognize the roles human health, environmental quality, environmental justice and economic development play in overall community development and well-being. Moreover, at a time when our nation's traditional "sick-care" medical model may be unsustainable, a comprehensive "well-care" approach, recognizing social determinants and emphasizing prevention and personal responsibility, may augment the existing system, reduce disparities and restore much-needed balance to the national dialogue on healthcare.

From 2007 through 2012, national conferences in Charleston, SC (2007, 2011); St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; Atlanta, GA; Philadelphia, PA, and Little Rock, AR, have brought together diverse partners, presenters and attendees to share their knowledge of health disparities. These programs have uncovered and told a much larger story: that social determinants, such as race, poverty, low education levels, public safety, environmental quality and inadequate housing, are major contributors to health disparities. These findings suggest the potential benefits of rededicating a portion of America's healthcare resources to programs that emphasize education, prevention and personal responsibility – each person's willingness and capacity to make informed decisions that reduce the likelihood of disease development.

This program's formal agenda and the chance for participants to interact in less structured settings offer opportunities to incorporate these understandings into policies and programs that reduce health disparities and enhance our nation's overall health and well-being.

A New Way to Talk About The Social Determinants of Health

America leads the world in medical research and medical care, and for all we spend on health care, we should be the healthiest people on Earth. Yet on some of the most important indicators, like how long we live, we're not even in the top 25, behind countries like Bosnia and Jordan. It's time for America to lead again on health, and that means taking three steps. The first is to ensure that everyone can afford to see a doctor when they're sick. The second is to build preventive care like screening for cancer and heart disease into every health care plan and make it available to people who otherwise won't or can't go in for it, in malls and other public places, where it's easy to stop for a test. The third is to stop thinking of health as something we get at the doctor's office but instead as something that starts in our families, in our schools and workplaces, in our playgrounds and parks, and in the air we breathe and the water we drink. The more you see the problem of health this way, the more opportunities you have to improve it. Scientists have found that the conditions in which we live and work have an enormous impact on our health, long before we ever see a doctor. It's time we expand the way we think about health to include how to keep it, not just how to get it back. For more information about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Vulnerable Populations Portfolio, please visit www.rwjf.org/vulnerablepopulations.

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**Congressional
Black Caucus
Foundation, Inc.**



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EXHIBITORS

Please take time to visit our Exhibitors.

Advantage Communications, Inc.

AmeriHealth Caritas**

California State University Long Beach Research Foundation (CSULB)**

Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (CERC)*

CIGNA**

Coca-Cola**

Community Care Network and Project H.E.L.P. USA/MRC

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.*

Hands on Health–SC (Medical University of South Carolina)

Medicaid Health Plans of America

Morehouse School of Medicine*

MUSC Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity & Wellness (SE VIEW)**

The National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.

The National Library of Medicine

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Minority Research Center

University of the Virgin Islands*

* *Conference Sponsor* ** *Conference Supporter*

AmeriHealth Caritas salutes

The Seventh Annual Health Disparities Conference

AmeriHealth Caritas believes that healthy communities empower families to succeed. For three decades we've made it our mission to create innovative partnerships that help our members get access to quality, culturally competent care. Our efforts have earned us the NCQA Distinction in Multicultural Health Care and recognition as a leader in health disparities best practices.

By removing barriers to care and ensuring our members can access the right care at the right time in the right place, we can watch entire communities flourish. We're proud to support the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities and its mission to enhance the nation's overall health and well-being.

www.amerihealthcaritas.com



AGENDA

7TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Reducing Health Disparities through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

November 13-16, 2013

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

1:00-4:00 pm.....Registration
Location: The Royal Room, 2nd floor

9:00 am-3:00 pm.....Undergraduate and Graduate Student Forum
Location: Allamanda/Oleander Room

Opening Remarks and Overview of Student Forum

Undergraduate and Graduate Student Forum-Program Co-chairs:

Dr. Marvella E. Ford, *Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences; Associate Director, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

Dr. Milford W. Greene, *Director of Health and Clinical Services at Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Atlanta, GA*

Exhibits provided by conference sponsors and supporters will be on display in the 2nd floor, Upper Lobby. Please take time to visit our exhibitors during the breaks.

7:00 pm.....Opening Reception/Remarks
Location: Sugar Bay Resort & Spa Poolside

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Location: The Estate Ballroom, 2nd floor

7:30 am.....Continental Breakfast: The Estate Ballroom, 2nd floor

7:30 am-4:00 pm.....Registration: The Royal Room, 2nd floor

8:30 am.....Mistress of Ceremonies

Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, *Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company, Columbia, SC*

Opening Remarks

The Hon. Darice Plaskett, *Commissioner, Department of Health, St. Croix, USVI*

Dr. David Hall, President, *University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*

The Hon. Shawn-Michael Malone, *President, 30th Legislature, USVI*

The Hon. Donna M. Christensen, M.D., *Delegate, U.S. Congress, USVI*

Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter, *Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

Dr. John Maupin, *President, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA*

Dr. Daniel Rahn, *Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR*

Ms. Verdenia C. Baker, *President, National Forum for Black Public Administrators; Deputy County Administrator, Palm Beach County Administration, West Palm Beach, FL*

Dr. Tionna Jenkins, *Regional Director, Clinton Health Matters Initiative, William J. Clinton Foundation, Little Rock, AR*

Mr. Michael A. Rashid, *President and Chief Executive Officer, AmeriHealth Caritas, Philadelphia, PA*

The Hon. John P. de Jongh, Jr., *Governor, USVI*

9:45 am.....Keynote Address

Rev. Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., *Servant Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, MD*

10:15 am.....Break

10:30 am.....Overview of Health Disparities

Dr. John Ruffin, *Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), Bethesda, MD*

11:15 am.....Break

11:45 am.....Luncheon

Luncheon Speaker

Dr. Reed Tuckson, FACP, *Managing Director, Tuckson Health Connections, Minneapolis, MN*

AGENDA continued

1:15 pm

Panel One

The impact of social determinants in reducing health disparities and sustaining healthy communities with a major focus on race, poverty, education and environmental issues

Moderator

Dr. David E. Rivers, Associate Professor, Public Information and Community Outreach Director, Library Science and Informatics, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Panelists

Ms. Lisa F. Garcia, Esq., Associate Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC

Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Executive Director, American Public Health Association, Washington, DC

Dr. Jay Feldstein, Regional President, Northern Division, AmeriHealth Caritas, Philadelphia, PA

Dr. Keith Norris, Editor-in-Chief, Ethnicity and Disease; Immediate Past Vice President for Research, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, Marina Del Rey, CA

Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Esq., Founder, Tribal Consultation Resources, LLC, Albuquerque, NM

2:30 pmBreak

2:45 pm

Panel Two

Translational research with proven results in reducing health disparities, with a major focus on chronic and communicable diseases

Moderator

Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, Dean and Executive Vice President, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Panelists

Dr. Curtis Lowery, Director, Translational Research Institute, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

Dr. Eugene Tull, Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI

Dr. Daniel T. Lackland, Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Neurosciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Dr. Emma Fernández-Repollet, *Principal Investigator, Research Centers in Minority Institutions Program; Professor, Department of Pharmacology of the School of Medicine, University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, Puerto Rico*

Dr. Gloria Wilder, *President and CEO, Core Health, LLC. , Washington, DC*

7:00 pmReception

Hosted by:

Governor John P. and Cecile de Jongh, Jr., U.S. Virgin Islands

Catherineberg Residence
Estate 8, Store Northside Quarter
St. Thomas, VI 00802

(Shuttle buses will depart from the front of hotel at 6:00 pm.)

DAY THREE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Location: The Estate Ballroom

7:30 am Continental Breakfast: The Estate Ballroom, 2nd floor

7:30 am-4:00 pm Registration: The Royal Room, 2nd floor

9:00 am Mistress of Ceremonies

Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, *Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company, Columbia, SC*

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Dr. Stephanie Gardner, *Dean, College of Pharmacy, Associate Provost for Society and Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR*

9:15 am Keynote Address

Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC*

9:50 am Break

AGENDA continued

10:00 am

Panel Three

The impact of global climate change with emphasis on environmental quality, health, soil erosion, food supply and infrastructure

Moderator

Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster, *Retired Professor and President Emerita, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*

Panelists

Ms. Danielle Deane, *Director, Energy and Environment Program, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Washington, DC*

Dr. Kedrick Pickering, *Minister of Natural Resources, Tortola, British Virgin Islands*

Mr. Lloyd Gardner, *President, Foundation for Development Planning, Inc., St. Thomas, USVI*

Dr. Yitades Gebre, *Advisor, Family Health and Disease Management, Pan American Health Organization, St. Clair, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago*

11:30 am

Panel Four

Prevention and personal responsibility as a major theme in reducing health disparities and sustaining healthy communities

Moderator

Dr. Marjorie Innocent, *Vice President of Research and Sponsored Programs, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC*

Panelists

Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, *Professor and Director, National La Raza, The Center for Latino Community, California State University Long Beach Foundation, Long Beach, CA*

Dr. Gary H. Gibbons, *Director, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Bethesda, MD*

Dr. Doris Campbell, *Provost; Consultant, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*

Dr. Thomas Ellison, *Medical Services Director, Principal Investigator, Project H.E.L.P. USA/MRC, Bruno-Smithfield Community Health Center, Birmingham, AL*

Dr. Loretta Sweet Jemmott, *van Ameringen Professor in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and Director for the Health Disparities Research, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA*

12:45 pmBreak

1:00 pm Luncheon

Luncheon Speaker

Dr. Gloria Callwood, *Director, USVI Caribbean Exploratory Research Center, Principal Investigator, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, USVI*

2:15 pm

Panel Five

Successful community-based programs for building, sustaining and strengthening healthy communities

Moderator

Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter, *Chief of Staff, Office of the President, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

Panelists

Dr. Janice Key, *Professor of Pediatrics, Lean Team Initiative, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

Dr. Debra Joy Perez, *Vice President for Knowledge Support, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD*

Dr. Samuel Ross, *Chief Executive Officer, Bon Secours Baltimore Health System, Maryland Health Enterprise Zones, Baltimore, MD*

Ms. Eurkres Y. Rallings, *Executive Director of Virgin Islands Partners for Healthy Communities, St. Croix, USVI*

Ms. Maria Pajil Battle, *President, AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership, Philadelphia, PA*

3:45 pm Break

4:00 pm

Panel Six

The role of the public and private sector in reducing health disparities through economic development and infrastructure improvements, including energy/power generation and delivery of a reliable, high-quality supply of water

Moderator

Mr. Gustav James, P.E., *President, Systems Engineering and Construction, Inc., St. Croix, USVI*

Panelists

Mr. Karl Knight, *Director of Energy, Virgin Islands Energy Office, Office of the Governor, St. Thomas, USVI*

Mr. Geoff Smith, P.E., *Project Manager, URS, Charleston, SC*

Mr. Patrick N. Graham P.E., *Project Development, CHA Consulting, Inc., Savannah, GA*

Mr. Fred Elusma, *Founder and President, Petro Gaz-Haiti, S.A., Port-au-Prince, Haiti.*

AGENDA continued

DAY FOUR: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013

Location: The Estate Ballroom

7:30 am.....Breakfast: The Estate Ballroom

8:15 am.....Mistress of Ceremonies

Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, *Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company, Columbia, SC*

Opening Remarks

Ms. Lathran J. Woodard, *CEO, South Carolina Primary Health Care Association, Columbia, SC*

Introduction of Congressional Remarks and Keynote Address

The Hon. Donna Christensen, M.D., *Delegate, U.S. Congress, USVI*

Remarks

The Hon. Chaka Fattah, *U.S. Congress (PA-2nd District); Chair, Congressional Urban Caucus*

8:45 am.....Keynote Address

The Hon. James E. Clyburn, *Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. Congress (SC-6th District)*

9:15 am

Panel Seven

The impact of human trafficking (for labor and sexual purposes) at the national, state and local level

Moderator

Ms. Shirley Franklin, *Barbara Jordan Visiting Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson, School of Public Affairs, University of Texas; CEO and Chair of the Board, Purpose Built Communities; Former Mayor of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA*

Panelists

Ms. Johanna Bermudez-Ruiz, *Filmmaker; Executive Director of Cane Bay Films, St. Croix, USVI*

Dr. Carlos Silveira, *Professor, California State University Long Beach, College of the Arts, Long Beach, CA*

Ms. Deborah J. Richardson, *Executive Vice-President, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA*

Ms. Lisa Williams, *Author; Founder, Living Water Learning Resource Center, Atlanta, GA*

10:30 am.....Break

10:45 am

Panel Eight

The causes and impacts of violence, with emphasis on such contributing factors as guns, poverty, mental health and education (major focus on Black-on-Black crime)

Moderator

Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, Associate Professor, Chair of the History Department, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX

Panelists

Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Washington, DC

Ms. Joy Strickland, Founder and CEO, Mothers Against Teen Violence, Dallas, TX

Dr. Olaf Hendricks, Psychiatrist, St. Croix, USVI

Dr. Lynn Goodloe, Chief of Head and Neck Surgery; Founding Member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Urban Los Angeles Chapter, Los Angeles, CA

Ms. Folade Mutota, Executive Director, Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Bon Air West, Arouca, Trinidad and Tobago

12:00 pm

Panel Nine

Roundtable Discussion with Congressional Leaders

Moderator

The Hon. Donna Christensen, M.D., (VI-At Large)

Congressional Roundtable Members

The Hon. Karen Bass (CA-37th District)

The Hon. Corrine Brown (FL-5th District)

The Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC-1st District)

The Hon. James E. Clyburn (SC-6th District)

The Hon. Chaka Fattah (PA-2nd District)

The Hon. Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11th District)

The Hon. Steven Horsford (NV-4th District)

The Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30th District)

The Hon. Charles B. Rangel (NY-13th District)

1:30 pm.....Closing Remarks

Dr. David E. Rivers, Associate Professor, Public Information and Community Outreach Director, Library Science and Informatics, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

1. **Dr. Latecia M. Abraham**
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Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO)
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Charleston, SC
2. **Ms. Maria Pajil Battle**
President
AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership
Philadelphia, PA
3. **Ms. Eunice Bedminster**
Public Relations Director/Special Assistant
to the Commissioner
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health, St. Croix Office
Charles Harwood Medical Complex
St. Croix, VI
4. **Dr. Gloria B. Callwood**
Principal Investigator and Director
Caribbean Exploratory Research Center
School of Nursing
University of the Virgin Islands
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
5. **Mr. Hal S. Currey**
Associate Dean, College of Medicine (ret.)
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City of Little Rock
Liaison w/ National Forum for Black Public Administrators
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7. **Dr. Glenn Fleming**
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8. **Ms. Vivian Flowers**
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UAMS, Center for Diversity Affairs
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9. **Dr. Virginia Davis Floyd**
Assoc. Prof., Community Health & Preventive
Medicine
Senior Advisor to the President
Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA
10. **Dr. Marvella Ford**
Associate Professor, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics,
& Epidemiology
Director, Cancer Disparities Program
MUSC, Public Health Sciences
Charleston, SC
11. **Dr. Jennifer C. Friday**
President, The Friday Consulting Group, LLC
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12. **Dr. Milford W. Greene**
Director of Health and Clinical Services
Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia,
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14. Dr. Mark Homonoff

Attending Physician, Neurology Dept.
Beth Israel Medical Center
Neurology Instructor, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine
New York, NY

15. Dr. Marjorie A. Innocent

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18. Mr. Leroy Lewis, Jr.

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19. Ms. Lena Moore-Harden

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Little Rock, AR

20. Mr. Mitchell Neaves

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University of the Virgin Islands
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St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

21. Dr. LaVerne E. Ragster

Retired Professor and President Emerita, UVI
St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands

22. Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis

Professor and Director, NCLR
The Center for Latino Community
CSULB Foundation
Long Beach, CA

23. Dr. David E. Rivers, Chairman

Associate Professor and Public Information and
Community Outreach Director
Library Science & Informatics
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

24. Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter

Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

25. Ms. Shelley Thomas

Office of The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, MD
U.S. House of Representatives (Virgin Islands)
Silver Spring, MD

26. Mr. Derrick Watchman

Chief Financial Officer
Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise
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CONGRESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES

The Hon. Karen Bass (CA-37th District)

Representative Karen Bass was re-elected to her second term representing the newly drawn 37th Congressional District in November 2012. Ms. Bass serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, where she is Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Africa, as well as the House Judiciary Committee. She was selected by Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi to serve on the prestigious Steering and Policy Committee, which sets the policy direction of the Democratic Caucus. Representative Bass also plays a leadership role in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), where she serves as Whip for the 113th Congress.

Throughout her career, Representative Bass has maintained a focus on our nation's foster care system. In her first term, she created the bipartisan Congressional Foster Youth Caucus along with co-chair U.S. Rep. Tom Marino (R-Pa.), which aims to transform the foster care system in America.

Prior to serving in Congress, Representative Bass made history as the first African American woman to serve as Speaker of the California Assembly. In this powerful state legislative role, she helped California to recover from the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

The Hon. Corrine Brown (FL-5th District)

Corrine Brown was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 and is currently serving her 11th term. She is a public servant who prides herself on delivering the goods and services of the federal government to her constituents.

A native of Jacksonville, FL, Congresswoman Brown served in the Florida House of Representatives for 10 years before coming to Washington. Congresswoman Brown attended the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree. She also received a Master's Degree and an Education Specialist Degree from the University of Florida, and an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Edward Waters College. She has been a faculty member at Florida Community College of Jacksonville, the University of Florida and Edward Waters College.

As a result of Congresswoman Brown's commitment to bringing the services of Washington back to Florida, communities throughout her District have been able to access resources previously unavailable to them.

The Hon. G.K. Butterfield (NC-1st District)

Congressman G. K. Butterfield is a life-long resident of eastern North Carolina. Born and raised in Wilson, Congressman Butterfield spent his formative years attending Charles H. Darden High School and worked tirelessly in the Civil Rights Movement as a youth. His father, Dr. G. K. Butterfield, Sr., practiced dentistry for 50 years and served as the first black elected official in Wilson since reconstruction. His mother was a teacher for 48 years.

Congressman Butterfield graduated from college and law school at North Carolina Central University in

Durham, NC. After earning his law degree, Congressman Butterfield founded a law practice in Wilson and served the community in that capacity for 14 years. He is best known for his successful litigation of voting rights cases that resulted in the election of African-American elected officials.

In 1988, Congressman Butterfield was elected as Resident Superior Court judge. In this role, he presided over civil and criminal court in 46 counties of North Carolina. For two years, he served on the North Carolina Supreme Court by appointment of the governor. He retired from the judiciary after 15 years of service and successfully ran for Congress. He was elected to serve the First District of North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives in a special election on July 20, 2004, and continues to serve today.

Congressman Butterfield is a champion of affordable medical care, education, investments in rural communities, veterans, renewable energies and federal programs that support low-income and middle-class Americans. He serves in the Democratic leadership as Chief Deputy Whip and as First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. He sits on the influential Committee on Energy & Commerce as the eighth-most senior Democrat on the Health Subcommittee. In addition, he serves as a member of the subcommittees of Commerce, Manufacturing & Trade, and Oversight and Investigations.

Congressman Butterfield is a life-long member of Jackson Chapel First Missionary Baptist Church. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and a proud father and grandfather.

The Hon. Donna M. Christensen, M.D. (VI-At Large)

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen is serving her eighth term as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing the U.S. Virgin Islands. She is the first female physician in the history of the U.S. Congress, the first woman to represent an offshore Territory, and the first woman Delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands. She serves as an Assistant Minority Whip in the Democratic Caucus.

In the 112th Congress, Delegate Christensen serves on numerous House Committees, Subcommittees and Caucuses. She is a Member of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittees on Oversight and Communications and Technology. She was the first Delegate to Congress in history to serve on the exclusive Energy and Commerce Committee, which she first did in the 111th Congress. Delegate Christensen is the First Vice-Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and chairs the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust, which oversees and advocates on behalf of minority health issues nationally and internationally. She is a Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, the Steering Committee of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the Friends of the Caribbean Caucus, the Congressional National Guard and Reserve Caucus and others.

The Hon. James E. Clyburn (SC-6th District)

President Barack Obama has said he is, "One of a handful of people who, when they speak, the entire Congress listens." As Assistant Democratic Leader in the 113th Congress, the number three Democrat in the House, James E. Clyburn is the leadership liaison to the Appropriations Committee and one of the Democratic Caucus' primary liaisons to the White House. Working with the internal caucuses, he plays a prominent role in messaging and outreach.

CONGRESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES continued

His humble beginnings in Sumter, SC, as the eldest son of an activist fundamentalist minister and an independent civic-minded beautician, grounded him securely in family, faith and public service. He was elected president of his NAACP youth chapter when he was 12 years old, helped organize many civil rights marches and demonstrations as a student leader at South Carolina State College, and even met his wife Emily in jail during one of his incarcerations.

When Clyburn came to Congress in 1993, he was elected co-President of his freshman class and quickly rose through leadership ranks. He was elected Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1999, and his reputation as a leader and consensus-builder helped him win a difficult three-way race for House Democratic Caucus Vice Chair in 2002. Three years later, he was unanimously elected Chair of the Democratic Caucus. When Democrats regained the House majority in 2006, Congressman Clyburn was elevated by his colleagues to House Majority Whip.

As a national leader he has worked to respond to the needs of America's diverse communities. He championed rural communities supporting the development of regional water projects, community health centers and broadband connections. He has supported higher education by leading the charge for increased Pell grants; investing millions in science and math programs and historic preservation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He has encouraged economic development by securing funding for Empowerment Zones; investing in green technology development such as nuclear, wind, hydrogen and biofuels; and directing 10 percent of Recovery Act funding to communities 20 percent under the poverty level for the past 30 years. Congressman Clyburn was instrumental in advancing into law measures to resolve historic discrimination issues, significantly reducing the statutory disparity in cocaine sentencing and compensating African and Native American farmers who suffered racial discrimination under the USDA loan program

Jim and Emily Clyburn have three daughters, Mignon, Jennifer Reed and Angela Hannibal; two sons-in-law, Walter Reed and Cecil Hannibal; and three grandchildren, Walter A Clyburn Reed, Sydney Alexis Reed and Layla Joann Clyburn Hannibal.

The Hon. Chaka Fattah (PA-2nd District)

Congressman Chaka Fattah is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. This committee is responsible for setting spending priorities of over \$1 trillion in annual discretionary funds. Congressman Fattah is Ranking Member (senior Democrat) on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS). The CJS Subcommittee oversees close to \$51 billion in discretionary spending for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, NASA and the National Science Foundation. Its oversight and funding responsibilities include the FBI, NOAA/National Weather Service and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Fattah serves on two additional subcommittees: Energy and Water Development and Military Construction/Veterans Affairs (MilCon).

Congressman Fattah is Vice Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Congressional Urban Caucus, House Science and National Labs Caucus, and Job Corps Caucuses. In the 113th Congress, he is focused on five legislative priorities: neuroscience and scientific research, manufacturing, youth mentoring, cooperatives and GEAR UP.



The Fattah Neuroscience Initiative (FNI) is an innovative policy initiative that aims to coordinate Federal research across agencies and draw upon public-private partnerships and the world of academia. The initiative promotes research and discovery across brain cognition, development, disease and injury.

Congressman Fattah has been the principal sponsor for federal seed money and technical support for manufacturing innovation. He continues to work to add more to the \$300 million he has already secured for various programs to expand research and development and grow the manufacturing base through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the National Innovation Marketplace, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Consortia and the Advanced Manufacturing initiative.

A Congressional champion for mentoring, Congressman Fattah has fought for and won millions of dollars for crime fighting programs administered by the Department of Justice that support mentoring for at-risk youth. In the 113th Congress, he will seek greater collaboration between the federal government and youth mentoring organizations and advocate for funding for programs that employ evidence-based practices. In 2012, he forged a groundbreaking agreement to launch a national mentoring program – the American Innovation and Mentorship Agreement (AIM) in robotics through the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The agreement will provide robotics-based mentoring programming at 3,000 Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide by 2015.

Congressman Fattah has been working to more than double the national capacity for co-op development and establish a National Cooperative Development Center that will: award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance for groups attempting to form cooperatives, provide guidance and technical assistance to communities seeking to establish cooperatives, and create a revolving loan fund to provide seed capital.

The Department of Education is building on the success of GEAR UP – Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs – with its College Savings Account Research Demonstration Project. Designed to help low-income students and their parents save for college, the test project will allot more than \$8.5 million to establish and fund college savings accounts for 10,000 GEAR UP students to determine if dedicated savings will increase a student's likelihood of college attendance. The important role GEAR UP has in the new venture is due to Fattah – architect of the program – and his long held belief in the importance of innovative programs and projects designed to ensure students achieve academic success. He understands the economic future of the country rests in the minds of American students, many of whom are attending high-poverty middle and high schools.

Congressman Fattah is serving his 10th term in the U.S. House of Representatives. The number one vote-getter in 2012, he won re-election with a whopping 318,176 votes. Pennsylvania's Second District includes parts of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties. Before his election to the United States Congress in 1994, he served six years as a Representative in the Pennsylvania State House followed by six years as a State Senator.

A father of four, Congressman Fattah is married to Renee Chenault-Fattah.

CONGRESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES continued

The Hon. Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11th District)

Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge is a committed public servant who brings a hard-working, problem-solving spirit to the task of creating jobs, protecting safety net programs, and improving access to health care, healthy foods and education. She represents the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio.

Congresswoman Fudge is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, where she is the ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Horticulture, Research, Biotechnology & Foreign Agriculture. She also serves on the Education and Workforce Committee, and is a member of the Subcommittees on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and Workforce Protections.

The Congresswoman consistently fights for protection of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also known as food stamps), child nutrition improvements and access to locally grown, healthy foods. She also is a fierce advocate for access to quality education, fair labor practices and civil and human rights, among other issues. Congresswoman Fudge continues her commitment to ending childhood obesity in a generation, stamping out hunger, strengthening our education system and promoting job creation. She is a staunch advocate for those who need the most, but have few to speak on their behalf.

Congresswoman Fudge has served the people of Ohio for over two decades, beginning with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office. She was the first African American and first female mayor of Warrensville Heights, OH. During her tenure as mayor, she led the city in shoring up a sagging retail base and providing new residential construction.

Congresswoman Fudge is a Past National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and currently serves as Honorary Co-Chair of the Sorority's Social Action Commission. She is also a member of the Greater Cleveland Alumnae Chapter. Professionally, Congresswoman Fudge earned a bachelor's degree in business from The Ohio State University and a law degree from the Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall School of Law. The Congresswoman's work ethic, problem-solving approach and ability to build collaborative relationships has earned her a reputation among her colleagues both in Washington and at home as an insightful leader and knowledgeable legislator. As a dedicated public servant, she begins each morning with a firm promise "to do the people's work." This simple philosophy defines Congresswoman Fudge as a Member of substance and character who always keeps her promise.

The Hon. Steven Horsford (NV-4th District)

Steven Horsford, born and raised in Las Vegas, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives on November 6, 2012, as representative of Nevada's newly created Fourth Congressional District. Mr. Horsford is the first person to hold this House seat and the first African-American to serve in Nevada's federal delegation. Congressman Horsford sits on three House committees: the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He also serves as the Assistant Deputy Whip.

Before running for office, Mr. Horsford served as the head of the Culinary Academy of Las Vegas. As the CEO of Nevada's largest labor-management partnership, he worked with local unions and Nevada hotels, such as MGM Resorts, Wynn Las Vegas and Caesars Entertainment, to train thousands of unemployed or underemployed Nevadans for work in the hospitality industry. To this day, the Academy continues to place 80 percent of its

graduates in good-paying jobs. Under Mr. Horford's leadership, the Culinary Academy also became the caterer of record for the world-renowned Smith Center for the Performing Arts and the Springs Preserve, a cultural and sustainability attraction in southern Nevada.

In 2004, Mr. Horsford was elected to the Nevada State Senate, and in 2008, he became Nevada's youngest and first African-American State Senate Majority Leader. During his tenure in Carson City, he passed renewable energy legislation that positioned Nevada to become a leader in the green economy, prevented widespread teacher layoffs by negotiating a budget compromise that preserved funding for public schools, and worked across the aisle to pass bipartisan legislation that provided small businesses with tax relief and new companies incentives to relocate to Nevada. In the Nevada Legislature, he served as chair of the Senate Committee on Finance and was a member of the Senate Committee on Health and Education and the Senate Committee on Government Affairs, among others.

Always active in his community, Mr. Horsford has received numerous local honors, including In Business Las Vegas' "Top 40 under 40," AFL-CIO's "Friend to Working Families" award, and "Distinguished Man of Southern Nevada" from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee.

The Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30th District)

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson is serving her 11th term representing the 30th Congressional District of Texas. The 30th District encompasses a large portion of the City of Dallas and surrounding areas. In December 2010, Congresswoman Johnson was elected as the first African-American and the first female Ranking Member of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Congresswoman Johnson continues to emphasize the need to invest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.

Congresswoman Johnson is a current member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and has been since being elected in 1992. She is also the highest-ranking Texan on this committee. She also presently serves on the Aviation Subcommittee, Highways and Transit Subcommittee and Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. Congresswoman Johnson is Founder and Co-Chair of the Diversity and Innovation Caucus and of the House Historical Black Colleges and Universities Caucus. She had the honor to serve as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus during the 107th Congress. She is also a Member of the Congressional Task Force on Seniors.

Congresswoman Johnson is the first nurse to be elected to the U.S. Congress. She studied nursing at St. Mary's College at the University of Notre Dame. She later became Chief Psychiatric Nurse at the VA Hospital in Dallas and received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Texas Christian University. She received a master's degree in public administration from Southern Methodist University.

Since coming to Congress, Congresswoman Johnson has earned the reputation of being a stateswoman who is dedicated to improving U.S. foreign relationships and policies. She works tirelessly towards improving human rights around the globe. Congresswoman Johnson's acclaimed initiative "A World of Women for World Peace" has been nationally and internationally recognized.

The Hon. Charles B. Rangel (NY-13th District)

U.S. Congressman Charles B. Rangel is a war hero, history-making congressman and master lawmaker. A founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, he made history as the first African American member of Congress to lead the powerful Ways and Means Committee. Now serving his 22nd term in the House of Representatives, he has been cited as the most effective lawmaker in the House, leading all of his colleagues in passing legislation. He was a prime contributor to President Obama's historic health care reform law.

Growing up on the other side of the tracks on Lenox Avenue in Harlem, he was transformed from high school dropout to war hero after volunteering for service in the Army during the Korean War. Wounded in an attack by waves of Communist Chinese troops, he was awarded a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor after leading his surviving comrades from behind enemy lines.

With the aid of the G.I. Bill, Congressman Rangel earned degrees from New York University and St. John's University Law School. He began his public service as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and was later elected to the New York State Assembly. He moved to Washington in 1971 to serve in the House after defeating the legendary Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

In Congress, following Saint Matthew's teaching, Mr. Rangel has been a stalwart champion for the "least among us," advocating powerfully and persistently to improve the lives of working people. He is a defender of veterans and has treated education as a national security issue. A leading advocate for equal rights and equal opportunity, Congressman Rangel has boosted the incomes of millions of working families with the Earned Income Tax Credit, and pumped billions of dollars into revitalization of communities across the nation, including Harlem. Demonstrating his commitment to education, he has created financial mechanisms to construct and rehabilitate public schools across the country.

Congressman Rangel's unparalleled foreign policy record has focused on Africa and the Caribbean. In 1986, he sounded the death knell for apartheid in South Africa with the "Rangel Amendment," which forced the largest U.S. investors to abandon the country. He has created trading and investment opportunities for struggling nations in the Caribbean and Africa. In 2010, he successfully promoted vital investment incentives for earthquake-ravaged Haiti. Among his proudest achievements is founding the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program in the State Department, in cooperation with Howard University. As of 2011, 118 former Rangel Fellows were serving as U.S. State Department Foreign Service Officers in U.S. Embassies around the world. Congressman Rangel still resides with his wife Alma in Harlem, where he was born. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

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The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) is honored to sponsor the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. As an academic health center located in a rural state, UAMS knows first-hand the importance of addressing health disparities in order to improve the health and health care of our state and nation. All determinants of health- biology and genetics, health services, individual behavior, policymaking

and social factors – are critical and intersecting factors that define individual and population health outcomes. But social determinants are the most critical in reducing health disparities. These health determinants shape the most significant health disparities that exist in our communities and states, in the nation and in the world. Access to care is a health determinant that impacts individuals and populations from BEFORE the cradle, throughout

life and right up to the grave. Many UAMS programs including the College of Public Health, Center for Diversity Affairs, Office of Global Health and Center for Rural Health are involved in work aimed at ensuring that where one lives doesn't determine whether they live or die.

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PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES

Verdenia C. Baker

Verdenia C. Baker is First Vice President of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) and Deputy County Administrator of Palm Beach County, FL. As Deputy County Administrator, she is responsible for assisting the County Administrator in managing the activities necessary to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the county government.

Serving as Administration Liaison, Mrs. Baker is responsible for the successful recruitment of The Scripps Research Institute; daily management of county operations for planning, zoning and building; economic development; small/minority/women business assistance; the business and workforce development boards; the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council; the office of community revitalization and the Tourist Development Council.

Mrs. Baker received a bachelor's degree in rehabilitative counseling and a master's degree in public administration from Florida State University. She is a certified government financial manager and serves as internal auditor of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., West Palm Beach Alumni Chapter. She is married and has one child.

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., FACP, FNAPA, FACEP (E), Hon FRSPH

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., is well-known in the world of public health as a leader, practitioner and administrator. Dr. Benjamin has been the executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the nation's oldest and largest organization of public health professionals, since December 2002. From April 1999 through 2002, he served as Health Secretary for the State of Maryland. Dr. Benjamin became secretary of health following four years as the state's deputy secretary for public health services. As secretary, he oversaw expansion and improvement in the state's Medicaid program.

Dr. Benjamin is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois, College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a fellow emeritus of the American College of Emergency Physicians and an honorary fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health.

An established administrator, author and orator, Dr. Benjamin started his post-graduate medical career in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, WA, where he managed a large ambulatory care service as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic and an attending physician within the Department of Emergency Medicine. Later, he was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he served as chief of emergency medicine. After leaving the Army, he chaired the Department of Community Health and Ambulatory Care at the District of Columbia General Hospital. He was promoted to acting commissioner for public health for the District of Columbia and later directed one of the busiest ambulance services in the nation as interim director of the Emergency Ambulance Bureau of the District of Columbia Fire Department.

At APHA, Dr. Benjamin also serves as publisher of the nonprofit's monthly publication, *The Nation's Health*, the association's official newspaper, and the *American Journal of Public Health*, the profession's premier scientific publication. He is the author of more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters. His recent book, *The Quest for Health Reform: A Satirical History*, is an exposé of the nearly 100-year quest to ensure quality affordable health coverage for all through the use of political cartoons.

Dr. Benjamin also serves on the boards of Research!America, Partnership for Prevention and the Reagan-Udall Foundation, and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. In 2008, he was named one of the top 25 minority executives in health care by Modern Healthcare Magazine, in addition to being voted among the 100 most influential people in health care (2007-12) and one of the nation's most influential physician executives (2009-12).

Johanna Bermudez-Ruiz

Johanna Bermudez-Ruiz is a writer, producer and director of documentaries, films, music videos and high-definition footage for television documentaries.

A native-born resident of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, Ms. Bermúdez-Ruiz has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with a focus in Filmmaking from Antioch College (Ohio). She has gained national and international acclaim and recognition for her distinguished films. She has enlightened audiences with her documentaries by speaking in numerous engagements at colleges and universities.

Ms. Bermúdez-Ruiz, is the director and producer of the award-winning documentary, VIEQUES: AN ISLAND FORGING FUTURES. Recently, she completed the compelling documentary feature-length film, SUGAR PATHWAYS. Ms. Bermúdez-Ruiz has worked with such celebrities as Susan Batson and Carl Ford of Black Nexus/ Susan Batson Studio LLC, Lauren Vélez, David Zayas, and Guillermo Diaz. Additionally, she filmed the Caribbean reenactments for Lester Holt's MSNBC documentary, WHY PLANES CRASH: BREAKING POINT. She actively participates in organizations that support independent filmmaking, social issues and youth empowerment.

In 2009, the African Diaspora Film Festival nominated Ms. Bermúdez-Ruiz for Best Female Film Director. Previous awards include the Maffa Film Festival Best Short Documentary, San Juan Cinema Fest Pitirre Award for Best Short Documentary, and Imagenation Special Jury Mention Award.

Ms. Bermúdez-Ruiz speaks to students at all levels. Lecture sites include Rutgers University, New York University, Hunter College, Pennsylvania State University, Barnard College and Virgin Islands Volunteer Advocates for Children (VIVA) to encourage youngsters to pursue a higher education and learn about film production.

She currently resides in St. Croix where her film company, Cane Bay Films LLC, is based. She has lived in London, California, New York, Florida and Ohio. Ms. Bermúdez-Ruiz is one of the founding members of the New York City Chapter National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP).

Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Esq.

Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Esq., is a tribal citizen of the Navajo Nation. Before creating Tribal Consultation Resources, LLC, he managed a multi-cultural environmental mediation network focused on Native American resources; provided tribal intergovernmental training to federal agencies, corporations, and non-governmental organizations; and facilitated/mediated environmental conflicts involving tribal, state and federal government agencies.

Mr. Bluehouse also served as the Environmental Justice State Coordinator and Tribal Liaison for the New Mexico Environment Department, where he worked to improve government and community relations on environmental resources throughout the state, and co-developed the first tribal consultation policy for the Environment Department, the Office of State Engineer and the New Mexico Minerals Natural Resources Department. In

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

2008, he received the EPA EJ National Award on behalf of the Environment Department for innovative policy development and implementation on environmental Justice.

Immediately after graduating from the University of Wisconsin–Madison Law School in 2004, Mr. Bluehouse worked for the Navajo Nation Washington Office, the Office of the Navajo Nation President and Vice President, and the Navajo Nation Council's Office of Legislative Services on tribal legislative advocacy involving the U.S. Congress and the States of New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. He also worked as a legislative policy advisor for several Navajo tribal council committees, chapters and communities. His focus during this time was on tribal health care, social services, public safety and Veterans affairs.

As the owner of Tribal Consultation Resources, Mr. Bluehouse provides tribal meeting facilitation, tribal intergovernmental relations training, policy and legislative analysis, strategic communications and campaign services. He is currently apprenticing as a traditional/cultural Dine' peacemaker, with an emphasis on cultural/religious/health uses for the environment, natural resources and Navajo community conflict resolution.

Mr. Bluehouse honorably served in the United States Marine Corps from 1991 to 1995 as a Marine marksmanship instructor, Marine security and as administrative and logistics liaison.

Gloria B. Callwood, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Gloria B. Callwood, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Nursing, Principal Investigator (PI) and Director of the Caribbean Exploratory NIMHD Research Center on Health Disparities. Her specialty is psychiatric-mental health nursing. She spent most of her nursing career working in an acute psychiatric setting, addressing the needs of the severely mentally ill. Under her leadership at the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center, a number of studies on health disparities in the Virgin Islands have been initiated. Her leadership of the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center has resulted in funding to work with vulnerable Haitian women and children displaced by the January 2010 earthquake.

Dr. Callwood has served as an item writer and member of the Examination Committee of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools and a grant reviewer for HRSA. She is an American Nurses' Association Ethnic Minority Fellow, and a Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) Fellow, supported by the Kellogg Foundation. Her research interests include health issues of the mentally ill, elderly minorities, women, HIV/AIDS and health care and human resources to address health disparities in minority populations. She has served as president of the Virgin Islands State Nurses Association, president of Mu Eta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority, Inc., and Regional Director of the Caribbean Nurses Organization.

Dr. Callwood received her BSN from Hampton (Institute) University, Hampton, VA, and her MN and Ph.D. from the University of Florida (Gainesville).

Doris Williams Campbell, Ph.D., ARNP, FAAN

Doris Williams Campbell, Ph.D., is a Consultant and Senior Research Professor, Caribbean Exploratory (NIMHD) Research Center, School of Nursing, University of the Virgin Islands, USVI, where she also serves as Co-Director of the Administrative Core and mentor. The Caribbean Exploratory Research Center is funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health and conducts research, education and community outreach on health disparities in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Dr. Campbell has held academic appointments at Florida A&M University (Tallahassee), the University of Florida (Gainesville) and the University of South Florida (Tampa), where she was a professor in the Colleges of Nursing and Public Health and Director of Diversity Initiatives, USF Health Sciences Center-AHEC Program, College of Medicine. She is Professor Emerita and retired from the University of South Florida.

A frequently sought consultant on diversity initiatives, health equity and health disparities, Dr. Campbell is internationally recognized for her research and publications on women's and minority health, especially violence and abuse of African American and African Caribbean women. For nearly 30 years, her teaching, research and scholarship has focused on women and children, especially the health consequences of intimate partner violence for African American women and children. She has been Principal Investigator or one of multiple investigators on funded studies of abuse during pregnancy, intimate partner abuse and homicide, cultural contexts and violence in African American and African Caribbean families. She is currently a PI on the study "Abuse Status and Health Consequences of African Caribbean and African American Women," a study focused on "Protecting Haitian Women and Children Earthquake Survivors from Violence and Abuse," and a controlled trial, "An integrated risk reduction intervention for African Caribbean women experiencing intimate partner violence," funded by the National Institutes on Minority Health Disparities, Caribbean Exploratory Research Center.

Dr. Campbell is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Nurses and a member of the Nursing Network on Violence and Abuse International, the American Nurses Association, the National Black Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International. She received the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN; the MA in Nursing from Teacher's College, Columbia University; the Ph.D. in Nursing Research from the University of Texas (Austin) and Certification as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Women's Health from the University of Florida (Gainesville).

Danielle Deane

Danielle Deane is the first Director of the Joint Center's Energy and Environment Program. The program will build on the work of the Joint Center's Commission to Engage African Americans on Energy, Climate Change, and the Environment (formerly Commission to Engage in African Americans on Climate Change).

Ms. Deane guides the program's strategic direction and operations and manages Commission activities. The Commission, a national panel of leading experts from government, industry, academia, labor, consumer protection and environmental interests, was established by the Joint Center four years ago with support from the Bipartisan Policy Center. Its goal is to enhance African Americans' awareness and understanding of climate change and to advance their perspectives in critical policy forums. Ms. Deane began her new duties at the Joint Center on March 8, 2012.

Formerly, Ms. Deane completed the full eight-year term as an Environment Program Officer at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in California. During her tenure, she was responsible for investing over \$20 million to broaden and strengthen the environmental movement in California. She designed and implemented the "New Constituencies for the Environment" initiative that expanded the engagement and impact on environmental issues of a range of multicultural, medical, faith-based, labor and industry partners. The collaborative work supported by the initiative was a key driver of large-scale clean air and climate policy advancements in California that are expected to save billions of dollars in health care costs. She also served on the board of the Environmental

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Grantmakers Association. Ms. Deane was selected to be a Fellow of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and was a 2007-2008 Connecting Leaders Fellow of the Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE).

Earlier in her career, Ms. Deane was a financial analyst and broker at Guy Carpenter and Company, the international reinsurance brokerage arm of Marsh and McLennan Companies. She also conducted research at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

Ms. Deane is a native of Trinidad and Tobago. She holds a M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in Environment and Development, and a B.A. from Williams College in Political Economy with an Environmental Studies Concentration.

The Hon. Governor John Percy de Jongh, Jr.

John Percy de Jongh, Jr. is the seventh elected Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, elected in 2006 and re-elected to a second four-year term in office in 2010. De Jongh was inaugurated on January 1, 2007 and his tenure as the territory's chief executive runs through 2014.

As Governor, he has championed education, early childhood education, economic diversification and business development, law enforcement and emergency planning, and energy measures. He established the Children and Families Council and implemented new and improved standards in the childcare area and instituted a reform and restructuring program for public schools to ensure accountability of the leadership.

De Jongh re-established the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency as a cabinet-level agency while developing a state-of-the-art 911 Call Center and Fusion Center to bolster the territory's emergency management capabilities.

Under his tenure, the Virgin Islands Next Generation Network, viNGN, was created as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority to implement the "middle mile" of the Territory's broadband infrastructure.

De Jongh also has focused on the development of public-private partnerships to strengthen business relationships with airlines, cruise lines and rum manufacturers; and has developed and is presently executing an energy strategy to reduce the reliance on fossil fuel resulting in the selection of the USVI as a pilot for the U.S. Departments of Interior and Energy's Energy Development in Independent Nation's Program.

Citing the need to enhance the appearance of the island's downtown districts, the Governor also pursued the implementation of downtown revitalization investment strategies, including town charettes and funding to commence and complete the Christiansted By-Pass road project, as well as the Veterans Drive traffic flow improvement and Cruz Bay enhancements.

The Governor has also worked to expand small business access with bonding programs for contractors, implementation of an incubator program, increased low-cost lending and guarantee programs, and exploration of export opportunities; continued access to the capital and bond markets during the Great Recession to ensure public sector capital investment and continued execution of essential services; and development and execution of legislative, executive branch and judicial strategies to correct past inequities on enforcement of residency and statute of limitation statutes as applied to USVI residents that resulted in two Tax Court decisions in favor of the Territory.

Prior to his foray into politics and his election as Governor, de Jongh was President and Chief Operating Officer of Lockhart Companies Incorporated, a real estate and insurance holding company with properties and businesses in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands and the Turks & Caicos. He also served three terms as President of the St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, a philanthropic organization focused on children and families. He worked as a Senior Managing Consultant for Public Financial Management, Inc., where he developed and implemented Five-Year Strategic Plans for the cities of Philadelphia, PA, New Haven, CT, and Washington, DC. In addition, de Jongh was the first Country Consumer Manager for Chase Manhattan Bank, with responsibility for consumer lending products in the U.S. Virgin Islands, the British Virgin Islands and St. Maarten.

Governor de Jongh capitalized early on President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act (ACA) initiative as a mechanism to reduce the uninsured rate in the territory. He formed the Health Reform Implementation Task Force via Executive Order on June 9, 2010, and commissioned a series of studies via the Territorial Health Insurance Exchange Planning and Establishment grant to weigh the options for the Territory. He spearheaded the effort to secure and submit a joint sign-on letter in early 2011 to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius that allowed all Territories to apply for this funding. Governor de Jongh was also the first Territorial Governor to submit formal notification to the Secretary's Office informing her of the decision to seek Medicaid Expansion during ACA reform instead of implementing a Health Insurance Exchange. The first phase of this initiative potentially will cover additional children and pregnant women: the most vulnerable populations in the Territory with regards to access to affordable medical services.

His prior government service includes serving as Commissioner of Finance and Executive Assistant to the Governor during the administration of Governor A. Farrelly and Lieutenant Governor Derek M. Hodge. It was during those years that de Jongh pushed for the creation of the Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority and served as its first Executive Director. He also served as chairman of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority board of governors.

Governor de Jongh is married to Cecile Rene' Galiber, who serves as chairperson of the Governor's Children and Families Council. They are the parents to three children: John III, Rene' and Julian.

W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D.

W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Chair of the History Department at the University of Texas, Arlington. He teaches American History, African American History, Public History and the History of the American Civil Rights Movement in UTA's undergraduate and graduate History programs.

Dr. Dulaney is a graduate of Central State University in Wilberforce, OH, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History, magna cum laude. He earned his Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in American and African-American history at the Ohio State University in Columbus, OH.

In addition to teaching at UTA for 15 years, he has taught at Central State University, Ohio State University and St. Olaf College in Minnesota. From 1994 to 2008, he served as Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture and Director of the African American Studies Program at the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Dr. Dulaney has published scholarly articles and reviews in the Journal of Negro History, Civil War History, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, The Houston Review, The Historian, Pacific Historical Review, Texas Journal of Ideas, History and Culture, Legacies, Encyclopedia of African-American Civil Rights, Locus, The Georgia Historical Quarterly, The New Handbook of Texas, Our Texas magazine, African Americans: Their History, the South Carolina Encyclopedia, The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Lone Star Legacy: African American History in Texas; The African American Experience in Texas History: An Anthology, the Handbook of African American Texas.

He is the editor of the following books, journals and essays: Charleston's Avery Center: From Education and Civil Rights to Preserving the African-American Experience (2006); Born to Serve: A History of the Woman's Baptist Educational Missionary Convention of South Carolina (2006); The Avery Review; and co-editor of the Texas African-American History Journal and the book, Essays on the American Civil Rights Movement. His first monograph, Black Police in America (1996), was published by Indiana University. Currently, he is completing a social and political history of African Americans in Dallas, TX, for Texas A&M University Press.

Dr. Dulaney serves on the board of directors of Mothers Against Teen Violence in Dallas and the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum in Fort Worth. He has won numerous awards for his community service, activism and scholarship.

Thomas Ellison, M.D., Ph.D.

Thomas Ellison, M.D., Ph.D., is the co-founder of Health Education Linkage Programs, Inc. (Project H.E.L.P USA), a non-governmental, community-based health organization.

Dr. Ellison is a member of the United Nations Humanitarian and Medical Relief and Rescue Team, that provides community-based health centers in indigent areas of the world, conducts best practices with divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as community-based research. H.E.L.P.'s mission is to improve quality of life by decreasing disparities, morbidity, mortality, unintentional injuries and negative behaviors, while increasing access, knowledge, sensitivity and services. Project H.E.L.P. USA also sponsors the Medical Reserve Corps, a division of the Surgeon General's Office and the Department of Homeland Security.

Dr. Ellison served his country at Ground Zero at the Command Center and conducted triage with members of Project H.E.L.P.'s MAART Division, and was among the first to perform triage and provide medical treatment during Hurricane Katrina. His unit served at nine sites and continues to provide care during and after disasters.

Dr. Ellison is a consultant to many organizations and entities, including Morehouse School of Medicine, CDC, Congressional Black Caucus, NBNA, FEMA, Alabama Legislature, OWH, ACADV, FVPF, SELECT, American Cancer Society, where he serves as the ACT Congressional Lead in the State Legislature and Washington, DC, the NBA, WNBA, Tyler Perry Productions and, most recently, the Obama Campaign. He currently serves as the Alabama State Director for Doctors of America, whose mission is affordable and quality health care for all. He is a member of numerous professional organizations, societies and committees.

A native of Birmingham, AL, Dr. Ellison was educated at Parker High School, Lawson State and Daniel Payne College, prior to his medical education at the Alabama-Birmingham School of Medicine/SCAH and The Latin School of Medicine. He holds doctoral degrees from Trinity University in Community Health and Health Services.

Fred Elusma

Fred Elusma is Founder and President of Petro Gaz-Haiti, S.A., the national oil company of Haiti. In that role, he sets down present and future corporate policies, and finalizes decisions for all matters on strategic import/export, affiliations, agreements, partnerships and relationships with other companies, institutions, organizations, enterprises and individuals, in Haiti and elsewhere.

Mr. Elusma is an accomplished executive with extensive knowledge and experience in law, logistics, operations management, process optimization, client relations and customer service. He possesses advanced leadership skills with success in managing groups to achieve goals, and connects organizational objectives with organizational capabilities. He is a leading contributor to strategic programs with the ability to deliver multiple projects with tight deadlines. He is a dynamic leader and team builder, whose exceptional interpersonal and communication skills include fluency in English, French and Creole.

Jay Feldstein, DO

Jay Feldstein, DO, is Regional President, Northern Division, at AmeriHealth Caritas. As Regional President, Dr. Feldstein oversees the company's health plans in the Northern Division, which include Keystone First and AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania in Pennsylvania, MDwise Hoosier Alliance in Indiana and AmeriHealth District of Columbia. In this role, Dr. Feldstein is responsible for the plans' marketing, provider network management, medical management, government relations and financial operations.

Dr. Feldstein served as the Corporate Chief Medical Officer at AmeriHealth Caritas from 2007 to 2010, overseeing medical management strategy, medical policies, quality management, medical management products and medical informatics. Prior to that, he served as Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs and led the Medical Management Division of the company's Pennsylvania businesses.

Before joining AmeriHealth Caritas, Dr. Feldstein was a Senior Medical Director for Aetna's Mid-Atlantic region. His career includes experience as Network Medical Director for Aetna's Southern New Jersey/Delaware division, Medical Director for Concentra Health Center, and President and CEO of Occupational Health Resources, Inc.

Dr. Feldstein received a B.A. from Penn State University and his DO from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at the Medical Center of Delaware and his internship at JFK Hospital in Strafford, NJ. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine and Occupational Medicine and is a Fellow of The American College of Preventive Medicine.

Emma Fernández-Repollet, Ph.D.

Emma Fernández-Repollet, Ph.D., is Professor of Pharmacology, Chair of the Steering Committee of the RCMI Translational Research Network (RTRN), member of several scientific boards and advisory groups and Principal Investigator and Executive Director of the Center for Collaborative Research in Health Disparities (RCMI Program) at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Dr. Fernández-Repollet received her B.A. in Education from the University of Puerto Rico Rio Piedras Campus, her M.S. and Ph.D. in Physiology from the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus, and a postdoctoral training in renal physiology at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the faculty of the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Puerto Rico Medical School in 1982. Dr. Fernández-Repollet served as Vice President for Research and Technology at the University of Puerto Rico and as a member of the Puerto Rico Trust for Science, Technology and Research. She has also served on a number of review groups and advisory committees of the National Institutes of Health, including the National Research Resources Advisory Council. Dr. Fernández-Repollet was also the President of the National Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program Directors Association, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Center for Quantitative Cytometry, and member the Board of Directors of the Alliance for the Economic Development of Puerto Rico. She served as Vice President of INDUNIV, an industry-university research consortium from 2003 to 2009 and as President of the Puerto Rico Healthcare Council in 2010-2011. In 2008, she received the Fred Greenwood Award in recognition of her contributions in the area of research administration and health disparities.

Marvella E. Ford, Ph.D.

Marvella E. Ford, Ph.D., is Associate Director of the Cancer Disparities Program at the Medical University of South Carolina Hollings Cancer Center (HCC), where Dr. Andrew S. Kraft is Director. The goal of the Cancer Disparities Program is to combat cancer disparities in South Carolina.

Dr. Ford originally joined the MUSC faculty as Associate Professor in the Department of Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Epidemiology in 2005. From August 1994 through January 2002, she was a research investigator at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI, where she led research focused on identifying strategies to reduce disparities in cancer, diabetes and asthma. From February 2002 through April 2005, she was Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, where she also served as Associate Director of the Health Services Research section.

Dr. Ford has served as the principal investigator of numerous federally funded research grants. For example, the purpose of her completed National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute-funded R01 grant "Improving Informed Consent in Diverse Populations" was to identify factors associated with improved comprehension and recall of consent form information. The goal of her Department of Defense-funded randomized trial "Understanding Factors Related to Prostate, Lung, and Colorectal Cancer Screening Among African American Men" was to identify factors associated with cancer screening adherence and cancer screening perceptions among older African American men (aged 55 and over).

Currently, Dr. Ford is leading a study on a large Department of Defense-funded grant in collaboration with an investigative team. The study is designed to improve cancer screening and knowledge in the I-95 Corridor. She is also leading a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention grant with Morehouse School of Medicine in which evidence-based strategies to improve breast and cervical cancer screening rates among African American women are tested. She is the project director of a Center for Economic Excellence in Prostate Cancer Disparities Research. She also directs a number of undergraduate summer student research training programs in collaboration with Claflin University, South Carolina State University and Voorhees College. She is a co-investigator on several other studies focusing on health disparities among older adults, and she is the author of numerous scientific articles published in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Ford coordinates the “Selected Topics in Epidemiology” course offered at MUSC. She was an appointed member of a National Institutes of Health study section (Risk, Prevention & Health Behavior; Study Section 3) and has conducted past work on ad hoc study sections for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, she is an ad hoc manuscript reviewer for Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention; the International Journal of Social Research Methodology: Theory & Practice; Health Psychology; the Journal of the National Medical Association; Medical Care and the Gerontologist.

Dr. Ford has a personal commitment to studying cancer. In 2008, she was diagnosed with Stage 0 breast cancer. She considers it a blessing that, as a result of receiving a mammogram, her cancer was detected at an early stage. She is a Trustee, Sunday School teacher, choir member and Health Ministry member at Charity Missionary Baptist Church, where the Rev. Dr. Nelson B. Rivers, III is the Pastor.

Dr. Ford completed her undergraduate work at Cornell University in 1986. She received her M.S.W., her M.S., and her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in 1987, 1989 and 1992, respectively. She then completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship program in public health and aging at the University of Michigan, where the late Dr. Regula Herzog was her faculty mentor.

Shirley C. Franklin

Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin is the Barbara Jordan Visiting Professor in Ethics and Political Values in the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2010-11, she was appointed to the William and Camille Cosby Endowed Chair at Spelman College.

Ms. Franklin was elected the first African American woman mayor of a major southern city in 2002 and served until 2009. During her eight years as mayor, Atlanta experienced unprecedented growth and afforded Ms. Franklin the opportunity to partner and collaborate with many local and regional leaders in addressing policy challenges, which included urban planning, economic development and infrastructure. She is best known for advocating and tackling major government operations and ethics reform, launching the Atlanta Beltline, planning and executing over \$5 billion dollars in airport and water infrastructure improvements, leading the acquisition of the Morehouse College Collection of Martin Luther King Jr. Papers, launching the Regional Commission on Homelessness and developing successful business and public sector partnerships and alliances. Aside from her role as a public official, her community service spans nearly 40 years and includes her active participation in the arts, homelessness and higher education.

Ms. Franklin previously served on the boards of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), National Endowment for the Arts Advisory Board, National Conference of Democratic Mayors, United States Conference of Mayors, Georgia Municipal Association, Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, East Lake Foundation, Drew Charter School, Spelman College, Neighborhood Arts Center, Atlanta Black United Fund and the National Association of Black Public Administrators. She currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Purpose Built Communities, a national holistic community revitalization organization. She also is President of Clarke-Franklin and Associates, Inc., a general management consulting practice, partner in Urban Environmental Solutions (UES), an infrastructure and transportation firm, and founder of the political blog, Blogging While Blue. She co-chairs the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta's Regional Commission on Homelessness, serves

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

as the Chair of the National Center of Civil and Human Rights, and on the board of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's 2013 Commission to Build a Healthier America. Ms. Franklin also serves on the Board of Directors of Mueller Water Products, Delta Air Lines and The Volcker Alliance.

Ms. Franklin has contributed to several books including, *Leaders on Ethics: Real-World Perspectives on Today's Business Challenges*; *Principles for a Successful Life*; *Megaregions-Planning for Global Competitiveness*, and *Investing in What Works for America's Communities*. She speaks frequently about leadership, public policy and community engagement.

Lisa F. Garcia, Esq.

Lisa F. Garcia, Esq., is Associate Assistant Administrator in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Ms. Garcia joined the EPA in 2009, serving as Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Environmental Justice. In this role, she has elevated EJ issues to the highest levels of the agency and developed and implemented Plan EJ 2014, a roadmap to integrate and strengthen all of EPA's EJ initiatives. She took on her current position in January 2011. This role provides her with broader oversight and authority to implement the agency's environmental justice program. She also works to promote meaningful, working relationships with EJ communities and builds strong partnerships with communities and other federal agencies to address some of the country's most persistent environmental challenges.

Ms. Garcia joined EPA after serving as the Chief Advocate for Environmental Justice and Equity at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. In that position, she developed statewide environmental justice initiatives to tackle critical environmental challenges and served as co-chair of the Governor's Environmental Justice Interagency Task Force. She also served as Assistant Attorney General for the New York State Attorney General, where she represented various state agencies in environmental litigation matters and defended New York's Brownfields Cleanup Program. She also served as Senior Attorney at the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Lloyd Gardner

Lloyd Gardner is an environmental planner who has been involved in environmental management in the Caribbean for more than 30 years. Mr. Gardner's experience spans the public, private and civil society sectors, starting with the Government of Jamaica in 1982. As a Director in the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (1988-1991), he was responsible for policy development and program planning in coastal zone management, national parks and development control. Since joining the private sector as an environmental planning consultant in 1992, Mr. Gardner has provided consulting services to a wide range of regional and international private, inter-governmental, civil society bilateral and multilateral organizations.

In addition to his career as a consultant, Mr. Gardner collaborates on research projects with public institutions, such as the University of the Virgin Islands. He also maintains active involvement in regional and international non-governmental organizations, and currently serves as the President of the Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.

Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D.

Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D., Ed.D., is Dean and Associate Provost for Health and Society at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Dr. Gardner is a recipient of numerous recognitions, including the Senior Clinical Faculty Award and the Dale Bumpers AHEC Leadership Award. She is a member of the editorial advisory boards of the *Annals of Pharmacotherapy* and the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*. She has served on numerous committees of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, and was elected as Chair of the Women Faculty SIG in 2005-06. Dr. Gardner has served the UAMS campus through her leadership as chair of the Committee on Clinical Research and as Chair of the Council of Deans. She is a member of the UAMS Bioventures Advisory Board and the Arkansas Center for Healthcare Improvement Advisory Board. Dr. Gardner also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and was elected as Vice President in 2013.

Dr. Gardner earned both the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of North Carolina and completed a Research Fellowship in Cardiovascular Pharmacology at Case Western Reserve University. In 1991, she joined the faculty of the UAMS College of Pharmacy. She subsequently earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. In 2003, she was appointed as Dean of the UAMS College of Pharmacy and was recently named Associate Provost for Health and Society.

Yitades Gebre, M.D.

Yitades Gebre, M.D., is a Specialist Physician and Epidemiologist with 18 years of experience in Preventive Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Gebre currently works for the Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization, Department of Communicable Diseases and Health Analysis, assigned in Trinidad and Tobago. Previously, he served as an Advisor on Disease Prevention and Control in The Bahamas and Turks & Caicos Islands (2005-2008). He also worked as physician and Medical Officer of Health, Senior Medical Officer of Health and Director of the HIV/AIDS program for the Government of Jamaica (1995- 2005).

Dr. Gebre obtained his post-graduate training and fellowship at McGill University, Faculty of Medicine and Graduate Studies, Montreal, Canada (1990-95). He completed his residency in Community Medicine at the Montreal General Hospital and Montreal Children's Hospital (1990-94). He was a clinical and research fellow at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. He obtained a Master degree in Public Health (MPH) and a Master of Sciences (MSc) degree in Occupational Health Sciences and Epidemiology from McGill University.

Gary H. Gibbons, M.D.

Gary H. Gibbons, M.D., became the director of the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in the summer of 2012. Dr. Gibbons served as the founder and director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute, chairperson of the Department of Physiology, and professor of Physiology and Medicine at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Dr. Gibbons' Institute at Morehouse is recognized for its discovery science related to cardiovascular health of minority populations. His laboratory focuses on discovering novel mediators of vascular disease. His program involves collaborative efforts to study the functional significance of genomic variation and changes in gene activities due to 'epigenetic' modifications of DNA that do not involve a change in the genetic code, as factors that enhance the susceptibility to cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Gibbons oversees the third-largest Institute at the NIH, with an annual budget of more than \$3 billion and a staff of 917 federal employees. Dr. Gibbons will also direct his own lab at the NIH, focusing on predictive health and genomic medicine in minority populations. The NHLBI provides global leadership for research, training and education programs to promote the prevention and treatment of heart, lung, and blood diseases and enhance the health of all individuals so that they can live longer and more fulfilling lives.

Dr. Gibbons has served as a member of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Advisory Council (NHLBAC) since 2009, a position he resigned after being selected to be director of the NHLBI. He was also a member of the NHLBI Board of Extramural Experts, a working group of the NHLBAC. Dr. Gibbons has received 15 NHLBI-supported grants since 1997.

Under his leadership of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine, Dr. Gibbons directed NIH-supported research in the fields of vascular biology, genomic medicine and the pathogenesis of vascular diseases. During his tenure, the Cardiovascular Research Institute emerged as a center of excellence, leading the way in discoveries related to the cardiovascular health of minority populations. Dr. Gibbons has received several patents for innovations derived from his research in the fields of vascular biology and the pathogenesis of vascular diseases.

Dr. Gibbons, who is originally from Philadelphia, earned his undergraduate degree from Princeton University in Princeton, NJ, and graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School in Boston. He completed his residency and cardiology fellowship at the Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Prior to joining the Morehouse School of Medicine in 1999, Dr. Gibbons was a member of the faculty at Stanford University, in Stanford, CA, from 1990 until 1996, and Harvard Medical School from 1996 until 1999.

Dr. Gibbons has received numerous honors, including election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences; selection as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Minority Faculty Development Fellowship awardee; selection as a Pew Biomedical Scholar by the Pew Charitable Trusts; and was recognition as an Established Investigator of the American Heart Association (AHA).

Dr. Gibbons also serves on several editorial boards for journals in cardiovascular medicine, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and the AHA.

Lynn J. Goodloe, M.D.

Lynn Goodloe, M.D., is an Otolaryngology Head and Neck surgeon. She attended Howard University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Science degree. She continued on to Howard University for medical school, where she was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. Dr. Goodloe completed her specialty training at Tufts/Boston University and one year of Otology research with the Massachusetts Eye and Ear, affiliated with Harvard medical school. She is a Fellow of the American Board of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck surgery.

Dr. Goodloe practiced Head and Neck surgery for 26 years with Kaiser Permanente, West Los Angeles, where she was Chief of the Department for 24 of those years. Kaiser awarded her the Everyday Hero Award for her community work with her church, Bible Enrichment Fellowship International Church (BEFIC), and her work in mental health. At BEFIC, Dr. Goodloe has directed the Health Ministry monthly support group for over 15 years. She was one of the co-founders, along with late author Bebe Moore-Campbell, of the Urban Los Angeles chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI is a grass roots organization dedicated to improving the lives of the mentally ill through education, support groups, and advocacy. NAMI Urban LA is the largest minority boarded chapter of 1,200 chapters nationwide, and was influential in the passing of the congressional bill declaring July the Bebe Moore-Campbell National Minority Mental Health month. Dr. Goodloe has received many awards, including City and County Commendations for her continued community service and work in mental health.

Dr. Goodloe retired from Kaiser Permanente in 2007 to pursue her other passions in life and began her second career in health care. Now she studies Integrative Holistic Medicine, focusing on the healthy whole person—mind, body and soul—through nutritional medicine and exercise. She became a Diplomat of the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine in 2008. Dr. Goodloe's family—her son, Clarence S. Greene, III, and her daughter, Kimberly L. Morgan-Greene, Esq.—benefit from holistic lifestyle personalized medicine. However her very best patient is her mother who will celebrate her 98th birthday on March 4th.

J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., MSCE

J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Office of Minority Health is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities.

A pediatrician with epidemiology training, Dr. Gracia was previously a clinical instructor at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and a clinical instructor and research fellow at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she conducted research on community risk factors for violence.

Dr. Gracia joined the Federal government as a White House Fellow, assigned to HHS and later to the Office of the First Lady. She most recently served as Chief Medical Officer in the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, where her portfolio included child and adolescent health, disaster preparedness, environmental health, global health, Haiti recovery and the White House Council on Women and Girls. She also led the development of the 2012 HHS environmental justice strategy.

A first-generation Haitian-American, Dr. Gracia holds a Bachelor of Arts in French from Stanford University, a medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Patrick N. Graham, P.E.

Patrick Graham, P.E., works in Project Development for CHA Consulting, a 1,500-person full-service engineering design and construction management firm in Savannah, GA. He assists a wide range of public and private clients in the government, education, manufacturing and power & energy market sectors with scoping, planning and engineering design of infrastructure development projects.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Mr. Graham has over 20 years of experience in environmental and engineering consulting services, including project management, construction management and environmental site investigations. His project experience includes human health and ecological risk assessments, ecological studies, environmental permitting, stormwater management, municipal and industrial wastewater treatment, capital improvements planning and renewable energy development projects. Since 2006, he has supervised site selection, mapping and civil engineering services for over a dozen wind energy projects representing more than 1 gigawatt (GW) of energy production.

Mr. Graham graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health with a BSPH in Environmental Science and Engineering in 1992. He received his MS in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1997. He is licensed professional engineer in the states of Georgia, South Carolina and Maine.

Milford W. Greene, Ph.D., MPH

Milford W. Greene, Ph.D., MPH, is Director of Health and Clinical Services at Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization located in Atlanta, GA. Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Inc., provides education, screening and counseling programs for Sickle Cell and other hemoglobinopathies. Dr. Greene is also Co-Chair of the Student Research Forum Committee of the National Conference on Health Disparities. A native of Atlanta, GA, Dr. Greene has previously served as a professor, dean, vice president, director and researcher in a variety of educational and health care settings. He was the first diversity dean and instructor on Biochemistry and Community Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School; Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs and Assistant Professor of Community Medicine and Family Practice at the Morehouse School of Medicine; Associate Dean and Associate Professor of Basic Science and Community Medicine at the Mercer University School of Medicine; and the university-wide Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at Cornell University.

Dr. Greene has taught courses in the biological and health sciences and directed pre-health and STEM programs at several Historically Black Colleges and Universities, among them Morehouse and Spelman Colleges. He also served as a research biologist on the staff of the National Institute of Mental Health and was also awarded a staff fellowship by the National Cancer Institute. His research interests have included chemical carcinogenesis in mammalian cell culture, DNA replication in *Pneumococcus*, the mechanism of virulence in pathogenic *Campylobacter jejuni* (81-176), and allele frequencies in evolutionary anachronisms, including Sickle Cell Disease and obesity. Dr. Greene has served as a consultant to the Department of Education, the Centers for Disease Control, and the American Cancer Society. He has been principal investigator/project director on training and research grants totaling more than 15 million dollars from the Department of Health and Human Services (HEW); the National Science Foundation; the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; the Department of Education; and the Department of Energy.

Dr. Greene received his B.S. degree in Biology from Morehouse College, the Ph.D. in Biology from Wesleyan University, and a Master of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health. He has done further study in Biotechnology at the Georgetown University School of Medicine; the Marine Biological Laboratories, Woods Hole, MA; and was awarded an American Society of Engineering Education Faculty Fellowship in the Enteric Diseases Research Department of the Naval Medical Research Center, Silver Spring, MD.

David Hall, JD, SJD

David Hall, JD, SJD, began his tenure as the fifth president of the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI) on August 1, 2009. At the same time, he also was awarded a Distinguished Professorship of Spirituality and Professionalism at UVI. In his Fall 2009 Convocation address, Dr. Hall placed the University of the Virgin Islands on the "Pathways to Greatness."

On Nov. 4, 2009, Dr. Hall convened a meeting of male students that has come to be known as "Brothers with a Cause." This organization, made up of male students on the University's St. Thomas and St. Croix campuses, has a goal of increasing the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of young men within the territory, while promoting the mental, physical, social and spiritual enhancement of male UVI students and the communities that they represent. A major outgrowth of this effort is the annual university-sponsored Man Up Conference, which attracts over 3,000 male students to the University for a day-long program of information and inspiration.

Under Dr. Hall's leadership, UVI has made important strides toward raising the image and position of the University. He led the effort to change the structure of the academic units from divisions to colleges and schools. Additionally, new academic programs, such as a Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and a Bachelor of Business Administration in Hospitality and Tourism Management, have been instituted. The University has launched a Caribbean Center for Green Technology, a Center for the Study of Spirituality and Professionalism, a Center for Student Success and an Institute for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness. A recycling program has been implemented on both campuses as part of the UVI Goes Green initiative.

Under President Hall's leadership, the UVI received a \$1 million pledge to create a science building, and a \$5 million gift to create the I3D Student Entrepreneurial Competition and fund the Kiril Sokoloff endowed professorship in Entrepreneurship. Alumni contributions have doubled since his tenure as President. The university has constructed a 100-bed, state-of-the-art residence hall on its St. Thomas Campus and has worked with the Research and Technology Park to construct an academic building on St. Croix.

Born in Savannah, GA, Dr. Hall holds a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, where he was named an "All American" for his athletic and scholarly accomplishments. After graduating from Kansas State, he played professional basketball in Italy. He received his doctor of jurisprudence (JD) from the University of Oklahoma, where he also earned a master's degree in Human Relations. He holds both an LL.M. degree and a doctorate of juridical science (SJD) from Harvard Law School.

In 1993, when he was appointed dean of the Northeastern University School of Law, he made history by being the first African American to hold the position. He also served as Provost and Senior Vice President of Northeastern University, and was also the first African American to hold that position.

Having taught law for more than 25 years in the law schools of the University of Mississippi, the University of Oklahoma and Northeastern University, Dr. Hall has enjoyed a distinguished career as an educational administrator and preeminent scholar in the field of law. In May 2010, in recognition of his significant contributions to the legal field, Dr. Hall was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the New England School of Law in Boston, MA. He has been honored by the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association as a Trailblazer. Dr. Hall was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

His publications include works on civil rights, the U.S. Constitution and race, legal education and social justice. He has authored a book on the intersection of law and spirituality, entitled "The Spiritual Revitalization of the Legal Profession: A Search for Sacred Rivers," and lectures nationally on topics of social justice, leadership, diversity and spiritual values in professional life. He is married to Dr. Marilyn Braithwaite-Hall, and is the father of three children: Rahsaan, Sakile and Kiamsha.

Olaf G. Hendricks, M.D.

Olaf G. Hendricks, M.D., is a psychiatrist and native of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. He attended Howard University, where he earned a B.S. in Zoology and an M.D. with a specialty in Psychiatry. After completing his residency in 1974, he returned to the Virgin Islands and served as the territorial mental health psychiatrist for several years. In 1980, he became the director of mental health. Dr. Hendricks also served as the only psychiatrist at the St. Croix Hospital, now the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center from 1983 to 1996. He was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Health for public health under Governor Alexander Farrelly and served from 1991 through 1993. In 1996 he was Interim Commissioner of Health under Governor Roy Schneider, M.D.

In the meantime, Dr. Hendricks also served as the territorial psychiatrist for the Bureau of Corrections beginning in 1974 and became the medical director until 2005. He recently returned as Director of Mental Health Services at BOC. At the governor Juan Luis Hospital, he served as president of the medical staff on two occasions and served as Chief Medical Officer from 2007 to 2009. Since then, he has been the psychiatrist at the Village Rehabilitation Center on St. Croix, providing clinical services to the mentally ill, substance abusing, homeless (misah) program.

In 2011 Dr. Hendricks retired from the Governor Juan Luis Hospital after 37 years of inpatient services. He was an original member of the Board of Governors of the Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage institute, serving for more than eight years, including a stint as Vice-Chair. He is also a co-founder of the Crucian Cultural Institute and the Hillsiders/Freegut Association.

He has his own Quelbe-Jazz Group, and is the host of a weekly radio show, "We Deh Yah", where he discusses the attitudes, beliefs and values of Virgin Islanders and Caribbean people in general and insists that "the responsibility for what happens in our islands lies with us and only us." Dr. Hendricks lives with his wife Myrl on St. Croix.

Rev. Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.

Known as a "Preachers' Preacher" and designated by Ebony Magazine in 1993 as one of America's "Fifteen Greatest African American Preachers," The Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., is the Senior Servant of historic Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, DC, and Largo, MD. Since his election in June 1977, Dr. Hicks has served as the fifth senior minister in the congregation's 146-year history. During his reign at Metropolitan, the church has developed one of the world's foremost Christian congregations, distinguished by its fervent worship and prophetic preaching. The church's various social service ventures have placed Metropolitan among the world's most significant religious institutions.

An activist within his community, Dr. Hicks gave leadership to the Committee Against All Killing and the Committee for Strict Liability that achieved passage of a referendum in Washington, DC, holding the manufacturers of automatic firearms liable for the death and destruction they cause. Within the theological community, Dr. Hicks has served as Distinguished Visiting professor at Wesley Theological Seminary, Adjunct Professor at United Theological Seminary,

Chicago Theological Seminary, Colgate Rochester Divinity School and Howard University School of Divinity.

Dr. Hicks is a 1964 Honors Graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. A recipient of the Rockefeller Protestant Fellowship, Dr. Hicks graduated from Colgate Rochester Divinity School in May 1967. He earned the Doctor of Ministry in Theology degree in 1975. In 1994, Dr. Hicks received the coveted Merrill Fellowship at Harvard University Divinity School. In 1999, he earned the Master of Business Administration from the George Washington University. In 2008, Morehouse College of Atlanta, GA, honored Dr. Hicks with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree.

The author of seven books, Dr. Hicks is a prolific writer, and is widely published in religious periodicals. The three most popular of his writings include: *On Jordan's Stormy Banks* [2004], *My Soul's Been Anchored* [1998] and *Preaching Through a Storm* [1987, 12th printing]. In addition, Dr. Hicks is President of H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., Ministries, Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in church leadership development and team building.

Among his numerous honors, Dr. Hicks was named Keynote Preacher for the Baptist World Congress in Sydney, Australia, in 2000. He was also named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by Colgate Rochester Divinity School in 2007. More recently, Dr. Hicks was named Conference Preacher for the prestigious Hampton Minister's Conference in 2009. His memberships include his elevation to the 33rd Degree Grand Inspector General, Jonathan Davis Consistory, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge; Guest Lecturer on Urban Ministry, Robert Schuller Leadership Institute Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, CA; Distinguished Preacher, Riverside Church, New York City 2011; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; and his recent induction into Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity in April of 2010. Dr. Hicks, a native of Baton Rouge, LA, is the son of the late Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Sr., and the late Mrs. Eleanor Frazier Hicks. He is married to Dr. Elizabeth Harrison, a native of Selma, AL. They are the parents of H. Beecher, III, the Reverend Dr. Ivan Douglas, and Kristin Elizabeth Hicks. Dr. and Mrs. Hicks are the proud grandparents of three girls, Austynn, Ashley, and Anya, and grandsons Henry IV and Harrison Hicks.

Marjorie A. Innocent, Ph.D.

Marjorie Innocent, Ph.D., is the senior director of research and programs at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc., Washington, DC. She leads the strategic development, implementation and evaluation of the Foundation's initiatives in the areas of health, education, economic development and leadership development.

Dr. Innocent has several years of experience in evaluation and research related to public health and education, as well as examining policy and practice issues in the delivery of health and social services to low-income youth. She has a long-standing interest in strengthening collaboration between research, policy and practice to achieve positive, sustainable health and social outcomes for disadvantaged populations. She has served as an evaluation specialist with the Montgomery County Public Schools in Maryland; a research associate for the Center for Applied Research and Technical Assistance, Inc.; and director of the Maryland School-Based Health Center Initiative and health policy research coordinator for the Maryland Governor's Office for Children, Youth, and Families.

Dr. Innocent holds a Ph.D. in Health Policy and Management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a B.A. in Political Science and French Literature from Columbia University. She serves on the health equity leadership commission of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust; the advisory board of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity; and the planning committee for the Annual National Conference on Health Disparities led by the Medical University of South Carolina. The daughter of Haitian immigrants, Dr. Innocent is fluent in French and Haitian Creole.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Gustav A. James, P.E.

Gustav A. James, P.E., President of Systems Engineering and Construction, Inc., is engaged in general construction and engineering throughout the United States Virgin Islands. In his 40-plus-year career, he worked initially in the U.S. automotive industry for General Motors Corporation, then extensively in the oil industry in various places around the globe. His oil industry experience includes plant design and construction, plant operations and plant maintenance. Assignment locations included the United States, Saudi Arabia, Japan and St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Projects managed by Mr. James include major oil processing facilities, water desalination plants, port facilities and various industrial, commercial and residential installations. He is currently focused on energy availability and cost in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Mr. James received a Bachelor of Science, with honor, in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan in 1977.

Loretta Sweet Jemmott, Ph.D., RN, FAAN

Loretta Sweet Jemmott, Ph.D., is the van Ameringen Professor in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and Director of the Center for Health Equity Research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She also holds a secondary appointment in the School of Medicine and in the Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Jemmott is one of the nation's foremost researchers in the field of HIV/AIDS prevention, having the most consistent track record of evidenced-based HIV risk-reduction interventions. She and her research team have received over \$100 million in federal funding devoted to designing and evaluating a series of outcome-based, theory driven, culturally competent HIV sexual risk-reduction randomized controlled behavioral intervention trials with various populations, including African American, Latino, Jamaican and South African adolescents, women, men and families. Aimed at increasing safer sex behaviors, these trials have demonstrated remarkable success in reducing HIV risk associated behaviors, while reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.

To date, seven of her evidenced-based interventions have been designated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control for national dissemination and have been translated into on-going programs used both nationally and internationally by community-based organizations, schools and clinics in high-risk urban areas. Dr. Jemmott has also worked extensively in South Africa and Botswana to help mitigate the impact the magnitude and HIV/AIDS. Currently, she is Co-Investigator on four international NIH-funded randomized control trials. In Botswana, she is the Co-Investigator on a NICHD-funded HIV prevention research capacity building grant, which is a partnership between the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Botswana. In South Africa, she is Co-Investigator on two NIH-funded randomized controlled trials focusing on adolescents and adult men. In Jamaica, she is the Co-investigator on a HIV prevention study focusing on Jamaican mothers and their daughters. She is also the Principal Investigator on a NICHD-funded RCT barbershop-based HIV/STD risk reduction for African American young men.

Dr. Jemmott has received many awards for her research and community efforts, including the Congressional Merit Recognition Award and the Outstanding Research Award from the Black Nurses Association. She is a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Tionna Jenkins, Ph.D., MPH

Tionna Jenkins, Ph.D., is the Regional Director for the national Clinton Health Matters Initiative within the Clinton Foundation. In this role, she is responsible for leading the collaborative efforts with key industry, corporate, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to develop and implement a blueprint for action focused on healthcare needs, reducing healthcare cost and improving health and wellness indicators in targeted communities.

Before joining the Clinton Foundation, Dr. Jenkins worked with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center to Prevent Childhood Obesity, where she led efforts that addressed pressing needs around equity, education, health care access, healthy eating and physical activity for state and local municipalities in 13 targeted states across the nation. Additionally, as the Project Director/Associate, she was responsible for engaging state and local policy leaders, managing funds for innovative approaches and ideas at the local level and for building partnerships, one of which resulted in a \$4.5 million dollar grant award to address systemic issues related to childhood obesity and prevention. Since the official launch of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI) in 2012, \$100 million pledges have been invested in disease prevention, positively impacting more than 25 million people in the United States.

Dr. Jenkins received a Bachelor of Science degree from Philander Smith College, a Master of Public Health with emphasis in Health Policy and Management from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, a graduate non-profit certification from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and a doctorate of philosophy in public policy from the University of Arkansas. Additionally, Dr. Jenkins holds a national appointment and serves on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Partnership for Action Regional Health Equity Council. In this role she is charged with enhancing collaboration between health equity stakeholders in the region, including public-private partnerships, alignment between initiatives and programs, and leveraging of assets to more effectively accomplish health disparity reduction goals. She also proudly serves as an advisory board member for Philander Smith College Social Justice Initiative.

Janice D. Key, M.D.

Janice D. Key, M.D., is a Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical University of South Carolina, where she is the Division Director of Adolescent Medicine and the Director of School and Community-based Programs at Boeing Center for Children's Wellness. Dr. Key received her undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed her residency training at Boston Children's Hospital. She is board certified in pediatrics, genetics and adolescent medicine.

Community and clinical research projects conducted by Dr. Key have included evaluation of school-based health care, adolescent smoking cessation programs, primary and secondary teen pregnancy prevention programs, interventions for at-risk middle school students and obesity treatment and prevention. These community and school-based obesity prevention efforts have led to development of the Lean Team and the Boeing Center for Children's Wellness (www.musc.edu/leanteam). As a result of these community projects, Dr. Key is the author of more than 50 manuscripts and abstracts and has made numerous local, state and national presentations.

Dr. Key has been active on the local, state and national level, including serving on committees for the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Carolinas Chapter, The South Carolina

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and the Charleston County Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition (where she was a founding member). She currently serves on the Charleston County Medical Society School Health Committee and Executive Committee, the South Carolina Eat Smart Move More Board of Directors, the South Carolina Medical Association Childhood Obesity Taskforce and the South Carolina DHEC and Medicaid Advisory Committees.

Dr. Key has received the MUSC Distinguished Service Faculty Award, the Charleston County Medical Society Wannamaker Community Service Award, the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Vincent Outstanding Professional Award and the South Carolina Medical Association 2012 Community Service Award, as well as several teaching awards. She has been included in Best Doctors in America since 1998, the Guide to America's Top Pediatricians since 2008, and US News & World Reports Top Doctors since 2012.

Karl Knight

Karl Knight is the Director of the Virgin Islands Energy Office. The mission of his office is to promote sustainable energy policies in the Virgin Islands, encompassing energy production, distribution and consumption through training, outreach, financial incentives and technical assistance. He is co-chair of the leadership team spearheading project development for the Energy Development in Islands Nations (EDIN) partnership between the U.S. Virgin Islands, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, with a goal of reducing fossil fuel consumption in the Virgin Islands 60% by 2025.

Mr. Knight began his professional career as a civil engineer with the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority, providing project management and engineering design services. He was later promoted to Manager of Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement, with the responsibility of overseeing the implementation of a performance-based management system. In 2002 he was recognized as the management employee of the year at the utility.

Upon leaving the Water and Power Authority, Mr. Knight served as the Chief Researcher in the Office of Senator Terrence "Positive" Nelson during the 26th Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Senator Nelson at that time chaired the senate committee with jurisdiction in the areas of labor and agriculture. Mr. Knight managed the legislative affairs of the office to include legislative research, reviewing bill proposals and drafting legislation.

Mr. Knight joined the Office of the Governor in April 2007 as a policy advisor to Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr. In that capacity, he was primarily engaged in policy development in the areas of energy, environment and public infrastructure. He also served as the Governor's liaison to several executive branch departments and instrumentalities.

Mr. Knight currently chairs the Planning and Economic Development Committee of the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Governing Board and also serves on the Advisory Board of the Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning Center at the University of the Virgin Islands. Mr. Knight holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Morgan State University.

Daniel T. Lackland, Dr.PH

Daniel T. Lackland, Dr.PH, is Professor of Epidemiology in the Department of Neurosciences and Department of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. The past president of the Mid-Atlantic Affiliate of the American Heart Association, he is the current chair of the Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina. He is a Fellow in the American College of Epidemiology, American Society of Hypertension and American Heart Association. He also serves on the AHA Stroke Council Leadership Committee.

In 2008, Dr. Lackland was appointed to the panel for the Eighth Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC 8), and the work group for the NHLBI Clinical Guidelines for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction (Global Risk Assessment). He is the past-chairman of the South Carolina Stroke Task Force, Tri-State Stroke Network, and is the past president of the Carolinas-Georgia-Florida Chapter of the American Society of Hypertension. He is the recipient of the 2002 Excellence in Leadership award from the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control.

Much of Dr. Lackland's research interest involves the population risk assessment of cardiovascular disease, stroke and hypertension. In particular, his work focuses on the factors associated with the racial disparity in disease and the geographic patterns of disease through the assessment of the data and tissue samples from the Charleston Heart Study and Evans County Heart Study. He currently is collaborating with Professor David Barker at the Medical Research Council with study of the fetal origin of hypertension-related diseases and endothelial function. He is the principal investigator for the NIH-funded Black Pooling Project that is assessing the disparities in cardiovascular diseases and hypertension, and is subcontract PI for "Impact of Nativity on Cardiometabolic Syndrome Factors" in the Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) study.

In addition to these epidemiological investigations, Dr. Lackland is involved in population high blood pressure control efforts. He is a member of the Executive Council of the World Hypertension League. He also serves on the boards of the American Society of Hypertension, Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina, and Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control (COSEHC), Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence, and Inter-American Society of Hypertension. He is Deputy Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Hypertension, and member of the editorial boards of Hypertension, Journal of the CardioMetabolic Syndrome, Ethnicity and Disease, Journal of the American Society of Hypertension, Advances in Cardiovascular Therapeutics, and Preventive Medicine, as well as serving as the Editor of the Newsletter of the World Hypertension League. He also leads blood pressure and risk factor screening activities at sporting events in the Southeast and is a consultant for high blood pressure control programs in Latin America and central Asia.

He received his doctorate degree in cardiovascular epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Curtis L. Lowery, M.D.

Curtis L. Lowery, M.D., is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where is also a sub-specialist in Maternal-Fetal Medicine. As the Department Chair, Dr. Lowery is viewed as a champion of antenatal and neonatal telemedicine benefiting the patient and physician alike. Dr. Lowery facilitated the process in which Arkansas insurance handles telemedicine, increased Medicaid reimbursements and promoted understanding for telemedicine, and brought telehealth access

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

to over 60 hospitals and community clinics in rural Arkansas, providing medical consultations combined with provider and patient education. He has founded and established a Medicaid-funded, cost-effective programmatic solution to assist Arkansas' high-risk pregnancies, ANGELS, which reaches throughout Arkansas to those in need of subspecialty Maternal-Fetal Medicine support.

Through this expertise, Dr. Lowery founded the UAMS Center for Distance Health, a technology-based partnership of the College of Medicine and Regional Programs. The Center offers telemedicine, continuing medical and health education, public health education and evaluation research through interactive video throughout Arkansas. The Center represents the culmination of Arkansas' telemedicine and distance health technology expertise, with directors and stakeholders who have been instrumental in developing telehealth initiatives in Arkansas.

In his latest effort, Dr. Lowery led a statewide effort in obtaining over \$102 million in federal funding to allow the creation of the Arkansas Healthcare, Higher Education, Public Safety, & Research Integrated Broadband Initiative. The grant will facilitate creation of high-speed internet connections in all 75 counties in the state and in 135 communities. The program, now called E-Link, will make or upgrade connections to 81 hospitals, all two-year colleges, eight public libraries and a variety of public health institutions, bringing the total number of partners for the project to over 470.

Dr. Lowery was instrumental in reinvigorating the UAMS application for the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) grant from the National Institutes of Health. UAMS was awarded \$20 million for the CTSA, with Dr. Lowery as the Principal Investigator for the university-wide project. He was recently recognized by the UAMS College of Medicine through the 2007 Educational Innovation Award, and ANGELS was recognized by Harvard University Ash Institute as one of the nation's most innovative governmental collaborations. Dr. Lowery also received the 2007 Hugo Gernsback Award for Clinical Innovation in Telemedicine by the AT&T Center for Telehealth Research & Policy.

Dr. Curtis Lowery, an avid fly fisherman, is married to Ellen Lowery who is an RN. They have three boys: Trey, 25, Peter 22, and Jackson, 20. Trey is in his third-year of training for an MD PhD program at UAMS. Peter, a senior and middle linebacker at Washington University in St. Louis, is applying to medical school. Jackson is a business major and middle relief pitcher at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Recently the entire family became SCUBA certified and now makes dive trips to various parts of the world.

Senator Shawn-Michael Malone

Senator Shawn-Michael Malone was elected to his fifth consecutive term of office on November 2, 2010, and for the fourth consecutive general election, received the most votes in the St. Thomas-St. John District.

Senator Malone was born August 29, 1968, and raised on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. He is the fifth of six children born to noted Virgin Islands musician, the late Roy Milton Malone, and Pauline Monell-Francis Williams. He attended Dober and E. Benjamin Oliver Elementary schools, Bertha C. Boschulte Junior High School and Ivanna Eudora Kean and graduated from Sts. Peter & Paul High Schools. Senator Malone obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hampton University in Hampton, VA.

Senator Malone brings years of experience in all aspects of the community to his present assignment. Before

his election to the 25th Legislature in 2002, his private sector work included management and auditing duties with the Ritz-Carlton, St. Thomas, the Marriott Frenchman's Reef Resort, and the Michael A. Simmonds Company. On the federal level, Senator Malone worked in the aftermath of Hurricane Marilyn with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and later as District Manager for Virgin Islands' Delegate to Congress Donna M. Christensen. He served as Aide to former Virgin Islands First Lady Mrs. Joan Harrigan-Farrelly during his tenure in the VI. Department of Planning and Natural Resources. He also served on the St. Thomas-St. John Virgin Islands Board of Elections, serving as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Virgin Islands Joint Boards of Elections.

For two decades, Senator Malone has been involved in the life of the Democratic Party on both the local and national levels. He served as President of the Young Democrats of St. Thomas-St. John (1994-96) and served with the National College Democrats organization (1988-90), and was elected to represent Virgin Islands Democrats as a Delegate at the 1996, 2000 and 2008 Democratic National Conventions.

Among the Senator's 28th Legislature accomplishments are: prime sponsorship of the Smoke Free Act Legislation, prime sponsor of the Tax Incentive Financing program TIF to stimulate private investment, and development in areas in need of infrastructural improvements, transferring the administration of the donated leave program from the Department of Finance to the Division of Personnel, prime sponsoring the VI Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act, and establishing rules and procedures to expunge records of arrest and convictions. He also prime sponsored legislation to increase the approval of Coastal Zone Management permits from seven to 15 senators.

John E. Maupin, Jr., D.D.S.

John E. Maupin, Jr., D.D.S., is the fifth president of Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Maupin has more than 30 years of experience in health care administration, public health, and academic medicine. As a health-care leader, public policy expert and dental practitioner he has created a legacy rooted in his passion for improving the health and well-being of underserved individuals and communities.

A native of Los Angeles, California, Dr. Maupin received his undergraduate training at San Jose State College and earned a D.D.S. degree in 1972 from Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry. The following year, he completed a general dentistry residency at Provident Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and subsequently received an M.B.A. degree in 1979 from Loyola College in Baltimore.

Prior to joining Morehouse on July 1, 2006, Dr. Maupin served as president of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee for 12 years, where he was the first alumnus and the second dentist to lead the institution. His other senior administrative positions have included Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Morehouse School of Medicine; Chief Executive Officer of Southside Healthcare, Inc. Atlanta, Georgia; Deputy Commissioner for Medical Services, Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore, Maryland; and dental director and chief of medical staff with the West Baltimore Community Health Center. In addition to his extraordinarily diverse administrative background, Dr. Maupin maintained a part-time dental practice while in Baltimore. He was also a career dental officer in the United States Army Reserve, retiring in 1996 with over 28 years of service.

Dr. Maupin has a distinguished record as a health policy expert and advisor; having served on the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education Accreditation of the U.S. Department of Education, the Governors Task Force on the Healthcare Safety Net (TN), Governors Task Force on HIV/AIDS (MD) and the Governor's Commission on Men's Health (GA). In 1984, Dr. Maupin was elected president of the National Dental Association and is past President of the Association of Minority Health Professional Schools.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., renowned infertility specialist and researcher, assumed the position of Dean and Executive Vice President for Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), effective June 27, 2011. Her primary responsibilities include overseeing the academic enterprise and guiding the continued advancement of MSM's patient care, research, community health, and education and training programs.

Prior to joining MSM, Dr. Montgomery Rice was the Director of the Center for Women's Health Research and Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Division Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN. During her tenure at Meharry, Dr. Montgomery Rice held several positions, most notably, Dean of the School of Medicine and Senior Vice President of Health Affairs. Under her leadership, Meharry experienced many significant achievements; most notably, an increase in the medical class size, a robust increase in annual research funding and national prominence, and the expansion of the Veterans Administration affiliation by establishing the first outpatient clinic for veterans care on a historically black college campus.

Dr. Montgomery Rice is credited with founding the Center for Women's Health Research, one of the nation's first research centers devoted to studying diseases that disproportionately impact women of color. In addition, she spearheaded the research partnership with the University of Zambia, which focuses on the development of a vaginal microbicide for the prevention of HIV.

Dr. Montgomery Rice held numerous positions at the University of Kansas School of Medicine prior to joining Meharry Medical College; including Director, Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Vice Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Medical Director, Clinical Trials Division, Clinical Research.

Dr. Montgomery Rice currently serves on the FDA Advisory Panel for Reproductive and Urological Drugs. She is the recipient of numerous honors and accolades including most recently, the 2011 American Medical Women's Association Elizabeth Blackwell Award, one of the highest honors for contributions to women's health; and being named Working Women Media's Multicultural Legacy Award Winner for 2011. Dr. Montgomery Rice was also honored by the WNBA as an Inspiring Woman during an Atlanta Dream home game.

A Georgia native, Dr. Montgomery Rice received her Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology and her medical degree from Harvard University Medical School. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Emory University School of Medicine and her fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Hutzel Hospital in Detroit, MI. She also completed the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program at Drexel University College of Medicine in Philadelphia, PA.

A prolific speaker and advocate of women's health, Dr. Montgomery Rice has given more than 500 talks and participated in workshops and conferences throughout the world. Her acumen and the many contributions she has made as a professional in women's health and research have earned her national and international recognition, particularly, through her unwavering commitment to eliminating disparities in women's healthcare.

Folade Mutota

Folade Mutota is the founder and Executive Director of the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD), a women's organization committed to strengthening the capacity and social consciousness of women and girls to lead social transformation in Trinidad and Tobago.

WINAD programs enable women and girls to explore and embrace an alternative leadership framework that integrates the collective genius of all people. Ms. Mutota is responsible for, among other things: resource mobilization, talent recruitment and management, and networking. She is WINAD's voice in public affairs and leads its stakeholder relationship management. WINAD has been responsible for raising awareness about the proliferation and effects of small arms in the Caribbean since 2000, and has subsequently initiated the formation of a regional platform of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to collaborate on arms control initiatives in 12 CARICOM countries.

Ms. Mutota also serves as President of the Caribbean Coalition for Development and the Reduction of Armed Violence (CDRAV) and Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Authority. She is a member of the Technical Coordinating Committee in the Ministry of Trade. She is a published author and television host and producer.

Keith Norris, M.D.

Keith C. Norris, M.D., is Editor-in-Chief of Ethnicity and Disease and Immediate Past Vice President for Research at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science. Dr. Norris is an internationally recognized research investigator and health policy leader who has been instrumental in shaping national health policy and practice guidelines. From 2007-2011, he has ranked among the top 50 most highly funded NIH investigators in the nation, and among the top three most cited scientists in the world in the area of chronic kidney disease and health disparities.

Dr. Norris had a long and distinguished career at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science. In addition to serving from 2006 to 2013 as Vice President for Research, he served as Interim President (2009-2010) and was instrumental in leading the university from probation to full accreditation. He is also an assistant dean for clinical and translational science at the Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA.

After leaving Cornell in 1976 at the age of 19, he attended Howard University School of Medicine. Upon graduation in 1980, he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. He then completed his residency training and chief residency in internal medicine. From 1983-86, he trained in nephrology at the combined West Los Angeles Veterans Administration-UCLA program before joining the faculty at UCLA. In addition to being board certified in internal medicine and nephrology, he is an American Society of Hypertension Specialist in Clinical Hypertension. In 1995, he was selected to join the inaugural National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative, where he worked for a decade helping to transform practice guidelines and national health policy for patients with chronic kidney disease. He presently serves as a member of the NKF Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP) executive committee and the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) Medical Advisory Board.

Dr. Norris is the Principal Investigator for numerous NIH grants and has been directly responsible for over \$175 million in research funding at CDU over the last 15 years. His research interests focus on hypertension and chronic

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

kidney disease (CKD) in African Americans. Other areas include the role of Vitamin D and oxidative stress in health disparities, and enhancing community-academic partnerships. He has extensive experience in patient recruitment and retention and community-partnered research within the South Central Los Angeles community.

He was the CDU Principal Investigator for the African American Study of Kidney Disease and Hypertension (AASK) and the AASK Cohort Study, an extension of a multi-site NIH-randomized clinical trial. To date, AASK is the largest comparative drug intervention trial focusing on renal outcomes conducted in African Americans.

Dr. Norris has received numerous honors and awards from students, peers, community, and professional organizations. In addition to being an Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society inductee, a few include: the 1996 National Kidney Foundation Special Recognition Award, the 2000 American Association of Kidney Patient's A. Peter Lundin, M.D. award for significant personal contributions to the care and well-being of kidney patients, and the 2000 King/Drew Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine Best Teacher of the Year Award. In 2003, he was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame (Science) for his research advances in hypertension and kidney disease. From 2008-2010, he served as an ambassador for the Research!America Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research. In 2011, he received the National Medical Association's Meritorious Achievement Award. In 2012, he was the Diversity Council of the Department of Medicine and the Office of Diversity and Cultural Competence of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine 9th annual Visiting Professor.

Dr. Norris has co-authored over 245 articles in peer-reviewed journals and textbook chapters, and over 200 scientific abstracts. He currently serves as the editor of the international journal *Ethnicity and Disease*, a multidisciplinary journal focusing on minority ethnic population differences in health promotion and disease prevention, including research in the areas of epidemiology, genetics, health services, social biology and medical anthropology.

Maria Pajil Battle

Maria Pajil Battle is President for AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership, the largest Medical Assistance managed care plan in Pennsylvania. In that position, Ms. Pajil Battle oversees public relations, community affairs and marketing for AmeriHealth Caritas Partnership. Through the years she has worked in similar capacities in companies covering New York, New Jersey, South Carolina and Pennsylvania.

Through her work, Ms. Pajil Battle has become known as an innovator in the area of health access, prevention and education. Acquiring NCQA Awards for both Healthy Hoops and Health Ministry Programs, her name has become synonymous with efforts to increase the awareness and quality of life in the communities where she has worked. Ms. Pajil Battle's work in the field of health and the community has received numerous recognitions, including the Quality of Life Patient & Community Services Award; Tree of Life Award; YMCA Women in Leadership Award; Women's History Month Movers and Shakers; WDAS "Ordinary Women Doing Extraordinary Things"; Chi Eta Phi Outstanding Community Outreach Award; 2003 Women Making a Difference; Susquehanna Neighborhood Advisory Council (SNAC) Corporate Community Service Award; REDI, Inc. for Community Service, Gimper Award and the Philadelphia Business Journal 2010 Minority Business Leader Award.

Ms. Pajil Battle's community involvement and commitment is reflected in her service on diverse boards. She

currently serves as Board President of Women Organized Against Rape (WOAR) and Chair of the Board for Computers For Youth. Additionally, she serves on the following boards: Transitional Work Corporation; ASPIRA, Inc.; Intercultural Family Services, Inc.; Fox Chase Cancer Advisory Board and the Please Touch Museum.

Ms. Pajil Battle graduated from the Wharton School of Business, and has spent much of her professional career using her skills and abilities in the Greater Philadelphia health market. She has made a significant impact in improving the health status of underserved populations of every age and race. She continues to make her home in Philadelphia, where she was born and educated. Along with her husband Rudy, she maintains a close sense of family through strong relations with her son and two grandchildren.

The Hon. Kedrick D. Pickering, M.D.

The Honourable Kedrick D. Pickering, MD, was sworn in as Deputy Premier of the Government of the British Virgin Islands by His Excellency Governor Boyd McCleary, following the general elections of November 2011. Dr. Pickering is also Minister with responsibility for natural resources and labour and, additionally, for the development of the country's airport.

A physician by training, Dr. Pickering earned his medical qualifications at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, in 1985. He subsequently earned specialist qualifications in obstetrics/gynecology at the University of the West Indies, Mona, in 1992, and completed his residency at the University Hospital of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, that year. A Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (FACOG), Dr. Pickering has served the Virgin Islands in both the public health arena and in private practice and continues to maintain a private practice as Obstetrician/Gynecologist and co-owner of a multi-disciplinary medical practice in the British Virgin Islands.

Dr. Pickering was first elected to public office in 1999, serving as an Opposition Member of the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands for the period 1999-2003. He was elected to his second term of office in 2003, serving as Government Backbencher in the Legislative Council of the Virgin Islands. From 2007-2011, Dr. Pickering held his third term in office, serving as a Member of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the House of Assembly, Government of the Virgin Islands. He is currently serving his fourth term in elective office, having resoundingly won his district in the last elections, gaining 70% of votes cast.

Dr. Pickering has, throughout his life, been deeply involved in community development, still lives in the community in which he was born and raised, was active in softball and basketball as a younger man and has coached several sports teams from his community. He has also had a longstanding interest in matters pertaining to the environment and served for several years on the board of the BVI National Parks Trust. In his capacity as a Minister of Government, he has played a central role in a number of critical initiatives in which the Government of the Virgin Islands is currently involved, including the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, intended to catalyze the high-level political will needed to protect and better manage marine and coastal resources across the region and for which the BVI will serve as Co-Chair in 2013, the European Union (EU)-Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) Forum, for which the BVI serves as Secretariat (2012), and the BVI's Climate Change Policy.

Dr. Pickering is married to Alice née Henry, and they have four children.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Darice Plaskett, RN, MSA FACHE

Darice Plaskett, RN, MSA, FACHE, was nominated by Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr., on September 21, 2012, to head the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health. The Senate Committee on Rules and Judiciary unanimously confirmed her nomination on September 21, 2012. Ms. Plaskett gained confirmation by the 30th legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands on November 19, 2012 and was sworn in as Commissioner of Health on December 12, 2012.

As Commissioner of Health, she leads a department of approximately 410 employees with a budget of approximately \$47 million. The Department of Health was established by Titles 3, 19 and 27 of the Virgin Islands Code to administer programs of preventive medicine, promote wellness and enforce all statutes pertaining to public health. As the territory's health authority, its mission is "To Reduce Health Risks, Increase Access to Quality Healthcare and Enforce Health Standards."

In 2012, Ms. Plaskett outlined a strategic framework that articulates six strategies and indicators to enhance the department's effectiveness, efficiency and services. Included among the top priorities are healthcare reform, health information exchange and a new "medical home model" for primary care services to improve access, quality care and cost effectiveness of the Territory's healthcare System.

Prior to her appointment as Acting Commissioner of Health on May 28, 2012, Ms. Plaskett served as Chairman of Nursing, Chief Operating Officer and later Interim Chief Executive Officer of the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center. During her tenure as Interim Chief Executive Officer, she pioneered initiatives to effectuate greater governance, ensure continuous quality improvement and accreditation, expenditures control and revenue enhancement. She has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of the Virgin Islands Nursing Division.

Ms. Plaskett graduated from St. Croix Central High School. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration from Central Michigan University and is a Fellow of the America College of Health Executives and a member of America Nurses Association and the Virgin Islands Nurses Association.

LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph.D.

LaVerne Ragster, Ph.D., is a retired Professor of Marine Biology and past president of the University of the Virgin Islands. She is the current chair of the board of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and a member of the U.S. Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority board of directors. She has conducted research and training in the areas of algal physiology and natural resource management, presented and published in the areas of plant physiology, natural resource management and training, and obtained training and practical experience in institutional and leadership development over a 33-year span.

During the first 10 years of her career, Dr. Ragster served as a part of the teaching faculty at the (College first, then in 1986) University of the Virgin Islands, where she was promoted from Assistant Professor to Professor of Marine Biology. Additionally, she has held numerous administrative positions in the University, including Senior Vice President and Provost, and most recently, President (2002-2009). Dr. Ragster helped to link UVI to other higher education institutions in the region when she served as Sub-Secretary General for the Association of Caribbean Universities and Research Institutes (UNICA) and as the Coordinator of the Consortium of Caribbean Universities for Natural Resource Management. She helped to link UVI to the rest of the world through her service as chair of the board of the University Consortium for Small Island Developing States.

Dr. Ragster works with a number of non-governmental organizations (ngos) and region organizations, including the Caribbean Studies Association (past president), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (current chair of the board), Caribbean Conservation Association (past vice president), Island Resources Foundation (board member), The Nature Conservancy (former board member) and the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (USVI Representative) and Clean Islands International (board member). She is a member of the recently formed US Integrated Ocean Observing Systems Advisory Committee, which builds on her national experience of participation in the National Environmental Policy Commission of the Congressional Black Caucus Brain Trust on Environmental Justice, Commissions and programs of the American Council on Education and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), and membership on the National Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. She has worked in the Eastern Caribbean with the United Nations Environmental Program, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and the Caribbean Conservation Association on projects that helped to establish protected areas on the land and sea in a number of island states in the Caribbean. She has always been pleased to be a part of teams that trained professionals and communities to better address resource management on islands. Dr. Ragster has been recognized and honored by Virgin Islands organizations, U.S. national organizations, higher education institutions, and the President of the U.S. for her teaching, work in conservation, leadership and community service.

Although retired from the University, Dr. Ragster continues to serve the University of the Virgin Islands through an assignment with the UVI Caribbean Exploratory (NIMHD) Research Center and is focusing her scholarly efforts on climate change adaptation in the Caribbean, especially in the area of public health.

Dr. Ragster was born and raised in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Her educational career included completion of a number of leadership development certificates in recent years and a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry (University of Miami) in 1973, a M.S. in Biology (San Diego State University, algal physiology concentration) in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Biology (University of California, San Diego, plant biochemistry concentration) in 1980.

Dan Rahn, M.D.

As chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Dan Rahn, M.D., leads Arkansas' only academic health sciences center, which encompasses patient care, education, research and outreach resources at locations across the state. Dr. Rahn became UAMS' fourth chancellor, Nov. 1, 2009. He is a nationally recognized researcher, clinician and experienced administrator. Before coming to UAMS, he served as the president of the Medical College of Georgia and the senior vice chancellor for health and medical programs for the University System of Georgia.

After earning his bachelor's and medical degrees at Yale, Dr. Rahn completed his residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital and a postdoctoral fellowship in rheumatology at Yale. He began his professional career in 1979 at Yale University School of Medicine, where he was director of the Lyme Disease Program, director of clinical training in rheumatology and director of faculty practice for the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Rahn is a nationally known expert on Lyme disease. He served on several national committees for developing treatment and educational guidelines for the disease. This included sitting on a Centers for Disease Control/ American College of Physicians panel for a Physicians Educational Initiative on Lyme Disease and a Lyme Disease

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Treatment Guideline Committee of the Infectious Disease Society of America. As a researcher, he received federal funding for studying a treatment for early Lyme disease, among other funded projects.

Dr. Rahn has authored nearly 30 articles in scientific journals and 19 textbook chapters. He was an editor for a Lyme disease textbook produced by the American College of Physicians. Four times during his clinical practice, he was listed in the annual America's Top Doctors guide.

As an administrator, Dr. Rahn is nationally recognized for his work on workforce shortages in the health professions. He is a board member of the Association of Academic Health Centers and led the AAHC Health Workforce Shortages Advisory Committee. He serves on the Association of American Medical Colleges Advisory Panel on Health Care.

While at the Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Rahn served on numerous state and local boards, including the Georgia Research Alliance, Georgia Cancer Coalition, Walton Rehabilitation Institute and Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and he was chairman of the Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Since arriving in Arkansas, Dr. Rahn is a member of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, serves on the Fifty for the Future Board, and is the co-chair for the Arkansas Health Workforce Stakeholders. He has received an honorary degree from UAMS' sister university at Kaohsiung Medical University in Taiwan.

UAMS is the state's only comprehensive academic health center, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Related Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; a hospital; a statewide network of regional centers; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, the Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, the Myeloma Institute for Research and Therapy, the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, the Psychiatric Research Institute, the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging and the Translational Research Institute.

Named best Little Rock metropolitan area hospital by U.S. News & World Report, UAMS is the only adult Level I trauma center in the state. It has more than 2,800 students and 775 medical residents. It is the state's largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including about 1,000 physicians and other professionals who provide care to patients at UAMS, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the VA Medical Center and UAMS' Area Health Education Centers throughout the state.

A native of Pennsylvania, Dr. Rahn and his wife, Lana, have three children, Jason, Rebecca and Zachary.

Eurkres Rallings, MHA

Eurkres Rallings, MHA, is the Executive Director for Virgin Islands Partners for Healthy Communities, (formerly known as Virgin Islands Perinatal, Incorporated) in St. Croix, USVI. She has held this position for the past four years. Virgin Islands Partners for Healthy Communities is a private nonprofit organization. Its focus is to increase access to a comprehensive, coordinated system of care for uninsured/underinsured low-income families, who are impacted by chronic illness or high-risk pregnancy.

Ms. Rallings has provided leadership to Federally Qualified Community Health Centers in the capacity of Chief Executive Officer or Consultant for over 20 years. During that time, she has been responsible for the oversight of primary health care for Community Health Centers, Homeless, Public Housing Residents and Ryan White programs.

Ms. Rallings earned her Master of Health Administration degree from Governors State University, University Park, IL, and Bachelor of Arts degree from Chicago State University, Chicago, IL. She completed a Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health Policy. Ms. Rallings is a member of the Association for Maternal and Child Health Programs, University of the Virgin Islands-Caribbean Exploratory Research Committee, Lutheran Social Services Early Head Start Advisory Council, Governor's Early Head Start Advisory Committee and St. Croix Rotary-Mid-Isle Club.

Michael A. Rashid

Michael A. Rashid is President and Chief Executive Officer of the AmeriHealth Caritas, one of the largest organizations of Medicaid managed care plans and affiliated businesses in the United States. Mr. Rashid's vision for the Philadelphia-based company is to lead America in health care solutions for the underserved. Serving more than four million members nationwide, AmeriHealth Caritas' core products include full-risk HMOs, management, administrative, pharmacy benefit, care management services and behavioral health care services.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Rashid served for 14 years as the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of AmeriHealth Caritas. During his tenure in this role, Mr. Rashid was instrumental in expanding the company from 300,000 members in Pennsylvania and New Jersey to over four million members in 11 states. His focus on innovative technology and provider collaboration resulted in streamlined processes, improved health outcomes and the development of three additional product lines.

Prior to joining AmeriHealth Caritas, Mr. Rashid held numerous executive leadership positions in the health care industry, including President and Chief Executive Officer of Mercy Health Plan of New Jersey (now Horizon NJ Health), where he led the startup and state-wide expansion of the company. He also served as Director of Medicaid Operations for Prudential Health Plan's Atlantic Region. Early in his career, Mr. Rashid was a pioneer in the Medicaid managed care industry, serving as Chief Executive Officer of Total Health Care in Baltimore, one of the nation's first managed care plans.

A national thought leader in managed care, Mr. Rashid serves on numerous boards and is an advocate for a diverse group of national and community-based organizations, including Medicaid Health Plans of America, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, the Philadelphia Zoo and Vision of Hope (Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape).

A Birmingham, AL, native, Mr. Rashid's commitment to public service was ingrained at an early age while observing his father's work as a public health outreach worker. With more than 26 years of experience serving the Medicaid population, Mr. Rashid's many contributions to building healthy communities have resulted in a variety of honors and awards. He was named one of the recipients of the Philadelphia Business Journal's Minority Business Leaders of 2011. Mr. Rashid was also presented the prestigious American Diabetes Association "Father of the Year" Award and The Martin Luther King Jr. Association's Drum Major Award for Corporate Social Responsibility. He was named one of Philadelphia's Most Influential Leaders in 2010 by The Philadelphia Tribune, and also received the YMCA John Wannamaker Corporate Award. In recognition of Mr. Rashid's commitment to youth development, he was presented the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award by the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Rashid earned a Master of Business Administration in finance from the Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing from the University of Southern California. He lives in Ambler, PA, with his wife and three children.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Deborah J. Richardson

Deborah J. Richardson is currently serving the National Center for Civil and Human Rights as Executive Vice President, leading fundraising and program development. Prior to joining the Center's staff, she was Chief Program Officer at Women's Funding Network in San Francisco, CA. A native of Atlanta, GA, Ms. Richardson was CEO of The Atlanta Women's Foundation (AWF); Director of Program Development for Fulton County Juvenile Court; founding Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Fund and Managing Director of the National Black Arts Festival. Ms. Richardson has been recognized over the years for her community service. She is a nationally recognized leader on social justice for women and girls and an advocate to end child sex trafficking. She has designed leading programs for girls victimized by commercial sexual exploitation. She is a national spokesperson for A Future. Not a Past, a campaign to stop the prostitution of our nation's children and a frequent contributor to Huffington Post.

Britt Rios-Ellis, Ph.D.

Britt Rios-Ellis, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Health Science at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and the Director of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR)/CSULB Center for Community Health, Evaluation, and Leadership Training.

Dr. Rios-Ellis has served as a member of SAMHSA's Women's Health Advisory Task Force and currently serves as co-Chair of the National Latino AIDS Action Network (NLAAN) and the CDC/HRSA National Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and STI Prevention and Treatment. She directs several projects incorporating community health workers (promotores de salud) to reach underserved Latino populations and is the author of multiple peer-reviewed manuscripts regarding contextually and culturally-relevant strategies for Latino-focused HIV/AIDS prevention and education and other Latino health issues. She is the Director of a five-year OWH project entitled *Hablando Claro*, to increase HIV/STI prevention through facilitating family-based sexual and reproductive health-related communication among female intergenerational family dyads. Furthermore, she directs the YES! Youth Empowerment for Success Si Se Puede project to facilitate wellness among at-risk Latino 6th to 7th graders at Hamilton Middle School funded by the USDHHS Office of Minority Health.

Dr. Rios-Ellis recently was awarded a \$3.75 million grant from the USDA to work with students, faculty and Long Beach community WIC programs to design a culturally and contextually relevant nutrition education and university curriculum focused on reducing Latino child overweight and obesity. She serves as a co-Principal Investigator for CSULB's Hispanic Serving Institution Project *Mi Casa: Mi Universidad* and has served as a consultant for the Office of Minority Health, the Health Resources Services Administration and the Pan American Health Organization. She has been honored as *Mujer del Año* by the Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2009 for her work in Latino health and in 2010 for her work in Latino education by the National Hispanic Business Women's Association. In 2008, Dr. Rios-Ellis received the Sol Award for her work in HIV/AIDS prevention among Latinos in Los Angeles County.

David E. Rivers, DHL

David E. Rivers, DHL, is an Associate Professor and Director of the Public Information and Community Outreach initiative at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has served the University in a number of capacities since January 1995.

During the past 35 years, Dr. Rivers has held senior-level positions in the City of Atlanta government, the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia State University, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and the District of Columbia Government.

Dr. Rivers received his Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Affairs from Georgia State University and his Master of Arts degree in Political Science/Public Administration from Georgia State University, where he has completed course work for the Ph.D. in Political Science. He is also a graduate of the National Urban Fellows Program in Public Administration from Yale University. He is a graduate of the Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program at Furman University and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Allen University.

Dr. Rivers serves as Chairman of the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation. He is also President of the Jonathan Green Foundation. He is a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators, American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation and the 100 Black Men of Charleston, SC.

Dr. Rivers is a Board Member of the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston, SC; National Urban Fellows in New York, NY; Allen University Board of Trustees in Columbia, SC; the Alliance for Digital Equality in Atlanta, GA; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's 21st Century Council Executive Committee; Rural Mission, Inc.; Advisory Board Member of Charleston First Reliance Bank; the Art Form and Theater Concepts, Inc.; the Trident Urban League; the National Caucus and Center for Black Aged, Inc.; the Charleston Enterprise Community Health Center; and the National Brownfields Association of South Carolina – Executive Committee. He also has served as a Board Member of the Community Foundation and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. He was elected citywide to serve as a Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Charleston in 2003 and was re-elected in September of 2009 unopposed. He serves as CPW Vice Chairman.

Samuel L. Ross, M.D.

Samuel Ross, M.D., is the Chief Executive Officer of Bon Secours Baltimore Health System. Dr. Ross is responsible for the direction and management of Bon Secours Baltimore's integrated urban health system, which includes a 114-bed acute care hospital, a community based primary care site, two substance abuse treatment centers, behavioral medicine, HIV/AIDS screening, Renal Dialysis services, preventive health/education programs and an extensive community housing redevelopment program. Coupled with his responsibilities at the Baltimore Health System, Dr. Ross is also the "Market Leader" for Bon Secours Kentucky, where he provides oversight and guidance to the CEO in Kentucky and serves as the Supply Chain Leader for Bon Secours Health System, Inc.

Dr. Ross is one of Baltimore's most dynamic health care executives. Recognized in the May 2012 issue of Modern Healthcare Magazine as one of the nation's Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare, he also serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Maryland Hospital Association and chairs the Women/Minority Business Initiative. Dr. Ross is a member of the Board of Directors of the prestigious Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Baltimore branch.

Bon Secours and 15 other West Baltimore partners (West Baltimore Primary Care Access Collaborative) were recently awarded one of five Health Enterprise Zone designations in the state of Maryland.

Dr. Ross received the 2010 Community Service/Healthcare Executive Award from NAHSE for his work in Baltimore City to improve healthcare and efforts to narrow the gap of disparities in the community. He is committed to improving the community and is active in a number of professional organizations focused on moving healthcare forward. The professional affiliations include: American Diabetes Association, The American Heart

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Association, American Cancer Society, and the Maryland Patient Safety Center.

Prior to his arrival in Baltimore, Dr. Ross was a member of the staff of Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, TX, where he served in varied positions for over 14 years including: Executive Vice President & Chief Medical Officer of the Medical Staff/House Staff Division. He was also Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at Parkland.

Dr. Ross received his medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center Medical School in San Antonio, TX, and a Master of Science in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas, Richardson, TX. Dr. Ross and his wife Carolyn have three children.

John Ruffin, Ph.D.

John Ruffin, Ph.D., is the Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD). He oversees the NIMHD budget of approximately \$211 million. In addition, he provides leadership for the minority health and health disparities research activities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which constitutes an annual budget of approximately \$2.8 billion.

Dr. Ruffin is a well-respected leader and visionary in the field of minority health and health disparities. As an academician and a scientist, he has devoted his professional career to improving the health status of racial and ethnic minorities and other medically underserved populations in the United States. He has an impressive track record of developing and supporting programs to increase the cadre of minority scientists, physicians and other health professionals, as well as attract a diverse group of researchers to the health disparities field. His success has been due in large part to his ability to motivate others and gain the support of key individuals and organizations, as well as to his expertise in strategic planning, administration, and the development of numerous collaborative partnerships. For the past 20 years, he has led the transformation of the NIH minority health and health disparities research agenda from a programmatic concept to an institutional reality. Under his leadership, the NIH Office of Minority Programs was established to address the health of minorities around the country. That Office later transitioned to the Office of Research on Minority Health, which later became the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities in 2000. In March 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act re-designated it the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

As the NIH federal official for minority health disparities research, through multi-faceted collaborations, Dr. Ruffin has planned and brought to fruition the largest biomedical research program in the nation to promote minority health and other health disparities research and training. In his quest to eliminate health disparities, the hallmark of his approach is to foster and expand strategic partnerships in alliance with the NIH Institutes and Centers, various Federal and state agencies, community organizations, academic institutions, private sector leaders and international governments and non-governmental organizations. Under his leadership, the NIH convened its first summit on health disparities, "The NIH Science of Eliminating Health Disparities Summit" in December 2008. The summit showcased the work, progress and challenges of the NIH Institutes and Centers and many of their federal and non-federal government partners involved in minority health and health disparities research around the theme of Integrating Science, Practice, and Policy. The summit attracted more than 4000 individuals from around the world representing various disciplines and sectors.

Dr. Ruffin is committed to conceptualizing, developing and implementing innovative programs that create new learning opportunities and exposure for individuals, communities and academic institutions interested in eliminating health disparities. His efforts have impacted local, regional, national and international communities. He has established and continues to expand a growing portfolio of research, training and capacity-building programs to train health professionals and scientists from health disparity populations; conduct cutting-edge health disparities research; build the capacity at academic institutions and within the community to support a promising health disparities research enterprise.

Dr. Ruffin's life-long commitment to academic excellence, improving minority health and promoting training and health disparities research has earned him distinguished national awards. He has received an honorary doctor of science degree from Spelman College, Tuskegee University, the University of Massachusetts in Boston, North Carolina State University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, Tulane University and Dillard University. He has been recognized by various professional, non-profit and advocacy organizations including: the National Medical Association, the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, the Association of American Indian Physicians, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the Society of Black Academic Surgeons and the National Science Foundation. The John Ruffin Scholarship Program is an honor symbolic of his legacy for academic excellence bestowed by the Duke University Talent Identification Program.

Dr. Ruffin has also received the Martin Luther King Jr., Legacy Award for National Service, the Yale University Edward A. Bouchet Leadership Award, and the Samuel L. Kountz Award for his significant contribution to increasing minority access to organ and tissue transplantation; the NIH Director's Award; the National Hispanic Leadership Award; Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society Award; the Department of Health and Human Services' Special Recognition Award; and the U.S. Presidential Merit Award.

Dr. Ruffin received a B.S. in Biology from Dillard University, a M.S. in Biology from Atlanta University, and a Ph.D. in Systematic and Developmental Biology from Kansas State University. He completed post-doctoral studies in biology at Harvard University.

Carlos Amaury Silveira, Ph.D.

Carlos Amaury Silveira, Ph.D., has been a professor in the Art Department of California State University, Long Beach, in Long Beach, CA, since August 1997. He received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil. He went on to receive a Masters of Fine Arts in Painting from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Fine Arts from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. He was certified as an Art Student Teacher at Hodges Elementary School in Lubbock in 1994 and as an Art Student Teacher at Lubbock High School in 1995.

From August 1987 to December 1989, Dr. Silveira worked as a Teaching Assistant at Northern Illinois University. From March 1990 to August 1990, he was a Research Assistant in the Department of Education at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, NY. Dr. Silveira worked for Texas Tech University's School of Art as a Teaching Assistant from August 1990 to May 1995 before moving on to become an Assistant Professor in Delaware State University's Art and Art Education Department from August 1995 to May 1997.

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

Dr. Silveira's work "Willem De Kooning, Ultimo Icone Modernista" was published in *Jornal de Comercio* in 1997. Dr. Silveira also published, "Art and Social Action in Cambodia: Transforming Students into World Citizens" in *Diversity and Democracy* (American Association of Colleges of Art and Design) in 2007. He also has been recognized with the following awards: Rotary Grant for University Teachers Recipient, California State University Community Service Learning Award, Princeton University Artist in Residence, California State University Faculty Community Service Award, and Community Service Learning Faculty Fellow.

Dr. Silveira is a member of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the National Advisory Council (Sorenson Multicultural Center), and the National Art Education Association. He also is a board member of the Advisory Committee for Public Art (Arts Council of Long Beach) and a board member of The Andy Street Community Association. He serves as Higher Education Representative for the Art Educators of Delaware.

Sabra C. Slaughter, Ph.D.

Sabra C. Slaughter, Ph.D., is Chief of Staff to the President of the Medical University of South Carolina. He also holds the rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine in the College of Medicine. As Chief of Staff, he is responsible for assuring the daily operation and integration of the functions of the President's office. He is also responsible for advising the President on operational and strategic matters, representing the President in various settings, and leading special projects.

Dr. Slaughter's professional and research interests focus on improving the quality and accessibility of health care, eliminating health disparities and achieving population parity in the health professions workforce, in South Carolina and beyond. Dr. Slaughter is principal investigator for the Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity and Wellness (SEVIEW) a cooperative agreement between the Medical University of South Carolina and the U.S. Department of Defense to develop educational and outreach programs and conduct community-based research on health disparities. Dr. Slaughter received his doctorate and master's degrees both from the University of Michigan. He received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Geoff Smith, P.E.

Geoff Smith, P.E., is a Project Manager in the URS Charleston, South Carolina, office. His responsibilities include project management for various phases of stormwater and natural resource related municipal and development projects, from conception and planning to design. Mr. Smith has 14 years of engineering experience, including five years with URS. He has completed Rosgen levels I, II and III stream restoration design training and has extensive knowledge and experience in stream restoration design, regional stormwater planning, Low Impact Development (LID) design, permitting and construction oversight. Since joining URS, Mr. Smith has provided stormwater and natural resource management consulting services and NPDES permitting assistance to clients across the state. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina (No. 29724) and Virginia. He has a B.S. in Biological Systems Engineering from Virginia Tech.

Joy Strickland

Joy Strickland is the CEO of Mothers Against Teen Violence (MATV). Ms. Strickland is a native Texan who grew up in Dallas and attended Dallas public schools. Her remarkable parents gave each of their 12 children the opportunity to attend college. The eleventh child, Ms. Strickland earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a double minor in English and German from The University of Texas at Austin. She joined the IBM Corporation immediately upon graduation and received numerous awards during her 17-year career as a computer programmer and marketing executive, while working in Houston, TX; San Jose, CA; Atlanta, GA; Harrisburg, PA; and Southlake, Texas.

Following her decision to leave IBM, Ms. Strickland moved from the suburbs to the city of Dallas. Two years later her older son, Chris Lewis, a St. Mark's School of Texas graduate and Morehouse College student, was killed with a friend in a random crime. The 16- and 17-year-old assailants were armed with handguns and looking for someone to carjack. They were under the influence of illegal drugs during the commission of their crimes and were reputed to be gang members. Responding to her tragedy, Ms. Strickland co-founded Mothers Against Teen Violence (MATV). Her grant writing garnered the organization over \$1.7 million during its first decade. As a visionary and creative leader, she designed all programs implemented by MATV since its inception.

In 2008, Ms. Strickland led the successful rebranding as an organization dedicated to "Rethinking Drug Policy in Texas", transforming the organization from a social service organization into a public policy and advocacy organization. MATV champions a public health approach to drug abuse and addiction. The organization has earned a reputation in the Texas Legislature as an effective advocate for harm reduction and criminal justice issues.

In 2012, Ms. Strickland created and led the production of MATV's premiere project: hosting the first ever Texas Conference on Drug Policy, featuring 24 speakers and 14 sessions over three days. She has been featured in USA Today; on CNN; on USA Radio; and in D Magazine. Her opinion pieces have been published in the Dallas Morning News, on CNN.com; Aljazeera.com; and HuffingtonPost.com. Her first book was published in 2010. Joy in the Morning—A Mother's Journey from Tragedy to Triumph was written to inspire others to use life's most difficult challenges as an opportunity for personal transformation.

Ms. Strickland was recently named a Texas Women's University Public Voices Fellow, a project aimed at increasing the representation of women on the editorial pages of major publications. Other awards include the American Jewish Congress Woman of Spirit Award; the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority's Community Service Award; Ft. Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce 'Outstanding Humanitarian' Award; The Vonciel Jones Hill Community Service Award; and special recognition by the Dallas Peace Center.

Ivory A. Toldson, Ph.D.

Ivory Toldson, Ph.D., is Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), associate professor at Howard University, senior research analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and Editor-in-Chief of "The Journal of Negro Education." Dr. Toldson spent three-plus years at Southern University and A&M College (SU) and over eight years at Howard University in Washington, DC. He has conceptualized, developed and authored the Breaking Barriers series for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), which analyzes success indicators for school-aged Black males. Dr. Toldson was the lead author of The Quest for Excellence: Supporting the Academic Success of Minority Males in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Disciplines. Dr. Toldson received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at Temple University. He

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

has received formal training in applied statistics from the University of Michigan, and held visiting research and teacher appointments at Emory University, Drexel University and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Reed V. Tuckson, M.D., FACP

A graduate of Howard University, Georgetown University School of Medicine and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania's General Internal Medicine Residency and Fellowship Programs, Reed V. Tuckson, M.D., currently serves as Managing Director for Tuckson Health Connections. He previously served as Executive Vice President and Chief of Medical Affairs at UnitedHealth Group, a Fortune 25 diversified health and well-being company. As the senior clinician of UnitedHealth Group, Dr. Tuckson was responsible for working with the company's diverse and comprehensive business units to improve the quality and efficiency of the health services to 75 million members worldwide.

Formerly, Dr. Tuckson served as Senior Vice President, Professional Standards, for the American Medical Association (AMA). He is former President of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles; has served as Senior Vice President for Programs of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation; and is a former Commissioner of Public Health for the District of Columbia.

Dr. Tuckson is an active member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, and he is past Chair of the Secretary of Health and Human Services' Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health and Society. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for several national organizations including the Alliance for Health Reform; the American Telemedicine Association; the National Patient Advocate Foundation; the Arnold P. Gold Foundation; Project Sunshine; Cell Therapeutics, Inc. and Howard University. He also serves on several Boards within his local community of Minneapolis, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities and Minnesota Public Radio. He has held other federal appointments, including cabinet level advisory committees on health reform, infant mortality, children's health violence, and radiation testing.

Dr. Tuckson authored *The Doctor in the Mirror*, a book and media presentation focused on patient empowerment to overcome everyday health issues for Americans 55 and older, released in November, 2011. In 2012, he was honored to be ranked ninth on the list of the "50 Most Powerful Physician Executives" in Healthcare, and he also was recognized as one of the "Top 25 Minority Executives" in Healthcare, as noted by *Modern Healthcare/Modern Physician* magazines. He was also designated as *Ebony* magazine's "2008 Power 150: The Most Influential Blacks in America" list.

Eugene S. Tull, Dr.PH

Eugene S. Tull, Dr.PH, is currently an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Africana Studies at the University of Pittsburgh (PA). He earned a Doctor of Public Health degree with specialization in the field of epidemiology in 1990 from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he also received a Masters of Public Health degree in infectious disease epidemiology.

Dr. Tull has expertise in diabetes epidemiology, having completed a clinical internship at the Diabetes Foundation Hospital in Birmingham, AL, and a post-doctoral fellowship at the renowned World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Diabetes, Registries and Training at the University of Pittsburgh. For over a decade (1995-2005), he served as Director of the University of Pittsburgh Minority International Research Training Program, developing projects in health disparities research, together with training and mentoring students, at international sites in the Caribbean and southern Africa.

In addition to academia, Dr. Tull has worked in applied epidemiology, serving from 2005 to 2010 as the Territorial Epidemiologist for the U.S. Virgin Islands. As Territorial Epidemiologist, he was recognized in 2008 by the National Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists as a finalist for the Robert Wood Johnson Award for Excellence in Health Disparities Practice. Dr. Tull's research activities include serving as Principal Investigator of a Caribbean region study funded by the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation to determine the reasons why childhood type 1 diabetes incidence is higher in the Virgin Islands than in the rest of the Eastern Caribbean, and of the National Institute for Diabetes, Digestive and Kidney Disease funded study to identify the reasons for the transition of the U.S. Virgin Islands from a low to high diabetes prevalence population. His current research is funded by the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities in conjunction with the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center of the University of the Virgin Islands to elucidate the factors contributing to development of insulin resistance in Virgin Islands children ages 1 through 4 and translating the results for application in clinical and community programs serving infants and children. His numerous publications reflect his scholarship in international diabetes epidemiology and health disparities research among populations of the African diaspora.

Gloria A. Wilder, M.D., MPH

Gloria A. Wilder, M.D., MPH, is President/CEO of Core Health and Wellness Centers. Dr. Wilder is a nationally recognized pediatrician, public speaker and expert on poverty and social justice. Dr. Gloria, as her patients call her, formerly served as the Chair of Mobile Health Programs for the Children's Health Project of DC at Georgetown University and Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. From 2009-2011, Dr. Gloria joined the leadership of United Medical Center, becoming Executive Vice President of Physician Integration and Strategic Alliances.

In 2005, Dr. Gloria used her business expertise to found CORE HEALTH, a healthcare access solutions company dedicated to assisting underserved communities in improving access and quality of health care. Core Health includes a clinical division, the Core Health and Wellness Centers, which provide comprehensive primary preventive and alternative health services in beautiful state of the art medical homes.

Dr. Gloria believes in raising the bar of quality in the provision of care in historically underserved markets by turning advocacy into action. In 2005, she joined the likes of Jimmy Carter and Mother Teresa when she was awarded the National Caring Award for exceptional generosity and commitment to service. In 2004, she was named Physician Humanitarian of the Year by George Washington University. She was also inducted into the prestigious Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society.

Among her many awards is the Oprah Winfrey Use Your Life Award. A nationally recognized speaker and expert on poverty and economic segregation in healthcare, Dr. Wilder's work has been featured on the Oprah Winfrey show, CBS' 48 Hours and NBC's Dateline.

Lisa Williams

In 1999, Lisa Williams founded Circle of Friends, a not-for-profit organization of women helping women, trading in their financially rewarding private-sector career for one that would allow them to leverage their personal trials and successes to become a champion for others.

In 2007, committed to righting the wrongs that she had been subjected to, Ms. Williams conceived and launched what is today known as Living Water for Girls, a residential and therapeutic safe refuge for American girls who are victims-survivors of violence, street life and human sex trafficking and exploitation. In 2013, Ms. Williams established

PANELIST BIOGRAPHIES continued

the Living Water Learning Resource Center. She intrinsically understood that it wasn't enough to just rescue girls and young women. If they were to truly reap the benefits of their freedom, they would need continued case management, a safe space to learn, quality education and tools to help them become self-sufficient and mitigate the fear that often lures them back to their dark and dangerous pasts.

Ms. Williams is a Ford Motor Company "Ford Freedom Unsung Award" Winner, a L'Oreal Paris Woman of Worth, and the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a Proclamation from the City of Atlanta and Variety Power of Women Honor-Hollywood, CA. She has also been profiled on CNN and the BBC. She is the author of *Beautiful Layers: Stories From Those Who Survived the Life of Prostitution & Child Sexual Exploitation*, wife to her best friend of 25 years, and mother of biological and adopted children. She lives on a small farm in Georgia and thanks God continuously for "this good life" as she works to pursue a better quality of life for others.

Lathran J. Woodard

Lathran Johnson Woodard is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA or Association). Ms. Woodard has been with the SCPHCA for more than 25 years. She holds a degree in Business Administration from Southern Wesleyan University.

As the CEO for the SCPHCA, Ms. Woodard works to ensure that federally-funded community health centers that provide vital services to medically underserved communities in the state are strengthened and have the capacity for growth. In addition, she is responsible for the overall operation of the Association. This includes overseeing the State Migrant Health Program funded by the Bureau of Primary Health Care along with forecasting and planning the future direction of the organization. Ms. Woodard's experience includes community and program development, staff enhancement training, and budget management. Her primary interests are in the area of local systems, the development of integration relating to health care and youth self-enhancement.

Ms. Woodard is a member of several state and national organizations, which include the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Association of Female Executives, the National Rural Health Association, the American Society of Association Executives, and the South Carolina Public Health Association. She currently holds the elected position of Secretary for the National Association of Community Health Centers, where she has also served as the Vice-Speaker of the House, and is currently the Vice Chair of the South Carolina Health Coordinating Council.

Ms. Woodard was a 2000 Fellow of the U.S. Public Health Services Primary Care Policy Fellowship. Along with her team, she presented a policy to Secretary Donna Shalala on "Screening for Depression in Women in a Primary Care Setting." Ms. Woodard's concentration was on the screening of women of color at all levels within the primary care system.

Ms. Woodard is a recipient of several awards, including: Trumpeter Gala Award for volunteerism; South Carolina Rural Health Association President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Rural Health Delivery; South Carolina Primary Health Care Association Margaret J. Weston Award for persistence in overcoming barriers and obstacles to ensure quality health care for those in need; 2003 Norton Wilson Leadership Award which is a national recognition from her peers; and 2012 Health Care Heroes Award for Health Care Professional of the Year presented by Columbia Regional Business Report.

She also serves as Adjunct Professor for the Kirksville School of Health Management and Adjunct Instructor for the School of Public Health, Department of Health Administration at the University of South Carolina.

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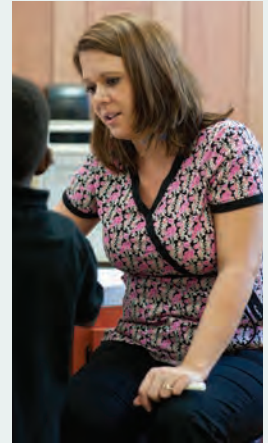
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