10th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

JW MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS
MAY 3 - 6, 2017
SOCIAL MEDIA AT THE CONFERENCE

Stay connected during and after the Conference by connecting with us on social media.

To Connect:

Facebook.com/nationalhealthdisparities

Twitter @NCHD_health

Table of Contents

Welcome Letters .........................................1
Letter from the Chairman.............................8
Social Determinants of Health ..................10
Sponsors....................................................12
Supporters .................................................13
Exhibitors ..................................................14
Program Agenda ......................................16
Advisory Board .........................................26
Panelist Bios..............................................30
May 3, 2017

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the citizens of the great State of Louisiana, I want to welcome you to New Orleans for the 10th Annual Conference on Health Disparities.

The goal of this conference, building healthier communities, is a vision I share and have placed at the forefront of my administration. I made expanding our Medicaid program my first priority as governor, and the outcomes have been phenomenal. Over 415,000 individuals are now enrolled through expansions, and since coverage began on July 1, 2016, nearly 78,000 patients have received preventative care – many for the first time in years.

Medicaid expansion is merely the beginning of improving health outcomes for all citizens of Louisiana. In addition, we have to promote individual responsibility and continue to address the environmental stressors that prevent communities from thriving. That’s why this conference and the conversations you will have during your time here are important not only to Louisiana but to every state.

During your stay, I encourage you to take advantage of Louisiana’s many cultural and historical attractions, not to mention our famous music and cuisine. Whether you are a returning or first-time visitor, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

On behalf of the State of Louisiana, I wish you a successful conference and enjoyable stay in New Orleans. We hope you come back to visit us again soon!

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
May 3, 2017

Dr. David Rivers
Chair
National Health Disparities Conference
Medical University of South Carolina
171 Ashley Avenue
Suite 305
Charleston, SC 29425

Dear Confernees:

On behalf of the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana, I welcome the National Health Disparities Conference to New Orleans. You will soon learn that our city is full of hospitable people, award winning cuisine, and rich culture. Our citizens have met and overcome many challenges over the years; your efforts are no different. New Orleans is the perfect city to host your 2017 Conference.

I applaud your dedication to eliminating health disparities that plague our communities throughout the country. The health of our people is of great importance, and we need change now! Lack of health education and awareness has caused the wellbeing of our citizens to decline. With your help, we can purge the grave illnesses that afflict us all.

This event should be one of unity, fellowship, and preparation. I salute you for your generosity and I support your cause. I wish you well in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress
Welcome!

As Mayor of New Orleans, it is my pleasure to welcome the 10th National Conference on Health Disparities. I would like to thank the Medical University of South Carolina for choosing New Orleans.

You will experience the warm hospitality and unique culture that New Orleans has to offer. I am certain that New Orleans will serve as the perfect destination for the conference and provide the best opportunities for the group. While you are here, take some time to relax and explore the City. Dine in our incomparable restaurants; enjoy some of the great music we have to offer, tour historic neighborhoods like the French Quarter and Treme, and shop in our antique and specialty shops throughout New Orleans, including the bustling Magazine Street corridor. It is my hope that your stay will be memorable and that you leave with new knowledge and relationships.

I extend my best wishes to the National Conference on Health Disparities, as well as those traveling to partake in the festivities. I want to thank you again for choosing to visit New Orleans, and I hope that you will return.

Sincerely,

Mitchell J. Landrieu, Mayor
City of New Orleans
Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure to join in welcoming you to the tenth annual Conference on Health Disparities. It has been an honor and privilege for the Medical University of South Carolina to co-sponsor the first nine conferences, and we are especially excited to partner in sponsoring this year's tenth event.

Even in the healthiest communities, age-old disparities persist and take a toll on the quality of life and economic resources. This conference will focus on policies, research interventions, and programs that address prevention, social determinants, and personal responsibility in reducing health disparities and promoting health equity. Conference presenters and participants will discuss solutions, review "programs that work," and recommend policies to strengthen and enhance the current health care system through diverse, multi-disciplinary partnerships and perspectives.

Like its nine predecessors, this year's conference offers participants the chance to interact in a variety of settings, including a student forum with poster presentations, panel sessions on specific topics, keynote and luncheon speakers, and more relaxed social activities.

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

Have a great conference!

Sincerely,

David J. Cole, M.D. FACS
President, Medical University of South Carolina
April 25, 2017

Dear Attendees,

Your presence at the Tenth Annual National Conference on Health Disparities is invaluable. It is you who must go forth and serve in a way that ultimately creates parity in health in this country and beyond. The list of crippling health disparities that affect communities of color is extensive and well-known. After decades of research, that fact is clear. Today, therefore, is the time for bold action and consensus that brings together scientists, clinicians, lawmakers, philanthropists, clergy, and more to find solutions to this critical issue.

So, your charge during this conference is to listen, learn, share, collaborate and then, ultimately, act. You are among colleagues and friends who have committed much of their professional lives to this cause. I challenge you to get to know a new participant of this conference to mentor and help understand the critical intersection of science, patient care and health policy. It is within that intersection where we will begin to find the answers to health equity.

So on behalf of the extraordinary faculty, students, staff and alumni of Morehouse School of Medicine, I welcome you to this conference, and I thank all those who have worked tirelessly to host it. It is my hope that each of you receives precisely what you need from the conference to propel you to act.

Best regards,

[Signature]

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D.
President and Dean
Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, I would like to welcome you to New Orleans and the 10th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

We are proud to sponsor this conference, which plays a critical role in advancing our national dialogue about health equity in America. The issues and challenges that we are here to address are closely linked to the AmeriHealth Caritas mission: we help people in need get care, stay well, and build healthy communities along the way.

AmeriHealth Caritas has a long history of working in communities, both rural and urban, that are acutely affected by the social determinants of health. For more than 30 years, we have addressed social barriers to health equity and improved outcomes for our members through our person-centered model of care.

We are pleased to be included in this group of visionaries, executives, and grassroots advocates, all working toward a common and noble goal of improving health outcomes for our fellow Americans.

Sincerely,

PAUL A. TUFANO
Welcome,

We are pleased that you have decided to participate in the 10th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities and the National Environmental Justice Conference & Training Program. It is indeed an honor for Allen University to serve as the host institution and to participate as one of the sponsors. We welcome your participation and look forward to a continued relationship.

The theme of the conference, “Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities” engages each of us to be informed and actively address health disparities within our own spheres and beyond. It is important to understand the impact that social determinants have on health outcomes especially in populations like ones served here.

We welcome each of the sponsors and the presenters to this venue to share and inform. Addressing inequalities in the access to and provision of healthcare across different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups has never been more topical than now. We are confident that you will find this gathering useful and enjoyable.

Sincerely

Ernest McNealey, Ph.D.
Interim President
As Chairman of its Advisory Board, it is my pleasure to welcome you to New Orleans, Louisiana, for the Tenth Annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

Building on the substantial lessons learned from previous programs, while keeping a watchful eye on current issues and events, the Advisory Board has identified topics, presenters and keynote speakers on the cutting edge of any discussion of community health.

You may ask why we focus on community health as a means of addressing health disparities. Our response is simple and direct: If we want healthy people – if we want to address and reduce health disparities – we must have healthy communities. But how do we get there?

It begins with a vision. As U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn wrote in 2003, “We must recognize the unique relationship between the quality of our environment, the health of our citizens and the economic well-being of our nation. We must find ways to reconcile decreasing resources with increasing demand. Moreover, we must do these things with equal regard for all citizens, regardless of race and economic status.”

Fourteen years later, Congressman Clyburn’s words still ring true, as we embark on the milestone Tenth Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. This year’s program focuses on three major themes: 1) The social determinants of health, including poverty, race, environmental quality, housing, educational attainment and public safety; 2) Personal responsibility, including each individual’s choices relating to individual and community health; and 3) Prevention, addressed by proactive programs that improve individual and community health while decreasing the cost in lives and dollars of developing and sustaining healthy communities.
The importance of these themes is illustrated by studies and reports by a variety of reputable publications, government agencies and professional associations. Take a moment to consider our nation’s healthcare expenditures, poverty levels and crumbling infrastructure. According to U.S. News and World Report, in 2011 our nation spent $2.7 trillion on health care, only five percent of which was spent on prevention. According the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2015, 43.1 million Americans lived in poverty. According to the American Water Works Association, restoring and maintaining existing water systems and expanding them to serve our growing population will cost $1 trillion over the next 25 years. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers Report Card on Infrastructure, most of our nation’s most vital infrastructure, impacting community health and well-being, scores C-minus or lower on an A-F scale.

At the nexus of crumbling infrastructure, poverty, race and health care, we find the Flint, Michigan, water crisis and its long-term impacts on community health. We can do better. Indeed, we must do better, as a matter of national conscience and our commitment to the health of all Americans and the communities where they live and work.

Over the next three days, we will hear innovative thoughts and strategies on a range of subjects. I encourage you to listen carefully, react thoughtfully and exchange ideas directly with the program’s presenters, speakers and attendees. Together, we can address and reduce health disparities by building and sustaining healthy communities.
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

Copyright 2010 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Changing what’s possible, means changing what’s possible for everyone.

The Medical University of South Carolina is committed to reducing health disparities through research, education and patient care. Efforts are focused on traditionally underserved communities, including rural, economically disadvantaged, un- and under-insured, and racial/ethnic minority populations. Through various initiatives, we are identifying community needs and developing solutions to increase access to care for all residents of South Carolina.

Significant research and clinical efforts, funded through federal, state, and private organizations, help to understand and address health disparities that disproportionately affect racial/ethnic minorities and other underserved populations. These include diabetes, hypertension, cancer and sickle cell disease.

MUSC, in collaboration with the South Carolina Telehealth Alliance, leads efforts to provide high quality telehealth services to increase access to specialty care across South Carolina. We are decreasing barriers to care through programs, including school-based pediatric primary care, tele-ICU, telestroke, telemental health, nutrition and maternal fetal health.

MUSC students, through organizations like the Alliance for Hispanic Health, Student National Medical Association, and the C.A.R.E.S. Clinic, provide clinical services for African American, Latino, economically disadvantaged and other underserved populations.

The MUSC National Crime Victims Center within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences has been working in collaboration with a number of community partners to help those affected by the violence at the Mother Emanuel AME church through the immediate aftermath and ongoing trauma with the development of the Mother Emanuel Empowerment Center.

Please join us in finding ways to deliver equal access to quality care.

healthdisparities.musc.edu
EXHIBITORS

Morehouse School of Medicine
AmeriHealth Caritas
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids
National Cancer Institute
MUSC, SE VIEW
Allen University
Dillard University
Tulane University
National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc.
National Library of Medicine
Novak Birch-National Library of Medicine
Aunt Bertha - The Medi
Remington with Voiance Language Services

Please take the time to visit our Exhibitors during breaks.
HEALTHY WITH A SIDE OF HAPPY

Kaiser Permanente is proud to be a part of the National Conference on Health Disparities.

We exist to improve the total health of our members and the communities we serve. Our prescription for total health begins with high-quality, affordable health care for everyone, and access to nutritious food, physical activity, thriving schools, and a healthy environment. We know that economic, social, and environmental factors in our communities - beyond the care and coverage we provide - have a substantial influence on health. We believe collaborating with others who share the common purpose of eliminating health disparities can produce a collective impact that greatly expands health equity for all.

Together we make a difference.

kp.org
AGENDA

PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES: WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2017

7:15 am-4:30 pm ...................................................................................................................................................... Registration
9:00 am-3:00 pm .................................................................................. Undergraduate and Graduate Student Forum
JW Marriott Hotel

CO-CHAIRS
Dr. Marvella E. Ford, Associate Director, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), Charleston, SC

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

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mr. Anton Gunn, Chief Diversity Officer & Executive Director of Community Health Innovation, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

8:00 am-5:00 pm ....................................................................................................................... Pre-Conference Training
Dillard/LSUHSC Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center, Sex Trafficking Training for Health Professionals

TRAINING COORDINATOR & DIRECTOR
Lisa Williams, Founder & President, Circle of Friends & The Living Water Programs, Atlanta, GA

TRAINING INSTRUCTORS
Dr. Sharon Cooper, CEO of Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, PA, Fayetteville, NC

Natosha Reid Rice, Associate General Counsel, Real Estate and Finance, Habitat for Humanity International; Associate Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Angelica Geter, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Victor Blake, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine; Hospitalist, Cancer Treatment Centers of America; General Internal Medicine, Emory Midtown Hospital, Atlanta, GA

Special Agent Leonard Carollo, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Orleans Division, Child Exploitation/Human Trafficking, New Orleans, LA
DAY ONE: THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

7:15 am-5:00 pm ................................................................. Registration
7:30 am .................................................................................. Continental Breakfast
8:00 am .................................................................................... Opening Remarks

Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company ...................... Conference Facilitator

Dr. David E. Rivers, Chairman, National Conference on Health Disparities; Associate Professor and Public Information and Community Outreach Director, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Ms. Michelle Alletto, Deputy Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health, Baton Rouge, LA

HOST REMARKS

Mr. Kyle Viator, Market President, AC Louisiana Administration, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

Dr. Sabra Slaughter, Senior Advisor to the MUSC President, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, and the Principal Investigator for Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity and Wellness (SE VIEW), Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

Dr. Rita Finley, Assistant Dean, Office for Educational Outreach and Health Careers; Director, Master of Science in Medical Sciences Degree; Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology and Anatomy, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Stephanie Gardner, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR

Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology, Allen University, Columbia, SC

Dr. Warren A. Jones, NIH Endowed Chair in Health Disparities Minority Health and Health Disparities, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA

Dr. L. Lee Hamm, Senior Vice President & Dean, Tulane University School of Medicine, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services California State University Monterey Bay, Seaside, CA


Mr. Miguel A. Garcia, Jr., President & CEO, National Urban Fellows, New York, NY

9:00-9:40 am

Root Causes of Health Disparities

Dr. Camara Phyllis Jones
Senior Fellow, Satcher Health Leadership Institute and Cardiovascular Research Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine; Immediate Past President, American Public Health Association (APHA), Atlanta, GA
9:40-10:10 am
 KEYNOTE SPEAKER
 Mr. Paul A. Tufano, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, AmeriHealth Caritas, Philadelphia, PA

10:10-10:15 am ....................................................................................................................................................... BREAK

10:15-11:45 am .............................................................................................................................................. PANEL ONE

Building Healthy Communities, Part I: Social Determinants and Health Disparities
Panelists will discuss the role of social determinants of health as contributing factors of health inequality. Areas of emphasis include unequal access to health care, racism, poverty and lack of education. The additional burden of environmental stressors is also highlighted.

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

PANELISTS
Mr. Matthew Myers, CEO, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Washington, DC
Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, Founding Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB); Founding Director, NCLR/CSULB Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training, Seaside, CA
Dr. Shari Chavez, Southern California Permanente Medical Group Culturally Responsive Care, Co-Chair, Assistant Chief of Service, Department of Pediatrics, Kaiser Permanente, Riverside, CA
Dr. Tiffany Manuel, Vice President of Knowledge, Impact and Strategy, Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., Washington, DC

11:45 am-12:15 pm ................................................................................................................................................. BREAK

12:15-1:30 pm ................................................................................................................................................ LUNCHEON

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, Managing Director at Tuckson Health Connections, LLC., Atlanta, GA

1:45-3:15 pm ............................................................................................................................................. PANEL TWO

Human Trafficking at the Local, State and National Level
The trafficking of humans – often children – for labor and sexual purposes presents moral, ethical, legal and health challenges to those who would address the issue and support its victims.
MODERATOR
Ms. Lisa Williams, Founder & CEO Circle of Friends & The Living Water Programs, Atlanta, GA

PANELISTS
Dr. Sharon Cooper, CEO of Developmental & Forensic Pediatrics, PA, Fayetteville, NC
Ms. Natosha Reid Rice, Associate General Counsel, Habitat for Humanity International, Inc.; Associate Pastor, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA
Dr. Angelica Geter, Adjunct Instructor, Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA
Judge Nina R. Hickson, Vice President and General Counsel, The Atlanta BeltLine Inc, Atlanta, GA

3:30-5:00 pm .............................................................................................................................................PANEL THREE

Climate Change: A Global Reality
In 2015, MUSC and South Carolina ETV produced a television program entitled Climate Change: A Global Reality. The program raises many issues, including health impacts on all Americans and disproportionate impacts on low-income and minority communities. How do we build safe, sustainable, resilient communities in the face of climate change?

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

PANELISTS
Dr. Scott A. Hemmerling, Director of Human Dimensions, The Water Institute of the Gulf, New Orleans, LA
Mr. Albert A. George, II, Director of Conservation, South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston, SC
Mr. Milton Bluehouse, Jr., Owner, Tribal Consultation Resources, LLC., Albuquerque, NM
Dr. Mark A. Mitchell, Chair, National Medical Association Council on Medical Legislation; Co-Chair, National Medical Association Commission on Environmental Health, Hartford, CT

7:00 pm ......................................................................................................................................OPENING RECEPTION

WELCOME REMARKS
Dr. David E. Rivers, Chairman, National Conference on Health Disparities; Associate Professor and Public Information and Community Outreach Director, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
Mr. Kyle Viator, Market President, AC Louisiana Administration, AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

Mardi Gras World
1380 Port of New Orleans Place, New Orleans, LA
Shuttle will leave from the JW Marriott beginning at 6:45 pm
DAY TWO: FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017

7:15 am-4:30 pm ............................................................................................................................................. Registration
7:30 am ............................................................................................................................................ Continental Breakfast
8:15-8:30 am
Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company ................................. Conference Facilitator

Opening Remarks/Introduction of Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Cedric Richmond, U.S. House of Representatives, Louisiana-2nd District; Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus

8:30-9:00 am
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Honorable James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, South Carolina-6th District

9:15-10:45 am
CONGRESSIONAL ROUNDTABLE
Roundtable discussion with Congressional and State Officials: The role of the state and federal government in reducing health disparities.

OPENING REMARKS & MODERATOR

The Honorable Robin Kelly, The Honorable Robin Kelly, U.S. House of Representatives, Illinois-2nd District, Chair Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS

The Honorable James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives, South Carolina-6th District

The Honorable Cedric Richmond, U.S. House of Representatives, Louisiana-2nd District; Chairman, Congressional Black Caucus

The Honorable Calvin Smyre, Georgia House of Representatives, District 135, Columbus, GA
Building Healthy Communities Part II: Community-Based Programs That Work

Participants will identify and discuss successful community-based programs addressing social determinants of health, and how those programs address health disparities.

MODERATOR
Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter, Senior Advisor to the President, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

PANELISTS
Dr. Janice Petersen, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Adult, Child and Family Operations, Office of Behavioral Health, Louisiana Department of Health, Baton Rouge, LA
Ms. Jo Pauling-Jones, Executive Director, Healthy Learners, Columbia, SC
Dr. Evelyn L. Lewis, Associate Professor and Senior Research Scientist, Dillard University, New Orleans, LA

Translational Research and Public Policy

How do we incorporate translational research in efforts to develop effective public policy initiatives and programs addressing health disparities?

MODERATOR
Dr. Jennifer Friday, President and Principal Researcher, The Friday Consulting Group, Atlanta, GA
PANELISTS

Dr. Edwin C. Chapman, Private Practice, Internist, Addiction Medicine, Washington, DC

Dr. Katherine Theall, Department of Global Community Health and Behavioral Sciences, Cecile Usdin Professorship in Women’s Health; Director, Mary Amelia Douglas-Whited Community Women’s Health Education Center, Tulane University School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, LA

Ms. Dawn Pepin, Public Health Analyst, Public Health Law Program, Office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Chenega Professional and Technical Services, LLC, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Teresa Hudson, Director of Health Service Research in the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute, UAMS, Little Rock, AR

Dr. Nneka L. Ifejika, Director of Neurorehabilitation, University of Texas Stroke Team; Associate Professor, Department of Neurology, McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Houston, TX

3:45-5:30 pm ..................................................................................................................................................

PANEL SIX


All too often, interactions between police and the people they serve degenerate into violent confrontations. Panelists will discuss the topic in the context of community-based programs that foster mutual respect and trust, as opposed to suspicion and violence.

MODERATOR

Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, Associate Professor of History Emeritus, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX

PANELISTS

Mr. Kenyan McDuffie, Councilmember, Ward 5, District of Columbia, Washington, DC

Mr. Grayling Williams, Assistant Chief of Police for the Investigations Branch of the Portsmouth Police Department, Portsmouth, VA

Dr. Helen Taylor Greene, Professor, Department of Administration of Justice, Barbara Jordan–Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, Texas Southern University, Houston, TX.

Mr. John Fullinwider, Educator and Community Organizer, Dallas, TX
DAY THREE: SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

7:30-10:00 am .................................................................................................................................................. Registration
7:30 am ............................................................................................................................................ Continental Breakfast
8:15 am ................................................................................................................................................... Opening Remarks
Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company ................. Conference Facilitator

9:00-11:00 am ........................................................................................................................................... PANEL SEVEN

Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue in the United States
Presenters will discuss gun violence in general, gun violence against women, and gun-related suicide, including the disproportionate rate of suicide among military veterans.

MODERATOR
Mr. Byron C. Marshall, CEO, Center for Health Empowerment, Austin, TX

PANELISTS
The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, Former Congresswoman, United States Virgin Island, St. Croix, USVI
Ms. Simone Levine, Executive Director, Court Watch NOLA, New Orleans, LA
Detective Wayne DeLarge, New Orleans Police Department, New Orleans, LA

11:00 am-12:30 pm.................................................................................................................................... PANEL EIGHT

Prevention and Personal Responsibility: Major Themes in Reducing Health Disparities
How do we encourage all Americans to take personal responsibility for their own health? Presenters will discuss the complex relationship between personal responsibility, preventive healthcare and addressing health disparities.

MODERATOR
Dr. Marcus S. Cox, Associate Dean, Graduate Programs and Summer School, Director of the Center for Continuing Studies and Distance Education, Professor of History, Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans, LA

PANELISTS
Mr. Glenn Ellis, Strategies for Well-Being, LLC, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Brian L. Turner, Clinical Psychology Assistant Professor, Xavier University, New Orleans, LA
Mr. Derrick Watchman, President, Sagebrush Hill Group LLC, Window Rock, AZ
Mr. Brandon Garrett, Managing Director, Paladin Healthcare Capital, El Segundo, CA

12:30 pm .................................................................................................................................................. Closing Remarks
Allen University (AU) is a four-year private Liberal Arts College, located in Columbia, South Carolina. The mission of the University is to provide a baccalaureate education with a strong, unalterable commitment to teaching, community service and research. The University has a distinguished history in training men and women for leadership. The University is also a member of the United Negro College Fund, (UNCF) and is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The school is led by Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Interim President, Dr. Ernest McNealey. The University offers undergraduate degrees in Biology, Business, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, Music, Religion and Social Science. AU offers a variety of camps throughout the year and summer programs in music and in the sciences for middle and high school students, Our students and graduates are offered internships and fulltime permanent employment in businesses nationally. AU was founded in 1870 by a group of free African American men in rural SC and later named in honor of the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Richard Allen, to educate newly freed slaves and to ensure a well trained clergy. Among this year’s graduating class are students already accepted for full employment into Apple and Microsoft companies. Recently, corporate sponsors, Boeing and SCE&G made donations towards the renovation of the historic Chappelle Auditorium, which was reopened in the Spring of 2016. The 509-seat auditorium was designed by the Dean of Black Architecture, John Anderson Langford, and, along with three other buildings, is part of a unique historic district located in the core of the Allen University campus. The auditorium is named in honor of Bishop William D. Chappelle, an Allen president and Board Chair. Bishop Chappelle is the great grandfather of comedian David Chappelle, who learned about his family legacy during a visit to the Auditorium in February 2017. It is noteworthy to mention that a number of research grants have been awarded to AU, which include Cyber Security, Environmental Justice Institute and Material Science grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, LSCAMP from National Science Foundation and USC – Center for International Business ‘CIBER’. In December 2016, AU established a partnership with the Region IV Office of EPA to collaborate around an Environmental Justice Academy.
Leading Healthy Communities…
One Student,
Researcher,
Doctor and Neighbor
at a Time.

Morehouse School of Medicine faculty, staff, students and alumni serve on the front lines of community health. We work to improve the health of those who need it most through comprehensive training, tireless research, compassionate care, and collaborative community engagement.

Join us as we work together to build healthier communities.

Learn how you can help at msm.edu
ADVISORY BOARD

**DR. DAVID E. RIVERS**  
Advisory Board Chairman  
Associate Professor and Public Information and  
Community Outreach Director  
Department of Library Science & Informatics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

**DR. LATECIA ABRAMHAM**  
Assistant Professor, Public Information and  
Community Outreach  
Department of Library Science & Informatics  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

**DR. FARAH A. AROSEMEANA**  
Director of Programs and Evaluation  
Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Center  
Dillard University  
New Orleans, LA

**MR. ROBERT “BOB” BLAIR**  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Kaiser Permanente - One Riverside  
Riverside, CA

**DR. MARCUS S. COX**  
Associate Dean, Graduate Programs and Summer School  
Director of the Center for Continuing Studies and Distance Education  
Professor of History  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
New Orleans, LA

**MS. KAREN DALE**  
Market President/CEO  
AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia  
Washington, DC

**DR. MARVELLA FORD**  
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences  
Associate Director, Cancer Disparities, Hollings Cancer Center  
MUSC, Public Health Sciences  
Charleston, SC

**MR. BRANDON GARRETT**  
Managing Director  
Paladin Healthcare Capital, LLC  
El Segundo, CA

**DR. L. FAYE GRIMSYLE**  
Associate Professor and Department Head  
Xavier University of Louisiana  
Public Health Sciences  
New Orleans, LA

**DR. LEE HAMM, III**  
Senior Vice President & Dean, School of Medicine  
James R. Doty Distinguished Professor and Chair  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA

**MS. MONIQUE HILL**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Library Science and Informatics  
Program Manager, Hands on Health SC  
Medical University of South Carolina  
Charleston, SC

**DR. STEPHANIE GARDNER**  
Provost and Chief Academic Officer  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
Little Rock, AR
DR. KISHA B. HOLDEN
Deputy Director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute
Associate Professor
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine
Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

DR. BRITT RIOS-ELLIS
Founding Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Services
California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB)
Seaside, CA

DR. JANICE PETERSEN
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Adult, Child, and Family Operations
Louisiana Department of Health
Baton Rouge, LA

DR. SABRA C. SLAUGHTER
Special Advisor to the President; Associate Professor, Family Medicine
Office of the President
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

DR. NNEKA L. IFEJIKA
Director of Neurorehabilitation, University of Texas Stroke Team
Associate Professor, Department of Neurology
University of Texas Health Science Center
Houston, TX

DR. MYRA A. KLEINPETER
Associate Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Nephrology
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA

DR. ANTONIO D. TILLIS
Dean and M.D. Anderson Professor in Hispanic Studies
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
University of Houston
Houston, TX

MR. LLOYD MOORE
Chairman of the Moore Companies
Washington, DC

MR. DERRICK WATCHMAN
Derrick Watchman
President
Sagebrush Hill Group LLC
Window Rock, AZ

MRS. MARGIE MORSE
Former President
EnergySolutions Federal
Kiawah Island, SC

MRS. GLORIA B. MOULTRIE
Vice Chancellor for Community Outreach/University Advancement
Southern University of New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana
Mission
To provide full-service, customized Diversity & Inclusion solutions that achieve measurable outcomes and sustainable change for results

Solution Areas
• Assessment
• Education & Development
• Executive Commitment
• Measurement & Accountability
• Strategic Consulting

For More Information
www.kgdiversity.com

Contact Us
O: 312-274-9000
E: info@kgdiversity.com
Nothing is more essential to helping us live life to the fullest than access to health care.

As Arkansas’ only academic health sciences center, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences is proud to sponsor the 10th Annual National Conference of Health Disparities.

UAMS — through its Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, Translational Research Institute, Center for Diversity Affairs, Center for Rural Health, Office of Global Health and other programs — uses its clinical, academic and research resources to reduce health care disparities at home, across the nation and around the world.

Where one lives should not determine whether they live or die.

For more information, visit www.uams.edu or www.uamshealth.com.
**Michelle Alletto**

Michelle Alletto currently serves as the Deputy Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health. Ms. Alletto most recently served within the Office of Public Health’s Bureau of Family Health. Prior to that, she served as Deputy Director for the LDH Birth Outcomes Initiative.

Before moving to Louisiana, Ms. Alletto lived in Washington, D.C., where she was the Assistant Director for Public Policy at the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. She earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and has over a decade of experience working in public health and public management.

The Deputy Secretary serves as the chief operating officer of LDH and acts as spokesperson for the department in the absence of the Secretary. The Deputy Secretary is the coordinator for LDH’s Human Services Interagency Council (HSIC) and is solely responsible for direct supervision over the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), Office of Public Health (OPH) and Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS).

**Oluwole Ariyo, Ph.D.**

Dr. Oluwole Ariyo is an Associate Professor of Biology at Allen University in Columbia, SC. Dr. Ariyo joined Allen University in 2006 and served as Chair, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, between 2009 and 2011. Prior to that, he was the Biology Coordinator for two years (2007-2009). He was also the Chair, Allen University Curriculum Committee (2009-2017) and the Lead person for Institutional Review Board (IRB). His current research focuses on the expression patterns of microRNAs under different stress conditions and developmental stages in rice, corn and wheat.

Dr. Ariyo has mentored over 120 undergraduate students in research. Recently, two of his research presentations with students on some pollutants in the United States were recognized and requested to be presented as Workshop/Training sessions at the National Environmental Justice Conference, which was held in Washington DC, March 2016 and 2017. He has been a Principal Investigator (PI) on many grants. He is currently the PI on Environmental Justice Institute and LSCAMP grants. He has a wealth of experience in grant writing. He is also a member of the Project Management Institute (PMI).

Dr. Ariyo loves to sing and play guitar. He believes strongly that integrating research and hands-on activities into teaching is a pragmatic approach to ensure learning outcomes and skills acquisition.

**Milton Bluehouse, Jr., J.D.**

Milton Bluehouse, Esq., is the owner of Tribal Consultation Resources (TCR), LLC, and a citizen of the Navajo Nation. Prior to establishing TCR, Mr. Bluehouse served as the Native American/Alaska Native Environmental Program Manager and Native Dispute Resolution Network Coordinator for the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. He 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 2008, Mr. Bluehouse received the EPA EJ National Award on behalf of the Environment Department for innovative policy development and implementation on Environmental Justice. Upon graduation from law school, he 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. He focused 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. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and the University of Arizona in 2000. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1991-1995. His interests include national and local politics, reading, short story and script writing, amateur standup comedy and traveling.

Edwin C. Chapman, Sr., M.D.

Edwin C. Chapman, Sr., M.D. has practiced in Washington, DC, for 38 years, specializing in Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine. He currently collaborates with the Howard University Urban Health Initiative as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Health and Psychiatry, investigating the complex mix of addiction, undertreated mental illness, infectious diseases (AIDS and Hepatitis C), criminal behavior, and chronic diseases in which patients have 20-25-year shorter life expectancies. Using an innovative “virtual office telemedicine design,” that initiative brought together the Departments of Behavioral Health and Psychiatry, Family and Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics in a successful 2014 grant application to the DC Department of Community Health, addressing the needs of opioid-addicted index patients and their entire families, recognizing the impact of addiction as a “social determinant of health” and a factor leading to “toxic stress” in both family and community-wide settings. He expanded that work, augmented by empirical observations, with the Howard University National Human Genome Center, Howard University School of Pharmacy and Companion Dx, confirming through “precision medicine” pharmacogenomic testing that 85% of his patients (98% African American) were “rapid metabolizers” of buprenorphine, resulting in drastic changes in dosing parameters and prior authorization recommendations for many Medicaid patients in the District of Columbia and perhaps nationally.

Dr. Chapman is a founding member and secretary of the board of directors of the Leadership Council for Healthy Communities (an inter-faith 501 c3 with 30-plus Metro DC institutions) and medical director of the Medical Home Development Group, LLC, where he is bringing a multispecialty primary care group into faith institutions (ACA’s “Accountable Health Community”) using both onsite care and virtual care through televideo consultation for social work, nutritional consulting and pharmaceutical reconciliation, as well as psychiatry and primary care.

Dr. Chapman received his B.S. in 1969 and M.D. in 1973 from Howard University College of Medicine. He completed internship and residency in internal medicine, as well as fellowship in cardiology, from historic Freedmen’s and Howard University Hospitals. He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM, 1979) and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM grandfathered to ABAM, 2009) and has active memberships in the National Medical Association (NMA), Medico Chirurgical Society of Washington, DC. In 2008, Dr. Chapman was featured in the National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Month DVD, entitled “Medication-Assisted Therapies: Providing a Whole-Patient Approach to Treatment,” sponsored and produced by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In the past year Dr.
Chapman has been featured in the Washington Post, Addiction Professional Magazine, HIT Consultant.com, and Behavioral Healthcare Magazine. He was recognized by the National Medical Association as its 2016 “Practitioner of the Year.”

Shari Chavez, M.D.

Shari Chavez, M.D., grew up in a small rural town outside of Tucson, AZ. She graduated from Arizona State University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Physiology. She graduated from Stanford University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford. She began her career at Kaiser Permanente in Riverside, CA, in 2008. Dr. Chavez considers herself honored and fortunate to have the privilege of helping parents care for their children.

Fluently bilingual (English, Spanish) Dr. Chavez sees patients in her office and takes care of children while they are hospitalized overnight. Her shared experience with parents enhances her ability to relate and listen, which helps in diagnosis and treatment, while demonstrating her care for patients.

Dr. Chavez thrives by spending time with her family, friends and patients, going to Disneyland, watching HGTV, vintage shopping, leading efforts to foster and promote culturally responsive care, teaching UC Riverside medical students and residents, and keeping up with the news. She is working to include more travel, exercise, reading and cooking into her life.

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D.

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., retired from the U.S House of Representatives in 2015 after served nine terms as the Delegate from the U.S Virgin Islands. She is the first female physician to serve as a member in the history of the U.S Congress. In the 111th, 112th and 113th Congress, Delegate Christensen served on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. Among other subcommittee assignments, she served on the Subcommittee on Health during healthcare reform. She also served on Committee on Homeland Security and Committee on Natural Resources -- Chair of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Wildlife, Oceans and Fisheries -- and the Committee on Small Business.

Congresswoman Christensen chaired the Congressional Black Caucus’ Health Braintrust for 16 years. She is a Graduate of the George Washington School of Medicine and completed her residency in family medicine at Howard University Medical Center -- then Freedman’s Hospital. She began her medical career in the Virgin Islands in 1975 as an emergency room physician and became a board certified family physician in 1977. After serving in several administrative positions and before going to Congress, she served as Commissioner of Health. She maintained a private practice in family medicine from 1975 until her election to Congress in 1996.

As a registered member of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands, she served as Democratic National Committeewoman from 1984 to 1994.

Delegate Christensen is the recipient of numerous awards. She is the recipient of honorary degrees from St. Georges Medical School in Grenada, Moravian College in Bethlehem, PA, the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, SC, and the University of the Virgin Islands, as well as recognitions from Howard University School of Medicine and the George Washington University. Dr. Christensen has been a member and officer of the National Medical Association, and has served on many other organizations, boards and commissions.

She is a member of the Moravian Church and is the mother of two daughters and four grandchildren.
The Honorable James E. Clyburn

The Honorable James E. Clyburn is the Assistant Democratic Leader, the third-ranking Democrat, in the United States House of Representatives.

When Mr. Clyburn arrived in 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 1998 and Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus in 2002. Three years later, he was unanimously elected Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. When Democrats regained the House majority in 2006, his colleagues elevated Congressman Clyburn to House Majority Whip.

Mr. Clyburn champions rural and economic development. Many of his initiatives have become law. His 10-20-30 federal funding formula was inserted into four sections of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The formula directs 10 percent of appropriated funds to communities where 20 percent or more of the population have lived at or below the poverty level for the past 30 years. Clyburn’s article on the program was published in the Harvard Journal on Legislation. This year, the Republican Speaker of the House has supported the formula’s inclusion in several accounts of the House Appropriations bills.

In 2011, Congressman Clyburn received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for his legislation that established the Rural Energy Savings Program. That program allows electric cooperatives to make low-interest loans to their members to retrofit and weatherize their homes. These loans are then repaid through monthly utility bills.

Mr. Clyburn is a passionate supporter of historic preservation and restoration programs. His initiatives have restored scores of historic buildings and sites on the campuses of historically black colleges and universities. His legislation created the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. He authored legislation that elevated the Congaree National Monument to a National Park, and proposed model legislation for President Obama’s proclamation which established the Reconstruction Era National Monument in South Carolina’s Low-Country.

Congressman Clyburn began his professional career as a public school teacher in Charleston, SC. Before being elected to Congress, he directed two community development programs, served on the staff of a South Carolina Governor, and ran a state agency under four South Carolina Governors – two Democrats and two Republicans. His memoir, Blessed Experiences: Genuinely Southern, Proudly Black, was published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2015. It has been described as a primer that should be read by every student interested in pursuing a career in public service.

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

Congressman and Mrs. Clyburn have been married since June 1961. They are the parents of three daughters: Mignon, Jennifer Reed (Walter) and Angela Hannibal (Cecil); and grandparents of Walter A. Clyburn Reed, Sydney Alexis Reed, Layla Joann Clyburn Hannibal and Carter James Clyburn Hannibal.
Sharon W. Cooper, M.D., FAAP

Sharon Cooper, M.D., is a Developmental and Forensic Pediatrician who has worked in the area of child maltreatment for more than three decades. She is a retired Colonel from the U.S. Army and holds faculty positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD. Dr. Cooper is a national and international lecturer regarding child maltreatment with an emphasis on sexual exploitation, and has testified before the U.S. Congress, the Russian Parliament, the Italian Senate and the Manitoba (Canada) Legislature. She is the lead editor of the most comprehensive text on child sexual exploitation, authored the most recent chapter on sexual exploitation for INTERPOL, and is a consultant to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Dr. Cooper served as a Task Force Member for the U.S. Attorney General on Children Exposed to Violence, testifies as an expert witness and has recently produced the first American documentary which provides a voice for parents and children victimized in cyberspace.

Marcus S. Cox, Ph.D.

Marcus S. Cox serves as Associate Dean, Graduate Programs and Summer School, and Director of the Center for Continuing Studies and Distance Education in the College of Arts & Sciences at Xavier University of Louisiana. He earned an undergraduate degree in marketing and a master’s degree in history from Southern University and a master’s degree in business administration from The Citadel School of Business Administration. Dr. Cox received his doctorate degree in African American history from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Throughout his professional career, he has held leadership positions as Founding Director of the African American Studies, Assistant Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and Associate Dean of The Citadel Graduate College, with leadership responsibility of Evening Undergraduate Studies. He holds the distinction of being the first African American faculty member appointed to the position of Dean in the 172-year history of The Citadel Military College of South Carolina.

Professor Cox specializes in African American civil-military history, the Modern Civil Rights Movement, African American history, and U.S. history post-1945. He is the author of over a dozen articles and reviews on the history of African American military personnel, black higher education and military training programs at black colleges and universities. He is also the author of Segregated Soldiers: Military Training at Historically Black Colleges in the Jim Crow South. Dr. Cox’s current book project uses the U.S. military’s landmark studies on race relations in the armed forces, Freedom to Serve (1950), The President’s Committee Equal Opportunity in the Armed Forces (1964) and From Representation to Inclusion (2011), to assess racial progress in the armed forces today and explain why the U.S. military continues to be a societal barometer for social progress in America.

Among many organizations and associations, Dr. Cox is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc., the American Conference of Academic Deans, the Southern Historical Association and the Association of the Study of African American Life and History.

Karen M. Dale R.N., M.S.N.

Karen M. Dale is the Market President for AmeriHealth Caritas District of Columbia, a mission-driven Medicaid Managed Care Organization in Washington, DC. She spearheads initiatives that strategically position the organization as a market leader providing innovative solutions for the critical challenges faced by its members.
Ms. Dale is a highly skilled, visionary leader who has dedicated her entire career to helping others and ensuring equal health opportunities for populations at risk. Having held multiple positions of leadership during the past two decades, she has worked with a broad group of stakeholders to address policies, and other key factors that impact the production of health. She considers it a privilege to utilize her expertise in program development, significant knowledge of health care finance and delivery systems to make a difference in the lives of so many.

Ms. Dale has guided the execution of unique approaches to managing the complex needs of persons with multiple health risks. These efforts include the use of telemedicine to aid in the management of chronic diseases, peer to peer outreach using community health workers, and the roll-out of a multifaceted member engagement approach. In addition, her philosophy that all persons deserve access to the right care, without barriers, starting where they are, has led to several collaborative relationships with providers, community partners, philanthropists and businesses to develop evidence-based, population health strategies.

Ms. Dale holds a Master of Science Degree in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing from The Catholic University, Washington, DC, a Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing from George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, and was a member of the Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2003. She serves as a Board Member for both Volunteers of America National Services and the Volunteers of America National Board. In addition, she serves on the District of Columbia Medical Care Advisory Committee. In 2016, she was the recipient of the Washington Business Journal Minority Business Leader Award. This award honors 25 of the most successful businessmen and women in the region.

Wayne M. DeLarge, II

Wayne M. DeLarge, II, is Supervisor of the Homicide Section of the New Orleans Police Department’s Investigation and Support Bureau. A native of New Orleans and graduate of St. Augustine High School and Xavier University of Louisiana (Psychology, minor in Business Administration), Sergeant DeLarge has served the NOPD in various capacities since 2003. His training includes the Reid School of Interview and Interrogation, Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Certification, and basic and advanced Courses in investigation.

Melinda Downing

Melinda Downing currently serves as the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Environmental Justice Program Manager. She carries out her duties in the Office of Legacy Management (LM). Prior to transferring to LM, Ms. Downing carried out her duties in the Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability within the Office of Environmental Management at DOE Headquarters in Washington, DC. During this tenure, she served as the Director of the Office of Environmental Management’s Center for Environmental Management Information.

Ms. Downing also represents the Department as a member of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (also known as the EJ IWG). She has managed and conducted Public Participation and Environmental Justice and tribal training at DOE Headquarters and Field offices across the nation.

Ms. Downing began her assignment in the Office of Environmental Management within DOE in October 1989, as the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Management’s Program Review Coordinator and Executive Assistant. Prior to joining the Office of Environmental Management, she was on the staff of the Secretary of Energy’s Office serving as the Administrative Specialist for the Secretary’s Chief of Staff.
Ms. Downing has 40 years of Federal Service in various agencies. She has served on many committees, was Employee of the Year in 1990 and served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Energy Child Care Development Center. She has received numerous Awards of Excellence for her work in Public Participation; efforts to provide small towns with computers, technology training and technical assistance; Certificate of Award from the U.S. House of Representatives and Congressional Black Caucus for outstanding support of the National Environmental Policy Commission; National Conference of Black Mayors Award; The National Campaign for Tolerance Honor for leading the way toward a more just America; Black Youth Leadership Development Institute Appreciation; Excerpts from students of the United Negro College Fund Special Programs Corporation/ U.S. Department of Energy Mentorship for Environmental Scholars.

W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D.

W. Marvin Dulaney, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of History Emeritus, former Interim Director of the Center for African American Studies, and the former Chair of the Department of History at the University of Texas, Arlington. He 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. He is the author of Black Police in America, and he is currently completing a history of African Americans in Dallas. He serves on the board of directors of the Texas State Historical Association and the editorial board of Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas. He has won numerous awards for his community service, activism and scholarship.

Glenn Ellis, Sr.

Glenn Ellis, Sr. is a medical ethicist, researcher, lecturer and president of Strategies for Well-Being, LLC., a global consultancy that specializes in health education, equity, disparities, advocacy, policy and communication. He is particularly interested in the ethical protection of rights for patients in medical care and clinical research.

Mr. Ellis has authored and co-authored papers in the American Journal of Public Health, American Journal of Academic Medicine, the Journal of Philosophy and Ethics and the Journal of Healthcare, Science and the Humanities. He is also the author of Which Doctor? (2006) and Information is the Best Medicine (2012).

In addition to a weekly, nationally syndicated health column, he also hosts his own weekly public health program, “Information is the Best Medicine”, on Philadelphia’s WURD Radio. He contributes regularly on WDAS in Philadelphia and KJLH in Los Angeles.

Mr. Ellis serves on the Institutional Review Boards of Thomas Jefferson University, Drexel University, and Mercy Health Systems, for the approval of clinical research in these institutions. He has presented at scientific, academic and health conferences across the United States, as well as Belgium, Cuba, Germany, Italy, Kenya, the Netherlands, South Africa, Ukraine and more. He was a Pre-Med undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania, and became a Certified Health Care Ethicist (CHCE) at St. Joseph’s University’s Institute of Clinical Bioethics. He is currently completing his Master of Public Health (MPH) -- specializing in bioethics -- at the University of Liverpool.

Mr. Ellis is the father of two adult children; Jasmine, Senior producer at ESPN, and Glenn, Jr., Vegan Chef for the Philadelphia Eagles.
Marvella E. Ford, Ph.D.

Dr. Marvella E. Ford is a tenured Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), where she is the Associate Director of Cancer Disparities at the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI)-designated Hollings Cancer Center. She completed her undergraduate training at Cornell University and her graduate and postdoctoral fellowship training at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Ford has led several federally funded cancer disparities-focused research grants, including an NIH/NCI P20 grant, in collaboration with Dr. Judith Salley from South Carolina State University, titled South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center (SC CaDRe). The goal of the SC CaDRe was to expand cancer disparities research in South Carolina while cultivating a diverse network of cancer researchers. The grant provided funding for cancer disparities research and also supported cancer research training for underrepresented students and junior faculty in cancer research methods.

Additionally, Dr. Ford has collaborated as a multiple principal investigator, with Dr. Chanita Hughes-Halbert and Dr. Carolyn Britten, on an NIH/NCI-funded Minority Based Community Oncology Research Program to increase the participation of diverse participants in cancer research. Dr. Ford is also a multiple principal investigator, with Dr. Nestor Esnaola, of an NIH/National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities grant titled “Improving Resection Rates among African Americans with NSCLC.” The purpose of the study is to evaluate a strategy to improve rates of receipt of surgery among African Americans with early-stage lung cancer.

Dr. Ford has led several federally funded cancer research training programs in collaboration with three historically black colleges/universities (HBCUs) in South Carolina: Claflin University, South Carolina State University and Voorhees College, as well as the University of South Carolina. The programs have been funded by the NIH/NCI and the Department of Defense. Dr. Ford is the author/co-author of more than 80 published scientific papers, several of which include undergraduates from HBCUs as co-authors, and nine book chapters. She is also the co-editor of a book, Cancer Disparities, published by Elsevier’s Academic Press in 2017.

Jennifer C. Friday, Ph.D.

Jennifer C. Friday, Ph.D., is President and Principal Researcher of The Friday Consulting Group, LLC, a woman and minority owned research and management consulting firm located in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. Dr. Friday has worked in the health field for more than 30 years, in both the mental health and public health arenas. For 13 years, Dr. Friday worked in various capacities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including, Health Education Specialist, Technical Assistance Specialist and Behavioral Scientist. Her efforts at the CDC focused on working with state, local and international health departments, as well as community-based and national organizations, to develop, implement and evaluate education and prevention programs.

During her tenure at the CDC, Dr. Friday was on-loan to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC, to work on health policy issues. Dr. Friday’s work at the Joint Center focused on health disparities and other health related issues, including HIV/AIDS, environmental health, managed care and the future of African-American physicians. Dr. Friday is the evaluation consultant for the MUSC SE-VIEW project to develop educational and outreach programs and conduct community-based research on health disparities. She has demonstrated a substantial record of accomplishment of supporting data collection activities, performing surveys, problem identification and compiling survey protocols. She has authored, published and presented book chapters, journal articles, final reports, presentations, results and recommendations for review.
Dr. Friday currently serves on the psychology faculty at Georgia Gwinnett College. She is active in many professional and civic organizations, including the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA). She is a past President of SEPA, the first African-American to serve in that capacity. She was a member of the congressionally appointed National Environmental Policy Commission. Dr. Friday serves on the boards of the Rosalynn Carter Institute and the Episcopal Media Center, and is an Emeritus Trustee of her alma mater, Millikin University. Dr. Friday received a Bachelor’s degree in biology from Millikin University, and masters and doctoral degrees in psychology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. She is also the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Millikin University.

John Fullinwider

John Fullinwider is co-founder of Mothers Against Police Brutality, an educator and community organizer, with more than 35 years experience in Dallas, TX, working on issues ranging from lead pollution to homelessness. He has served on the boards of the National Coalition for the Homeless, National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Low Income Housing Information Service, and Institute for Community Economics. Mr. Fullinwider is the co-founder of Common Ground Community Economic Development Corporation, East Dallas Community Schools, Dallas Peace & Justice Center, and Friends of the South Dallas Cultural Center. He is board president of Teatro Dallas.

Mr. Fullinwider taught for 15 years at Otto Fridia Alternative High School in Dallas. He won the district’s highest honors, the Excellence in High School Teaching Award and the “Golden Apple” Teacher of the Year Award. He has testified as an expert witness in Congress, the Texas Legislature and federal court on the issues of housing, homelessness, and community development. For his community work, he is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Equal Justice Award from Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center Neighborhood Improvement Award, and the Dallas Urban League President’s “Bridge Builder” Award.

Miguel A. Garcia, Jr.

From his days as a National Urban Fellow in Philadelphia, Mr. Garcia’s professional journey has come full circle, leading him back in 2007 to the institution which provided him with a leadership edge. Throughout his career, he has held a variety of management and staff roles in the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors. His focus in the diverse areas of public policy, grant-making, school-to-work transition, leadership development and education has enabled him to engage others in the social justice arena to effect reforms.

Mr. Garcia has served on several Boards of Directors in both New York City and State and was an elected Community School Board member in the Bronx. In addition to receiving a National Urban Fellowship, he was honored with an Institute for Educational Leadership Fellowship. However, it was as Program Director at the Primerica Foundation, that he had a glimpse into the national socio-economic demands and ethnic diversity of America by being on the front lines of philanthropy.

In 1990, he founded New Directions in Community Revitalization and, in 1994, Health Opportunities High School in the South Bronx as a way to make strides in the public education arena. His responsibilities included managing academic and operational excellence initiatives, supervising faculty and support services, and fostering educational and community relationships for at-risk youth. He was Head Dean and Dean of Crisis Intervention for Special Education at DeWitt Clinton H.S. and then Academic Coordinator for an Entrepreneurship Honors program.
Before becoming President & CEO of National Urban Fellows, Inc. in 2013, Mr. Garcia served as Director of Programs, leading the NUF signature MPA program, which has a rich history of producing significant impact in the public service leadership arena. The mentorship model employed by NUF has produced remarkable results and opportunities for 90% of these Fellows, many who have been the first in their families to obtain a graduate degree. Mr. Garcia is responsible for the overall vision, leadership and management of the organization.

Mr. Garcia is the proud father of Miguel III and Bianca, currently graduate students in New York City and Atlanta. A charismatic individual and a consummate role model, he also derives immense pride in creating and maintaining on-going business relationships that support the most vulnerable communities at the local level.

**Stephanie Gardner, Pharm.D.**

Dr. Stephanie Gardner earned both the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and Doctor of Pharmacy degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a research fellowship in cardiovascular pharmacology at Case Western Reserve University. In 1991, she joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Pharmacy and subsequently earned a Doctorate in Education from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She served as Dean of the UAMS College of Pharmacy for 12 years and was appointed as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at UAMS in July, 2015.

In her 25 years in higher education, her many honors include the APhA-ASP Outstanding Dean Award, the Arkansas Pharmacists Association Pharmacist of the Year Award and the Dale Bumpers AHEC Leadership Award. Dr. Gardner is a member of the Arkansas Center for Healthcare Improvement Advisory Board and the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute Board of Directors. In 2013, she served as a Fellow of the American Council of Education. Dr. Gardner also completed a six-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education and served as president from 2014-2015.

**Brandon Garrett**

Before joining Paladin Healthcare Capital as Managing Director, Brandon Garrett served as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-02). As the Congresswoman’s chief advisor, he led the 22-person official staff and 100-plus person campaign staff and volunteers on strategy, policy and communications. He also served as Executive Editor of the 2015 Kelly Report on Health Disparities in America. Additionally, he served as Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. In that position, he tripled the amount of giving the non-profit received and expanded its reach leading health programs and workshops across the nation.

Mr. Garrett began his career on Capitol Hill over 10 years ago as Policy Adviser to Ways and Means Committee member Congressman William Jefferson (LA-02), his hometown United States Representative, working primarily on economic development for a post-Katrina New Orleans and a myriad of tax, financial services and appropriations issues. Following this, he served as Legislative Director to Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (OH-11) and then Policy Director for the 44 member Congressional Black Caucus led by Chairman Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05), leading on economic development issues. He served as the Executive Editor the CBC’s Budget Commission Report on Economic and Wealth Development and led on policy priorities and business development for the CBC’s For the People Jobs Initiative -- a national tour focusing on practical policy solutions to improve the employment rate. Immediately preceding his work with Congresswoman Kelly, he worked for Vice President Joe Biden as his policy director and political advisor during the 2012 Obama-Biden re-election, working on debate preparation and rapid response and political outreach advisor for the inauguration.
Originally from the Greater New Orleans area, Mr. Garrett attended undergrad at Texas A&M University and graduate school at North Carolina State University, with a stint in law school at Louisiana State University. He has received numerous awards for his work in public policy, including the Foundation’s Health Staffer Award, Congressional Staff Association’s leadership in public policy award and a 114th Congress Stennis Fellow. He has been a featured speaker at the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard Business School and the University of Chicago’s School of Public Policy.

Albert A. George II

Albert A. George II has the honor of serving as the first Director of Conservation for the South Carolina Aquarium and is the Co-Founder of the Amazon Reforestation Project. Prior to the Amazon Reforestation Project, he worked as the Director of Education for Georgia Aquarium Inc. He has held appointments as a Management Consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton and a Research Associate for the Center for Marine Environmental Science and Biotechnology.

Mr. George completed his B.S. in Marine Biology and Chemistry from Savannah State University and the P.R.E.P. program at Yale University, concentrating in physiology cellular molecular genetics, and then completed a program of study from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government/MIT in addition to completing a Master’s of Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also the founder of the GA Green Economy Summit, which has worked to promote green economy growth and resilience strategic planning in the state of Georgia and the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

Angelica Geter, DrPH, MPH

Angelica Geter, DrPH, MPH, is a native of Jackson, MS, currently an Adjunct Instructor at the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Geter is committed to being a servant leader by telling the stories of underserved populations through research and the advancement of health equity. For more than a decade, the primary focus of her research has been understanding HIV-related risk behaviors and social determinants of health among youth in the South. Her professional experience includes quantitative and qualitative research, clinical-trial data management, and HIV-related intervention development, adaptation and evaluation among minority populations.

Dr. Geter earned a B.S. in Psychology from Mississippi College and an MPH in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. She completed her doctoral studies in Health Behavior, with a minor in Biostatistics, at the University of Kentucky. She also completed her healthy policy, healthy equity and leadership training at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute of the Morehouse School of Medicine, under the mentorship of former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher.

The Honorable Anton J. Gunn

The Honorable Anton J. Gunn knows what it takes to engage, act and have impact at the highest level. Building on his extensive experience in healthcare, government, politics, athletics and Hip Hop, Mr. Gunn has become one of America’s ‘Top Gunn’ leaders in the fast-changing 21st century. He is the Chief Diversity Officer and the Executive Director of Community Health Innovation at MUSC Health, where he is responsible for oversight and execution of the Health System diversity initiatives and innovative community health programs.
Over the last 20 years, Mr. Gunn has been a motivational speaker, teaching his battle-tested leadership principles to emerging and established leaders. His presentations inspire leaders to act with conviction and engage their teams at deeper levels, resulting in greater impact. Offstage, he rolls up his sleeves with individuals and organizations to guide them through proven, easy-to-implement strategies that improve team communications and expand influence.

As a former South Carolina State Representative and former advisor to the President of the United States, Mr. Gunn has had the privilege and responsibility of leading at the highest levels. He will tell you, “Life is a remarkable thing!” Who would have imagined growing up as the oldest son of a Navy Chief and playing college football in the SEC would prepare him to master life’s leadership challenges? Mr. Gunn has devoted his life to helping others thrive in the face of adversity. He offers them impactful insights, interesting perspectives and innovative solutions to their daily leadership challenges. He shows individuals and organizations how to develop leadership, embrace change, improve communication and thrive in diversity.

L. Lee Hamm, M.D.

L. Lee Hamm, M.D., is Senior Vice President & Dean of the School of Medicine, and the James R. Doty Distinguished Professor and Chair, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA. Previously, he had been Chair of the Department of Medicine and Executive Vice Dean for several years. He is also Co-Director of the Tulane Hypertension and Renal Center of Excellence.

Dr. Hamm’s honors and awards include a Merit Award from the NIH, an American Heart Association Established Investigator Award, American Heart Association Distinguished Service Award, the Donald Seldin Award of the National Kidney Foundation, and the Founders Medal from the Southern Society of Clinical Investigation. He is an elected Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Heart Association (both the Kidney Council and the High Blood Pressure Research Council). He was elected to membership in the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He has been on the editorial board of Kidney International and the American Journal of Physiology, and has been a consulting editor for Hypertension.

Dr. Hamm’s research has been funded by numerous research grants from the AHA, VA and NIH. He has authored more than 120 original articles and book chapters, and has co-edited a major reference book on acid-base and electrolyte disorders. Clinically, his interests are general nephrology focused on cardiovascular disease in kidney disease, metabolic causes of kidney stones, and electrolyte and acid-base disorders.

Scott Hemmerling, Ph.D.

Scott Hemmerling, Ph.D., is the Director of Human Dimensions at The Water Institute of the Gulf, focusing on research related to climate adaptation and community resilience. He has more than 15 years of experience investigating anthropogenic alterations to the landscape and the impacts of development on coastal communities.

Dr. Hemmerling’s recent work with the Institute is focused on analyzing the societal impacts of environmental change in coastal Louisiana and developing methods to examine the linkages between human and natural systems. He is the Principal Investigator on the Louisiana Coastal Atlas project, a geographical study examining the effects of historical social, economic, and environmental stresses on community resilience. He also is working on several projects to develop methodological approaches for measuring socioeconomic change in coastal communities. Most recently, Dr. Hemmerling developed approaches
to incorporate local knowledge into assessments of community resilience and the social value of ecosystem restoration projects.

Prior to joining the Institute, Dr. Hemmerling was a Geographer with the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) National Wetlands Research Center, based in Lafayette, LA. As part of his work for the USGS, Dr. Hemmerling worked closely with the CPRA on coastal community resilience issues. He also worked with the Louisiana State Land Office on issues related to historical navigability, land rights and public access to Louisiana’s waters.

Dr. Hemmerling earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies with a minor in physical geography from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master’s degree in urban studies with a concentration in applied urban anthropology from the University of New Orleans. He earned his doctoral degree from the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University.

Nina R. Hickson, J.D.

Attorney Nina R. Hickson currently serves as Vice President and General Counsel for The Atlanta BeltLine Inc., a comprehensive transportation and economic development revitalization effort undertaken by the City of Atlanta, expected to result in more than $10 billion in economic development. Prior to assuming this role, she served as the Ethics Officer for the City of Atlanta from 2012 until April of 2016. In this role she was responsible for educating all city officials and employees of the requirements for conducting city business in compliance with the City’s Code of Ethics. She also oversaw the City’s financial disclosure process and prosecuted violations of the Ethics Code.

Immediately prior to this appointment, Attorney Hickson served as Interim City Manager for East Point, GA, where she had been the City Attorney for six years. She was appointed on October 17, 2005, by the Mayor and City Council of the city of 40,000 residents. As chief legal officer for the municipal government, she provided legal services related to all civil litigation, administrative hearings, economic development initiatives, legislative proposals and commercial transactions for the City. During her tenure as City Attorney, she created a legal department with an outstanding reputation for professionalism and responsiveness. Her broad range of skills and effectiveness led her to serving as Acting Human Resources Director as well as Acting City Manager in the absence of these officials.

Prior to assuming the role of City Attorney for East Point, Attorney Hickson was the inaugural Chief Assistant Public Defender for the Atlantic Judicial Circuit and Director of the Juvenile Division of the office, which provided indigent defense for citizens in six counties in southeast Georgia. She was hired to help establish this office under the recently-formed Georgia Public Defender’s Standard’s Council.

In May of 1999, the Honorable Nina R. Hickson was appointed as Judge to the Fulton County Juvenile Court, where she served from 2002-2004 as its Chief Presiding Judge. At that time, the Court had the largest juvenile court caseload in the state of Georgia.

During the Georgia General Assembly’s 2001 session, she was a key proponent of legislation which made the pimping of minors a felony offense under Georgia law. Prior to March of 2001, the offense was a misdemeanor. Her public stance on this issue was also instrumental in the indictment and eventual federal prosecution of 15 of the most notorious pimps in Fulton County under the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act (“RICO”) statute, the first such prosecution in the nation. Additionally, her fervent public education effort on the tragedy of child prostitution was also crucial to the establishment of “Angela’s House,” a safe house for girls who have been sexually-exploited.
Before her judicial appointment in May of 1999, Judge Hickson practiced law for 15 years in a variety of capacities, including Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, General Counsel for the Atlanta Housing Authority, General Counsel and Vice President for Atlanta Life Insurance Company, and the first African American female Vice President and Associate General Counsel to Primerica Financial Services, a subsidiary of the Citigroup Corporation. She also was an Adjunct Professor at Emory University School of Law (1992-1997).

Her extensive community involvement has included membership on the former Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers Board of Directors, the Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates Program Board, the Georgia Board for the Covenant House, the Community Advisory Board of the Atlanta Junior League, the Board of Metropolitan Atlanta Boys and Girls Club, and the Advisory Board to the Sister-to-Sister mentoring program, which she initiated with the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and first-time juvenile female offenders. She is a member of the 2004 class of Leadership Atlanta. She was a member of the Board for the Fulton Leadership Academy Charter School. She is a member of the Buckhead/Cascade City Chapter of The Links Incorporated, where she serves as Parliamentarian, Chair of the Legislative Issues and Public Affairs Committee and a member of the national Communications Committee.

Her commitment to community service has resulted in her receiving numerous awards, including the Big Voice for Children Award, the Pearl Award, the Mary Drake Human Rights Award, Outstanding Legal Advocacy Award from the National Association of Counsel for Children, the inaugural Vision in Action award from the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, the Romae T. Powell Award from the Georgia Association of Independent Juvenile Courts, the Delta Torch Award from the Atlanta Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Citizen of the Year from the Citizens for Community Values.

In addition to being a public speaker on issues of juvenile justice and child welfare, she was a presenter at the White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. Her television appearances have included 20/20 Primetime, the Oprah Winfrey Show, Pure Oxygen and CNN's Talk Back Live.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in Journalism from Howard University in Washington, DC, and her Doctor of Law degree from Emory University of Atlanta.

Family is very important to Attorney Hickson, who is the daughter of the late Dr. W.F. Hickson, Jr., of Orangeburg, SC, and Dr. Charlestine R. Fairley of Annapolis, MD. She has two brothers, William Franklin Hickson, III, of Lynchburg, VA, and George Gregory Oneal Hickson of Riverdale, GA. However, she is most proud of her role as mother to her 17-year old daughter, Wesley Victoria.

**Teresa Hudson, PharmD, Ph.D.**

Teresa Hudson, PharmD, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, College of Medicine, and Director of the UAMS Division of Health Services Research. She is also the Director and CoPrincipal Investigator of the VA National Rural Evaluation Center, where she is leading a nationwide evaluation of the impact of social determinants of health on access to care for rural Veterans.

Dr. Hudson is the Associate Director of the VA Center for Mental Healthcare and Outcomes Research (CeMHOR) that conducts research to improve access to and engagement in mental health and substance use care for rural Veterans. She is also leading the access to care team evaluating the Arkansas Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Dr. Hudson’s research interests include health disparities in Veterans, rural populations, and other underserved groups; use and abuse of opioid medications; and access to care. Dr. Hudson is committed to conducting research that informs health and health policy.
Nneka L. Ifejika, M.D., MPH, FAHA

Raised in Washington, DC, Dr. Ifejika joined the Department of Neurology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston after completing her residency at Baylor College of Medicine in 2007. Within six months, she became Director of Neurorehabilitation, serving as the leader of the clinical, research and education programs.

Dr. Ifejika is an award-winning mentor, speaker, author and reviewer in the fields of Neurology and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and the first Neurorehabilitation physician to be fully integrated in a JCAHO-accredited comprehensive stroke center. She has excelled in both specialties. Dr. Ifejika is a graduate of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R) Leadership program. She advocates for the rights of the disabled as part of the Health Policy and Legislation Committee and mentors others as a member of the Medical Education Committee. She is a Fellow of the American Heart Association (AHA), serving on the editorial board of Stroke, the flagship AHA journal, and the AHA Stroke Council.

Dr. Ifejika has been recognized as Texas SuperDoctors Rising Star (2017), a Top Doctor in Rehabilitation by Houstonia and H Texas magazines (2014), and is the only physician to be honored as a top doctor in both Neurology and Rehabilitation (H Texas Magazine, 2016).

In 2010, Dr. Ifejika began her transition into stroke rehabilitation research. She received a grant from the National Institutes of Health (NINDS) to study the impact of intravenous thrombolysis and healthcare associated infections on rehabilitation care. Within a two-year period, she published five articles as first author in peer reviewed journals and received the AAPM&R’s Best Neurological Research Award.

Dr. Ifejika is an advocate for patient safety. With the assistance of her Neurorehabilitation team at Memorial Hermann Hospital – Texas Medical Center, she developed Rehab MATRIX, a nursing assignment algorithm which has significantly reduced falls, improved the quality of care and decreased nursing fatigue amongst staff members on her TJC affiliated inpatient rehabilitation unit. Dr. Ifejika is in the process of having Rehab MATRIX copyrighted and implemented across the Memorial Hermann Health System, setting a gold standard for systematic rehabilitation nursing practice.

Her feasibility project, Swipe out Stroke (SOS), focuses on the use of Smartphone-based mobile applications to improve stroke prevention in high-risk minority stroke survivors and their caregivers who share similar genetic or environmental risk factors. Through Swipe out Stroke, Dr. Ifejika saw the opportunity to reach beyond the hospital setting to the community, in an effort to sustain multi-level, generational changes in the incidence of cerebrovascular disease. For her innovative and forward-facing work, Dr. Ifejika was one of ten young faculty selected to participate in the fourth cohort of the NHLBI sponsored Program to Increase Diversity in Cardiovascular Health Related Research (PRIDE).

She has received both a Congressional Commendation for her work from Congressman Alexander N. Green (Texas, 9th District) and has served as an Advisor on Healthcare Reform at a roundtable discussion with Secretary Burwell of the Department of Health and Human Services in 2015. Her example as an outstanding physician has paved the way for others to start a career in academic medicine.

Camara Phyllis Jones, M.D., MPH, Ph.D.

Camara Phyllis Jones, M.D., MPH, Ph.D., is research director on social determinants of health and equity in the Division of Adult and Community Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Dr. Jones received her B.A. degree (Molecular Biology) from Wellesley College, her M.D. from the Stanford University School of Medicine, and both her MPH and Ph.D. (Epidemiology) degrees from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She also completed
Dr. Jones is a family physician and epidemiologist whose work focuses on the impact of racism on the health and well-being of
the nation. She seeks to broaden the national health debate to include not only universal access to high quality health care but
also attention to the social determinants of health (including poverty) and the social determinants of equity (including racism).
As a methodologist, she has developed new ways for comparing full distributions of data (rather than means or proportions) in
order to investigate population-level risk factors and propose population-level interventions. As a social epidemiologist, her
work on race-associated differences in health outcomes goes beyond documenting those differences to vigorously investigating
the structural causes of the differences. As a teacher, her allegories on race and racism illuminate topics that are otherwise
difficult for many Americans to understand or discuss.

Dr. Jones was an assistant professor at the Harvard School of Public Health from 1994 to 2000, and is currently an adjunct
associate professor at both the Morehouse School of Medicine and the Rollins School of Public Health. She is a member of
the World Health Organization’s Scientific Resource Group on Equity and Health and the National Board of Public Health
Examiners, and recently completed service on the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association, the board of
directors of the American College of Epidemiology, and the board of directors of the National Black Women’s Health Project.

Warren Jones, M.D.

Warren A. Jones, M.D., is an NIH Endowed Chair in Minority Health and Health Disparities Research. He was most recently
Executive Director of the Division of Medicaid in the Office of the Governor of Mississippi, the state’s health program for
over 768,000 indigent Mississippians. He serves on the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) Technical
Advisory Group (TAG) to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. He also serves as Chair Designee of the Advisory
Council to the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD). He also serves on the Board of Trustees
for his alma mater, Dillard University in New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Jones is Past President of the American Academy of Family Physicians, a 94,300-member primary care specialty society.
He has also served Chair of the AAFP’s Board of Directors and President-elect of the Academy. He is Chair of the Maternal
Child Council, Past Chair of the Family Medicine Section and Aerospace & Military Medicine Section of the National Medical
Association. He also served on the Minority Affairs Governing Council for the American Medical Association.

Dr. Jones has served on the President’s Select Panel on Surviving and Living after Cancer, Chiropractic Implementation
Committee for the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs and on the Secretary’s Chiropractic Advisory Committee. In addition, he
was a member of the Expert Panel for the Medicaid Disease Management Initiative for the Center for Health Care Strategies,
the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Kaiser Permanente Foundation. Dr. Jones is a member of the Key Stakeholders
Advisory Board to the Evidence Based Research Center for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). He is
currently a member of the National Advisory Board of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, the National Commission on
Prevention Priorities, and the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Diabetes Foundation, and has previously served on the Board
of the National Health Council and the National Advisory Council to Rewarding Results, an advisory panel to the Robert Wood
Johnson Foundation and the California Health Foundation which led to the development of the Pay for Performance initiative in
health care. He is also a member of the expert panel for the Innovations in Prevention Awards, sponsored by former U.S. Health
and Human Services Secretary, Tommy Thompson.
The Honorable Robin Kelly

Congresswoman Robin Kelly has dedicated her career to public service as an advocate for Illinois families. Since being elected to serve the 2nd Congressional District in 2013, she has worked to expand economic opportunity, community wellness and public safety across the state, championing numerous initiatives to generate job growth, reduce health disparities and end gun violence.

Congresswoman Kelly is a Member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (the main investigative body of the House), and serves as the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Information Technology, where she has focused her efforts on improving cyber-security, strengthening IT-infrastructure, and encouraging new and emerging technologies. She also serves on the Oversight Committee’s Subcommittee on National Security, which oversees the Departments of State, Defense and Homeland Security, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

As the lone Illinois representative on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Congresswoman has laid out a forward-thinking foreign policy vision for the United States and has been an outspoken proponent of diplomacy, international human rights and the need for clear and thoughtful American leadership abroad.

A staunch champion of common sense gun reforms and responsible community policing, Representative Kelly is a Co-Chair of the Congressional Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, was tapped to sit on the House Task Force on Community-Police Relations, and is the author of The 2014 Kelly Report on Gun Violence in America, the first-ever Congressional analysis of the nation’s gun violence epidemic that offers a blueprint for ending the crisis.

Committed to improving the health and wellness of vulnerable communities across the country, the Congresswoman serves as the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, and Co-Chairs the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls. She also Co-Chairs the House Democratic Budget Group and Congressional Diversifying Technology Caucus.

Prior to her election to Congress, Ms. Kelly was a member of the Illinois House of Representatives, served as Chief Administrative Officer of Cook County (the second largest county in the United States) and was Chief of Staff to Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias, becoming the first African American woman to serve as Chief of Staff to an elected constitutional statewide officeholder.

The daughter of a small business owner and postal worker, Congresswoman Kelly moved to Illinois after high school to attend Bradley University in Peoria, where she earned her B.A. in psychology and an M.A. in counseling. She later received a Ph.D. in political science from Northern Illinois University. She lives in Matteson with her husband, Dr. Nathaniel Horn, and has two adult children, Kelly and Ryan.

Simone Levine, J.D.

Simone Levine has dedicated her career to ensuring public accountability in the criminal justice system and in the civic arena. In August 2015, she assumed the post of Executive Director of Court Watch NOLA (CWN), an office dedicated to ensuring procedural fairness, transparency, efficiency, constitutional rights, and victim’s rights in the Orleans Parish Criminal Courts. She also currently serves as an adjunct professor at Loyola Law School in New Orleans.
Prior to joining CWN, Ms. Levine served as Deputy Police Monitor within the New Orleans Office of the Independent Police Monitor (OIPM). In that capacity, she supervised the monitoring of major use of force cases (e.g. officer involved shootings, in custody deaths) in which the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) was involved. She also supervised the monitoring of NOPD disciplinary hearings.

Ms. Levine has worked as both a prosecutor as well as a criminal defense attorney. She has served as a prosecutor in the Office of the Attorney General of New York where she prosecuted public integrity and white collar crime. Before entering the Attorney General’s Office, Ms. Levine practiced criminal defense for ten years, managing her own private practice and practicing as a public defender in the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society in Manhattan. She has also worked in criminal defense at the Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem and the Federal Defenders Office of Puerto Rico.

Between 2006-2010, Ms. Levine served as legislative counsel to the New York State Assembly Criminal Justice Committee, the New York State Senate Criminal Justice Committee and the New York State Senate Corrections Committee. Her legislative portfolio includes drafting and negotiating legislation related to government ethics, labor law, local government law, criminal fraud, criminal law, criminal procedure, crime victims, public officers law, juvenile justice, corrections law and election law. Also during this time, Ms. Levine was an Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice at the John Jay College in New York. During this time period, Ms. Levine was an Adjunct Professor of Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice at the John Jay College in New York.

Ms. Levine received an Honors BA from McGill University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut, School of Law where she was Editor-and-Chief of the Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal. She also studied at the University of Puerto Rico, School of Law, receiving the Elihu Burritt Prize, and the Nankai University in Tianjin, China.

While in law school, Ms. Levine assisted the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) in litigation against the New York Police Department Street Crimes Unit in the wake of the Amadu Diallo’s death (what would later become the NYPD Stop and Frisk Case).

Ms. Levine lived and worked in East Asia over a period of five years before becoming an attorney. She has worked with regional and international human rights groups in South Korea, China, Thailand, Cambodia, and Burma. Her efforts abroad have focused on advocating for government accountability for victims of police and military brutality.

Evelyn L. Lewis M.D., M.A., FAAFP, DABDA

Evelyn L. Lewis, M.D., earned her medical degree from the University of the Health Sciences, The Chicago Medical School, and completed a residency in family practice at Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL. She completed a two-year faculty development fellowship at Madigan Army Medical Center and Pacific Lutheran University with a Masters degree in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

In June 2003, Dr. Lewis retired from the United States Navy after 25 years of service. During the next seven years, Dr. Lewis was Director, Medical Policy World Wide Public Affairs and Policy for Pfizer, Inc. Currently, she serves as Chief Medical Officer, Warrior Centric Health, LLC; Chief Medical Advisor, ReX, LLC; Senior Researcher in Minority Health and Health Disparities, Dillard University; Immediate Past President American Academy Family Physicians Foundation, and Deputy Director, W. Montague Cobb/ National Medical Association Health Institute. She is an Associate Professor at Dillard University; adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Health, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School; and holds appointments in the departments of Family Medicine and Medical and Clinical Psychology, Uniformed
Dr. Lewis is nationally recognized for her expertise in the areas of Community Outreach and Engagement, Veteran Health and Healthcare Issues, Content/Program Development and Evaluation, Cultural Competency, and Health and Healthcare Disparities. She presents and conducts workshops on those topics and other medical specialty areas nationally and internationally. Dr. Lewis has been tapped as a national and international speaker by many organizations and associations to include: Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, National Medical Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, Albany State University, Uniformed Services University, Spelman College, Price Waterhouse, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), Women of Vision, National Association of Women Owned Small Businesses, American Federation of Teachers, National AFL-CIO, A. Phillip Randolph Institute, and legislative briefings at the national, regional and local levels.

Dr. Lewis is a Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) and the American Academy of Family Physicians, a member of several organizations and medical associations, to include the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (President), the National Medical Association (NMA), the American Medical Association (AMA), and the Commission to End Healthcare Disparities. Her military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Medal, Joint Service Commendation, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service with bronze star, and the Coast Guard Special Operations Service medal.

Some of her more significant awards include Top Blacks in Healthcare Award, State of Tennessee House of Representatives Proclamation for co-development and instruction of the Warrior Centric Healthcare Training system; the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Blacks in Government (BIG) Chapter Black Women Rock Award in Business; publication of her story, “Keeping the Dream Alive”, one of three published in the Medicine and Natural Science section of the recently released book entitled, Women of Color in Leadership, Taking Their Rightful Place; W.E. Upjohn Award for Innovation; Career Communications Group, Women of Color Emerald Honor for Medical Education Award; Uniformed Services University, Office of Recruitment and Diversity, Mentor of the Year Award; Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians President’s Award; and one of nine Family Physicians profiled in the American Academy of Family Physicians 50th Anniversary Book, Caring for America – The Story of Family Practice.

**Tiffany Manuel, Ph.D.**

Tiffany Manuel is vice president of knowledge, impact and strategy at Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. She drives the collection and dissemination of data and information from within Enterprise and across the affordable housing industry through innovative solutions that demonstrate achievable impact. She also leads Enterprise’s strategic planning processes and the continued development and execution with the organization’s strategic goals.
Dr. Manuel has more than 17 years experience leading projects of increasing scope and complexity, building the capacity of organizations in the nonprofit sector and conducting cutting-edge research to help inform decision-making. Prior to joining Enterprise in 2012, she served as the director of impact and evaluation at the FrameWorks Institute, a nonprofit, evidenced-based communications firm, where she led an interdisciplinary team of Ph.D. level researchers, practitioners and administrative staff who link the worlds of research, policy and social change. Just prior to joining Frameworks, she served as a senior policy analyst at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she was responsible for conducting and directing public policy research. She has served as a senior researcher at Harvard University’s Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and has also served as an assistant professor of political science and public policy at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She has worked as an economic development consultant in the areas of program evaluation, comparative economic analysis, impact analysis, and social welfare and labor policy analysis.

Dr. Manuel holds doctorate and master’s degrees in public policy from the University of Massachusetts Boston, a master’s degree in political science from Purdue University and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago. She is a highly sought after speaker and is the author of several articles, book chapters and reports.

Byron C. Marshall

Byron C. Marshall is President & CEO of The Center for Health Empowerment in Austin, TX. The Center for Health Empowerment (CHE) is a non-profit wellness center. Its mission is preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. CHE provides free screening and treatment in an affirming and supportive environment that also addresses the social determinants of health. Target populations are communities of color and those with the highest incidences of infection, but the lowest access to care.

Mr. Marshall has more than 30 years of executive level experience leading public sector, nonprofit and for-profit organizations. He has served as a Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Operating Officer and Assistant City Manager in major U.S. cities including Atlanta, GA, Austin and Richmond, VA. He also has served as President, CEO and Executive Director of development organizations, management consulting firms and public health clinics. His expertise includes operations oversight of several police departments, public health and public works departments, a public hospital, community development and public management consulting.

The Honorable Kenyan R. McDuffie

The Honorable Kenyan R. McDuffie, Councilmember for Ward 5, was first elected to the Council of the District of Columbia in a 2012 special election. In November 2014, the voters of Ward 5 honored him by overwhelmingly re-electing him to his first full four-year term. In his five years on the Council, Mr. McDuffie has established himself as a skilled legislator and coalition builder, including having been elected by his colleagues to serve as Chairman Pro Tempore since 2013. As a testament to his diligent work and preparation, more often than not, the legislation he champions passes the Council unanimously.

As of January 2017, Councilmember McDuffie serves as the Chairperson of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, which has oversight over 20 agencies and commissions, including the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, Department of Small and Local Business, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration, Public Service Commission and Office of the People’s Counsel. As Chair of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, he will
work to ensure that the District economy continues to grow and that small and local businesses have a fair chance to take part in the District’s economic growth.

Previously, Mr. McDuffie served as Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary. In that capacity, he oversaw sweeping updates to the District’s criminal justice law. He successfully passed comprehensive juvenile justice reform that ended the use of solitary confinement, life sentences and indiscriminate shackling of juveniles in court. He also oversaw the creation of the police body-worn camera program, including ensuring that there is a fair process for video footage to be made public. He championed “Ban the Box” legislation that bans the use of criminal background checks in housing, as well as passing legislation to end the unfair use of credit history in hiring. He passed the innovative Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act (NEAR Act) which reforms the District’s criminal justice system by incorporating behavioral and mental health professionals to perform tasks that previously fell to law enforcement officers.

Mr. McDuffie began his career in public service working for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives shortly after graduating summa cum laude from Howard University. He went on to receive his Juris Doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law, where he served as an editor of the University of Maryland Law Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class.

Prior to joining the Council, Mr. McDuffie worked extensively in the legal and public safety fields. He served as a law clerk for an Associate Judge on the 7th Judicial Circuit of Maryland and worked as an Assistant State’s Attorney in Prince George’s County, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony cases in District Court and on appeal in Circuit Court. He served as a trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he conducted investigations and managed complex cases throughout the United States regarding enforcement of key federal civil rights statutes, including defending the rights of the mentally ill. During his tenure at DOJ, he was an integral team member on cases to reform the policies and procedures of police departments. More recently, he served as a policy advisor to the District of Columbia’s Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice.

Mr. McDuffie has been featured on NewsOne Now with Roland Martin, MSNBC and National Public Radio. He and his wife, Princess, live in his childhood home in Ward 5 with their two young daughters, Kesi and Jozi.

The Honorable Harold Mitchell, Jr.

Representative Harold Mitchell, Jr. is a respected leader with a long record of achievements in affordable housing, environmental justice, community revitalization and public policy. His work in environmental justice organizing began in 1997, when he started a grassroots movement to clean up and fully remediate the two Superfund sites and four brownfield sites surrounding his family home. As part of this effort, Rep. Mitchell founded ReGenesis in 1998 and served as the Executive Director of the non-profit organization until 2012. During his tenure, ReGenesis leveraged over $250 million in revitalization, clean up, housing, job training, Federally Qualified Health Centers and infrastructure funding. In 2000, ReGenesis was designated the national model for the Inter-Agency Working Group on Environmental Justice. From 2000 to 2005, Rep. Mitchell, served on the U.S. EPA National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, in Washington DC, where he served on the Executive Committee.

Mark Mitchell M.D., MPH, FACPM

Mark Mitchell M.D., MPH, FACPM, is the principal of Mitchell Environmental Health Associates, a consulting firm on environmental health and environmental justice issues. He chairs the National Medical Association’s Council on Medical
Legislation and co-chairs the NMA’s Commission on Environmental Health, where he provides environmental health education to physicians and advocates on behalf of NMA.

A preventive medicine physician trained in environmental health and health policy, Dr. Mitchell has spent over 20 years working in the public health sector, including as Director of the Hartford, CT, Health Department. He spent 15 years working with environmental justice communities to prevent and reduce environmentally related disease, as well as to change policies that are detrimental to environmental health.

Dr. Mitchell was a Principal Investigator on the first-ever physician survey on climate and health. He has served on several U.S. EPA and FDA advisory committees and has received a number of awards for his community and environmental health leadership.

Dr. Mitchell earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his Masters of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University.

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., FACOG

Valerie Montgomery Rice, M.D., provides a valuable combination of experience at the highest levels of patient care and medical research, as well as organizational management and public health policy. Marrying her management skills and strategic thinking to tackle challenging problems, she has a track record of redesigning complex organizations’ management infrastructures to reflect the needs of evolving strategic environments and position those organizations for success.

The sixth president of Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) and the first woman to lead the free-standing medical institution, Dr. Montgomery Rice serves as both the president and dean. A renowned infertility specialist and researcher, she most recently served as dean and executive vice president of MSM, where she has served since 2011.

Prior to joining MSM, Dr. Montgomery Rice held faculty positions and leadership roles at various health centers, including academic health centers. Most notably, she was the founding director of the Center for Women’s Health Research at Meharry Medical College, one of the nation’s first research centers devoted to studying diseases that disproportionately impact women of color.

Dedicated to the creation and advancement of health equity, Dr. Montgomery Rice lends her vast experience and talents to programs which enhance pipeline opportunities for academically diverse students, diversify the physician and scientific workforce, and foster equity in health care access and health outcomes. She holds membership in many organizations and boards, such as: National Academy of Medicine (2016-), National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (2016-), Board of Directors for Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine (2016-), Board of Directors for The Nemours Foundation (2016-), National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and Office of Research on Women’s Health/National Institutes of Health (NIH) advisory councils (2013-); and the Association of American Medical Colleges Council of Deans.

Dr. Montgomery Rice has received numerous accolades and honors. She was named to the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans and a recipient of the 2017 Horatio Alger Award. For two consecutive years (2016, 2017) Georgia Trend Magazine selected Dr. Montgomery Rice as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians. Other honors include: Trumpet Vanguard Award (2015); The Dorothy Heights Crystal Stair Award (2014); National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Women of Impact (2014); YWCA – Women of Achievement (Atlanta-2014 and Nashville-2007); American Medical Women’s Association Elizabeth Blackwell Medal (2011); and Working Mother Media Multicultural Women’s Legacy Award (2011).

A Georgia native, Dr. Montgomery Rice holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a
medical degree from Harvard 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.

Dr. Montgomery Rice has been married to her fellow Georgia Institute of Technology alumnus, Melvin Rice, Jr, for 25 years. They have two children, Jayne, a medical student at Harvard Medical School, and Melvin, a senior at Ringling College of Art and Design.

Matthew L. Myers, J.D.

Matthew L. Myers is President of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is a leading force in the fight to reduce tobacco use and its deadly toll in the United States and around the world. In 1996, Mr. Myers helped to found the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

In the United States and around the globe, the Campaign advocates at all levels of government for policies that reduce tobacco use and save lives, and supports governments and non-governmental organizations in promoting and implementing these policies. The Campaign is a partner in the Bloomberg Initiative to Reduce Tobacco Use, which focuses on low- and middle-income countries where more than 80 percent of tobacco-related deaths will occur in the coming decades.

Over the last 25 years, Mr. Myers has participated in virtually every major U.S. tobacco-related legislative effort, including the efforts that revised the warning labels on cigarettes in 1984, eliminated tobacco subsidies, required warning labels on smokeless tobacco and banned smokeless tobacco from advertising on TV and radio in 1986, the ban on smoking on airplanes, multiple tax increases, the lawsuits brought by the U.S. against the tobacco industry and the legislation that granted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration broad authority over tobacco products. Internationally, Mr. Myers and the Campaign worked on the development of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the first global public health treaty, and are now working in countries across the globe for the implementation of the policies called for by the treaty.

In 1999, Mr. Myers was appointed to serve on the first tobacco advisory committee to the Director General of the World Health Organization. In 2000, he was named by President Clinton to co-chair a Presidential Commission to develop a proposal to both address the economic problems being experienced by tobacco farmers and at the same time promote public health through a reduction in tobacco use. In 2011, he was selected to serve on the Civil Society Task Force to advise the President of the General Assembly of the U.N. in conjunction with the U.N. High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases.

In 1989, Mr. Myers received the prestigious Surgeon General’s Medallion from Dr. C. Everett Koop for contributions to the public health. In 2004, the Harvard School of Public Health bestowed its highest award, the Julius B. Richmond award, on Mr. Myers for his work. In 2006, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids received the Luther Terry Award for its leadership on global tobacco control. In 2007, the American Cancer Society honored Mr. Myers with its highest award, The Medal of Honor.

Mr. Myers is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School. He began his tobacco control work in 1980 when he joined the Federal Trade Commission and was responsible for the agency’s tobacco-related activity. From 1981 to 1996, he was a partner in the law firm of Asbill, Junkin and Myers. From 1982 to 1996, he also represented the Coalition on Smoking OR Health, an organization comprised of the American Cancer Society, the American Lung Association and the American Heart Association.
**Jo Pauling-Jones**

Jo Pauling-Jones has served as Executive Director for Healthy Learners since 2006. In this role, she is directly responsible for ensuring thousands of children who are in need and without resources in South Carolina have quality access to health care. She provides overall management and leadership, serves as the key liaison to the Healthy Learners Board of Trustees and plans for the future growth for Healthy Learners, which is a statewide organization with regional centers in the Midlands, Greenwood, Allendale, Georgetown and Dillon.

Prior to Healthy Learners, Ms. Pauling-Jones served as a senior program officer for the Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina. There, she oversaw a $1.3 million statewide grants program and directed the development and implementation of education programs for grantees. Ms. Pauling-Jones holds both her bachelor of science in physical education and a master of education degree from Winthrop University.

Ms. Pauling-Jones attends Rehoboth Baptist Church in Columbia, SC, is a member of the Sisters of Charity Health System Mission and Values Committee and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is a graduate of the Southeastern Council of Foundations Inaugural Hull Leadership Program (2000) and a graduate of Leadership Columbia. She has received numerous honors, including the HOPE Worldwide South Carolina Gail D. Chisholm Community Advocate Award, the Coach Dawn Staley Community Service Honor and the Palmetto Center for Women TWIN (Tribute to Women in Industry) Award.

**Dawn Pepin, J.D.**

Dawn Pepin is a Public Health Analyst and Chenega Consulting Contractor with the CDC’s Public Health Law Program (PHLP). She works with public health officials at the CDC, as well as with state, tribal, local and territorial partners, to analyze state and local laws related to public health through legal epidemiological research. She leads the health equity portfolio within PHLP, examining the way that law is being used as a tool to help every person achieve their highest attainable level of health by focusing on ongoing efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities. Ms. Pepin earned her J.D. from Seton Hall University School of Law in 2010 and her MPH from Johns Hopkins University in 2014. Prior to that, she worked as a special education attorney and served as a law clerk for the Honorable Margaret M. Hayden, JAD.

**Janice Williams Petersen, Ph.D.**

Janice Petersen, Ph.D., currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Behavioral Health, State of Louisiana Department of Health. She administers, directs, and manages operation for OBH adult, child and family operations, including but not limited to community based services, residential services, state funded services, grant funded services, non-Medicaid, and Medicaid reimbursed services for conditions related to mental illness and addictive disorders. Through staff supervision, she is responsible for providing broad oversight over the allocation, distribution and use of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, as well as other federal and state designated and discretionary grants. Dr. Petersen assists with duties related to integration of essential behavioral health services through collaborations with managed care organizations, local governmental entities and human service districts/authorities and their providers, and continues her interest in workforce development. She also serves in Louisiana as the Single State Authority representative to the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors.
Nationally, Dr. Petersen served in the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy, as Chief of the Prevention Branch, where she provided guidance for promoting awareness of substance use disorders as public health and safety concerns, and worked to encourage adoption of evidence-based programs, practices and policies across federal agencies. Among her duties were contributions to the development of the prevention chapter for the 2013 edition of the ONDCP National Drug Control Strategy. Nationally, she has served on several advisory boards, grant reviews, and subject matter expert committees, including the Community Antidrug Coalitions of America’s (CADCA) Community Advisory Committee. Recently, she has been appointed to the Governor’s Drug Control Policy Board, where she assists with statewide policy for prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

Dr. Petersen has over 35 years of experience managing clinical services, developing programs, and implementing policies in prevention, intervention and treatment. She previously served for 18 years in the State of North Carolina, managing the Governor’s Commission on Substance Abuse, working as a senior policy analyst, and eventually as the Director of Prevention in the Division of MH/DD/SAS, where she assumed duties as the North Carolina National Prevention Network (NPN) representative, and served as President of this component group. Originally from Baton Rouge, LA, Dr. Petersen holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Cross-Cultural Community Issues, from Pennsylvania State University (an APA Minority Fellow), a M.A. degree in Psychology from Washington University in St. Louis (an NIMH Trainee), and a Bachelor’s degree from Dillard University in New Orleans, LA (DU Presidential scholar). She is a proud graduate of McKinley High School, Class of 1974.

LaVerne E. Ragster, Ph.D.

LaVerne Ragster, born and raised in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, is a retired Professor of Marine Biology and President Emerita of the University of the Virgin Islands. 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 36-year span.

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, an 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.

Dr. Ragster’s service experience includes national participation on the National Environmental Policy Commission of the Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust 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 and the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing Systems 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. Recently, Dr. Ragster served as chair of the board of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a regional NGO facilitating linkages between conservation, resource management and livelihoods in the Caribbean. She has served locally on boards of Island Resources Foundation, VI Waste Management Authority, VI Public Television System, and the Rotary Club of St. Thomas. Her community service extends to the University of Puerto Rico Sea Grant Program Stakeholder Committee, the representative of the Foundation for Development Planning Inc. (FDPI) on the USVI Climate Change Council, and the VI Law Enforcement Planning Commission State Advisory Group. 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.

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

**Natosha Reid Rice, J.D.**

Natosha Reid Rice, Esq., is Associate General Counsel for Real Estate and Finance at Habitat for Humanity International where
she initiates and manages financing programs and strategies to generate sources of capital that enable Habitat affiliates to provide
decent, affordable housing to families throughout the country. In addition to her work at Habitat, she serves as an Associate
Pastor, Women’s Ministries, at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA, and founder of Fresh Rain for Life
Ministries, a non-denominational ministry that provides a “sanctuary for women in the midst of life” through worship services,
retreats, bible studies, workshops and mission outreach.

Prior to joining Habitat, Ms. Reid Rice practiced law in the commercial real estate practices of Alston & Bird LLP, in Atlanta,
GA, and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison in New York City. While at these firms, she specialized in commercial real
estate development transactions, acquisitions, dispositions and leasing.

Ms. Reid Rice is passionate about providing a voice to the voiceless and opportunities to communities that have been historically
disadvantaged. She is a frequent speaker and facilitator for community/civic organizations, churches, colleges and corporate
events on topics such as the intersection of faith and justice, race and gender justice, leadership development and community
empowerment. She is a past Board Chair for Georgia Women for a Change and currently serves on the boards of the YWCA
of Greater Atlanta and Invest Atlanta’s Atlanta Emerging Markets, Inc., which is a community development entity that seeks to
spur job creation, economic development and neighborhood revitalization in under-served parts of the City of Atlanta. She has
been actively involved in efforts to pass legislation and policy to protect victims of human sex trafficking in Georgia and provide
for a fair workplace for women.

Ms. Reid Rice has received recognition and several awards for her work and leadership in the community. Recent honors
include the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers, the Circle of Friends Pearl Award and the Church Women United (Atlanta
Unit) Outstanding Young Woman. She was a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2014.

Ms. Rice received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her B.A. in Government with honors from Harvard/Radcliffe College,
where she was a Harvard/Radcliffe Class Marshall and awarded the Captain Jonathan Fay Prize (Radcliffe’s Highest Honor) and
the E.P. Saltonstall Prize. She lives in metro Atlanta with her husband Corey Rice and their children, Kayla, Malachi and Caleb.

**The Honorable Cedric Richmond**

Congressman Cedric Richmond represents Louisiana’s 2nd Congressional District in the United States House of
Representatives. He currently serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Committee on the
Judiciary. Outside of Committee service, he is an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the New Democrat
Coalition.
As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Mr. Richmond works to ensure New Orleans and surrounding communities are adequately prepared for any emergency through oversight of the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA). He also works to ensure the security of the nation’s critical infrastructure, borders and ports. As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the second oldest standing committee in Congress, Mr. Richmond works with committee members to exercise oversight responsibility for the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security.

Born and raised in New Orleans, the Congressman is a strong believer in the value of mentorship in his hometown. He is a graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School, earned his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, and his Juris Doctorate from the Tulane University School of Law in New Orleans. He is also a graduate of the Harvard University Executive Education Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, M.S., Ph.D.

Britt Rios-Ellis, Ph.D., is the founding Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Services (CHSHS) at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Since her arrival in fall of 2014, she has reconfigured CHSHS to include a Department of Nursing and a Department of Social Work. Dr. Rios-Ellis is currently working to develop a Master of Science Physician Assistant Program, a Master of Public Administration, a Master of Public Health, a Master of Nursing, and other needed programs. She launched a Diversity Celebration Speaker Series during National Hispanic Heritage Month, National AIDS Day, National African American History Month, and National Minority Health Month. Equity in health and human services and student success are at the forefront of her administration.

For the previous 20 years, Dr. Rios-Ellis served as a professor at California State University Long Beach (CSULB) and the founding director of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR)/CSULB Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation, and Leadership Training and the Centro Salud es Cultura located in downtown Long Beach. At CSULB Dr. Rios-Ellis spearheaded over 50 million dollars in funded student- and community-strengthening research projects and served as the Principal Investigator (PI) on grants to transform CSULB into a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Under her leadership, the Center created grant programs focusing on Latino populations that are based in the community and university employing the use of promotores (community health workers) and student peer mentors. The Center also serves as evaluator for all promotores-based projects for the Institute of Hispanic Health at NCLR, and provides culturally relevant and contextually driven qualitative and quantitative expertise in community-based research design and evaluation to regional and national organizations focusing on Latino health and educational issues.

Dr. Rios-Ellis has served as the PI and Co-PI on numerous federally funded initiatives, including the USDA-funded project Transdisciplinary Graduate Education and Training to Prevent Latino Childhood Obesity, Sanos y Fuertes/Healthy and Strong, which aimed to enhance graduate student preparedness to envision, design, implement and evaluate health-related, community-based participatory research. She was Co-PI on the Hispanic Health Opportunities Learning Alliance (HHOLA) funded by the National Institutes of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), which sought to rectify the lack of Latino scholars in the biomedical fields. She managed the student core for the Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI-NIMHD) project and was a Co-PI on the NIMHD-funded BUILD Planning Grant and the BUILD grant, which creates a pipeline to the doctorate for underrepresented minorities in biomedical and behavioral research. The BUILD initiative employs the Latino Student Cultural Capital Model, which Dr. Rios-Ellis developed and fused into programming to undergird all HSI efforts, thus fueling the success of underrepresented minority students at CSULB.
She has authored numerous peer-reviewed manuscripts on contextually and culturally relevant strategies for Latino-focused HIV/AIDS prevention, maternal child health, obesity prevention, and enhancement of educational opportunities. Her honors include awards for teaching and community service, Woman of the Year from the National Hispanic Business Women’s Association and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the Sol Award from the LA County Office of AIDS Policy and Programs. She served as a member of the CDC/HRSA National Advisory Committee on HIV/STD Prevention and Treatment (CHAC), as well as the SAMHSA Women’s Health Advisory Commission. She was also elected to serve on the President’s Advisory Commission for HIV/AIDS/CHAC Disclosure Work Group. In 2014, she served as a delegate for the U.S. State Department’s People-to-People Initiative in Beijing and for the NIH Office of AIDS Research Hispanic Advisory Group at the International AIDS Conference in Rome, Vienna, Vancouver and Melbourne.

Dr. Rios-Ellis has played several leading roles in health equity-related event planning and is a member of the committee for the National Health Disparities Conference. She served as the Co-Scientific Director for the 2014 International Symposium on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and spearheaded the Latino Health Equity conference from 2009-2013. She collaborated with the Fundación Haciendas del Mundo Maya in conducting health-related needs assessments of remote Maya communities in the Yucatán. She has been a consultant for Mothers to Mothers in Cape Town, South Africa, HRSA, the Pan American Health Organization, NCLR, YMCA, the U.S. Department of State, the NIH Office of AIDS Research, and other national and international organizations. Dr. Rios-Ellis has appeared on regional and national Spanish and English-language television and radio for Telemundo, Univision, CNN, and ABC World News Tonight. In 2013, Dr. Rios-Ellis was awarded the highest honor at CSULB, that of Outstanding Professor.

David E. Rivers, DHL

David E. Rivers, DHL, serves as 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 40 years, he 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. In addition, Dr. Rivers served three years in the U.S. Army.

Dr. Rivers serves as Board Chairman of the National Urban Fellows in New York, NY. He also serves as Chairman of the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation. He is also President of the Jonathan Green Foundation. Dr. Rivers is Vice Chairman of the Sea Island Comprehensive Health Care Corporation. 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; My Brothers Keeper, Charleston, SC; Allen
University Board of Trustees in Columbia, SC; the Congressional Black Caucus Institute’s 21st Century Council Executive Committee; Advisory Board Member of Charleston First Reliance Bank; and the Trident Urban League. He has served as a Board Member of the Community Foundation and the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. In addition, 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 and 2015 unopposed, where he serves as Vice Chairman.

Sabra Slaughter, Ph.D.

Sabra Slaughter, Ph.D. (Community Liaison) is Senior Advisor to the Medical University of South Carolina’s President, Associate Professor of Family Medicine, and the Principal Investigator for Southeastern Virtual Institute for Health Equity and Wellness (SE VIEW) at MUSC. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Slaughter served as the Executive Director for the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (S.C. AHEC) from 1996-2000. Dr. Slaughter’s research and community interests include improvement in the quality and access to health care in South Carolina, the elimination of health disparities in South Carolina, and the achievement of population parity in South Carolina’s health professions workforce. He is well respected and tightly connected to the African American community within Charleston. Dr. Slaughter facilitates the operation of the Community Advisory Board and promotes ongoing engagement with the African American community to ensure services are culturally competent and well received.

The Honorable Calvin Smyre

State Representative Calvin Smyre, business executive, state legislator, community and national leader, earned his B.S. degree from Fort Valley State University, majoring in Business Administration, with a minor in Accounting. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters Degree from the Morehouse School of Medicine in 2015.

Mr. Smyre’s career path has taken him from being a community organizer and director of the “War on Poverty” program in Columbus, GA, to his current position as (Retired) Executive Vice President, Corporate External Affairs, Synovus. He is former President of the Synovus Foundation and former member of the company’s eight-member Corporate Executive Group. Synovus is a financial services company based in Columbus, GA, with approximately $27 billion in assets.

He was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1974 as its youngest member at 27 years of age. As a 43-year legislative veteran, Rep. Smyre is the Dean of the Georgia House of Representatives and serves on the most important panels of the House. In the state’s budgetary process, he serves on the Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for dividing up the $24 billion state budget. He is also a member of the powerful calendar-setting Rules Committee, the Higher Education Committee and is Chairman Emeritus of the House Democratic Caucus. Representative Smyre has served as Chairman of the House Rules Committee, (1999-2003) the Industrial Relations Committee (1991-1993) and University System of Georgia Committee, (1993-1999) which has oversight responsibility for the state’s public colleges and universities.

Rep. Smyre has a distinguished legislative record, which includes authoring the legislation making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday a state holiday, legislation creating the Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons and Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship Program. He was also instrumental and was a co-sponsor of the historic legislation (HB16) creating a new Georgia State Flag. In 1979 Rep. Smyre was elected by his peers as Chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus and, in 1982 was elected President of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials. In 1983, was appointed Assistant Administrative Floor
Leader by Governor Joe Frank Harris. In 1986, Governor Harris appointed him Administrative Floor Leader, thus becoming the first African-American in history to hold this position. In 1985, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee, also becoming the first African-American elected official from Georgia to serve in this post.

Nationally, Mr. Smyre is President Emeritus of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL); Past President of the NBCSL Foundation, a member of the National Conference of State Legislators. He formerly served as a Synovus representative on the Financial Services Roundtable. Rep. Smyre has lectured at a number of colleges and universities and has received over 200 local, state and national honors and awards. In 2009, the Congressional Black Caucus presented him with the prestigious Phoenix Award. In 1980, he was selected by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as one of the “Ten Best Legislators” in the State, and in 1985 and 2005, he was selected by his peers as the National “Legislator of the Year.” He has also been honored twice as “Citizen of the Year” in his hometown of Columbus.

Rep. Smyre was instrumental in the construction of the $62M Columbus RiverCenter and served as Chairman of the six-member Project Development Team that built the facility from July 1994 through April 2001. He also served as RiverCenter Board Chairman from September 2002 until May 2004. He served as President of the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center, Inc. from 1994 until December 2003. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of: the Morehouse School of Medicine; Columbus State University Foundation; and the Columbus Museum and Fort Valley State University Foundation, where he serves as Chairman. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; the Boy Scouts of America and a life member of the NAACP and SCLC. Mr. Smyre is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Medical Center, the University of Georgia Foundation, the Jack D. Hughston Hospital Medicine Foundation, and the House of Representatives Health Committee, where he served for 12 years. He is also former Chairman of the Columbus Metro Urban League and former National President of the Fort Valley State University National Alumni Association.

In 1976, Representative Smyre served as Southern advisor to the Carter/Mondale campaign and in 1980 served as Deputy Campaign Director in Kentucky for Carter/Mondale. He served as a senior advisor in the campaigns of Governors Joe Frank Harris (1982 and 1986) and Zell Miller (1990 and 1994). In 1988 and 1990, he served as Campaign Director of the Georgia Democratic Party Unified Campaign Committee, and in 1992 and 1996, he chaired the Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign. In 1992 and 1996, Representative Smyre served as a Co-Chairman of the Clinton/Gore Campaign in Georgia. In 1998, he served on the Finance Committee of the Barnes for Governor Campaign and also served as Vice Chairman of the Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign. In 2000, Rep. Smyre served again as Chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign and Vice Chair of the Gore 2000 Campaign Georgia Committee. He also served as an advisor to the Vice President’s unsuccessful Presidential campaign. In September 2001, in a historic move, Governor Roy Barnes named Rep. Smyre Chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia, the first African American to chair the State Democratic Party. Representative Smyre has been elected as a delegate to attend the past 10 Democratic National Conventions. During the 2012 convention, which renominated President Barack Obama, he was selected to serve as a member of the Rules Committee. He has been appointed eight times to serve as a Presidential Elector.

Born in Columbus, GA, Representative Smyre is a life-long member of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Columbus and serves as a member of the Board of Trustees.
Helen Taylor Greene, Ph.D.

Helen Taylor Greene, Ph.D., is a Professor in the Department of Administration of Justice in the Barbara Jordan–Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston, TX. She is a race and crime scholar who has authored, co-authored, and co-edited articles, book chapters, books, and conference papers. She co-edited the Encyclopedia of Race and Crime (2009, Sage Publications), Race and Crime: A Text/Reader (2011, Sage Publications) and Race and Crime 4e (2016, Sage Publications) with Dr. Shaun L. Gabbidon. Her recent research examines disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system, the relationship between racial socialization and African American offending, and the school to prison pipeline. She is the recipient of several awards, including the 2014 W.E.B. Du Bois Award from the Western Society of Criminology for contributions to the study of race and crime.

Katherine P. Theall, Ph.D.

Katherine P. Theall, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and Director of the Mary Amelia Women’s Center and Tulane-Xavier National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health. Dr. Theall received her MPH in Epidemiology from Emory University School of Public Health and her Ph.D. in Epidemiology from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. As a social epidemiologist, her research focuses on policy and community influences on health disparities in women and children’s health, with a particular emphasis on neighborhood conditions. Her research and teaching interests and area span both practical and theoretical social epidemiology; community and social network influences on health outcomes; race and gender inequities; substance use and mental health; social epidemiologic theory and methods. She is actively involved in interventions and policies aimed at altering environments for better health in vulnerable populations. She is currently directing several research projects that examine neighborhood and social network contextual influences on behavioral and clinical outcomes among women and children. Dr. Theall has received funding from the CDC, NIH and private foundations such as the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. She has published over 75 peer-reviewed papers and presented over 100 scientific talks in her area of research.

Reed Tuckson, M.D.

Over the course of more than 35 years as a health professional, Reed Tuckson, Ph.D., has had the privilege of engaging in nearly every sector of health and medical care, including serving as the Commissioner of Public Health for the District of Columbia; the Senior Vice President for Programs of the March of Dimes Foundation; the President of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science; the Senior Vice President for Professional Standards of the AMA; the Executive Vice President and Chief of Medical Affairs for UnitedHealth Group, a Fortune 25 Health and Wellbeing Company; and now as the Managing Partner of Tuckson Health Connections.

Dr. Tuckson’s vision of comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, and integrated health care is regularly reinforced by his Presidency of the American Telemedicine Association and active service on Advisory Committees of the National Institutes of Health, including the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health; the National Academy of Medicine’s Health Sciences Policy Board, Member of the Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care, and Co-Chair of the Digital Learning Collaborative; the Board of Directors of the American Telemedicine Association, Cell Therapeutics Inc., and LifePoint Health; the Board of Trustees of Howard University; and the Senior Clinical Advisor to United Health Foundation’s America’s Health Rankings epidemiology reports, among other activities.
Paul A. Tufano, J.D.

Paul A. Tufano is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the AmeriHealth Caritas Family of Companies, one of the nation’s leading Medicaid managed care organizations, which is headquartered in Philadelphia and provides products and services in 19 states and the District of Columbia. The company’s mission is to help those most in need receive care, stay well and build healthy communities. During his tenure as CEO, the company has successfully launched entirely new markets, implemented new lines of business in existing markets, and experienced significant growth. He is also Executive Vice President of Independence Blue Cross, a full-service health insurance corporation also headquartered in Philadelphia where he previously served as General Counsel.

Prior to joining Independence Blue Cross and ultimately AmeriHealth Caritas, Mr. Tufano served as General Counsel of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Tufano and a staff of over 500 attorneys represented Governor Tom Ridge, and the Executive Branch in litigation, transactions, and regulatory, legislative and criminal justice matters. He was a member of the Governor’s Cabinet and the Governor’s Senior Staff.

Mr. Tufano is the immediate past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Villanova University and the immediate past Chairman of the Board of the Kimmel Center for Performing Arts. He is a board member of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

Mr. Tufano is a graduate of Villanova University, where he earned both his bachelor’s degree and law degree.

Brian L. Turner, Ph.D.

Brian L. Turner, Ph.D., is a native of New Orleans, LA, and completed his undergraduate studies at The Southern University at Baton Rouge. He completed his doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at Jackson State University. Dr. Turner serves as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. Turner serves the Color Gallery, Inc., as its Clinical Director and is the principal with Moments of Truth, LLC., which serves as the umbrella entity for private practice, consulting and civic/social engagement. He is trained as a generalist and has a broad clientele. He has worked with clients across the life development spectrum. He has worked with college students, post incarceration sex offenders and, most ardently, with black males from adolescence to adulthood on a wide spectrum of issues.

Kyle C. Viator

As market president of AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, Kyle C. Viator is responsible for the strategic direction, growth and leadership of AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, including the daily operations of the Member Services, Provider Services, Network Management, Information Services, Quality, area Management, Community Education, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs departments.

Mr. Viator joined AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana in June 2014 as director of plan operations and administration, a role in which he managed the plan’s business systems, community education and provider operations areas. He has 13 years of experience with multiple Louisiana healthcare organizations, including 10 years at the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), many of which were spent working directly on the state’s Medicaid and CHIP programs. He was a leader in the state’s effort to dramatically reduce its rate of uninsured children from more than 20 percent to less than five percent. From 2009 to 2011, he
was LDH’s deputy Medicaid director, overseeing the agency’s $6.5 billion budget for Medicaid administration and services that provided care to over a million members.

Mr. Viator received Bachelor of Arts and Master of Public Administration degrees from Louisiana State University.

Derrick Watchman

Derrick Watchman is President and owner of Sagebrush Hill Group LLC, a banking, finance, economic development and gaming advisory, acquisition and development company. He is a member of the Navajo Nation and was raised on the Navajo reservation. He is the former Chief Executive Officer for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, the gaming operator for the Navajo Nation casinos. Formerly, he was the Chief Financial Officer for Navajo Gaming. Previously, he was Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager at JPMorgan Chase Bank’s Native American Banking Group. He provided tribal financial and banking services, including structuring over $500 million in tribal credit transactions and treasury services. Previously, he worked for Wells Fargo Bank managing Native American banking and financing. Mr. Watchman was Chief Operating Officer and General Manager of the Navajo Nation’s Diné Power Authority, where he advised on Navajo Nation energy projects. He also held the Navajo Tax Commission Director post. Mr. Watchman also worked with Prudential Capital Corporation as a private placement banker. Among several directorships, he is a member of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development board of directors and a director for the Native American Bank, Denver, CO. Mr. Watchman holds an MBA from the University of California and a Bachelors degree from the University of Arizona.

Lt. Colonel Grayling G. Williams

Assistant Chief Grayling G. Williams has been in law enforcement for approximately 36 years. He started his career as a police officer with the Yale University Police Department and went on to serve as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for 22 years.

Chief Williams spent 10 years in the New England Field Division conducting undercover operations and conspiracy investigations. In 1996, he transferred to the DEA Training Academy in Quantico, VA, where he taught Undercover Operations, Surveillance Techniques and Informant Management to law enforcement officers in the U.S., Argentina, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the Caribbean. In 1998, he was promoted to Group Supervisor and was assigned to DEA Headquarters, the Baltimore District Office, and the Washington, DC, Division Office. In January 2003, he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge and re-assigned back to Headquarters. During his assignment to Headquarters, Chief Williams managed several high profile programs for DEA and was detailed to the U.S. Department of Justice to assist in the development of the DOJ Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program.

In December 2009, President Obama nominated Chief Williams and the U.S. Senate confirmed him as the Director of the Office of Counter-Narcotics Enforcement for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For two years Mr. Williams coordinated DHS policy/strategy with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy to stop the flow of illegal drugs and other contraband into the United States.

Upon retirement from federal service, Chief Williams became the Commander of the Internal Investigation Division at the Baltimore Police Department. From there, he was recruited to develop the Office of Professional Responsibility at the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. In January 2015, Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania appointed Mr. Williams State Inspector General. He managed investigations into waste, fraud and abuse by state agencies.
Chief Williams is a member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA). He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven and a Master of Science degree in Management from Johns Hopkins University.

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 careers 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 the Living Water Learning Resource Center. She intrinsically understood that it wasn’t enough to 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.

Ms. Williams is the author of Beautiful Layers, stories from those who survived the life of prostitution and 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.
About Us

At the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1968, the country’s urban centers were in crisis.

Through a major grant from the Ford Foundation, NUF was established in 1969 to bridge the under representation of communities of color in government, the nonprofit sector, and philanthropy.

Since then, the National Urban Fellows' signature MPA program has graduated over 1400 scholars.

Mission

National Urban Fellows develops accomplished and courageous professionals of all ethnic and racial backgrounds, particularly people of color and women, to be leaders and change agents in the public and non profit sectors, with a strong commitment to social justice and equity.

Candidate Requirements:

- US Citizenship
- Bachelor's Degree
- Meet Admission Requirements for Baruch College Marxe School of Public and International Affairs
- 5-7 Years of Professional Experience
- High Standard of Integrity and Work Ethic
- Possess Self-Discipline, Interpersonal, and Problem Solving Skills

Mentors Receive:

- In-House Support
- Fellow Capstone Project
- National Network of NUF Mentors & Alumni
- Attendance at January Leadership Conference

Fellows Receive:

- MPA Degree & 9-Month Mentorship
- $25K Living Stipend
- Book & Travel Stipends
- Leadership Coaching
SEE YOU IN
PHILADELPHIA
IN 2018

11th National Conference on Health Disparities
Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

Contacts:
Ms. Monique Hill
hillmo@musc.edu
843-792-3303

Dr. David E. Rivers
riversd@musc.edu
843-792-5546

nationalhealthdisparities.com
AmeriHealth Caritas salutes the 10th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

All across the nation, AmeriHealth Caritas is committed to helping more than 5.7 million people get care, stay well, and build healthy communities. For more than 30 years, we’ve made it our mission to address social barriers to health equity to help our members get access to quality, culturally competent care. Our efforts have earned us the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Distinction in Multicultural Health Care.

We are proud to support the 10th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities and its mission to reduce health disparities through sustaining and strengthening healthy communities.

www.amerihealthcaritas.com