



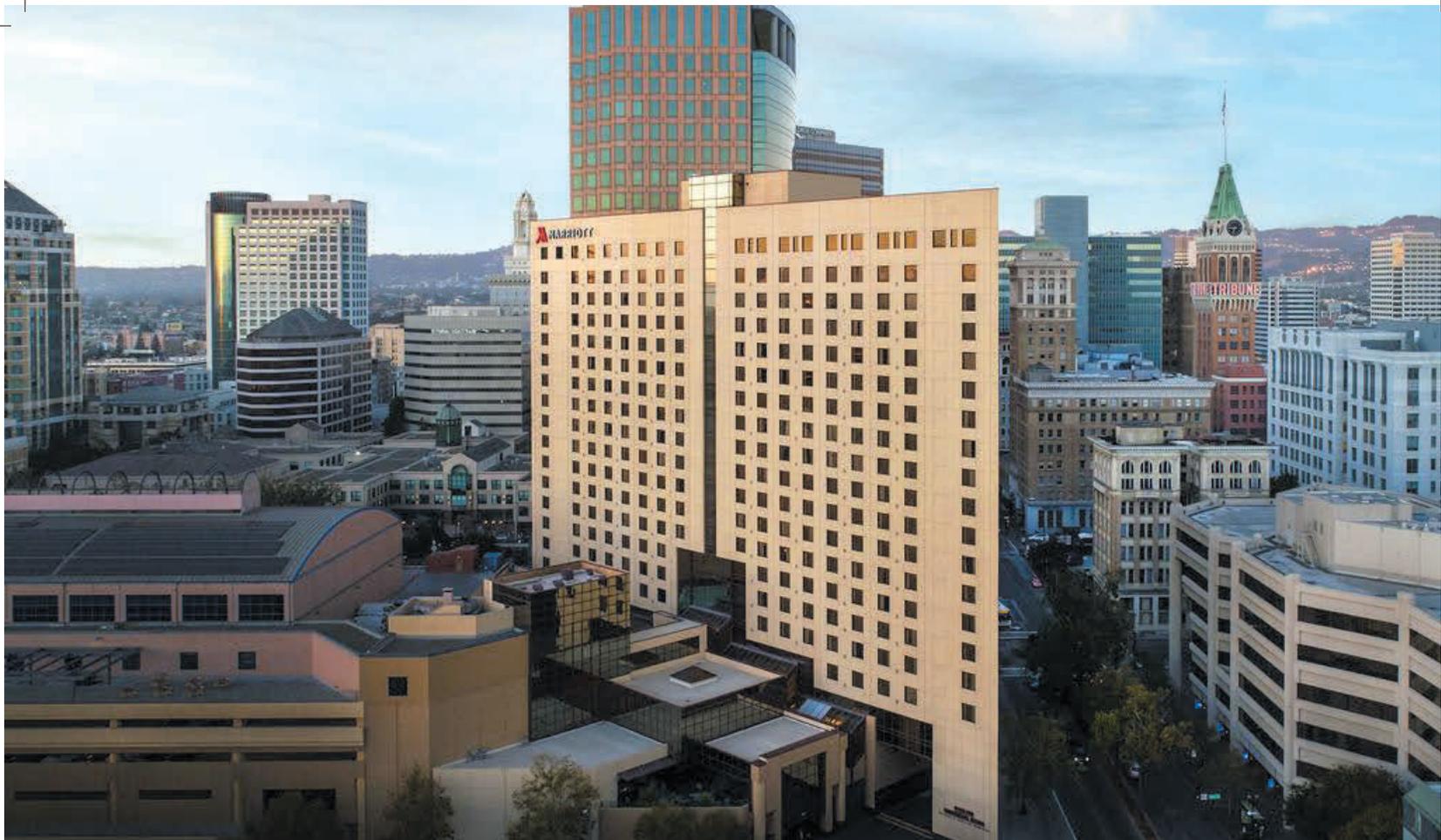
# 12th National Conference on Health Disparities

*Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining  
and Strengthening Healthy Communities*

# OAKLAND

**OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER**

**June 19-22, 2019**



## *Social Media at the Conference*

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| Washington DC                 |                   |



Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House

May 15, 2019

Dr. David E. Rivers  
Director  
Public Information and Community Outreach  
Medical University of South Carolina  
171 Ashley Avenue, Suite 305  
Charleston, South Carolina 29425

Dear Friends:

It is an honor to extend warm greetings to all gathered for the 12<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Health Disparities in Oakland, California. On behalf of the Congress, I salute Dr. David E. Rivers and the NCHD Advisory Board for their steadfast leadership in mobilizing and organizing students, researchers, clinicians, policymakers and leaders to address the troubling health disparities impacting so many of our families and our communities.

The National Conference on Health Disparities has long been a key force in building life-saving coalitions, fostering the next generation of leaders and crafting and communicating effective and innovative policy proposals that will make a difference. Your work over the coming days will be critical in ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care regardless of race or economic status. This year's focus on substance use and mental health is both timely and vital, as Congress works to address the ravages of the opioid epidemic across the country and continues our urgent fight for equity in the treatment of mental illnesses.

I commend Majority Whip James E. Clyburn for his longtime support for this important conference, and for his unwavering commitment to improving our nation's grave health care disparities. Again, thank you all for your tireless work to advance forward-looking solutions and improve the health and well-being of American families.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful and productive conference.

best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Pelosi".

NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House





HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

JAMES E. CLYBURN  
SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
SOUTH CAROLINA

June 21, 2019

Dr. David E. Rivers  
Director, Public Information and Community Outreach  
Medical University of South Carolina  
171 Ashley Avenue, Suite 305  
Charleston, South Carolina 29425

Dear Conferees:

I would like to extend my heartfelt greetings as you participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Health Disparities in Oakland, California. I applaud Dr. David E. Rivers and the NCHD Advisory Board for their unwavering commitment to addressing the growing health disparities crisis, which have devastating impacts on communities of color.

The National Conference on Health Disparities has been leading the way on discussions concerning health disparities with medical and community stakeholders. I commend you for your tireless work to bring awareness to the social determinants of health, such as poverty, environments stressors, educational attainment, housing, and air and water quality. As one who represents many underserved communities, I appreciate your focus on new technologies that can improve access to care in rural and underserved areas. We must seek innovative solutions if we are to be successful in making gains toward health equity.

I have been arguing for some time now that our biggest challenge is making America's greatness apply fairly and equitably to all Americans. I applaud your ongoing efforts to meet that challenge by finding meaningful ways to effectively reduce health disparities in communities nationwide.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Clyburn".

James Clyburn  
Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives

**Congresswoman Barbara Lee**



**United States Congress**  
13<sup>th</sup> District, California



## **Greetings from the Congresswoman**

Dearest Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to The National Conference on Health Disparities' 12<sup>th</sup> annual National Dialogue on Building Health Communities. Today, we celebrate and provide an impactful and empowering experience that will motivate a transformation for all those in attendance.

From 2007 through 2013, the conferences have brought together diverse partners, presenters, and attendees to share their knowledge of health disparities. The programs have uncovered a much larger story that social factors like race, poverty, low educational attainment, public safety, environmental quality, and inadequate housing are major contributors to health disparities. Findings suggest potential benefits of rededicating a portion of America's healthcare resources to programs that emphasize education, prevention, and personal responsibility—each person's willingness and capacity to make informed decisions that reduce the likelihood of disease development.

On behalf of the residents of California's beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I congratulate the National Conference on Health Disparities on this incredible milestone and wish you all a successful dialogue on building healthier communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

**Proudly Serving California's 13th Congressional District**  
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## CITY OF OAKLAND



1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

Office of the Mayor  
Libby Schaaf

(510) 238-3141  
FAX: (510) 238-4731  
TDD: (510) 238-3254

June 19, 2019

**Welcome to Oakland!** As Mayor of Oakland, I am pleased to welcome you to the country's most diverse and inclusive city for the 12th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities.

Eradicating disparities in all sectors of our society is the mission of my administration and the call of my community. As we undo the harms of the past, unfortunately vast disparities still exist and most vividly in the health and well-being among our residents.

I am proud Oakland is hosting such a prestigious event and encouraging honest discussions about our society's greatest challenges. Our most vulnerable populations need the fiercest advocates. NCHD attendees are the passionate solution-seekers who will make my city, our country, and the world at large a more equitable place for all.

Finally, please take time to visit Oakland's neighborhoods. In every corner of our city you'll find the fabric that makes our community unique: Diversity is a fact, inclusivity is our choice.

Let Oakland inspire you and the important work that you do. We are privileged to have you visit our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf", written in a cursive style.

Libby Schaaf

Mayor of Oakland



David J. Cole, MD, FACS  
President  
coledj@musc.edu  
Colcock Hall  
179 Ashley Avenue  
MSC 001  
Charleston, SC 29425  
Tel 843-792-2211  
muscedu

May 28, 2019

Friends,

It is my great pleasure to join in welcoming you to the Twelfth Annual Conference on Health Disparities with the theme of Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities. It was an honor and privilege for the Medical University of South Carolina to co-sponsor the first eleven conferences. We are excited to partner with others to sponsor the 2019 conference.

Over its eleven years, this national conference has grown and matured, refining its focus to include such critical topics as: social determinants of health, the substance abuse crisis, connecting the dots between research and public policy, climate change and catastrophic weather, the many faces of human trafficking, mental health challenges, the identification of cutting-edge community-based programs, and leveraging new technologies to improve access to care in rural and underserved communities.

Like its eleven predecessors, the 2019 conference offers participants the opportunity 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 three rewarding days of participation. Thank you for attending and sharing your expertise and excitement with us.

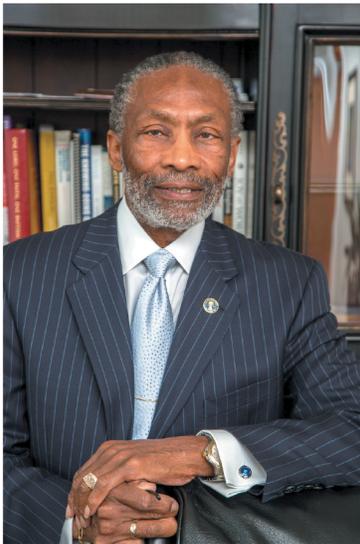
Have a great conference!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Cole MD", written in a cursive style.

David J. Cole, M.D., FACS  
President



Office of the President  
April 7, 2019



Allen University welcomes you to the Twelfth Annual National Conference on Health Disparities. The informational and relational value of this convening is self-evident and worthy of celebration.

The theme "Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities" provides the platform for a wide-range of presentations, dialogues, and ongoing investigation. The challenges that impact health and wellness germinate in environments that are familiar but at the same time, do not have the wherewithal to raise the right questions or identify the answer to improve. Conferences such as this informs and strengthens communities.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and stimulating conference.

Sincerely,

*Ernest McNealey*

Ernest McNealey, Ph.D.  
President and CEO



4500 E. Cotton Center Blvd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85040

RE:12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Disparities

June 19, 2019

Dear Attendee,

Aetna is proud to be a sponsor at this year's **12<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD)**. It is an exciting time for Aetna Medicaid as we continue to grow and adapt to the unique needs of our members. We are thrilled to be a participant of NCHD and join forces to find better solutions to the nation's health inequities. We are also honored to have our very own; Sala Webb, MD, CPH, FAPA, present the keynote address on Friday, June 21st at 8:15 a.m.

Special thanks to Dr. Rivers, Dr. Slaughter, Dr. Abraham and the other devoted staff of the Medical University of South Carolina for continuing to lead the discussion of inequities in our health systems.

Thank you for your commitment to the NCHD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Green M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tracey Green, M.D.  
Vice President, Personalized Health

#### **About Aetna Medicaid**

Aetna Medicaid Administrators LLC (Aetna Medicaid), a CVS Health business, has over 30 years of experience managing the care of the most medically vulnerable, using innovative approaches and a local presence in each market to achieve both successful health care results and effective cost outcomes. Aetna Medicaid has particular expertise serving high-need Medicaid members, including those who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare. Currently, Aetna Medicaid owns and/or administers Medicaid managed health care plans under the names of Aetna Better Health and other affiliate names. Together, these plans serve approximately 2 million people in 16 states, including Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Texas. For more information, see [www.aetnabetterhealth.com](http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com).



June 19, 2019

National Conference on Health Disparities Attendees:

On behalf of more than four million Blue Shield of California members, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Twelfth Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD) in Oakland, California! We are excited to sponsor this year's event, as we recognize the importance of changing what's possible through inclusive dialogue, community engagement and diverse collaboration. Oakland is a city rich with culture and diversity, and we are proud that the city will be home to Blue Shield of California's new headquarters in 2019.

At Blue Shield, we use the expression Never Stop as a rallying cry to achieve our mission. Our nearly 7,000 employees come to work every day to serve our members and to transform our current healthcare system into one that is worthy of our family and friends and sustainably affordable. Our mission doesn't stop with our members, it extends to all Californians and beyond. As a nonprofit health plan, we are uniquely committed to partnering with others across the nation to reimagine the future of health and to transform care. We know that we have to focus on our communities, our neighbors, and the social determinants of health to achieve our mission and make real and lasting change.

Thank you for bringing your expertise and excitement to this year's conference. Your presence is an indication that you are committed to making a positive difference to building healthy communities, and we are grateful for your partnership.

Never stop!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimberley Goode". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kimberley Goode  
Senior Vice President, External Affairs





# THE POWER OF **RESURGENCE**



The power of **RESURGENCE** is transforming this historically Black, Christian university and setting it on course to become one of the most prestigious liberal arts institutions in South Carolina and the nation.

### **RELEVANT ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

- Offers nine bachelor degrees and 23 distinct areas of study with expanded academic offerings in criminal justice, sports management and a graduate degree in divinity.

### **RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP**

- Scored a 2.8 on the U.S. Department of Education's three-point financial responsibility scale, a strong indicator of the university's financial stability.

### **REBIRTH OF YELLOW JACKET NATION**

- Ignited a renewed pride with the return of both Yellow Jacket football and The Band of Gold.

### **REAL-WORLD RESEARCH**

- Explores solutions in areas such as environmental health and justice and cybersecurity to help improve quality of life for communities impacted by real issues.

### **RESPECTED FACULTY**

- Internationally recognized faculty in music, social sciences, business and STEM fields; 77 percent hold the highest degrees in their professional discipline.

### **REPRODUCING LEADERS**

- 80 percent of graduates are employed or attend graduate and professional schools within six months after earning a degree.

[allenuniversity.edu](http://allenuniversity.edu)



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## *Introduction & Welcome from the Chairman*



**Dr. David E. Rivers, Chair**

*Professor and Public Information  
and Community Outreach Director*

*Academic Affairs Faculty*

*Medical University of South Carolina*

**W**elcome to Oakland for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD), the latest in our ongoing effort to present cutting-edge research, timely information and perspectives, and successful programmatic responses to one of America's foremost public health issues.

Health disparities – the difference in health status and outcomes based on race and economic standing – impact all Americans. Disparities affect healthcare costs, workplace productivity, local and national economies, educational attainment and overall quality of life. Moreover, differences in the incidence and outcomes of disease based solely on societal metrics should not be acceptable in a nation that takes pride in the equal opportunity it offers to all of its citizens.

Well into our second decade of delivering the most current information on health disparities, we look forward to a time when the knowledge we share crosses the divide between words and action – between “lessons learned” and meaningful, fully funded public policy initiatives. We must find the collective will to assure health equity for all Americans. Or, as American Public Health Association Executive Director Georges Benjamin, MD, wrote in a recent issue of U.S. News & World Report: “Health equity is a goal we can achieve, and it's within our power to do so. We have the tools and the knowledge to make health equity happen, but it's up to all of us to use them.”

This implies that it's time to prioritize, identify and assign the needed budgetary and human resources to address the issues we will discuss here.

Only in this way may we achieve the kind of communities envisioned by U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn in 2003, when he first suggested that healthy communities build on the relationship between human health, environmental quality, Environmental Justice and economic development. We will not have healthy people in the absence of healthy communities.

With this in mind, and guided by current events and the lessons of previous conferences, the NCHD Advisory Board has identified topics, moderators, panelists and speakers for this year's conference. The resulting Agenda advances ongoing, "big picture" topics from previous conferences, while recognizing and addressing current events.

Among specific topics drawn from recent headlines are: gun violence as a major public health issue, the opioid crisis in America, and the wide-ranging impacts of climate change and catastrophic weather events on communities nationwide. We continue those dialogues here.

This year, we are placing a major focus on mental health, and the many challenges it presents to our nation, in a session entitled "Mental Health: The Many Sides of a Growing National Challenge, Including Gun Violence, Suicide and Homelessness."

***According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI):***

- >> Serious mental illness costs America \$193.2 billion in lost earnings per year.
- >> Approximately 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. (46.6 million) experiences mental illness in a given year. Among the 20.2 million adults in the U.S. who experienced a substance use disorder, 50.5% — 10.2 million adults — had a co-occurring mental illness.

>> Suicide is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the U.S., and the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for people aged 10–34. More than 90% of people who die by suicide show symptoms of a mental health condition. Each day, an estimated 18-22 veterans die by suicide.

>> An estimated 26% of homeless adults staying in shelters live with serious mental illness, and an estimated 46% live with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

While the numbers and related current events drive elements of our Agenda, the broader context of previous conferences remains. Conference planners and participants have identified three overriding themes in health disparities. These are: 1) The role played by the social determinants of health, including poverty, race, environmental quality, housing, educational attainment and public safety; 2) Personal responsibility, including each person's choices pertaining 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.

Conceiving, delivering, reporting on and maintaining an ongoing program, such as the NCHD, is a major effort. Our program's Sponsors and Supporters, Moderators and Presenters, Keynote and Luncheon Speakers, and Advisory Board — all of whom recognize the relevance and impact of their efforts — are vital to the NCHD's continued existence. Many of these individuals, agencies and corporate entities have been with us from the start. To them, I say thank you.

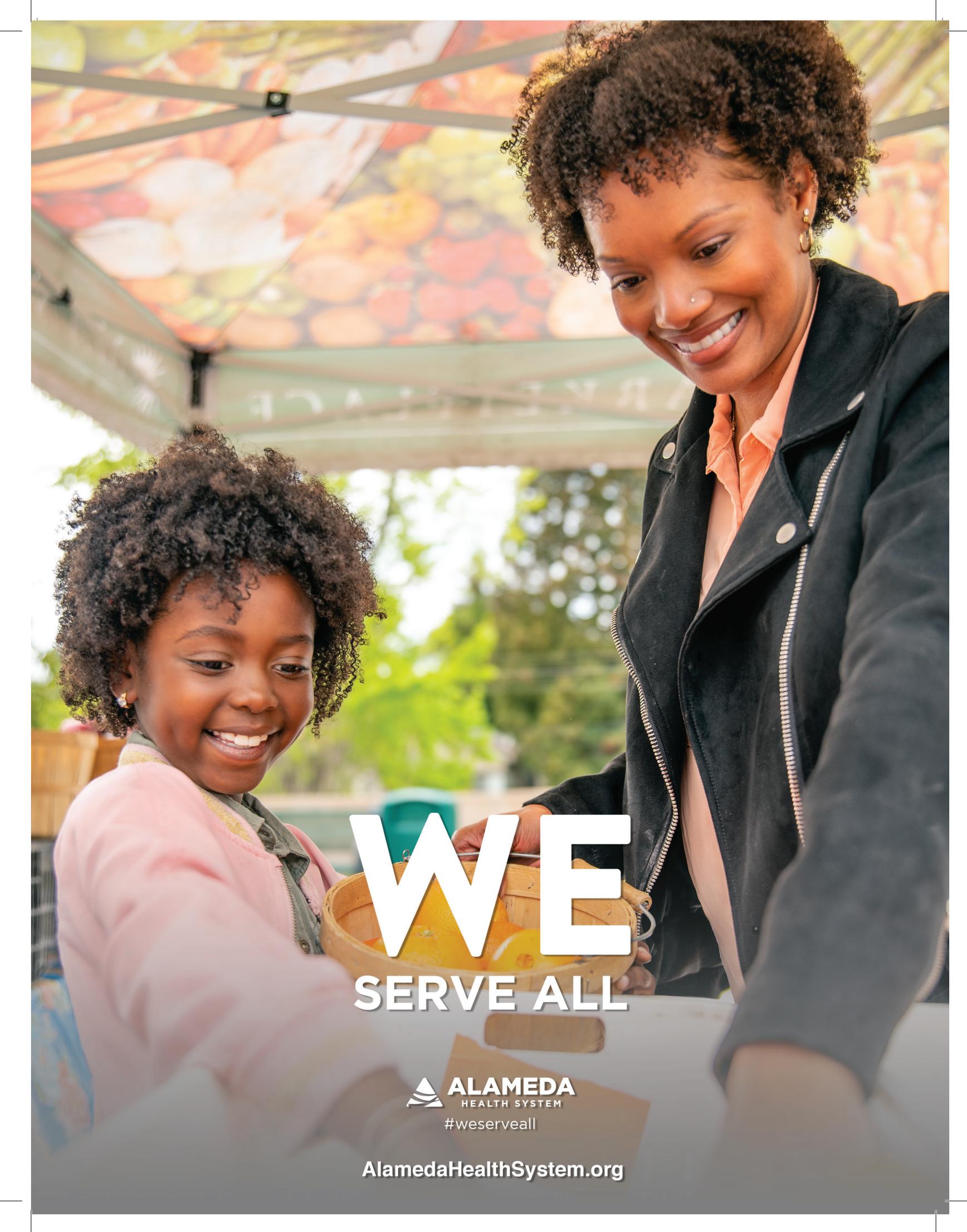
Meanwhile, I encourage you to take the lessons learned here home and, once there, assume a greater role in efforts to reduce health disparities at the local, state and national levels.

A young child with dark skin and curly hair is smiling broadly, holding the hand of an adult. The adult's hand is visible on the left, wearing several silver bracelets. The child is wearing a dark blue, textured sweater. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

# Be you

Aetna is proud to support  
the 12th National Conference  
on Health Disparities.





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# Agenda

## PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2019

8:00 am - 4:30 pm..... General Conference Registration

8:00 - 9:00 am ..... Student Registration  
and Continental Breakfast

9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Undergraduate and Graduate Student Forum: Training  
the Next Generation of Leaders

### Co-Chairs:

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

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

### KEYNOTE LUNCHEON SPEAKER

**Dr. Talmesha Richards**, Chief Academic And Diversity  
Officer, STEMconnector® and Million Women Mentors,  
Washington, DC

## DAY ONE: THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019

7:30 - 8:30 am ..... Continental Breakfast

7:30 am - 4:30 pm..... General Conference Registration

8:00 - 9:00 am ..... OPENING REMARKS

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

**Dr. David E. Rivers**, Chair, National Conference on  
Health Disparities; Professor and Public Information and  
Community Outreach Director, Academic Faculty Affairs,  
Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC

### SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION

**The Honorable Barbara Lee**, U.S. House of Representatives,  
California, District 13

### CITY OF OAKLAND WELCOME

**The Honorable Libby Schaff, JD**, Mayor, Oakland, CA

### HOST REMARKS

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

**Ms. Kimberly Goode**, Senior Vice President, External  
Affairs, Blue Shield of California, San Francisco, CA

**Dr. Melinda Downing**, Environmental Justice Program,  
Manager, Legacy Management, U.S. Department of Energy,  
Washington, DC

**Dr. Oluwole Ariyo**, Associate Professor of Cell and Molecular  
Biology; Director of Research and Chair, Institutional Review  
Board (IRB), Allen University, Columbia, SC

**Ms. Tanya Thompson**, Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr.  
Bernett L. Johnson, Jr., Sayre Health Center, Philadelphia, PA

**Dr. Antonio D. Tillis**, Dean of the College of Liberal  
Arts and Social Sciences and M.D. Anderson Professor in  
Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston, Houston, TX

**Mr. Miguel Garcia, Jr.**, President and CEO, National Urban  
Fellows, New York, NY

9:00 - 9:30 am

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Reed V. Tuckson**, Managing Director,  
Tuckson Health Connections, LLC,  
Atlanta, GA





**9:30 am - 10:45 am**

**PANEL ONE DISCUSSION and Q&A**

*The Social Determinants of Health: Addressing Basic Societal Needs -- Such as Poverty, Educational Attainment, Housing, and Air and Water Quality -- to Reduce Health Disparities*

**Moderator:**

**The Honorable Donna M. Christensen MD**, *President of the Christensen Institute for Community Health and Empowerment; Former Delegate to U.S. Congress for the U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix, USVI*

**Panelists:**

**Ms. Tangerine Brigham**, *Chief Administrative Officer of Population Health, Alameda Health System, Oakland, CA*

**Dr. Tina Sacks**, *Assistant Professor, School of Social Welfare; Faculty Chair, Center for Research on Social Change at the Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, University of California at Berkeley, CA*

**Ms. Kathy Ko Chin**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), Oakland, CA*

**Mr. Wm. Jahmal Miller**, *Director of Corporate Reputation and Thought Leadership, San Francisco-based Blue Shield of California's External Affairs Division, San Francisco, CA*

**10:45 am - Noon**

**PANEL TWO DISCUSSION and Q&A**

*The Substance Abuse Crisis: Impacts and Answers with a Focus on the Opioid Crisis, Tobacco and Alcohol, and other Drugs*

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Carmen Nevarez**, *Vice President for External Relations, Preventive Medicine Advisor, Director of the Center for Health Leadership and Practice, Public Health Institute; Gynecologist and Preventative Medicine Specialist, Oakland, CA*

**Panelists:**

**Mr. Chris Sherwin**, *Vice President, State Advocacy, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Washington, DC*

**Dr. S. Bobby Mukkamala**, *Board-Certified Otolaryngologist; American Medical Association Board of Trustees, Flint, MI*

**Dr. Kurt C. Organista**, *Professor, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, CA*

**Dr. Stephen Robinson**, *President, Society of Cannabis Clinicians, Oakland, CA*

**12:00 pm - 12:30 pm ..... BREAK**

**12:30 - 1:45 pm ..... LUNCHEON**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Mr. Thomas Dortch**, *Chairman Emeritus, Fulton-Dekalb Hospital Authority; Chairman, 100 Black Men of America, Inc., Atlanta, GA*



**1:45 - 2:00 pm ..... BREAK**

**2:00 - 3:30 pm**

**PANEL THREE DISCUSSION and Q&A**

*From Research to Response: Connecting the Dots between Research and Public Policy that will have a Positive Impact on Community Development*

**Moderator:**

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



# Agenda *continued*

## Panelists:

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

**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*

**Mr. Darold Hamlin**, *President, Emerging Technology Consortium, Washington, DC*

**Dr. Andrew Herring**, *Attending Emergency Physician, Associate Director of Research, Medical Director, Highland Hospital; Principal Investigator, ED-BRIDGE | Emergency Buprenorphine Treatment, California Department of Healthcare Services; Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA*

## DAY TWO: FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019

**7:00 - 8:00 am** .....Continental Breakfast

**7:30 am - 4:30 pm**..... General Conference Registration

**8:00 - 8:30 am** ..... OPENING REMARKS

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

**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*

**Ms. Tangerine Brigham**, *Chief Administrative Officer of Population Health, Alameda Health System, Oakland, CA*

**Ms. Angie Carey**, *Community Advocate Manager, Aetna Medicaid, Fresno, CA*

**8:30 - 9:00 am**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Dr. Sala S. Webb**, *Children's Healthcare Administrator, MercyCare Arizona, Phoenix, AZ*



**9:00 am - 10:30 am**

## PANEL FOUR DISCUSSION and Q&A

***Climate Change and Catastrophic Weather: How a Global Phenomenon Impacts Life at the Community Level***

## Moderator:

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

## Panelists:

**Mr. Al George**, *Director of Conservation, SC Aquarium, Charleston, SC*

**Ms. Nina Martinez Burger**, *Managing Member, Althin, LLC, Albuquerque, NM*

**Dr. Tom Ellison**, *Medical Services Director and Principal Investigator, PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA; Alabama State Director, Doctors For America, Inc., Birmingham, AL*

**10:30 - 10:45 am** ..... BREAK

**10:45 am - Noon**

## PANEL FIVE DISCUSSION and Q&A

***Mental Health: The Many Sides of a Growing National Challenge, including Gun Violence, Homelessness and Suicide***

## Moderator:

**Mr. Glenn Ellis**, *Bioethics Research Fellow Harvard School of Medicine; CEO, Strategies for Well-Being, LLC, Philadelphia, PA*



**Panelists:**

**Dr. Brian L. Turner**, *Associate Professor of Psychology; Director of African American Diaspora Studies, Xavier University of Louisiana; Licensed Clinical Psychologist Moments of Truth, LLC, New Orleans, LA*

**Dr. Carolyn Greene**, *Associate Professor, Division of Health Services Research, Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI), Department of Psychiatry, UAMS; Clinical Psychologist, Walker Family Clinic; National Manager for Mental Health Web Services, Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Office (VACO), Little Rock, AR*

**Ms. Dara Papo**, *Care Coordination Services Manager; Privacy Officer, San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, San Francisco, CA*

**Noon - 12:15 pm ..... BREAK**

**12:15 - 1:45 pm ..... LUNCHEON**

**STUDENT RESEARCH FORUM AWARDS PRESENTATION**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

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



**2:15 - 2:30 pm ..... BREAK**

**2:30 - 3:30 pm**  
***Roundtable Discussion with State and Local Leaders: Their Individual and Collective Roles in Reducing Health Disparities***

**OPENING REMARKS**

**SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATION**  
**The Honorable James E. Clyburn**, *Majority Whip, U.S. House of Representatives, South Carolina, District 6*

**Moderator:**

**The Honorable Marguerite Archie-Hudson**, *Former California State Legislator; Visiting Associate Professor, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC*

**ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS**

**The Honorable Calvin Smyre**, *Georgia House of Representatives, District 135, Columbus, GA*

**Ms. Verdenia Baker**, *County Administrator, Palm Beach County, Royal Palm Beach, FL*

**The Honorable Rodney Ellis**, *Commissioner, Harris County Precinct One, Houston, TX*

**Mr. Derrick Watchman**, *President and Owner, Sagebrush Hill Group, Window Rock, AZ*

**3:30 - 5:00 pm**  
**PANEL SIX DISCUSSION and QA**  
***The Changing Faces of Human Trafficking***

**Moderator:**

**Ms. Lisa Williams**, *Whole Life Strategist, Sex Trafficking Thought Leader, Marathoner & CEO of The Centre for H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel)*

**Panelists:**

**Ms. Kirsten Rogers**, *Co-Creator, Black to Yoga; Yoga, Meditation & Mindfulness Teacher, Kirsten Rogers Yoga, San Francisco, CA*

**Dr. Sharon Cooper**, *CEO of Developmental and Forensic Pediatrics, P.A.; Consultant, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; Fort Bragg, NC*

**Dr. Kimberly S. G. Chang**, *Board Liaison on Community Health; Co-Founder, HEAL Trafficking, Oakland, CA*

**Mr. Marq Daniel Taylor**, *CEO and Founder, The Buddy House; Teacher, Atlanta, GA*



# Agenda *continued*

7:00 pm .....RECEPTION  
Scott's Pavilion @ Jack London Square

## REMARKS

**Dr. David E. Rivers**, *Chairman, National Conference on Health Disparities; Professor and Public Information and Community Outreach Director, Academic Affairs Faculty, Medical University of South Carolina*

## DAY THREE: SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2019

8:00 - 9:00 am ..... Breakfast Buffet

8:00 - 10:00 am ..... Registration

OPENING REMARKS .....8:45 am

### Conference Facilitator

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

9:00 - 10:45 am

**PANEL SEVEN DISCUSSION and QA**  
*Leveraging New Technologies to Address Access to Care in Rural and Underserved Communities*

### Moderator:

**Dr. Sabra C. Slaughter**, *Senior Advisor to the President, Office of the President; Interim Director, Center for Health Disparities Research, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

### Panelists:

**Dr. Joni Williams**, *Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI*

**Dr. Bill Moran**, *MUSC Telehealth, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*

**Mr. Anish Sebastian**, *Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder, Babyscripts, Washington, DC*

**Dr. Joaquin A. Anguera**, *Director of Clinical Program, Neuroscape; Assistant Professor, Neurology and Psychiatry; Weill Institute for Neurosciences & Kavli Institute for Fundamental Neuroscience, University of California, San Francisco, CA*

**Mr. Luis Belen**, *Chief Executive Officer, National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved, Washington, DC*

**Mr. Stanley Campbell**, *Chairman & CEO of EagleForce Associates and EagleForce Health, Washington, DC*

10:45 - 11:45 am

**PANEL EIGHT DISCUSSION and QA**  
*Success Stories: The Identification of Cutting- Edge Community- Based Programs, with an emphasis on Prevention and Personal Responsibility*

### Moderator:

**Mr. Byron Marshall**, *IPM Solutions, LLC, Atlanta, GA*

### Panelists:

**Dr. Evelyn L. Lewis**, *Chief Medical Officer Warrior Centric Health and Associate Professor Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Orleans, LA*

**Ms. Pamela D. Price**, *Deputy Director, The Balm in Gilead, Inc., Richmond, VA*

**Dr. Vanessa Lopez-Littleton**, *Assistant Professor, Health, Human Services and Public Policy Department, California State University-Monterey Bay, Seaside, CA*

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Dr. David E. Rivers**, *Chair, National Conference on Health Disparities; Professor and Public Information and Community Outreach Director, Academic Faculty Affairs, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC*



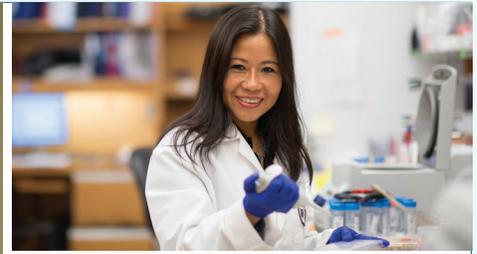
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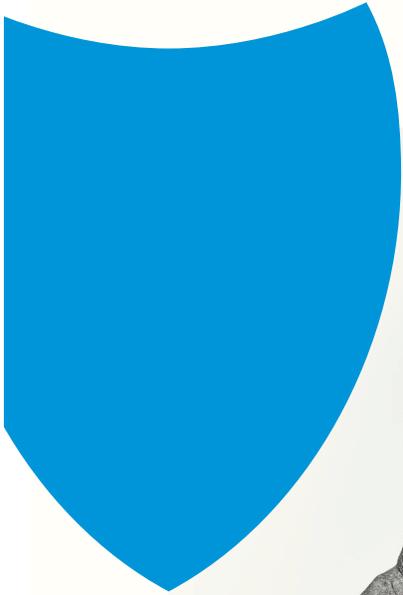
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# Biographies

## ***JOAQUIN A. ANGUERA, Ph.D.***

Dr. Anguera's research includes developing cognitive assessments and interventions for healthy and impaired individuals across the lifespan, including research involving minority populations and depression. These approaches involve leveraging mobile (tablet, phone) and cutting-edge technologies (VR, motion capture) to augment data collection practices. Dr. Anguera received his Ph.D. in kinesiology from the University of Michigan.

## ***MARGUERITE ARCHIE-HUDSON, Ph.D., M.Ed***

Dr. Marguerite Archie-Hudson retired in the fall of 2001 as the 17th President of Talladega College (AL). She was the first woman to hold the executive position in the history of the 151 year-old institution and the first African-American woman to head a four-year institution in the State of Alabama. Prior to her appointment she served as a member of the Talladega College Board of Trustees. Dr. Archie-Hudson holds a B.A in Psychology from Talladega College, a Masters in Counseling from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education with a concentration in Public Law from The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Dr. Archie-Hudson has served in many capacities in higher education including as statewide Associate Dean in the California State University System, administrator at UCLA's College of Letters and Science and as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles Community College District which includes nine colleges. She is currently a Visiting Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration at the College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

From 1990 to 1996 Dr. Archie-Hudson served as a member of the California State Legislature representing the 48th Assembly District of Los Angeles; she reached her term limit in 1996. During her tenure in the Legislature she chaired the Committee on Higher Education and served on the Committees on Judiciary, Utilities and Commerce, Finance and Insurance, Appropriations, Human Services, Labor and Joint Legislative Audit. She also held a leadership position as Democratic Whip and is a former member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). During her legislative service Dr. Archie-Hudson had 45 bills signed into state law, including the "bucket bill" that required businesses using 5 gallon industrial containers to carry an imprinted label warning against the danger of small children drowning in them- a safety feature that now appears worldwide on all such containers.

During her tenure in the Legislature Dr. Archie-Hudson led the campaign to build the \$129 million California Science Center in Exposition Park in the heart of her district. The California Science Center- now a \$450 million enterprise- is recognized as one of the most innovative science education facilities in the nation and she counts it among her proudest legislative achievements. In April 2011 NASA selected the California Science Center as the permanent home of the Space Shuttle Endeavor when it was retired after its last space mission.

Dr. Archie-Hudson has long been active in civic and charitable endeavors. She served as one of the first non-lawyer members of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California, the California Commission on Judicial Nominees and the California Committee of Bar Examiners. She was an elected Los Angeles City Commissioner on Charter Reform and served as Vice-President of the California Science Center Foundation. She was a well-known media personality in Los Angeles serving for 8 years as a regular panelist on the Emmy award winning KNBC-TV weekly public affairs program "Free-4-All." Dr. Archie- Hudson currently serves as an Honorary Trustee of the California Science Center Foundation. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Bon Secours Saint Francis Hospital and the African-American Leadership Council of Trident United Way. She is a founding member of the Yonges Island Community Resource Center, serving the rural communities from Hollywood to Edisto Island.

Dr. Archie- Hudson is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and The Links, Incorporated.

## ***OLUWOLE ARIYO, Ph.D.***

Oluwole Ariyo is an Associate Professor of Biology (Tenured) and Principal Investigator, Environmental Justice Institute at Allen University in Columbia, SC. He joined Allen University in 2006 and served as Chair, Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, between 2009 and 2011. Before that, he was the Biology Coordinator for two years (2007-2009). He is currently the Chair, Allen University Curriculum Committee, and the Lead person for the Institutional Review Board (IRB). His current research focuses on investigating and bringing solutions to the deleterious effects of different kinds of pollutants in different communities. Another aspect of his research deals with the expression patterns of microRNAs under different stress conditions and developmental stages in rice, corn and wheat.

Dr. Ariyo has mentored over 150 undergraduate students in research across the nation. Recently one of his research presentations with a student on carbon monoxide concentrations within the United States was presented at the National Environmental Justice (NEJ) Conference, which was held in Washington, DC, March 2019. Dr. Ariyo also presented a training workshop on "Deleterious Effects of Improper



Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste” at this same conference. He has been a Principal Investigator on many grants. Therefore, he has a wealth of experience when it comes to 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 significant learning outcomes and skills acquisition.

### ***VERDENIA C. BAKER, MPA***

Verdenia C. Baker, MPA, is County Administrator of Palm Beach County, Florida. A Certified Financial Manager, she is responsible for the administration of the policies of the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners. She manages the daily operation of county government, which includes more than 6,300 employees and a budget of \$4.4 Billion. Palm Beach County is one of the few counties in the nation with AAA General Obligation Bond ratings from all three rating agencies and most recently received AAA Revenue Bond rating from S&P. Ms. Baker serves a county population of more than 1.4 million residents.

Ms. Baker began her career with Palm Beach County in 1987 as a Budget Analyst. She was promoted to Impact Fee Coordinator and eventually became the division director of the County’s Financial Management Department. Her experience as a financial manager was a prelude to her promotion to Assistant County Administrator and, one year later, to Deputy County Administrator for approximately 15 years. She was selected as County Administrator in September 2015. In November of 2016, she led a successful one-cent infrastructure surtax initiative for Palm Beach County that included partnerships with the School District and the League of Cities. She was successful in collaborating with the business community, as well as local community groups, in garnering their support for the passage of the surtax. She was a key partner in the successful 2017 Palm Beach County Countywide Housing Summit. She served as the liaison and lead negotiator on the successful recruitment of The Scripps Research Institute, resulting in a growing bio-technology industry in Palm Beach County. In addition, she has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Mandatory Inclusionary Workforce Housing Program, Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County and the Growth Tiered System for the County. She was responsible for Redistricting of County Commission Districts in 2000 and 2010.

Ms. Baker collaborates daily with representatives of other jurisdictions, developers, private industry, and civic and community organizations on issues of interest pertaining to county business. She represents the county on regional initiatives, involving private and public sector entities on special projects including, but not limited to, Boca Bowl,

Super Bowls in 2001 and 2007, and the Third and Final Presidential Debate of 2012. Fiduciary responsibilities remain on the top of her agenda as she reviews and approves departmental and agency budgets before passing them to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.

Ms. Baker holds a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration and Bachelor of Science Degree in Rehabilitative Services, both from Florida State University. She has affiliation with several professional and community organizations and has received numerous national, state

### ***LUIS BELÉN***

Luis Belén has founded and managed several initiatives that provide health-related solutions for underserved communities and facilitates an interface with industry, organizations and government agencies.

Mr. Belen currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of The National HIT Collaborative for the Underserved, Inc. (NHIT), a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, established in 2008 with a mission to engage underserved populations in the development and use of health information technology (HIT) as a means to support and sustain health equity and economic viability based on NHIT’s five pillars: Workforce, Innovation, Policy, Research and Community. He is responsible for leading stakeholder engagement efforts with the White House, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Capitol Hill, public/private/community organizations, national initiatives, and key convenings such as the Annual Conference, Wall Street Summit, and Congressional Briefings.

Mr. Belen is a Co-Founder of the HIMSS Latino Community. He serves on the Morehouse School of Medicine’s (MSM) Trans-Disciplinary Collaborative Center’s Health Information Technology Policy Advisory Board. He also served on the Health IT Policy Committee, The Consumer Workgroup and the Health Datapalooza Steering Committee.

Mr. Belen obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University in New York, NY, and attended the A Better Chance program in Swarthmore, PA. He currently resides in Loudoun County, VA.



# *Biographies* continued

## **TANGERINE BRIGHAM, MPP**

As Chief Administrative Officer, Population Health, Tangerine Brigham leads Alameda Health System's efforts to improve patient experience, reduce costs, and transition to population health management.

She is responsible for establishing AHS wellness and disease management programs to deliver the best value in high-quality, integrated health care. She also works with community partners and government leaders to improve health equity and to develop programs and services addressing key social determinants of health, such as lack of housing or access to fresh food.

Ms. Brigham has more than 20 years of experience in nonprofit and public sectors, most recently as deputy director of managed care services for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. She oversaw Healthy San Francisco and My Health LA, programs expanding health access for the uninsured and undocumented.

Ms. Brigham holds a Master of Science Degree in Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley, a Bachelors of Science in Economics from UCLA and was a National Association of Public Hospitals Fellow.

## **KIMBERLYS.G. CHANG, M.D., MPH,**

Dr. Chang is a family physician at Asian Health Services in Oakland, CA. She spent 2014-2015 as a Commonwealth Fund Mongan Fellow in Minority Health Policy at Harvard Medical School, where she completed a policy practicum addressing the role of Federally Qualified Health Centers in caring for victims of human trafficking, with the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations. Prior to her fellowship, Dr. Chang was Site Director at the Frank Kiang Medical Center, Asian Health Services, directing the start-up of this family practice clinic, from assisting with design, developing programming, growing it to full capacity in less than two years, and expanding patients' language access to ten Asian languages. She also provided care for many commercially sexually-exploited children (CSEC).

Dr. Chang has trained thousands of front-line multidisciplinary professionals on the healthcare to intersect with human trafficking across the United States, and internationally to the Compact of Free Association nations in the Western Pacific. She served on a Technical Working Group for the Administration for Children and Families, to develop a pilot training for health care professionals on human trafficking. She currently serves as 2nd Vice Chair of the National

Association of Community Health Center's Committee on Service Integration on Behavioral Health and HIV. Her presentations and publications have focused on cultural competency, human trafficking issues, underserved populations and global health issues. In December 2015, she provided expert testimony for a Congressional Briefing for the US Helsinki Commission on "Best Practices in Rescuing Trafficking Victims." In 2011, she was recognized with a Physician Advocacy Merit Award from the Institute on Medicine as a Profession.

Dr. Chang received her M.D. from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, completed her family medicine residency at San Francisco General Hospital, the University of California, San Francisco, and received her MPH from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she was awarded the Dr. Fang-Ching Sun Memorial Award for demonstrated commitment to promoting the health of vulnerable people.

## **KATHY KO CHIN**

Kathy Ko Chin is President & CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), which influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. With strong values from her immigrant parents, her life's work has built community institutions that contribute to a just and multiracial society. Among these values is to give back to our country, so for 40 years, she has worked to improve the quality of life, particularly health, for the poor and underserved.

Recognized as an authority on national health policy, Kathy has served on President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She also is a trustee of the Kresge Foundation. She is passionate about non-profits and has served as a Board leader, including at Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, CompassPoint Nonprofit Services, Public Health Institute and California Pan-Ethnic Health Network.

## **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 serving nine terms (18 years). She is the first female physician to serve 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 the Committee on Homeland Security and Committee on Natural Resources; and Chaired 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.

Dr. Christensen 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. Today she serves as a consultant to the National Health Information Technology Collaborative for the Underserved and to the Emerging Technology Consortium Pathways to Excellence, which works with HBCUs to increase their R&D, funding and potential to transform communities; and the Boards of the Black AIDS Institute, the American Kidney Fund, Consumers4 Quality/Care a local VI FQHC and several others. She recently established the Christensen Institute for Community Health and Empowerment. She is the immediate past State Chair of the Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands and Regional Chair of the Eastern Region of the Black Caucus of the Democratic National Committee. In 2018-19 she chaired the new Bryan/ Roach Administration's transition team for the Department of Health and of Human Services.

### ***SHARON W. COOPER, M.D. FAAP***

Sharon Cooper, M.D., is a Developmental and Forensic Pediatrician who cares for children and select adults with different abilities, as well as those who have been victims of maltreatment. Dr. Cooper retired from the United States Army with the rank of Colonel and holds adjunct faculty positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences at Bethesda, MD. She has provided numerous lectures nationally and internationally. Her primary areas of expertise include all forms of child maltreatment, child torture and child sexual exploitation.

Dr. Cooper has published many chapters on the subject of child sexual exploitation and is the lead editor of one of the most comprehensive texts in the U.S. on this subject. She works with victims and families of children who have been the prey of all types of online and offline exploitation. She has provided training to more than a thousand professionals on sexual exploitation under the auspices of NCMEC. She serves on several boards and working groups, to include the Marie Collins Foundation (UK), the Academy on Violence and Abuse (USA), and the Vatican's Congress on Child Dignity in the Digital World.

Dr. Cooper has served as an expert witness in several hundred cases of child maltreatment and provides testimony on all aspects of child sexual exploitation. She continues to serve with an International Working Group on the victim impact for survivors of child sexual abuse imagery, sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. She recently produced "Not Just Pictures," the first American documentary to provide insight into the ongoing extraordinary impact of the victimization of children whose abusive images are distributed in cyberspace.

### ***THOMAS W. DORTCH, JR.***

Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of TWD, Inc. In 1990, he became the State Director and served as Chief Administrator for United States Senator Sam Nunn. Mr. Dortch was the first African-American to serve in this capacity for any U. S. Senator. Some of Mr. Dortch's other accomplishments include: Chief Executive Officer of Atlanta Transportation Systems, Inc.; Chairman and CEO of Cornerstone Parking; Chairman of Lancor Parking Management, LLC; Managing Partner of FAD Consulting, LLC; founding the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc.; co-founding the Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (GAME) to fill a void as an advocacy organization for minority business development, and co-founding the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance as a capacity building and business development organization for the construction and transportation industries.

Mr. Dortch has made guest appearances on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor," C-SPAN, Talk Back Atlanta, National Press Club, CNN, Good Day Atlanta, Black Issues in Higher Education National Video Conference, and MBC Town Hall Meeting. Mr. Dortch is the recipient of numerous awards and honors that celebrate his efforts. A partial list includes: listed in the 2001-2004 May Editions of Ebony Magazine as one of The 100 Most Influential African Americans; listed in Spring 2001-2014 Publications of Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of The 100 Most Influential Atlantans; 2008 Community Service Professional of the Year Award; 2008 FraserNet Community Service Award; 2008 Global Leadership Empowerment Award; Board of Trustees, Leadership Atlanta; Vice Chairman of the Board, Grady Memorial Hospital Corporation; Chairman of the Board, Friendship Force International; Chairman of the Board, Fulton/DeKalb County Hospital Authority; 2010 inductee into the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau's Atlanta Hospitality Hall of Fame; Three Term Chairman of The Board, The Atlanta Business League; Member of Operation Hope Board of Trustees; Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Board of Trustees; Talladega College Board of Trustees; Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees; Chairman of The Board, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation.



# Biographies *continued*

Mr. Dortch is a much sought-after speaker to governmental entities, corporations and educational institutions, including: the Darden School of Business - University of Virginia, Southern University, Delaware State University, Jarvis Christian College, Florida A&M University, South Carolina State University, Georgia State University, Thomas University, Georgia Tech, Paine College, Tuskegee University, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Emerging Leaders Forum, White House Initiatives on Black Colleges, Federal Executive Board, Federal Aviation Administration, Lockheed Georgia Corporation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, United Negro College Fund, National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), Congressional Black Caucus, Fort Valley State University, U.S. Department of Energy, American Cancer Society, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Blacks In Government, and Anheuser-Busch Company, to name a few.

Dortch earned a B.A. Degree in Sociology and Pre-Professional Social Work from “The” Fort Valley State University in 1972, and a graduate degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Clark-Atlanta University in 1986. He also attended Georgia State University as a Ford Fellow in the Urban Administration Program. Dortch received Honorary Doctors Degrees from Fayetteville State University, Jarvis Christian College, Fort Valley State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Livingstone College.

Dortch was elected to a sixth term as National Chairman of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

## **MELINDA DOWNING, DHL**

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

Dr. Downing began her assignment in the Office of Environmental Management within DOE on 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.

Dr. 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 and 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. Most recently she received an Honorary Doctorate from Allen University in Columbia, SC, in recognition as a public servant throughout her federal career.

## **GLENN ELLIS, MPH**

Glenn Ellis’ particular focus on Ethics and Equity in Healthcare has earned him the respect and recognition of his peers globally.

Mr. Ellis maintains a busy lecture schedule in the U.S. and abroad, where he highlights health disparities and medical ethics. He speaks at churches and community centers and is a popular and well sought-after university guest lecturer. He has made scientific presentations in Belgium, Germany, Cuba, Africa and The Netherlands. He serves as a Member on the Institutional Review Boards (IRB) at Jefferson, Mercy Health System, and Drexel University, as well as the Hospital Ethics committee at Mercy Health Systems. His weekly syndicated health columns are read by millions nationwide. 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 in the Best Medicine (2012). He also hosts a weekly public health program, “Information is the Best Medicine” on Philadelphia’s WURD-AM. He is the regular contributor on health and medical issues for Philadelphia’s WDAS-FM; Los Angeles’s KJLH-FM; WVON-AM in



Chicago; KSYB-AM in Louisiana, and WATV-AM in Birmingham.

A native of Birmingham, AL, Mr. Ellis did his undergraduate Pre-Med studies at the University of Pennsylvania, his Healthcare Ethics graduate studies at St. Joseph University (Certified Health Care Ethicist) and received a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the University of Liverpool. He is currently a 2018-2019 Research Bioethics Fellow at Harvard Medical School.

### ***TOM ELLISON, M.D., Ph.D.***

Dr. Ellison is the Co-Founder of Health Education Linkage Programs Inc. (PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA) a Non-Governmental Community Based Health Organization. A member of the United Nations Humanitarian and Medical Relief and Rescue Team, that also provides Community Based Health Centers in indigent areas of the world, Best Practices with divisions of DHHS, NHI, and CDC as well as Community Based Research, H.E.L.P.'s Mission is to Improve the Quality of Life in our Lifetime by Decreasing Disparities, Morbidity, Mortality, Unintentional Injuries and Negative Behaviors, while Increasing Access, Knowledge, Sensitivity, and Services. PROJECT H.E.L.P. USA also Sponsors the Project H.E.L.P. Medical Reserve Corps, a Division of Department of Health and Human Services ASPR Division and Homeland Security.

Dr. Ellison was educated in Birmingham, AL, at Parker High School, and Lawson State and Daniel Payne Colleges prior to his Medical Education at UAB School of Medicine/SCAH, and The Latin American School of Medicine. He holds Doctorates from Trinity University in Community Health, and Health Services. Dr. Ellison is a consultant to many organizations and entities, including Morehouse School of Medicine, CDC, Congressional Black Caucus, FEMA, Alabama Legislature, OWH, American Cancer Society, where he serves as the ACT Congressional Lead in the State Legislature and Washington DC, the NBA, WNBA, Tyler Perry Productions and during the Obama Administration. He is currently the Alabama State Director for Doctors For America, whose Mission is Affordable and Quality Health Care for all and the 19th U.S. Surgeon General's Priorities and Opiates Committee. He is the 2017 Awardee of the 9/11 Medical Response Award for Ground Zero in New York and the 2018 Martin Luther King 50th Anniversary Dream Keeper Award in Medicine.

Dr. Ellison is a member of the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks, National Black Leadership Initiative of Cancer, American Heart Association Affiliate Faculty, Association of Black Cardiologists, Commissioner of Health and Youth Training of the Black Belt Action Committee, President the Birmingham Healthy Start Board, President of the Alabama Health Institute, Chair of the Youth

Council and Executive Board Member of WIA, Chair of the State of Alabama National Black Leadership Initiative on Cancer, Governor's Task Force on Diabetes, Governor's Task Force on Hypertension, Alabama Department of Public Health Diabetes and Physical Activity Committee, Alabama State Board of Education HIV Education Committee, and Obesity and Children Committee, and Board Member of 21st Century Youth Leadership Movement.

He also served his Country at Ground Zero at the Command Center and conducted Triage with members of Project H.E.L.P.'s MAART Division, and was among the first to perform Triage and provide Medical Treatment during Hurricane Katrina. His unit served at his direction at nine sites and continues to provide care during disasters. Currently he has committed to a two-year response for the Puerto Rico and U. S. Virgin Islands Medical Disaster Assistant Team.

### ***MARVELLA E. FORD, Ph.D.***

Dr. 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, led by Dr. Gustavo Leone. 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 (SCSU). Most recently, in September 2017, Dr. Ford and Dr. Salley were awarded a \$12.5M grant from the NIH/NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. The title of the grant is "South Carolina Cancer Disparities Research Center (SC CADRE)." The overarching goals of the SC CADRE are to increase SCSU's capacity to conduct transdisciplinary cancer research and to further strengthen and extend a longitudinal research education pipeline that will catalyze a new diverse generation of biomedical researchers focused on cancer disparities. The SC CADRE has three major themes. The first focuses on evaluating the relationship between obesity and prostate and breast cancer disparities. The second theme emphasizes evaluation of advanced glycation end products (AGEs) as a novel biomarker related to cancer, cancer disparities, and obesity. The third theme highlights the inclusion of a population unique to the U.S. southeastern coastal region, the Sea Island (SI)/Gullah population.



## *Biographies* continued

Additionally, Dr. Ford is 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 by the Department of Defense.

Dr. Ford is the author/co-author of more than 95 published scientific papers, several of which include undergraduates from HBCUs as co-authors. She is the co-editor of a 2017 *Advances in Cancer Research* volume, entitled “Cancer Disparities.” She has also published nine book chapters. She is a recently-ordained Deacon at the Charity Missionary Baptist Church in North Charleston, SC where the Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III is the Pastor.

### ***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.

### ***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, fostering educational and community relationships for at-risk youth. He was Head Dean and Dean of Crisis Intervention for Special Education at DeWitt Clinton High School and then Academic Coordinator for an Entrepreneurship Honors program.



Before becoming President & CEO of National Urban Fellows, Inc. in 2013, Miguel 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 from creating and maintaining on-going business relationships that support the most vulnerable communities at the local level.

### ***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. He 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.

### ***KIMBERLEY GOODE***

Kimberley Goode is senior vice president of External Affairs at Blue Shield of California, a four-million-member nonprofit health plan that serves the state's commercial, individual and government markets.

Ms. Goode has more than 25 years of communications experience with several global companies, including Kellogg's, Prudential Financial, American Express and Allstate. She was previously vice president of Corporate Communications and Corporate Affairs at Northwestern Mutual, where she was responsible for leading the company's internal and external communications strategy.

Ms. Goode is active in the public relations profession and in the community. She is a member of the Arthur W. Page Society for chief communication officers and the Executive Leadership Council, an organization dedicated to the development of global African-American leaders. She is also a member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., The Links, Incorporated and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Ms. Goode has been a champion of diversity throughout her career. She served as a founder of the Black Leadership Forum at Prudential Financial and is currently the executive sponsor for Blue Shield of California's Black Employee Network. She has mentored a number of diverse leaders and earned several awards and recognition for her work as an African-American business woman. She was named to the 2017 PRWeek Hall of Femme, which honors women who challenge the status quo and strive for creative excellence and was selected as one of the Most Influential Women in Business by The San Francisco Business Times.

She earned a Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University's School of Journalism. She is married to fellow Northwestern Wildcat Andre Goode, and they have three children.

### ***CAROLYN GREENE, Ph.D.***

Dr. Carolyn Greene is a nationally recognized expert and innovator in the use of technology to increase access to high-quality mental healthcare. Dr. Greene serves as the National Manager of the Department of Veterans Affairs' award-winning program of web-based mental health resources for our country's 22 million veterans. In developing these resources, she transforms clinical psychotherapy protocols into free, publicly available, online educational programs. In a previous position at the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Dr. Greene directed the first rigorous clinical trial establishing that telehealth is as clinically effective as traditional delivery of group psychotherapy and was on the team who produced the VA's first mental health mobile application, PTSD Coach, which has been downloaded by users in 73 countries.

In addition to her role at the VA, Dr. Greene is an Associate Professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the Department of Psychiatry. A licensed clinical psychologist, Dr. Greene has expertise in delivering culturally competent evidence-based mental healthcare to underserved communities. Specializing in assessment and treatment of PTSD, she contributed to both VA's Clinical Practice Guidelines and the seminal book *The Handbook for PTSD*.



# Biographies *continued*

## **DAROLD HAMLIN**

Darold Hamlin is a founding partner of the Emerging Technology Consortium (ETC) which is a group of companies and individuals dedicated to ensuring the benefits of technology reach all communities. He is also a former part owner and Senior Executive for Logistics Systems Incorporated (LSI), a Federal consulting firm located in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Prior to starting these entrepreneurial ventures, he served as a Chief Information Officer (CIO) for both the City of Philadelphia and the Metropolitan Area Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) in Atlanta, GA. He is a retired military officer who served as a CIO for the United States Army Reserves and Departmental Chair at Fordham University in New York City.

Mr. Hamlin started the ETC because he recognized that technology is an equalizer. He understands that Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) is the foundation for next generation industries, but ownership of that technology is the empowering factor. Ownership closes the wealth gap. As America now looks like the rest of the world demographically, there is no more important mission than to ensure that all communities are economically represented.

The ETC introduced the District of Columbia's Emerging Technology Opportunity Act of 2007. The legislation followed the New Economy Transformation Act of 2000 (NET 2000) that moves more technology companies into the city. As part of the implementation of the Emerging Technology Opportunity Act of 2008, the DC Economic Partnership charged the ETC to conduct a technology incubator study which identified the technology assets in the District and determine the requirements to capitalize on the research conducted in and for the technology assets in the City. The ETC completed the study in January 2009. Since then, the ETC has been working on the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy with a focus on innovative inclusion to include both the St. Elizabeth's Innovative Campus and McMillian Reservoir development project.

Currently, Mr. Hamlin is working with National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the "Path to Sustainability Initiative." The project's goal is to increase the number of minorities owning next generation industries. This will be accomplished by teaming Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) up with successful contracting firms to expand into these new innovative business areas. The pilot does this by creating public private partnerships (MSI with successful Federal Contractors) to pursue and win contracts, grants and cooperative agreements as part of structured process to own Intellectual Property (IP) and then commercialize the IP as part of taking a new product or service to the global market. The Initiative's goal is two-fold: increase the business areas that women and minority firms pursue and diversify the revenue streams for MSIs.

## **ANDREW HERRING, M.D.**

Dr. Andrew A. Herring is an attending emergency physician and associate director of research at Highland Hospital-Alameda Health System in Oakland, CA, as well as medical director of the hospital's substance use disorder treatment program and attending physician at its interdisciplinary pain medicine program. He is principle investigator of the California ED-BRIDGE: Emergency Buprenorphine Treatment Project. His current research focuses on emergency department treatment of opioid use disorders and pain management.

Dr. Herring is an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and he conducted health policy research as a Fulbright Scholar in Central America. He is board-certified in emergency medicine, addiction medicine and pain medicine. He graduated from Harvard Medical School and completed residency in emergency medicine at Highland Hospital.

## **BYRON C. MARSHALL, MPA**

Byron C. Marshall is the managing partner of IPMSolutions, LLC a management-consulting firm, focused on the public and non-profit sectors. Prior to founding this firm, he served as a professional public administrator and had more than 30 years of executive experience in the public, non-profit and private sectors. He is known as a competent and visionary urban administrator whose calm demeanor belies a fierce passion for developing competent, responsive local government that works for all.

Mr. Marshall's broad experience includes managing cities such as Atlanta, GA, Austin, TX, and Richmond, VA; serving as a senior executive in the District of Columbia Government for agencies addressing social services, public health, mental health and employment development; and as president/executive director of an economic development authority, a non-profit community development organization. He was the founding President and CEO of the Austin-based, Center for Health Empowerment, a free community health clinic focused both on prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections and on promoting total health and wellness in communities of color. These experiences have informed his views on the need for comprehensive approaches to addressing the social determinants of health, the importance of emphasizing prevention and why personal responsibility is crucial to a community's health.

In 1996, Mr. Marshall was elected as a Fellow of the congressionally chartered, National Academy of Public Administration. He has been a member of the National Forum of Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) since 1984, twice served on its board of directors, and in 2007 received that organization's highest honor – the Marks of



Excellence award – for “inspired and exemplary leadership.”

Mr. Marshall is a graduate of Syracuse University and attended graduate school at Syracuse’s Maxwell School of Public Administration.

### ***NINA MARTINEZ, MPA, JD***

Ms. Martinez has over 25 years of experience in government, law and business. Currently, she is the Managing Member of Althin™, LLC whose mission is to promote responsible forest thinning and remove fuel loads from public and private forested lands to reduce catastrophic fires. Most recently she co-authored a three-year strategic plan for the City of Albuquerque, NM, using the U.S. Homeland Security-FEMA Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships “whole community” concept of emergency management preparedness developed after Hurricane Katrina. She led efforts to identify, engage and collaborate with business and faith leaders to improve community resilience in times of disaster. This is a nationally recognized model and only one of seven in the United States. She also set priorities and worked with the ABQ Faith Leaders consisting of over 300 Houses of Worship. She has been appointed by the Mayor to the City Charter Review Task Force, City Attorney Selection Committee (twice) and the City Clerk Selection Committee.

During her time in New York City, Ms. Martinez served as a Trustee and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s representative for seven pension and variable supplement funds of the New York City Police Department, Fire Department and Deferred Compensation Boards of Directors, with fiduciary responsibility for over \$23 billion in public monies. She was also the chairperson of two major Quality of Life initiatives to revitalize neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs of New York City, where she developed and directed a concerted effort to revitalize the Bronx River Housing Development and a contiguous neighborhood by combining the efforts of citizens, business owners and agencies. This pilot program used a sustained and focused law enforcement strategy, combined with outreach, to rid the community of drug gangs, graffiti, illegal dumping and loitering. The pilot program was used as a model city-wide for “Operation Commitment”. She worked closely with the New York Police Department as Chairperson of the Mayor’s Anti-Graffiti Task Force. She managed and directed the activities of 18 agencies to reverse the impression of disorder and neglect caused by graffiti and related criminal activity.

She is committed to educational opportunities for all people and is a past board member (and alumna) of the National Urban Fellows, Inc and Menaul School.

### ***WILLIAM JAHMAL MILLER***

William Jahmal Miller is the Director of Corporate Reputation & Thought Leadership with San Francisco-based Blue Shield of California’s External Affairs Division. He plays a major role in leading, creating and executing cutting-edge communication and engagement strategies and is charged with positioning the Blue Shield as a leader on health reform, achieving business goals and advancing the organization’s mission to make healthcare accessible and affordable to all Californians. Mr. Miller is recognized as a national thought leader and leading spokesperson on issues pertaining to public policy, health equity, public and mental health, external affairs, social justice, innovation, branding and strategic communications. He serves on the board of directors for The Crocker Art Museum Association (CAMA), serves on the American Diabetes Association’s National Health Disparities Committee, and is an active contributor to Landmark Ventures’ Social Innovation Summit.

Most recently, Mr. Miller served as the Deputy Director of the California Department of Public Health’s Office of Health Equity (OHE). Appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2013, Mr. Miller was the State’s lead advisor on issues related to reducing health and mental health disparities and achieving health equity for all Californians. With the unique distinction of being confirmed by the California State Senate, he was responsible for leading the state’s mission on health equity to promote social, economic and environmental equity.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Miller spent time at Kaiser Permanente as a Communications Manager, National Community Benefit and as a Community & Government Relations Manager. He also held multiple leadership roles with Sutter Health. Over the years, his experience and passion have also garnered international exposure, as Miller has traveled twice to Cuba as part of American delegations to study the Cuban health system, culture and history.

Mr. Miller is a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology. He also holds a Master of Health Administration (MHA) degree from the University of Southern California. In May 2016, Western University of Health Sciences conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters (DHL) to Mr. Miller, recognizing his lifetime achievements in the field of health and human services. He has completed an Executive Fellowship with the Nehemiah Emerging Leaders Program in conjunction with the American Leadership Forum & CORO. Touro University recognized Miller in April 2017 with the Mosaic Achievement Award, recognizing his efforts to advance the cause of diversity and inclusion. He has also been recognized with other industry honors, including being named a “Top 40 under 40” awardee by the Sacramento Business Journal, “Top



# Biographies *continued*

100 under 50” awardee by Diversity MBA, and a Modern Healthcare Up & Comers awardee.

Mr. Miller is a native of Sacramento, CA, and is a proud father to two young daughters. He is an active member of the Faith Fellowship Community Church, and is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. He is the youngest of four sons to parents who have been married for 49 years.

## ***WILLIAM MORAN, M.D., MPH***

Dr. Moran graduated medical school and completed residency training in internal medicine at Georgetown University. He practiced full time at a community health center affiliated with Boston City Hospital/Boston Medical Center while serving four years with the National Health Service Corp. Dr. Moran then completed a geriatrics fellowship and received an MS in clinical epidemiology from Wake Forest University in 1992. After joining the faculty at Wake Forest, Dr. Moran was a Robert Wood Johnson faculty scholar and became residency program associate director for primary care. Dr. Moran subsequently became chief of general internal medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine and co-director of the center for health services research and quality. While at Wake Forest, Dr. Moran also served as the clinical director for the North Carolina Medicaid Program, northwest region, Central Piedmont Access II.

Dr. Moran came to MUSC in 2005 as professor of medicine and director of the Division of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics. Nationally, Dr. Moran is past president of the Association of Chiefs of General Internal Medicine (ACGIM), has served on the ACGIM and SGIM Councils, and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Moran’s clinical and research focus is geriatrics, preventive care in aging, and chronic illness management. His recent work has centered on local health system changes, which support physician decision-making in clinical practice, facilitate interdisciplinary care, and improve quality of care. This work includes analysis of existing system characteristics, systematic application of clinical evidence to care processes, and evaluation of impact on process and clinical outcome measures. Focus areas include analysis of the clinical environment, coordination of the clinical team, and informatics infrastructure, sparked by work under the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Building Health Systems project.

## ***S. BOBBY MUKKAMALA, M.D.***

Dr. S. Bobby Mukkamala, a board-certified otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeon, was elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees in June 2017. A graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, he is in solo, private practice in Flint, MI.

Dr. Mukkamala, who has been active in the AMA since residency, is a past Michigan representative to the AMA Young Physicians Section (YPS), a past recipient of the AMA Foundation’s “Excellence in Medicine” Leadership Award and, for the last 13 years, a member of the Michigan delegation to the AMA House of Delegates. In 2009, he was elected to the AMA Council on Science and Public Health, and served as its chair from 2016 to 2017.

In addition to leadership roles at the AMA, Dr. Mukkamala has served as a member of the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) Board of Directors since 2011 and as board chair for the past two years. He is also a past president of the Genesee County Medical Society (GCMS) and continues to serve on the GCMS Board of Directors.

While a wide range of public health issues are important to Dr. Mukkamala, no issue strikes closer to home than his own city of Flint’s nationally publicized struggles with high levels of lead leaching into the drinking water. As the immediate past chair of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint, he and the foundation’s board became the clearinghouse for funding projects focused on mitigating the effects of lead in local children. He now chairs the Foundation for Flint, a supporting organization of the Community Foundation that is working to increase access to high-quality early education for children; a proven strategy for helping children who have been exposed to lead.

Deeply committed to the revitalization of his hometown, Dr. Mukkamala returned to Flint after completing his residency at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago in 2000. Today, he shares an office with his wife, Nita Kulkarni, M.D., an obstetrician-gynecologist. Together, as a further demonstration of their dedication to Flint, in 2012 they established the Endowed Health Professions Scholarships at the University of Michigan, Flint.

Outside of medicine they enjoy family time with their twin teenaged sons, Deven and Nikhil, who are starting their college careers at the University of Chicago and University of Michigan, respectively.



### ***CARMEN NEVAREZ, M.D., MPH***

Carmen Nevarez, M.D., MPH, is PHI's vice president for external relations, preventive medicine advisor and director of the Center for Health Leadership and Practice. A long-standing voice for the public's health, Dr. Nevarez is responsible at PHI for developing relationships with health and public health organizations and interests, incubating new project areas and public health advocacy. She served as president of the American Public Health Association in 2010.

At PHI, Dr. Nevarez positions the organization for further partnerships and initiatives domestically and internationally. She is the creator of Dialogue4Health.org, a web-based conferencing center that uses Web Forums, a social network and other resources to encourage collaboration between the prevention community and those communities whose work impacts health. Her areas of expertise include teenage pregnancy prevention, health disparities, Latino health, obesity, and chronic disease prevention and health reform.

Before coming to PHI, Dr. Nevarez served as the director, health officer and environmental health director for Berkeley's Health and Human Services Department, after which she worked as a special assistant to the dean at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health, developing university participation in community-based public health projects and teaching a graduate course in multicultural competence. She has served as medical director at La Clinica de la Raza in Oakland, a federally qualified health center.

A gynecologist and preventive medicine specialist, Nevarez maintains a part-time clinical practice.

### ***KURT C. ORGANISTA, Ph.D.***

Kurt C. Organista, Ph.D., is Professor, School of Social Welfare, University of California, Berkeley, where he focuses on Latino psychosocial and health problems. He teaches courses on stress and coping, psychopathology, race/ethnic relations, and social work practice with Latino populations.

He conducts research in the area of HIV prevention with Latino migrant laborers, is editor of *HIV Prevention with Latinos: Theory, Research and Practice* published in 2012 by Oxford University Press, and author of *Solving Latino Psychosocial and Health Problems: Theory, Practice, and Populations* published in 2007 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. He serves on the senior editorial board of the *American Journal of Community Psychology* and on the editorial boards of the *Hispanic Journal of the Behavioral Sciences* and the *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work*.

From 2004-08, Dr. Organista was appointed to the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council at the National Institutes of Health 2010 to 2015, he was PI of a federal R01 grant from the NIAAA to develop and test a structural environmental model of alcohol-related HIV risk in Latino migrant day laborers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Dr. Organista is a Trustee of the Latino Community Foundation, and former trustee of the San Francisco Foundation (2008 to 2018).

### ***DARA PAPO, LCSW***

Ms. Dara Papo serves as the Care Coordination Services Manager and Privacy Officer for San Francisco's Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Dara is the department lead for San Francisco's Whole Person Care Medi-Cal waiver; an interagency effort to establish a comprehensive, seamless and human-centered system of care that improves health outcomes and supports the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time. Dara has more than twenty years' experience managing or providing behavioral health services in community based settings for people experiencing homelessness, young adults, communities of color, and the LGBTQ community. Dara is a Bay Area native and holds a Bachelor's in Community Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Master of Social Welfare from the University of California, Berkeley.

### ***PAMELA D. PRICE***

Pamela D. Price currently serves as the Deputy Director for The Balm In Gilead, managing the various health initiatives of the organization. Under her leadership, the organization provides support to faith institutions in areas of program design, implementation and evaluation, which strengthen their capacity to deliver programs and services that contribute to the elimination of health disparities. In addition to her role as Deputy Director, she also serves as the Director for The National Brain Health Center for African-Americans.

Mrs. Price has a B.S. in Public Health and more than 19 years of experience in public health, epidemiology and healthcare. She has served as a member of the U.S. Army Nurse Corp and has excelled in both governmental and non-governmental agencies providing leadership and guidance on program management, quality improvement and project development. Mrs. Price has conducted workshops and presented at national conferences, including The United States Conference on AIDS and the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.



# *Biographies* continued

## ***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 38-year span.

Her educational career includes 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 Brain Trust on Environmental Justice, Commissions and programs of the American Council on Education and the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (NASULGC), and membership on the Review Panel for the 4th National Climate Assessment, 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.

Dr. Ragster also served as chair of the board and as a program advisor to 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, Clean Islands International, VI Public Television System, and the Rotary Club of St. Thomas VI. 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) representative on the USVI Climate Change Council, and the VI Law Enforcement Planning Commission State Advisory Group. Recently, leadership activities have been extended to service as co-chair on the Yale-Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center Consortium Governing Board and co-chair of the Planning Committee for the Student Forum of the National Conference on Health Disparities organized by the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Ragster has been recognized and honored by Virgin Islands organizations, (US)

national organizations, higher education institutions, and the President of the U.S. for her teaching, work in conservation, leadership and community service.

At present, Dr. Ragster serves the University of the Virgin Islands through an assignment with the UVI Caribbean Exploratory Research Center, focusing her scholarly efforts on climate change adaptation in the Caribbean, especially in the area of public health.

## ***TALMESHA RICHARDS, Ph.D***

Dr. Talmesha Richards manages a portfolio of projects including the STEM Higher Education Council and the global strategy for Million Women Mentors. Prior to joining STEMconnector, Dr. Richards advocated for the National Girls Collaborative Project, engaging stakeholders and representing national leadership. She has also written for Teach for America's Pass the Chalk Blog and various STEM campaigns featured in publications such as USA Today and the San Francisco Chronicle.

Dr. Richards is a vibrant scientist, who earned her Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Medicine from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She spent her undergraduate career at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) as a Meyerhoff Scholar, where she double majored in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics.

Dr. Richards is a firm believer in nurturing both her academic and artistic sides. She danced as a National Football League Cheerleader for eight years. Her cheerleading career allowed her to combine her various passions: community service, dancing and science. Dr. Richards utilized her cheerleading career as a platform to promote STEM Education through mentoring as a Science Cheerleader. Because she had many mentors throughout her life who encouraged her to persist through her STEM coursework, she embraces the opportunity to do the same. As a Science Cheerleader, she shares her personal story to challenge stereotypes and encourage youth to pursue STEM careers. Dr. Richards' work has been featured on local and national television programs including the Today Show.

In 2017, Dr. Richards received the Global Diversity Leadership Award at the World HRD Congress presented in Mumbai, India. Her professional memberships include the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Association for Women in Science (AWIS). Dr. Richards' continued service to the community has fostered her desire to be an avid STEM advocate within and outside of STEMconnector. She believes that being an advocate assists in bringing positive change in people's lives on a local, national and international level, and is excited about being a catalyst in that process.



## ***BRITT RIOS-ELLIS, M.S., Ph.D.***

Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis 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 Conference on Health Disparities. 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.



# *Biographies* continued

## **DAVID E. RIVERS, DHL**

David E. Rivers, DHL, serves as 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, Dr. Rivers has held senior-level positions in the City of Atlanta government, the Atlanta Regional Commission, Georgia State University, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Energy and the District of Columbia Government.

Dr. Rivers received his Bachelor of Science degree in Urban Affairs from Georgia State University and his Master of Arts degree in Political Science/Public Administration from Georgia State University, where he has completed course work for the Ph.D. in Political Science. He is also a graduate of the National Urban Fellows Program in Public Administration from Yale University. He is a graduate of the Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program at Furman University and received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Allen University. 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 Brother's Keeper, Charleston, SC; National Council of La Raza ~ California State University Center for Latino Community Health in Monterey Bay, California; 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 also 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. He serves as Vice Chairman.

## **STEPHEN S. ROBINSON, M.D., MPH**

Dr. Stephen S. Robinson grew up in Newark, NJ, and graduated from Reed College in Portland, OR, and the University of Washington Medical School in Seattle. Dr. Robinson completed his MPH at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.

His passion for both public health and global health became a lifelong commitment after visiting Cuba in the early 1970s and again in the mid-1980s. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Harlem Hospital Center, and later served as a medical team leader to both Ghana and Liberia with Operation Crossroads Africa.

In New York City, Dr. Robinson worked within the Sophie Davis School at the City College of New York for 15 years, to establish the CUNY Medical School, some of that time with the late Dr. George I. Lythcott. During his tenure with the City University, he also served as the interim director of the Physician Assistant Program at Harlem Hospital Center. Dr. Robinson worked as Medical Director with Georgia's Primary Care Assn. He left the U.S. for five years and worked in Tanzania, setting up an exchange program between the Institute for Medical Research in Tanzania and the Public Health Sciences Institute at Morehouse College. While there, he also worked with Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, evaluating health facilities for their readiness to provide HIV/AIDS care and treatment.

Since his move to Oakland, CA, Dr. Robinson has been evaluating patients for their use of medical cannabis over the past nine years. He participated on panels at numerous cannabis-related conferences and delivered presentations on cannabis' medicinal benefits and dosing strategies to both professional and lay audiences. Dr. Robinson contributed to the revision of the Medical Board of California's "Guidelines for the Recommendation of Cannabis for Medical Purposes." He has been a board member of the Society for Cannabis Clinicians, and currently serves as president of the organization.

## **TINA SACKS, Ph.D.**

Tina Sacks is an assistant professor at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. She received her Ph.D. in social welfare at the University of Chicago. Her fields of interest include racial inequities in health, social determinants of health, and poverty and inequality. Professor Sacks focuses on the how macro-structural forces, including structural discrimination and immigration, affect women's health. Her book *Invisible Visits: Black Middle Class Women in the American Healthcare System* (Oxford University Press, 2019) investigates the persistence of racial and gender discrimination in health care settings among racial/ethnic minorities who are not poor. Her next major



project explores the implications of the infamous U.S. Public Health Service Study of Syphilis in the Untreated Negro Male (also called the Tuskegee Syphilis Study) on the Study's direct descendants.

Professor Sacks is also the principal investigator of two projects on immigration and health, including a bi-national study of migration, labor and health among indigenous Mexican women in California and Oaxaca, Mexico. She also leads a study of gender dynamics and food stamp participation among Latina immigrants in California in collaboration with the Berkeley Food Institute and the UC Berkeley Nutrition Policy Institute.

Professor Sacks' work has been published in *Race and Social Problems*, *Qualitative Social Work*, *Family and Community Health*, *Health Affairs*, the *New Yorker* and *MSNBC News*. In addition to her scholarship, Dr. Sacks collaborates with Carlos Javier Ortiz, a photographer and documentary filmmaker, on issues affecting Black and Latino communities. Their films, *We All We Got* (2015) and *A Thousand Midnights* (2016) have appeared at the Tribeca, LA, AFI and St. Louis International Film Festivals.

Prior to joining Berkeley Social Welfare, Professor Sacks spent nearly a decade working for the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she worked on public health policy with special emphasis in environmental and women's health programs. Her experience includes serving as the special assistant to the director of the CDC, legislative director of the Baltimore City Health Department, and executive director of a non-profit healthcare organization.

### ***THE HONORABLE LIBBY SCHAAF, JD***

Mayor Libby Schaaf was inaugurated into office in January 2015 and launched an agenda to elevate one of America's most diverse and progressive cities into an equitable and resilient city. Born and raised in Oakland, Mayor Schaaf immediately led new initiatives to offset the cost of living crisis, reduce crime, improve transit and infrastructure, and expand educational and career opportunities for the city's most vulnerable residents.

She developed Oakland's "17K/17K Plan" to protect 17,000 low-income households from displacement while producing 17,000 new housing units by 2024. She created the city's first Department of Transportation, an urban design unit to connect safe streets with housing and transportation. She also championed Measure KK, a \$600-million infrastructure and affordable housing bond, which Oakland voters passed with 82 percent approval.

Mayor Schaaf received national attention for launching the Oakland Promise, an education initiative that will triple the number of college graduates from Oakland by 2025. To date, the program has sent 1,000 high-schoolers to college with scholarships and will soon provide every baby born into poverty in Oakland with a \$500 college savings account.

Before her election to City Council in 2010, Mayor Schaaf co-founded the non-profit Oakland Cares, which coordinated hundreds of volunteer community projects across the city. She also built and ran the first centralized volunteer program for Oakland public schools. She served as a legislative aide for former mayor Jerry Brown, and later worked as the Oakland city council's Economic Policy Advisor.

Mayor Schaaf holds a law degree from Loyola Law School. She is an Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellow in Public Leadership, a diverse and bi-partisan group of "the nation's most promising young political leaders." She is a member of the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative for mayors and has worked with the Rockefeller Foundation to ensure Oakland is among the foundation's 100 Resilient Cities.

Both of her children attend Oakland public schools.

### ***ANISH SEBASTIAN***

Mr. Sebastian co-founded Babyscripts in 2013 with the vision that internet-enabled medical devices and big data would transform the delivery of pregnancy care. Since the inception of the company, he has received numerous accolades including being named a "Champion of Change" for precision medicine by the White House, one of the Top 40 Transformers in healthcare by *MM&M Magazine*, and Healthcare Transformer by the Startup Health Academy in New York. He is also the architect of the first "Prenatal Care Moonshot," focused on eliminating preterm birth by 2027 through mobile/digital technology, and Babyscripts.

In his role as CEO, Mr. Sebastian has raised over \$15 million in venture/angel financing for furthering his vision of a data centric model in prenatal care, which includes the recent closure of a Series A-1 of \$6 million lead by Philips. He has orchestrated large partnerships with General Electric and their Healthymagination initiative, and the March of Dimes, specifically targeting the elimination of premature birth. He has also led the Babyscripts product team, guiding the direction of the product from its inception, finding the product market fit, and fully commercializing it in multiple markets. Currently Babyscripts is installed in more than 47 large healthcare systems, managing more



# Biographies *continued*

than 160,000 pregnancies a year. He has also successfully led several research endeavors, including two key studies of Babyscripts product, resulting in being published in key academic journals and conferences.

Mr. Sebastian is a frequent speaker on the future of healthcare. He has spoken at several venues including: BioIT Showcase, NPR, mHealth Summit, Drexel University School of Medicine, and GW School of Public Health.

## **CHRIS SHERWIN**

Chris Sherwin is Vice-President of State Advocacy with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK). In this role he oversees all state and local tobacco control policy for CTFK. Previously he was the Director of State and Local Tobacco Policy with the American Heart Association. He also previously served as the Vice-President of Advocacy for the Pacific Mountain Affiliate of the American Heart Association. Prior to that, he was the executive director of the Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Alliance (CTEPA). Under his leadership, CTEPA helped pass a tobacco tax, secured constitutionally protected tobacco control funding and passed a statewide smoke-free law. Mr. Sherwin has over 25 years of experience in the field of policy advocacy and public health.

## **SABRA C. SLAUGHTER, Ph.D.**

Dr. Slaughter is Interim Director of the Center for Health Disparities Research, as well as a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine at the Medical university of South Carolina. Dr. Slaughter's research interests include improvement in the quality and accessibility of health care, elimination of health disparities in South Carolina, and achievement of population parity in the health professions workforce. He also serves as Community Liaison for the Mother Emanuel Community Resiliency Project, which addresses the needs of the families of those who were killed, witnesses and survivors of the June 17, 2015, massacre at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. In addition, he is Co-Investigator of the Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center, a cooperative agreement with the Office for Victims of Crime and the National Crime Victims Research & Treatment Center at MUSC to create and coordinate resources for those affected by mass violence nationwide.

## **THE HONORABLE CALVIN SMYRE, DHL**

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.

Mr. Smyre 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. Rep. 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, he 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.

### ***MARK (MARQ) TAYLOR, M.Ed.***

Marq Taylor is the President and Founder of Buddy House, Inc, a non-profit that works with boys and young men who are survivors of sex trafficking. Mr. Taylor’s work is personal as he was a victim of sex trafficking from the young age of 11-17. Today, Marq uses his voice to advocate for other victims.

He is a member of the Georgia Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, National Survivors Network Membership Chair and partners with national organizations, such as Shared Hope International, Inc., to provide leadership, consultation and the survivor perspective in efforts to protect children from becoming victims of sex trafficking.

Mr. Taylor has shared his story at the Shared Hope Conference, Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia and many other churches across the country.

Mr. Taylor has an Associate’s Degree in Medical Assisting, a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management and Communications, a Master’s Degree in Elementary Education and Leadership.

### ***ANTONIO D. TILLIS, Ph.D.***

Dr. Antonio D. Tillis is the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) and the M.D. Anderson Professor in Hispanic Studies at the University of Houston (UH). As the chief academic and administrative officer of CLASS, he oversees 13 academic departments, 10 academic areas and programs, 13 academic centers, six clinical service units, and over 630 faculty members. CLASS is the largest and most diverse of the 15 academic colleges on the UH campus, with an annual graduating population of more than 11,000 students.

Dr. Tillis received his Ph.D. in Latin American literature with an Afro-Hispanic emphasis from the University of Missouri. He also holds an M.A. in Spanish literature from Howard University and a B.S. in Spanish from Vanderbilt University.



# Biographies *continued*

Prior to joining UH, Dr. Tillis served as dean of the School of Languages, Culture and World Affairs at the College of Charleston, chair of African and African American Studies at Dartmouth College, and the inaugural chair of Latin American and Latino Studies at Purdue University.

Dr. Tillis is an internationally acclaimed scholar and author with specializations in Latin American, Afro-Latin American and African Diaspora literature. He has authored, edited and/or co-edited the following: *The Afro-Hispanic Reader and Anthology* (with Paulette Ramsay, Ian Randal, 2018), *The Trayvon Martin in 'US': An American Tragedy* (with Emmanuel Harris, Peter Lang, 2015), *Critical Perspectives on Afro-Latin American Literature* (Routledge, 2012, paperback 2013), *Manuel Zapata Olivella e o escurecimento da literatura latino-americana* (State University of Rio de Janeiro Press, 2013), *(Re)Considering Blackness in Contemporary Afro-Brazilian (Con)Texts: A Cultural Studies Reader* (Peter Lang, 2011); *Caribbean-African Upon Awakening: Poetry by Blas Jiménez* (Mango Publishing 2010); and *Manuel Zapata Olivella and the "Darkening" of Latin American Literature* (Missouri 2005). Dr. Tillis is the recipient of many prestigious honors and has served in various leadership roles. He was named one of the Top 50 African American Professionals and Entrepreneurs in Houston by *d-mars Business Journal*, and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner declared March 7, 2017 "Dr. Antonio D. Tillis Day." Dr. Tillis was named the 2012 Lorna Hill Professor of the Year at Dartmouth College, served as president of the College Language Association from 2008 to 2010, and received the 2007 University Faculty Scholar award at Purdue University.

A native of Memphis, TN, Dr. Tillis is a sought-after lecturer who has served as a visiting scholar at the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica, the State University of Rio de Janeiro and the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil. He has developed relationships with numerous universities in Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, France, Peru, Trinidad, Jamaica, Sweden, France, England, Costa Rica, Peru, Ghana, China and Spain.

## ***REED V. TUCKSON, M.D., FACP***

Dr. Reed V. Tuckson is Managing Director of Tuckson Health Connections, LLC, a vehicle to advance initiatives that support optimal health and wellbeing through the intersection of individual and community health promotion and disease prevention; applied data and analytics; enhanced quality and efficiency in care delivery; and the application of telehealth and biotech innovations.

Previously, he enjoyed a long tenure as Executive Vice President and Chief of Medical Affairs for UnitedHealth Group, a Fortune 20 Health and wellbeing company.

A recognized leader in his field, Dr. Tuckson is honored to have been appointed to leadership roles at the National Institutes of Health; National Academy of Medicine; numerous Federal Advisory Committees; and corporate, non-profit and academic boards. He has been recognized several times by *Modern Healthcare Magazine's* listing of the "50 Most Powerful Physician Executives" in healthcare.

He is a graduate of Howard University, Georgetown University School of Medicine, and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania's General Internal Medicine Residency and Fellowship Programs, where he was also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar studying at the Wharton School of Business.

## ***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 currently serves as a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in private practice, Moments of Truth, L.L.C.; as a tenured, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Xavier University of Louisiana, and he serves as the Director of the African American Diaspora Studies Program at Xavier University of Louisiana. Across his obligations, Dr. Turner has worked with college students, post-incarceration sex offenders, but most ardently he has worked with black males from adolescence to adulthood on a wide spectrum of issues. Dr. Turner's work as a professor and clinician is grounded in his multicultural training which examines the impact of culture on mental health. During his time at Xavier University of Louisiana, his research has focused on Black Male Experiences in Higher Education, Black Women and Risky Behaviors, and Mental Health and HBCU's.

Dr. Turner is the proud father of a beautiful girl, Blair Layla. He is also the daddy to Von Duke Bailey Turner, a full-blooded German Rottweiler.



## ***DERRICK WATCHMAN***

Derrick Watchman is President of Sagebrush Hill Group LLC, an advisory, acquisition and development company in Indian Country. He is a financial expert and has presented to many forums including the National Indian Gaming Association, the International Casino Expo, the National Association of State Legislators, and many testimonies to State and Congressional forums. Mr. watchman is Navajo and was raised on the Navajo reservation. He was formerly CEO and CFO for the Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise. He was also a Chase Bank Vice President for Native American Banking. Previously, he worked for Wells Fargo in Native American banking. Mr. Watchman was COO/GM of Navajo Power Authority. He was also the Navajo Tax Commission Director. Mr. Watchman served as the U.S. DOE's Tribal Affairs Director. Mr. Watchman worked as a banker at Prudential Capital Corporation.

Mr. Watchman serves on many community boards, including the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development as the Chairman. He is also Vice Chairman for the Native American Bancorporation Board. Mr. Watchman holds an MBA from UC Berkeley and a B.A. from the University of Arizona.

## ***SALA S. WEBB, M.D., CPH, FAPA***

Dr. Sala S. Webb currently serves as the Children's HealthCare Administrator for one of the largest Medicaid Managed Care Organizations in Arizona. In that role, she oversees the integrity of the physical and behavioral health services for the plan's Medicaid recipients under 18 years of age.

Before relocating to Arizona, Dr. Webb was a psychiatric consultant to the United States Army Medical Department European Regional Medical Command in Bavaria, Germany. She held a prior appointment as Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at the Virginia Commonwealth University. There, she was the Medical Director of Ambulatory Services for the Virginia Treatment Center for Children, as well as a consultant to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice. In addition to the areas noted above, Dr. Webb enjoys working with special youth populations including those involved in foster care, those affected by sex-trafficking, and those with comorbid medical and psychiatric conditions. Other interests include global health, culture and diversity, and prevention efforts in mental health. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Webb is board certified in both General and Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and has served on the national Diversity & Culture Committee of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Her most recent chapter "Schizophrenia." In AM Breland-Noble, CS Al-Mateen, NN Singh, eds. Handbook of Mental Health in

African American Youth, was published by Springer in January 2016.

In continued service to the Arizona community, in 2017, she was appointed by Mayor Greg Stanton to the City of Phoenix Human Services Commission.

## ***JONI S. WILLIAMS, M.D., MPH***

Dr. Joni S. Williams is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, and the Center for Advancing Population Science (CAPS). She is a health equity researcher focused on eliminating disparities related to chronic disease management in vulnerable populations. Specifically, Dr. Williams has expertise in implementing clinical trials to test behavioral and community-based interventions among low-income, minority and rural residents with poorly controlled type 2 diabetes in South Carolina. Dr. Williams currently serves as Principal Investigator on a pilot study to understand barriers to care among African American women living in inner city Milwaukee and as a Co-Investigator on three large-scale funded projects to address urban disparities in marginalized and underserved residents of Milwaukee, WI, and surrounding counties.

## ***LISA C. WILLIAMS***

Lisa Williams is a thought leader, influencer, entrepreneur and author with more than 20 years of philanthropic service. A sought-after orator, trainer, listener, and conversationalist, Ms. Williams has been called upon to share her message on national and international platforms—from the White House and the United Nations to Guam, Italy, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her keynote addresses and podcast conversations cover issues of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking of children; self-care for women; successful entrepreneurship for women veterans, non-veteran and non-profit women leaders; building collaborative communities; and the healing power of conscious living.

Before becoming a renowned advocate for women and girls, Ms. Williams served her country as a commissioned officer in the United States Armed Forces. She had the distinction of serving in both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. After completing her military service with honor, Ms. Williams decided to focus her efforts on humanitarian work to serve U.S. women and girls who were victims of sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, and intimate partner violence. Lisa founded Circle of Friends: Celebrating Life, Inc., in 1999, and dedicated the next 20 years of her time, energy, and resources to educating, equipping, and empowering girls and women to live their



## *Biographies* continued

best lives, free of violence. Through Circle of Friends, Ms. Williams developed intentional partnerships with community stakeholders, institutions, and service-minded individuals, in her work to dismantle the social disparities that render women and girls more susceptible to physical, mental and spiritual abuse.

Under the auspices of Circle of Friends, Lisa established Living Water for Women, Living Water for Girls, and the Living Water Learning Resource Center. Each program was opened as a beacon of hope and a continuum of care for child and women victims. Ms. Williams developed what the Federal Bureau of Investigation called “one of the most comprehensive, rehabilitative programs for child victims of sex trafficking in the country,” and over the years, helped to spare and reclaim the lives of more than 244 children, including 14 boys, and 705 young adult women.

Lisa and her work have been featured in numerous top publications, including: O Magazine, Essence, Ebony, Glamour, Black Enterprise, Good Housekeeping, Woman’s Day, Cosmopolitan, and Seventeen. Her film and television credits include the award-winning CNN Special Report: Children for Sale: The Fight to End Human Trafficking, CNN International News, CNN Freedom Project, BBC Brazil, and C-SPAN. She has also been featured on a variety of local television and radio broadcasts.

Ms. Williams has been honored by numerous organizations, including CNN, Ford Motor Company, Porsche USA, YWCA, Glamour, and L’Oréal Paris, the largest beauty brand in the world. Her list of honors includes:

2010 L’Oréal Paris Women of Worth Honoree,

inaugural 2015 L’Oréal Paris Impact Award,

inaugural 2018 Glamour Women of The Year - The Hero Among Us Award,

2015 YWCA Woman of Achievement Award,

2011 Points of Light Award Honoree, and

nominee in 2014 and 2015 by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and in 2016 by both the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of State for the U.S. Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Lisa’s best-selling book, *Beautiful Layers: Stories from Those Who Survived the Life of Prostitution & Child Sexual Exploitation*, is a tribute to victims whose lives were silenced by “the Life;” to survivors who walk among us unnamed, unheard, unseen, and unhealed; and to those fighting for the right to keep company with their own humanity—to move beyond survival, to a place of transformational living, impactful giving, and legacy building.

Her upcoming work, *Uncomfortable Truth*, is a collection of authentic lived experiences of females of color who have been sexually exploited. *Uncomfortable Truth* underscores the profound health impact of sex trafficking victimization and the disparities that exist in the care of sexual exploitation victims of color. Readers will be challenged to pursue additional research to assist in the prevention of this modern day enslavement of Black, Brown and Indigenous girls in America.

Ms. Williams travels the world as a keynote speaker for The Centre for H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel) and hosts the podcast *Front Porch Conversations*. Her most recent international podcast interview was at the 2019 African Summit on Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriages, held in Dakar, Senegal.

Ms. Williams earned a Bachelor of Science from Campbell University, a Masters of Arts from Bowie State University and attended a doctoral program at Virginia Technical College.

For more information about Lisa C. Williams and her work, visit [www.lisacwilliams.com](http://www.lisacwilliams.com).

# Medical University of South Carolina



## Director, Center for Health Disparities

The Medical University of South Carolina is seeking candidates for the position of Director, Center for Health Disparities and the Allen Johnson Endowed Chair in General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. The mission of the Center is to foster an environment of collaborative research to improve understanding of the many factors that perpetuate health care disparities including race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic and geography, and to develop and evaluate interventions to eliminate those disparities and improve care for all. Candidates with an MD or DO degree at the associate professor or professor level in general internal medicine, geriatrics or palliative care and an established history of successful funded research in disparities or a related field are encouraged to apply. The division section on Health Systems Research and Policy includes physicians and social scientists with methodologic experience in health services research, biostatistics, epidemiology, and health economics. The division has a HRSA-sponsored faculty development fellowship which collaborates closely with the Department of Public Health Sciences and the South Carolina Translational Research (CTSA) and content expertise in health literacy, health promotion and behavior change, community health, health disparities, aging, human factors and informatics.

Inquiries should be directed to William P. Moran MD MS, Division Chief, General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics, at [collinbg@musc.edu](mailto:collinbg@musc.edu); Tel: (843) 792-5384.

The Medical University of South Carolina is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that strives to hire without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information or veteran status. MUSC takes affirmative action to hire and advance women, minorities, protected veterans and individuals with disabilities. MUSC has received a 4-year NSF ADVANCE grant to promote the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in science.

MD or DO at Associate Professor or Professor level in general internal medicine, geriatrics or palliative care and an established history of successful funded research in disparities or a related field

Internal Number: 498157





## TWELFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

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# **Thank You**



Leadership for a Changing America

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*NATIONAL URBAN FELLOWS IS PROUD TO BE A PART OF THE 12TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES*



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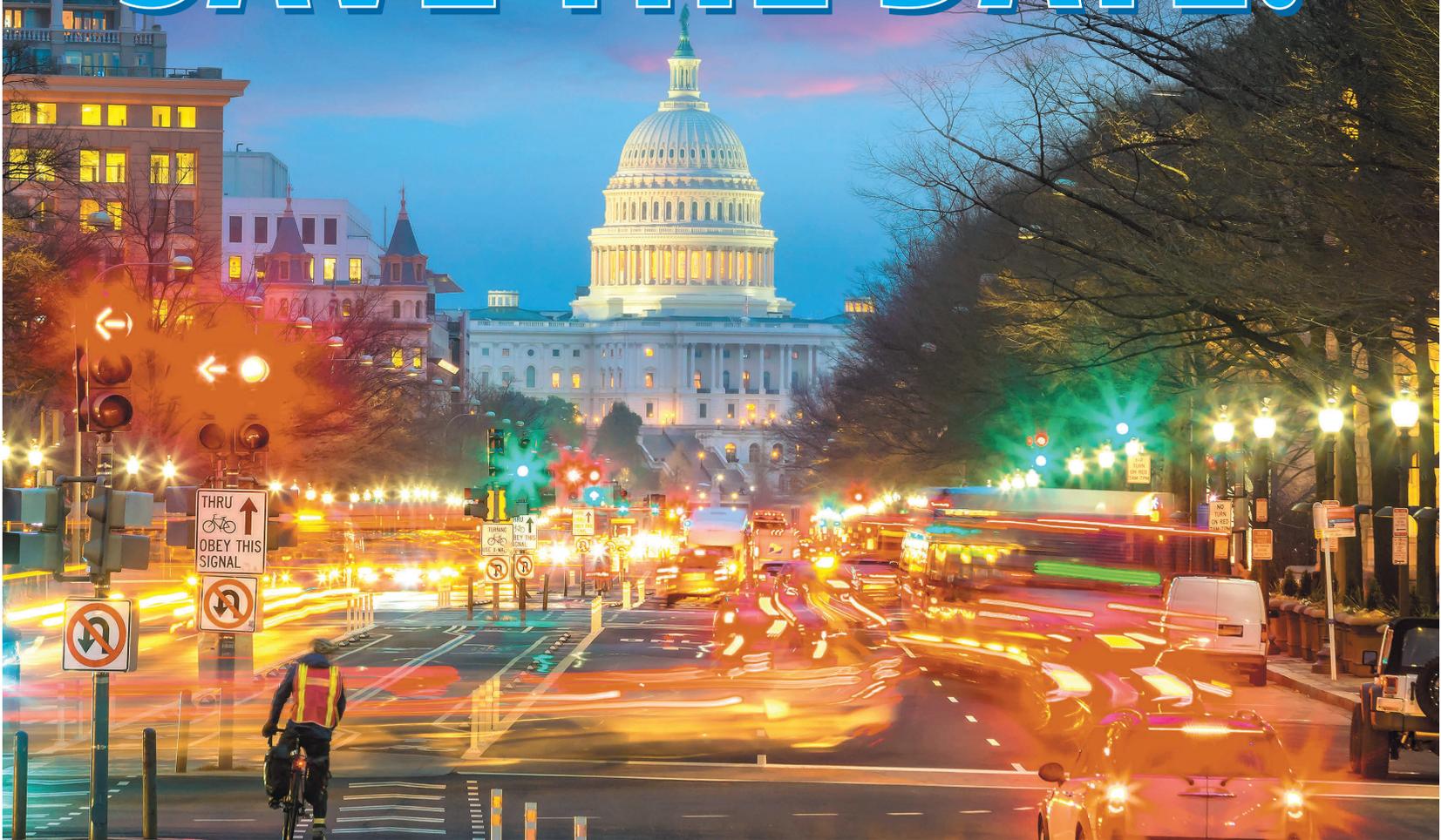
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**The 13th Annual National Conference on Health Disparities**

**&**

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**APRIL 22-25, 2020**

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