

SUMMARY REPORT

Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

*Reducing Health Disparities Through
Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy
Communities*

November 13-16, 2013

Sugar Bay Resort and Spa

6500 Estate Smith Bay

St. Thomas, USVI 00802





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FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dr. David Rivers

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

The Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD) convened in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, November 13-16, 2013. Its purpose: To deliver the most current information on health disparities and programs to reduce disparities, with sharpened focus on the role social determinants play in the health and well-being of all Americans. This publication serves as the conference's Summary Report.

No such conference is possible without a major commitment of intellectual and logistical resources, including direct sponsorship and support. Recognizing the currency and importance of the topic, numerous governmental agencies, corporate and civic entities and academic institutions delivered direct or in-kind support to the Seventh NCHD. (See pages 22-23.) Conference participants also appreciated the tremendous support and hospitality of our hosts, including U.S. Virgin Islands Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr., and U.S. Virgin Islands Congressional Delegate, Donna M. Christensen, M.D.

Throughout the NCHD's seven-year history, U.S. Congressman James E. Clyburn and many of his congressional colleagues have supported the effort in both voice and deed. Congressman Clyburn is a long-time proponent of a vision of community health that recognizes the unique relationship between human health, environmental quality, environmental justice and economic development. This vision is central to all programs delivered by the Medical University of South Carolina's Public Information and Community Outreach group (PICO), including the NCHD effort.

The first six NCHDs (2007-2012) uncovered a major story: that race, poverty, limited educational attainment, public safety, environmental quality and sub-standard housing – among a long list of social determinants – are major contributors to health disparities. As a result, the Planning Committee for the Seventh NCHD (pages 38-39) developed an agenda that fostered discussion of social determinants, while adding sessions of particular relevance to residents of the conference's host site, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Caribbean nations.

The NCHD collaboration of public and private initiative creates a unique dynamic that sharpens the focus on the social implications of health disparities. In its seventh year, the conference once again grew in diversity of participants in terms of age, race, gender, professional affiliation, geographic origin and occupation. All told,

continued



Dr. David Rivers

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS *continued*

367 people, including over 100 students from 16 colleges and universities, attended the conference. This growth and diversity encourages NCHD organizers, who strongly believe that broad involvement from all sectors is a necessary precursor to reducing health disparities.

Highlighted by presentations from veteran leaders in the effort to reduce health disparities and including innovative and scholarly research projects by student participants, the message remained consistent: Health disparities must be addressed and reduced for our nation to move forward as an international leader in health care and social justice.

These are remarkable times in our nation. With the enactment and initial roll-out of the Affordable Care Act, millions of previously uninsured Americans can afford the kind of health care so many of us take for granted. Not coincidentally, we see new opportunities for a gradual shift from a traditional “sick-care” model of health care to a more forward-thinking “well-care” model. While elected officials in attendance at the conference shared a common assessment of the current political climate for providing the resources needed to address health disparities – one of cautious optimism – many expressed concern about the public’s will to move forward. Their messages reinforced the need to “stay the course” on reducing disparities and health care in general.

With that in mind, we have begun planning the Eighth Annual NCHD, scheduled for November 5-8, 2014, in Long Beach, CA. I fully anticipate that the Eighth NCHD will build on its seven predecessors, while incorporating sessions of particular relevance to the vibrant and diverse people of our nation’s most populous state.

We look forward to engaging you in this ongoing process.



Dr. David Rivers and the Honorable John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor, USVI

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities (NCHD), speakers, presenters and panelists exchanged a large amount of information and insight, both in structured, formal presentations and in less formal, “conversational” settings. The following themes and recommendations recurred through the conference’s four days of activities:

1. Actions to address social determinants are key to reducing health disparities. In this regard, leadership is needed to develop policies, programs and partnerships that focus on high priority determinants, such as poverty, which have been both present and recognized for some time.
2. Personal responsibility is critical to reducing health disparities and promoting prevention and wellness within targeted communities. In this regard, training and technical assistance programs are needed to teach communities and their residents basic health care practices.
3. The current health care delivery system is broken. Conference presenters recommended several changes, including the shifting of federal resources to prevention and “wellness” programs and increasing community engagement in research.
4. There are a number of effective programs that exist and that can be duplicated, replicated and implemented in communities across the country. There is a critical need to disseminate information on successful programs, which health care providers may then adapt to the specific needs of their communities.
5. Medical researchers must increase the amount of targeted clinical research with community-based involvement that can be translated into clinical practice.
6. To have healthy communities, community leaders must focus on human health, environmental quality and justice, economic development and partnerships with public schools, community health organizations, doctors, public health officials and medical schools.
7. Conditions in neighborhoods where people live and work have a tremendous impact on their health, long before they see a doctor. Consequently, policies and programs focused on environmental justice and economic development must be developed, implemented and monitored to include the coordination of federal, state and local government initiatives.
8. Crime, violence, human trafficking and mass incarceration must be considered as additional social determinants that affect the health of individual citizens, as well as the general health of black and brown communities.

In summary, there is a need for action to take place in the areas cited above. Strong leadership and funding are needed. An initial step would be the creation of a health information exchange or database to centralize medical and clinical research, to inventory successful programs in reducing health disparities, to provide awareness of cultural competence initiatives, to monitor pilot projects, and to provide technical assistance and funding support.

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT FORUM: POSTER SESSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS



Ms. Nyasha Buchongo, Dr. Milford Greene and Ms. Toni Smalls



Student Ms. Krista Koch (left) with Poster



Dr. LaVerne Ragster engages students during the Student Forum

The Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities opened on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, with the annual Graduate and Undergraduate Student Forum, consisting of roundtable discussions, poster presentations, oral presentations and a keynote address. Over 100 students participated. Among the institutions represented were: California State University, Long Beach; Emory University; Georgia Southern University; Jackson State University; John Hopkins University; Medical University of South Carolina; Morehouse School of Medicine; Morgan State University; Rowan University; Spelman College; University Arkansas for Medical Sciences; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Notre Dame; University of Toledo Medical Center; University of the Virgin Islands, and University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire.

Morning Session

The morning session of the Student Forum consisted of some of its traditional features: remarks by Dr. Marvella Ford of MUSC and other Student Forum coordinators, individual introductions by each student participant, and a presentation on the National Library of Medicine by Ms. Cassandra Ricks Allen.

The highlight was the presentation and judging of the Student Posters. A total of 36 students (28 graduate/professional and eight undergraduate students) entered their research in the poster contest. All of the posters were outstanding and represented an extraordinary amount of research and work by the student participants. Six of the posters (three by graduate students and three by undergraduate students) were selected for special recognition by a panel of judges.



Student Award Recipients

Undergraduate student winners were:

1st Place Ms. Kendra Hearn, Spelman College

Mentor: Dr. Mark Lee

"Lapatanib and Neratinib: Using Combination Drug Therapy to Advance the Effect of the Treatment of HER2 Positive Breast Cancer"

2nd Place Ms. Nicole Crawford, Georgia Southern University

Mentor: Dr. Kathryn Anderson

"Intimate Partner Violence: A Silent Phenomenon"

3rd Place Ms. Sarah Wolf, University of the Virgin Islands

Mentor: Dr. Gloria Callwood

"Factors Contributing to Fecal Indicator Bacteria in Brewer's Bay, USVI"

Graduate/Professional student winners were:

1st place Ms. Angelika Clarke, California State University, Long Beach

Mentor: Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis

"Risk Factors for Early Pubertal Onset in African American Girls"

2nd place Ms. Yamisha Rutherford, Morehouse School of Medicine

Mentor: Dr. Selina Smith

"Weight Change as a Predictor of Physical Health Among African American Breast Cancer Survivors"

3rd Place Ms. Eugenia Maravilla, California State University, Long Beach

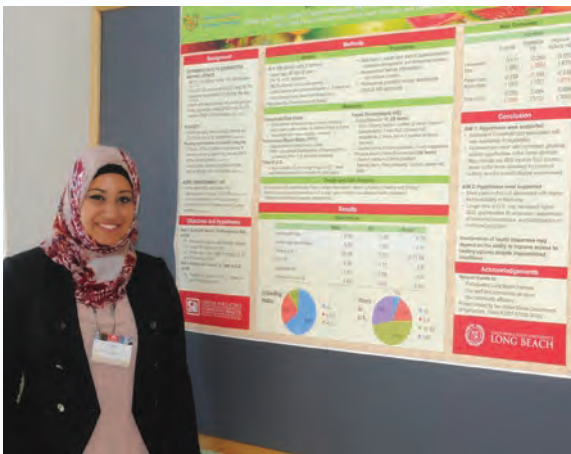
Mentor: Dr. Paul M. Weers

"The Potential Antimicrobial Activity of Locusta Migratoria Apolipoprotein III"

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013 *continued*



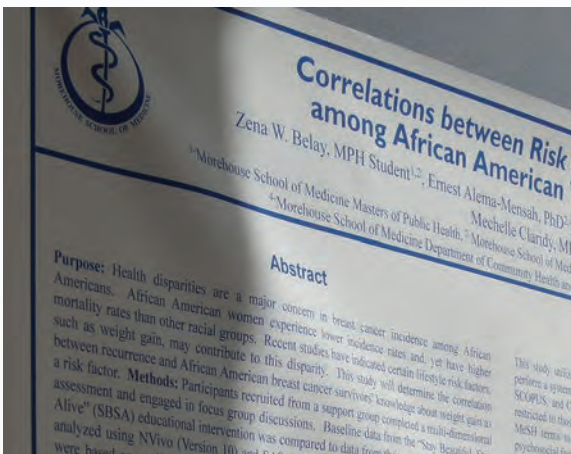
Student Forum



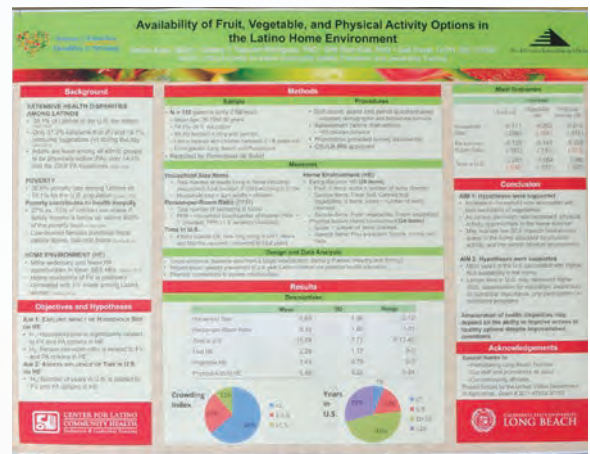
Student Ms. Safieh Ajine with Poster



Student Ms. Angelika Clarke with Poster



Student Poster



Student Poster

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session of the Student Forum consisted of two new features: a keynote address and oral presentations by a student and a postdoctoral fellow. Dr. Konstantinos Alexandridis of the University of the Virgin Islands presented the keynote address and a PowerPoint presentation, entitled: "The Inspirational Power of Global Science for Healthy and Resilient Local Communities." In his address, Dr. Alexandridis shared the importance of understanding global trends in the environment in order to address their impact on local issues, such as health disparities.

Using the extensive research from their posters, Ms. Kendra Hearn, an undergraduate student from Spelman College, and Dr. Bushra Sabri, a postdoctoral fellow from John Hopkins University, presented on "Breast Cancer" and "Caribbean Women," respectively.



Dr. Milford Greene (left) and Dr. Marvella Ford (right) present Ms. Lazette Alvarez with a certificate of participation



National Library of Medicine Information Booth with Attendee, Ms. Cassandra Ricks Allen, Attendee, Mr. George Franklin and Mr. David Nash



Student Posters

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013



Ms. Carolyn Sawyer



Ms. Darice Plaskett

Greetings and Opening Remarks

Mistress of Ceremonies **Ms. Carolyn Sawyer** of the Tom Sawyer Company opened the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities with greetings and introductions. She introduced conference sponsors and local dignitaries who brought greetings and special messages to the conference participants.



Dr. David Hall



*Senator
Shawn-Michael Malone*

In her greetings and remarks, the **Honorable Darice Plaskett**, Commissioner of the Department of Health in St. Croix, USVI, shared with the audience that the largest contributor to health disparities in the U.S. Virgin Islands is a lack of access to health services. She stated that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) would be used in the USVI to expand Medicaid in order to increase the number of people in the territory who have health insurance. She said that the ACA would bring to the USVI a much needed opportunity to overcome the many disparities in health care that the citizens of the USVI face.



Dr. Sabra Slaughter



Dr. John Maupin

Dr. David Hall, President of the University of the Virgin Islands, shared with conference participants the innovative research that the USVI's Exploratory Research Center is undertaking under the leadership of Dr. Gloria B. Callwood. In his remarks he referenced the controversy over the Affordable Care Act's website and stated that it is not whether the ACA's website is working; the real question is "whether we as a nation are deeply and earnestly committed to ensuring that every person, every citizen and every noncitizen is entitled to quality health care and a quality life."



Dr. Daniel Rahn



Ms. Verdenia C. Baker

The **Honorable Shawn-Michael Malone**, President of the 30th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands, expressed his wish that after conference participants discussed "the issues that affect our communities, that meaningful policies and regulations and laws come out of [these discussions] and that we continue to move forward."



Dr. Tionna Jenkins

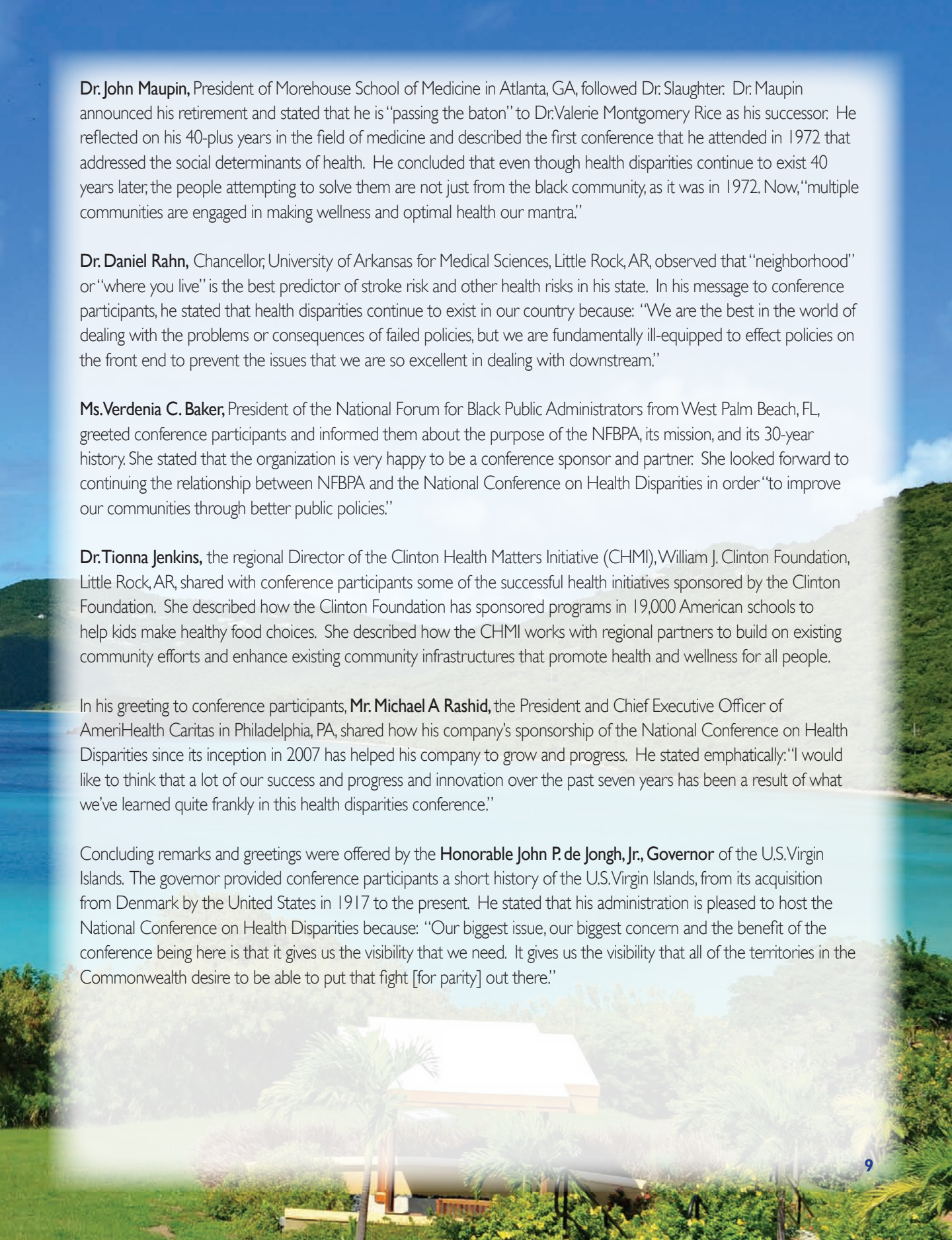


Mr. Michael A. Rashid

In his remarks, **Dr. Sabra Slaughter**, Chief of Staff, Office of the President of the Medical University of South Carolina, noted that the issue of health disparities continues to be one of the most vexing problems facing our society. He described how other major changes in American health care services had glitches similar to those that have affected the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. But he also noted that the ACA is only one aspect of the effort to resolve health disparities. He stated that, during the course of the conference, participants would discuss issues such as global warming, human trafficking, guns and poverty, and he challenged them to use these discussions to find answers to the issue of health disparities.



*Governor
John P. de Jongh, Jr.*



Dr. John Maupin, President of Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA, followed Dr. Slaughter. Dr. Maupin announced his retirement and stated that he is “passing the baton” to Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice as his successor. He reflected on his 40-plus years in the field of medicine and described the first conference that he attended in 1972 that addressed the social determinants of health. He concluded that even though health disparities continue to exist 40 years later, the people attempting to solve them are not just from the black community, as it was in 1972. Now, “multiple communities are engaged in making wellness and optimal health our mantra.”

Dr. Daniel Rahn, Chancellor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR, observed that “neighborhood” or “where you live” is the best predictor of stroke risk and other health risks in his state. In his message to conference participants, he stated that health disparities continue to exist in our country because: “We are the best in the world of dealing with the problems or consequences of failed policies, but we are fundamentally ill-equipped to effect policies on the front end to prevent the issues that we are so excellent in dealing with downstream.”

Ms. Verdenia C. Baker, President of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators from West Palm Beach, FL, greeted conference participants and informed them about the purpose of the NFBPA, its mission, and its 30-year history. She stated that the organization is very happy to be a conference sponsor and partner. She looked forward to continuing the relationship between NFBPA and the National Conference on Health Disparities in order “to improve our communities through better public policies.”

Dr. Tionna Jenkins, the regional Director of the Clinton Health Matters Initiative (CHMI), William J. Clinton Foundation, Little Rock, AR, shared with conference participants some of the successful health initiatives sponsored by the Clinton Foundation. She described how the Clinton Foundation has sponsored programs in 19,000 American schools to help kids make healthy food choices. She described how the CHMI works with regional partners to build on existing community efforts and enhance existing community infrastructures that promote health and wellness for all people.

In his greeting to conference participants, **Mr. Michael A Rashid**, the President and Chief Executive Officer of AmeriHealth Caritas in Philadelphia, PA, shared how his company’s sponsorship of the National Conference on Health Disparities since its inception in 2007 has helped his company to grow and progress. He stated emphatically: “I would like to think that a lot of our success and progress and innovation over the past seven years has been a result of what we’ve learned quite frankly in this health disparities conference.”

Concluding remarks and greetings were offered by the **Honorable John P. de Jongh, Jr., Governor** of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The governor provided conference participants a short history of the U.S. Virgin Islands, from its acquisition from Denmark by the United States in 1917 to the present. He stated that his administration is pleased to host the National Conference on Health Disparities because: “Our biggest issue, our biggest concern and the benefit of the conference being here is that it gives us the visibility that we need. It gives us the visibility that all of the territories in the Commonwealth desire to be able to put that fight [for parity] out there.”

Keynote Addresses

Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.

Servant Pastor, Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, MD



The morning greetings and special messages on the second day of the conference were followed by a keynote address by Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr., the Servant Pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church, Largo, Maryland. His message was: "Let's Just Get It Done."

"Right will never win, good will never be gained, life will never be enriched, defeat will never be avoided, victory will never be gained, and justice will never be ours, until we reach the point, no matter what the challenge, to make the ultimate choice, to just get it done."

Reverend Hicks used scripture from the Second Book of Kings to tell a metaphorical story about the four lepers who were caught in the middle of the siege of Sumeria by the Assyrians (a war between the "haves" and the "have nots"), who suffered from a sick care system, who suffered from hunger; and whose leprosy meant that they also had a "skin problem." The skin problem, which was not just based on their color; but also on their marginalization in society, caused them to have all of their other problems:

Dr. H. Beecher Hicks, Jr.

- "an absence of clean water and clean air to breathe;"
- "a body of lawmakers who spend their time trying to filibuster their way to relevance;"
- "a nation that spends \$2.9 trillion on health care and yet is struggling to find positive outcomes for such critical problems as infant mortality and diabetes and obesity;"
- "a nation that can get money for war but can't feed the poor;" and ultimately,
- a nation in which "46 million people live below poverty levels, the majority of whom are children."

According to the Reverend Dr. Hicks, conference participants were not the lepers, and they were not the people suffering at the gate of Sumeria. Instead, conference participants represented the keepers of the gate; they were the ones who would make a difference in the lives of those who could not change the environment for themselves. He challenged conference participants to be dissatisfied with things as they are because something had gone terribly wrong. He said: "The social problems we face are not new problems, for the lepers at the gate of human need have been there for a long time." Thus, he observed:

"You must decide to be dissatisfied with where we are as a nation, with where we are as a culture, and with where we are as a people. I want to disturb you from your comfort zone, and I want to challenge you to make a difference. I plead with you to remove the lepers from the gate. I come to encourage you to do your work at an unprecedented level. No one can make a decision for you; no one can make a choice for you, but you. There are no excuses allowed, for the choices that you make will change lives. Social change is ultimately a movement of the masses. This is your moment, this is your time; no more excuses."

Reverend Dr. Hicks concluded his metaphorical story by stating that the four lepers made a choice. "They went into the camp of the Assyrians and there was no one there. That which the four lepers feared the most was not there. The enemy that they had imagined was already gone. The death that they thought awaited them never materialized. The great tragedy of their lives vanished with the morning dew. When they made up their minds, and the long-awaited decision was finally made, they rose up. No more sitting; they rose up. No more procrastination; they rose up. No more excuses, no more explanations; they rose up. They rose up to just get it done."

Thus Reverend Dr. Hicks advised the conference participants to take their cue from the action of the four lepers. "If you remember nothing else, remember this: no more sitting, no more procrastination, no more excuses, no more explanations. Let's just get it done."

"What Is Your Why?"

Dr. Debra Joy Perez

Vice President, Research, Evaluation and Learning
Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. We've got to change the world. If we leave here and we do nothing once we get back, then we just had a great time in the Virgin Islands."

Dr. Debra Joy Perez of the Annie E. Casey Foundation followed the inspiring message of the Reverend Dr. H. Beecher Hicks with her own special message, entitled "What Is Your Why?" She stated: "It is important to tell people not just what you do, but why you do it." She explained how her "why" was influenced by her upbringing in a Puerto Rican family that migrated to the United States and then was on food stamps. She was able to go to college only because her guidance counselor wrote her a check for \$25 to accompany her application for admission to Rutgers University. That \$25 changed her life. Her guidance counselor showed her that all of us are interconnected. "The guidance counselor saw that my success was her success. When I did well, she did well, and we all did well. She saw that if we do not support each other, we all drown."



Panel Two on "Translational Research" (left to right) Dr. Daniel Lackland, Dr. Eugene Tull, Dr. Emma Fernandez-Repollet, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, Dr. Gloria Wilder and Dr. Curtis Lowery



(Seated) Ms. B. Jackson, Dr. M. Ford, Ms. M. Downing, Dr. D. Rivers, Dr. S. Slaughter, Dr. L. Abraham and Dr. J. Friday; (Standing) Mr. H. Currey, Mr. L. Lewis, Mr. M. Neaves, Ms. M. Hill, Dr. M. Homonoff, Ms. G. Williams and Dr. W. M. Dulaney



Dr. Debra Joy Perez



Ms. Vivian Flowers, Ms. Verdenia Baker and Ms. Phyllis Dickerson at the International Capital and Management Company Reception

continued

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013 *continued*

Dr. Perez focused on two topics: diversity and aging. She cited statistics that indicate that people of color will be the majority of the population in the United States in 50 years. According to Dr. Perez, this fact is amplified by Latino children ages 0-5. Today, they are 25% of the population. But by 2050, they will be 40% of all children. She noted that in October 2012, for the first time in our nation's history, the number of babies of color exceeded the number of white babies that were born. At the same time she cited the fact that "we are an aging population, we are getting older, and we are living an average of seven more years in our lives. We are now looking at a population that is not just 15% 65-years-old and older; we are now looking at a population that will be 85 years of age and older. In 2050, 21% of our population will be over 65."

Dr. Perez related our nation's emerging diversity and longevity to health disparities. She stated that in every facet of health in this country, African Americans and Latinos rate their health worse than whites. According to Dr. Perez, in every aspect of health and at every age level, African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and Asian-Pacific Islanders are worse off than whites. She cited education as a key to improving health care among minorities, because education and health are intertwined. She stated: "If you have an education you will live longer. Education drives health in this country. In fact, persons who have an education will live an average of five years longer than those who do not have an education. And if you're poor, you are six times as likely to have poor health. Income and education are the determining factors for good health in this country. Education is the equalizer; education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."

She concluded her address by advocating for "child development bonds." These are investment accounts that are set up for children born in low-income families so that their destiny is not determined by their parents' paycheck. She stated that child development bonds would accrue until the child is 18-years-old, and then he or she could withdraw the funds to invest in his or her education or to invest in starting a business or buying a home. "These are the things that build wealth. If we did this, every child would have access to developing that wealth because wealth means health."

Luncheon Speaker



Dr. Reed V. Tuckson

Dr. Reed V. Tuckson

Managing Director

Tuckson Health Connection, Minneapolis, MN

"Are you sure sweetheart that you want to be well?" I like to caution folks that's all, because there's no sense in our wasting each other's time, sweetheart. Just so's you're sure, sweetheart, and ready to be healed, cause wholeness is no trifling matter. A lot of weight when you're well. Take away the miseries and you take away some folks' reason for living."

—Toni Cade Bambara, The Salt Eaters

Dr. Tuckson opened his Luncheon Address by quoting the above lines from Toni Cade Bambara's novel and posing some key questions: "How do we make more progress, how do we make it faster, and how do we sustain our efforts in the challenging days to come?" Dr. Tuckson presented one of his usual rousing

and inspirational keynotes with humor, pathos and much seriousness. Taking his cue from his opening reading, he told conference participants that the healing community needs to work with the creative writing community in order to find new and creative insights as to how we love ourselves.

Loving ourselves was one of the major themes of Dr. Tuckson's address. He cited his recently published book entitled, *The Doctor in the Mirror*, in which he tells readers to "look into the mirror and you'll see the best doctor that you ever met; after all who knows you better than yourself? Who loves you better than you, and who makes better decisions about your health than you." As Dr. Tuckson traveled to promote his book, he found people looking for answers to their health problems. The title of the book itself inspired people to ask questions: You mean that I can be my own doctor? You mean I can take care of my own health? You mean that I can look out for myself? He concluded that, "the only value of the whole damn book was the cover."

After briefly relating one of his recurring themes about black women valuing their hair over their health and refusing to exercise, Dr. Tuckson addressed the serious issue of black-on-black violence. He stated that the acquittal of George Zimmerman on July 13, 2013, for the murder of Trayvon Martin had distracted black people from the more serious issue of not loving each other. He showed slides of a month worth of black-on-black homicides in Chicago to pose the question: "How did we come to hate each other and ourselves this much?" He followed this question by asking, "How will we ever learn to love each other again?" He said there's something very wrong in the family. He said the diabetes statistics, the obesity statistics, and the preventable chronic illness statistics can only be understood in the context of these killings and murders in our community.

Dr. Tuckson concluded his remarks with several recommendations. Once again, he urged health care professionals to engage in community organizing in order to better serve the people they intend to serve. He called for the use of "big data" and the latest technology to assist people in the community in monitoring their blood pressure, avoiding unhealthy foods, and being in constant contact with their own vital signs, as well as their doctors. He called for everybody at the conference to begin to network on Facebook and LinkedIn in order to share data and health care innovations that work. Finally, he said: "Every time you see George Zimmerman's picture, run and do something else constructive and positive."



Dr. Reed Tuckson addresses the audience

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013 *continued*

Day Two Highlights

A Focus on Social Determinants

The first panel of Day Two addressed “the impact of social determinants in reducing health disparities and sustaining healthy communities.” This panel set the stage for one of the major themes of the conference. The major focus of the panel was on race, poverty, education and environmental issues as determinants of health and health disparities.

Dr. David Rivers of the Medical University of South Carolina chaired the panel. His opening remarks focused on the reality that, for the country’s citizens to be healthy, we must have healthy communities. Dr. Rivers spoke about two major social determinants: environmental issues and crime. He stressed the importance of focusing on social determinants to reduce health disparities. Dr. Rivers also cited several statistics regarding poverty, the prison population and healthcare expenditures, setting the stage for the panel’s discussion. He stated that 175 million people live in conditions and locations where the air quality is bad for their health. He noted that African Americans are 13% of the U.S. population, but they comprise 60% of the jail population. According to a study cited by Dr. Perez in her keynote address, 55% of children in South Carolina live in poverty.

Dr. Rivers said that the panel discussion would address how to reduce health disparities by focusing on social determinants. He stated that the United States is spending \$2.9 trillion on health care, but it has poor outcomes when compared to other nations. Only 5% of these dollars are spent on wellness and prevention. He concluded his remarks with the statement that, “The system is broken.” As he has stated at previous conferences, the United States has a “sick care” system, and not a “health care” system.

After his remarks, Dr. Rivers introduced the first panel:

- Dr. Georges C. Benjamin – Executive Director, American Public Health Association, Washington, DC
- Dr. Jay Feldstein – Regional President, Northern Division, AmeriHealth Caritas, Philadelphia, PA
- Dr. Keith Norris – Editor in Chief, Ethnicity & Disease; Immediate Past Vice President for Research, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine & Science, Marina Del Ray, CA
- Mr. Derrick Watchman – Chief Executive Officer, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Church Rock, NM
- Ms. Judith C. Enck – Regional Administrator, Region Two, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New York, NY

In his opening remarks, Dr. Benjamin indicated that health insurance matters, and it is essential to get into a “card” system. The Affordable Care Act provides important clinical services, such as preventive services, breastfeeding promotion, and other health services that will reduce health disparities among the uninsured. He also spoke of some social determinants that contribute to health disparities, such as smoking, the consumption of certain foods, environmental toxins, and children’s lack of exercise.

Dr. Feldstein reviewed the education gap in the U.S., and noted that there is a direct correlation between the level of education and health condition and life expectancy. Dr. Feldstein said that education affects knowledge, work, beliefs and behaviors, income and other social factors. He indicated that if everyone finished high school, \$7 billion in health care costs could be saved.



Panel One, “The Impact of Social Determinants in Reducing Health Disparities and Sustaining Healthy Communities with a Major Focus on Race, Poverty, Education and Environmental Issues”: Dr. David Rivers, Dr. Georges Benjamin, Dr. Jay Feldstein, Dr. Keith Norris and Mr. Derrick Watchman. Not pictured: Ms. Judith Enck

Dr. Norris stated that in the U.S. we die sooner at twice the cost. Over 50% of the population is functionally illiterate. He also said that to get better health outcomes, doctor/patient communication must improve. He enlightened conference participants regarding the problem that some American citizens have reading prescriptions, pamphlets and other health information. He confirmed the understanding that the transference of information is critical in improving health outcomes. Dr. Norris also reviewed initiatives between Charles R. Drew University faculty and community leaders. The purpose of these initiatives is to develop a workforce of health professionals who are knowledgeable about the social determinants of health and to prepare future generations of health providers to assist communities to take more responsibility for their own health.

Mr. Watchman gave an overview on Native Americans. He indicated there are 14 states where Indian populations exceed 100,000, and the overall population of Indians is growing. California, Oklahoma and Arizona have the most recognized reservations (325) and tribes (566). He reviewed future projections for American Indians, relative to the quality of housing, obesity, poverty and other social determinants, which ultimately impact the Indian nations and create health disparities. Mr. Watchman indicated that there are misconceptions concerning the income levels of individual Indians because of the revenue generated from gaming. In actuality, the reverse is true. Gaming is not directly helping individuals, but Tribal Leadership. His closing remarks focused on the need for everyone to work together to effect change in reducing health disparities among all minorities.

In her remarks, Ms. Enck focused on pollution, poverty and public health. She expounded on the fact that the quality of the air and other environmental pollutants have adversely affected people of color. She said that the country is dealing with old sewage plant systems that pollute the air where a large number of people live. She pointed out that much of the nation's housing still has lead paint problems, which can impact a child's ability to learn. Ms. Enck mentioned the Citizen Science Initiative, where citizens work with EPA staff to monitor air quality, collect data and report findings to the EPA. In closing, she discussed the impact of climate change, which she feels is one of the greatest environmental issues of our time and will also impact health.

DAY THREE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Opening Remarks

Dr. Stephanie Gardner

*Dean and Associate Provost for Health and Society
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS)*

“We need to leave [this conference] with action plans that promote change in our communities.”

Dr. Stephanie Gardner opened Day Three of the conference with remarks about how UAMS works with the Little Rock community to address the social determinants of health. She discussed how the university was asked to participate as a partner in the Promise Project. The project focuses on helping children from cradle to college to career.

UAMS formed a student-led health and wellness center with an advisory board from the community. Community members informed UAMS that they needed a center located in their neighborhood where children could get physicals so that they could participate in school and sports. They also wanted dental care, which is one of the biggest needs in the Little Rock area. Most importantly, they wanted the center to be open in the evenings, allowing them to take advantage of its services.

In a few short months, students and faculty from eight different health professions at UAMS engaged in an effort that focused on the health of the community, but also focused on preparing students to work actively together as members of a healthcare team. Dr. Gardner emphasized that the students' work in the wellness center helped them to better understand the social determinants of health.

Keynote Address



Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick

*Interim President
Howard University*

Health Disparities and the Health Care Pipeline

Following Dr. Gardner's Opening Remarks, U.S. Virgin Islands Congressional Delegate Donna M. Christensen, M.D., introduced Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick for the morning Keynote Address. In addition to his appointment as Interim President, Dr. Frederick has served as director of the Howard University Cancer Center. Thus, the majority of his address focused on the impact of cancer on African Americans, especially African American women. Dr. Frederick noted that African American women are less likely to contract breast cancer than white women. But, when they contract it, they do so at a younger

age, suffer from some of the most aggressive forms of cancer, and have a lower five-year survival rate than white women. Dr. Frederick made the point that the disparities in the treatment and survival rates of black and white women who contract cancer are not only due to social determinants, but also biological and genetic factors, and the lack of information about family health history that affects many African Americans. Since African American women are

less likely to participate in clinical trials, to be screened for cancer, and to obtain the aggressive treatment for cancer that is typical for white women, they are less likely to survive the disease.

Dr. Frederick proposed creating a “health care pipeline” to address the ongoing health disparities that affect African Americans. He cited the fact that three of the nation’s medical schools – Meharry, Howard and Morehouse – produce the majority of the nation’s African American doctors. He also showed how Howard and Xavier University of New Orleans produce the majority of the nation’s African American medical students. He used these statistics to advocate maintaining HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) and for supporting programs such as Howard’s on-campus middle school as a way of developing a “pipeline” for students to enter the medical profession and to contribute to closing the gap in health disparities.

Luncheon Speaker



Dr. Gloria B. Callwood

Dr. Gloria B. Callwood

*Director, Caribbean Exploratory Research Center
U.S. Virgin Islands*

“In the last nine years, we have had a wide footprint.”

Dr. Callwood began her presentation by explaining the history of the U.S. Virgin Islands to conference participants. She explained how the United States purchased the Virgin Islands from Denmark in 1917, and how the islands developed as a major attraction for American tourists during the Kennedy administration. Inhabitants of the Virgin Islands became U.S. citizens in 1927. Although they are citizens of the United States, residents of the USVI do not vote for presidential candidates unless they move to the mainland. The population of the USVI is predominantly black (76% in 2010) and Hispanic (14%). Residents of the USVI did not elect their first governor until 1970.

Dr. Callwood also addressed the health care issues that face the citizens of the USVI. The leading causes of death are heart disease, cancer, homicides and diabetes. Just as on the mainland, health disparities negatively affect the citizens of the USVI. Thirty percent of the population does not have health insurance.

Dr. Callwood stated that the University of the Virgin Islands is the only offshore HBCU of the United States. UVI enrolls fewer than 2,700 students. UVI is “teacher intensive,” but moving toward increasing the research capability of its faculty. UVI is moving toward doing more research, and the Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (CERC) is one of the primary mechanisms by which the UVI has become more research intensive. To illustrate its research and programmatic activities, Dr. Callwood cited the ongoing research and community-based activities of CERC: a program to address “intimate partner abuse” for female victims of the earthquake in Haiti; a program linking health disparities and climate (“What’s Climate Got to Do with It?”); partnerships and collaborative programs with six mainland universities; an annual Agricultural Institute, and a program to inform Virgin Islanders about fish poisoning.

Day Three Highlights Economic Development and Infrastructure

Panel Six focused on: “The role of the public and private sectors in reducing health disparities through economic development and infrastructure improvements, including energy/power generation and delivery of a reliable, high-quality supply of water.” Panelists focused on key issues related to health disparities: a weatherization program to save low-income people money on energy that they could spend on health care; a clean and potable water supply; a stable energy grid, and the development of power systems that can withstand disruption to the power grid.



Panel Six, “The Role of the Public and Private Sector in Reducing Health Disparities”: Mr. Patrick Graham, Mr. Gustav James, Mr. Karl Knight and Mr. Geoff Smith

Mr. Gustav James, P.E., President, Systems Engineering and Construction, Inc., St. Croix, was the moderator for this panel. He stated that the question before the panel of engineers is: “What can we do about these health disparities?” He introduced the following panelists:

- Mr. Karl Knight – Director of Energy, Virgin Islands Energy Office, Office of the Governor, St. Thomas, USVI
- Mr. Geoff Smith, P.E. – Project Manager, URS, Charleston, SC
- Mr. Patrick N. Graham, P.E. – Project Development, CHA Consulting, Inc., Savannah, GA

The first speaker, Mr. Knight, discussed the Weatherization Assistance Program, implemented in the Virgin Islands in 2009, which not only saved low-income citizens money on energy, but also created jobs and provided workforce development training for residents. He said the program helps to address health disparities because low-income citizens can use the money saved from energy conservation to pay for health care.

The second speaker, Mr. Smith, discussed global water, sewer and storm water infrastructure. He indicated that clean water and good water control is key to good health. Approximately 884 million people worldwide lack access to safe water, and 66% of them live in poverty. In addition, he reported that 10-15% of the water supply is lost due to poor infrastructure. The lack of effective storm water control causes health problems, such as malaria, viruses and other sicknesses. Mr. Smith discussed how the lack of clean water affects the private sector’s workforce and the fisheries and tourism industries.

The last speaker on this panel was Mr. Graham, who discussed “Power Stability and Health.” He discussed how resilient power systems are being developed that can withstand disruptions to the centralized power grid. He explained how these resilient power systems allow hospitals and health care facilities to save energy, withstand natural disasters such as hurricanes, and improve the health of patients and the productivity of their staffs by improving the air quality in the facilities heated and cooled by them.



Panel Three, "The Impact of Global Climate Change": Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen, M.D., Dr. Yitades Gebre, Ms. Danielle Deane, Mr. Lloyd Gardner, Dr. LaVerne Ragster, Dr. Kedrick Pickering and Dr. David Rivers



Panel Four, "Prevention and Personal Responsibility": Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, Dr. Gary Gibbons, Dr. Doris Campbell and Dr. Thomas Ellison



Dr. Marjorie Innocent



Panel Five, "Successful Community-Based Programs": Ms. Eurkres Rallings, Dr. Sabra Slaughter, Dr. Janice Key, Dr. Samuel Ross and Dr. Amani Nuru-Jeter

DAY FOUR: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013

Opening Remarks



Ms. Lathran J. Woodard

Ms. Lathran J. Woodard

*CEO, South Carolina Primary Health Care Association
Columbia, SC*

In her Opening Remarks, Ms. Woodard described the development of community health centers, from their origins in South Africa, where they were part of efforts by doctors and other medical professionals to address the negative health consequences of apartheid, to their current role in the American health care community.

Ms. Woodard reported that one of the first Community Health Centers in the United States was founded in Mound Bayou, MS, 1965 – nearly 50 years ago. It was funded by a grant from the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "war on poverty." Its mission: "to intervene in the cycle of extreme poverty, ill health, unemployment and illiteracy by providing comprehensive health services based in multidisciplinary community health centers, oriented toward maximum participation of each community in meeting its own health needs in social and economic changes related to health." Ms. Woodard observed that this is the same thing that those in the struggle against health disparities are doing today.

Keynote Address



Donna M. Christensen, M.D.

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D.

Delegate, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Virgin Islands

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., Delegate, U.S. Congress, USVI, delivered the Keynote Address for the last day of the conference. Dr. Christensen discussed male academic achievement in the Virgin Islands, the challenges faced, and the implications as it relates to a variety of disparities. She discussed the poverty, violence, education and mortality rates for African American males. African American males face mental health issues, bullying, poor grades, fighting at school, gun violence and high school dropout rates. A numbers of bills have been introduced in Congress to address these issues. However, there has been little action on these bills.

Day Four Panel Highlight

Human Trafficking as a Health Issue

Panel Seven focused on “the impact of human trafficking (for labor and sexual purposes) at the national, state and local level.” Panel Moderator Dr. Jennifer C. Friday, Assistant Professor of Psychology, School of Liberal Arts, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA, opened the discussion by offering facts and statistics related to human trafficking. For example, she noted that an estimated 2.5 million people are forced into labor, including sexual exploitation, at any given time as a result of trafficking. About half of the people in human trafficking are in Asian Pacific countries, but some 250,000 victims, or 10%, are in Latin America and the Caribbean. The victims of human trafficking are largely females between ages 18 and 24. Approximately 95% of victims experience physical or sexual violence, and 1.2 million are children. Dr. Friday introduced the members of the panel:

- Dr. Carlos Silveira – Professor, California State University, Long Beach, College of Arts, Long Beach, CA
- Ms. Deborah J. Richardson – Executive Vice President, National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA
- Ms. Lisa Williams – Author; Founder, Living Water Learning Resource Center, Atlanta, GA

The first speaker, Dr. Silveira, described an art and social action program in Cambodia that uses the healing power of art and its therapeutic outcomes in working with minors involved in sex trafficking.

Ms. Richardson discussed the need to train health professionals to understand and recognize what they are seeing at the community level, and the need to change the culture of communities and families being served.

The final speaker, Ms. Williams, described the Living Water Program, which has rescued 76 young people, with the youngest being seven years old, from sex trafficking. Ms. Williams operates a residential facility in the metropolitan Atlanta area that serves as a refuge for young women attempting to escape from human trafficking. Her program has provided a way out for the victims of human trafficking: safety, awareness of their conditions, and restoration as human beings for young girls from broken homes. She said there is a need for her program to get involved with the medical profession to provide dental care and plastic surgery to residents of the program. In general, there is a need for more awareness of the issue, and the need for more programs to address the sex trafficking of young girls.



Panel Seven, “The Impact of Human Trafficking (for Labor and Sexual Purposes) at the National, State and Local Level”: Dr. Jennifer Friday, Dr. Carlos Silveira, Ms. Deborah Richardson, and Ms. Lisa Williams

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University of Virgin Islands Information Booth



Morehouse School of Medicine Information Booth
with Dr. Harry Heiman, Dr. Natalie Hernandez,
Dr. Tee Gee, Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice and
Dr. John Maupin



AARP Information Booth



The Hon. Shawn-Michael Malone, The Hon. Calvin Smyre and The Hon. John P. de Jongh, Jr.



Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen, M.D. (USVI) and Dr. LaVerne Ragster

AGENDA

7th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

Reducing Health Disparities through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

November 13-16, 2013

DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2013

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

9:00 am – 3:00 pmUndergraduate and Graduate Student Forum
Location: Allamanda/Oleander Room

Opening Remarks and Overview of the Student Forum
Undergraduate and Graduate Student Forum Co-chairs

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

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

7:00 pmOpening Reception and Remarks
Location: Sugar Bay Resort & Spa Poolside

DAY TWO: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2013

Location: The Estate Ballroom, 2nd floor

7:30 am.....Continental Breakfast: The East Ballroom, 2nd Floor

7:30 am – 4:00 pmRegistration: The Royal Room, 2nd Floor

8:30 am.....Mistress of Ceremonies
Ms. Carolyn Sawyer, *Communications Strategist, Tom Sawyer Company, Columbia, SC*

Opening Remarks

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

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

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



Dr. Rita Finley, Mr. Leroy Lewis, Dr. Milford Greene, Ms. Terry Seabrook, Attendee, Dr. Gloria Callwood, Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis, Dr. Bushra Sabri, Ms. Kendra Hearn, Dr. LaVerne Ragster, Ms. Monique Hill and Dr. Marvella Ford



AmeriHealth Caritas Information Booth with Ms. Sharon Thompson and Ms. Kim Thompson with an attendee



Mr. Hal Currey, Ms. Peggy Schachte and Mr. Derrick Watchman



Ms. Debra Fraser-Howze



Ms. Monique Hill, Ms. Garcia Williams, Dr. Marvella Ford, Ms. Jennifer Houston and Ms. Claudette Edgerton-Swain dance at the Opening Reception.



Mocko Jumbie at Opening Reception



Ms. Karen Dale, Ms. Kim Thompson, Ms. Sharon Thompson and Ms. Autumn Staats

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9:45 am.....Keynote Addresses

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

10:15 am.....Break

10:30 am.....Keynote Address

Dr. Debra Joy Perez, *Vice President, Research, Evaluation and Learning, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD*

11:15 am.....Break

11:45 am.....Luncheon

Luncheon Speaker

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

1:15 pm

Panel One

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

Moderator

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

Panelists

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

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

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

Mr. Derrick Watchman, *Chief Financial Officer, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, Church Rock, NM*

Ms. Judith Enck, *Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA, Region 2, New York, NY*

2:30 pm.....Break

2:45 pm

Panel Two

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

Moderator

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

Panelists

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

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

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

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

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

7:00 pm Reception

Hosted by:

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

Location: Catherineberg Residence, Estate 8, Store Northside Quarter, St. Thomas, USVI 00802

DAY THREE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Location: The Estate Ballroom

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

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

9:00 a.m. Mistress of Ceremonies

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

Opening Remarks

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

9:15 am Introduction of Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., *U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives*

Keynote Address

Dr. Wayne A. I. Frederick, *Interim President, Howard University*

'Health Disparities and the Health Care Pipeline'



The. Hon. Shawn-Michael Malone and Ms. Shelley Thomas at Governor and First Lady John P. de Jongh's Mansion



Performers at Opening Reception



Ms. Dhmir Grant, Ms. Jasmine Pinder and Ms. Meggan DeVeaux



Registration: Ms. Luz Belardo Webster, Ms. Karen Frederking, Ms. Maya Hollinshead, Ms. Evelyn Blake, Ms. Linda Huggins, Ms. Jodi Gallman, Ms. Angelica Christie, Dr. Latecia Abraham, Ms. Maria Merritt, Ms. Melissa Lindler and Ms. Paula Jones



Mr. Lloyd Moore at National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc., Information Booth with Attendee



Community Care Network Project H.E.L.P. with Ms. Watts and Dr. Thomas Ellison providing services to attendees



Performers at Opening Reception

9:50 am.....Break

10:00 am

Panel Three

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

Moderator

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

Panelists

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

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

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

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

11:30 a.m.

Panel Four

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

Moderator

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

Panelists

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

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

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

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

1:00 pmLuncheon

Luncheon Speaker

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

2:15 pm

Panel Five

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

Moderator

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

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

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

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

Dr. Amani M. Nuru-Jeter, *Associate Professor, Community Health and Human Development; Epidemiology, University of California Berkeley School of Public Health, Berkeley, CA*

3:45 pm.....Break

4:00 p.m.

Panel Six

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

Moderator

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

Panelists

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

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

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

DAY FOUR: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2013

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

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

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

Opening Remarks

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

Keynote Address

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., *U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives*
“Male Academic Achievement in the Virgin Islands: The Challenges and Implications.”



The International Capital and Management Company Reception



Ms. Melinda Downing and Dr. David Rivers with performers at the Opening Reception



Ms. Linda Huggins, Performer, Ms. Jodi Gallman and Ms. Shondia McFadden Sabari



Opening Reception

9:15 am

Panel Seven

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

Moderator

Dr. Jennifer C. Friday, Assistant Professor of Psychology, School of Liberal Arts, Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA

Panelists

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

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

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

10:30 am.....Break

10:45 am

Panel Eight

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

Moderator

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

Panelists

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

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

Dr. Lynn Goodloe, Past Chief of Head and Neck Surgery, Past President and Founding Member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, West Los Angeles Kaiser Permanente Hospital, Urban Los Angeles Chapter, Los Angeles, CA

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

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

12:00 pm

Closing Session

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen, M.D., U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives

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



Student Forum



Dr. Laticia Abraham



Panel Eight, "The Causes and Impacts of Violence, with Emphasis on Such Contributing Factors as Guns, Poverty, Mental Health and Education (Major Focus on Black-on-Black Crime)": Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, Dr. Ivory Toldson, Ms. Joy Strickland, Dr. Olaf Hendricks, Dr. Lisa Goodloe and Ms. Folade Mutota



Ms. Dorothy Harrison, Ms. Melinda Downing and Attendee

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities

Reducing Health Disparities Through Sustaining and Strengthening Healthy Communities

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

14. Dr. Mark Homonoff

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

15. Dr. Marjorie A. Innocent

Vice President of Research and
Sponsored Programs
CBC Foundation, Inc.
Washington, DC

16. Mr. Richard Jablonski

Research Associate
Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO)
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, SC

17. Ms. Barbara Lee Jackson

Consultant
New York, NY

18. Mr. Leroy Lewis, Jr.

Community Outreach Coordinator
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC

19. Ms. Lena Moore-Harden

Deputy Executive Director
WJC Presidential Foundation
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20. Mr. Mitchell Neaves

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November 5-8, 2014

The Westin Long Beach

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