

IAMMM

NEWS



Greetings from the Chair



It is an immense honor to serve as chairman of the IAMMM board of directors. I have watched this institution grow from a seedling of an idea into an effective advocate and voice for minority and multicultural populations

suffering and dying from often-preventable medical conditions that are compounded by their inadequate access to quality health care.

IAMMM's mission is to combat these disparities by collaborating with like-minded organizations that share our goal. Our future growth and success will depend largely on our ability to increase public awareness about health disparities and the detrimental effect they have on our entire society in the long run, and to attract financial and other support to help eliminate them.

As with a patient facing an acute medical emergency, we must determine where the greatest need is. Next, we want to stabilize problem areas by developing and putting into place policies that will help us eliminate disparities. If we do not work together to impact the principles upon which health care delivery is based, all of our efforts will be short lived. Ongoing treatment includes the establishment of programs such as those you will read about in this newsletter, which increase awareness and engage our partners and supporters, and, indeed, society as a whole.

As chairman, I am committed to carrying out this ambitious plan, using all of the energy and resources that I can muster. Our work is not easy, but IAMMM has established a tradition of succeeding in the face of adversity. It is both challenging and stimulating, and we thank you for your ongoing support of these life-saving endeavors.

Richard Allen Williams, M.D.
Chairman of the board

Annual Awards Gala Salutes Survivors and Leaders



2007 Honorees and IAMMM Board Members

The Institute for the Advancement of Minority & Multicultural Medicine hosted its fourth Annual Awards Benefit Gala on September 25, 2007, at Washington, D.C.'s Fairmont Hotel. Each year, hundreds of IAMMM friends and supporters gather at this major fundraising event

to honor an incredibly courageous group of people who are leaders in their fields, but more important, leaders in life. Our awardees have triumphed over major health crises and then bravely shared their very private struggles with the public to promote and reinforce the importance of wellness, prevention, and developing healthy lifestyles and habits.

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Message from the President and CEO



It is with both pleasure and pride that we present another issue of IAMMM News. Our organization has achieved many milestones: we are celebrating our fifth year with meaningful programs that continue to address and raise awareness about health disparities in communities of color, and we are embarking upon a major effort to address global health issues and policies: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Global Health Equity Project.

As you will read in this edition of the newsletter, IAMMM's programming includes several ambitious initiatives to salute survivors, combat childhood obesity, raise awareness about how developing healthy habits can prevent stroke, and provide cultural competence training for health care professionals.

During the Fourth Annual Awards Gala last September, IAMMM paid homage to four survivors of debilitating diseases. Through their perseverance and tenacity, they are still here, championing awareness about chronic health issues that continue to impact our society. We also recognized leaders who continue to be committed to quality health care.

Experience has taught us that even those with the greatest resources must often collaborate with others to reach different and expanded target audiences. In that vein, IAMMM has partnered with eighty-six (86) national organizations committed to eliminating health disparities. The Collaborative Partners Council convened the inaugural meeting in Washington, DC last fall to address childhood obesity, the first of many health disparities the group will examine. We are extremely grateful for their willingness to share their time, expertise and resources.

Over the past few months, IAMMM has traveled around the country to deliver cultural competency training for the nation's leading health care providers. With an educational grant from GlaxoSmithKline, IAMMM partnered with Johns Hopkins University College of Medicine to deliver a CME course, *Cultural Competency as a Strategy for Addressing Health Disparities*, in Seattle, Los Angeles, and Princeton.

We have just concluded a fruitful partnership with the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, and the DC Department of Health to conduct workshops for Washington, DC residents to raise awareness about the incidence of stroke and what they can do to reverse the alarming trend.

Finally, in this edition of the newsletter, we salute the members of our newly formed Council of Academic Institutional Leaders, an esteemed group of leaders in the nation's top health professions schools and associations who will serve as advisors to IAMMM and support our growing programmatic initiatives.

Our work is not easy. Sometimes it is difficult not to feel discouraged; but each time we go into communities around the country, providing much-needed information, our resolve is strengthened by seeing what an important—sometimes lifesaving—difference that we and our partners have made on the quality of life for one person, a family, or an entire neighborhood.

Thank you for your continued support.

Madeline Lawson
President and CEO

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IAMMM Global Health Initiative Honors Civil Rights Activist

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, has awarded IAMMM a significant grant to develop the Martin Luther King, Jr. Global Health Equity Project. John Ruffin, PhD, the first director of NIH's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and Garth N. Graham, MD, MPH, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Minority Health at the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, will co-chair the initiative.

The project, which highlights Dr. King's belief that racial inequities in health and health care were the cruelest injustices of all,

aims to identify strategies and policies to address persistent disparities that exist around the world. A symposium to take place later this year will draw on the expertise of a global forum of notable physicians and health care leaders, as well as representatives of government and nongovernmental agencies, corporations, forums, civic groups and others.



Photo of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

IAMMM and Johns Hopkins Take the Lead in Cultural Competency Education



IAMMM president Madeline Lawson with Dr. Susan Kelly, President of Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, and IAMMM Board Member Dr. Henry Lucas

IAMMM has partnered with Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to develop a new course titled *Cultural Competency as a Strategy for Addressing Health Disparities*, which

was designed to give health care providers

the tools to continually enhance their knowledge, appreciation and understanding of the cultural differences among patients they will undoubtedly encounter throughout their professional careers. "There's no question that as our country's demographics continue to change, health care providers must adapt so they can provide the best care possible," said IAMMM board chair Richard Allen Williams, MD.

Led by Dr. Dennis P. Andrulis, associate dean for research at Drexel University's School of Public Health and director of the university's Center for Health Equality; and, Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist, director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, and William C. and Nancy F. Richardson professor of health policy at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the instructors provided a detailed history of health care disparities and opportunities to share strategies for improving quality of care for ethnically diverse patients and best practices for advancing cultural competency.

The courses were held in Seattle, Washington, followed by sessions in Los Angeles, California, and Princeton, New Jersey. Like many states, Washington, California, and New Jersey have adopted legislation that requires health care providers to engage in culturally centered training so they can meet their patients' diverse needs.

During the Los Angeles course held on January 25, Dr. Susan Kelly, president and CEO of Charles Drew University for Medicine and Science, recounted the regional and local challenges that she and other health professionals face in their attempts to reduce disparities. The closing of area hospitals has been detrimental to Los Angeles communities in general, but has been particularly hard-felt by neighborhoods that are home to Hispanics and African Americans. She said that collaborations and courses such as the one offered by IAMMM are paramount in raising awareness of the importance of cultural competence.

Dr. Robert Like, director of the Center for Healthy Families and Cultural Diversity at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, also spoke of the importance of cultural competency training during the February 1 session conducted in Princeton. In his comments, he described New Jersey's changing demographics, initiatives to address the health needs of the state's increasing minority population, and ways to cultivate cultural humility.

Participants who attended the course earned 6.25 American Medical Association PRA Category 1™ credits. The course was supported by an education grant from GlaxoSmithKline.



Course participants in Princeton, NJ

Annual Awards Gala Salutes Survivors and Leaders

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The 2007 event honored four distinguished individuals who have courageously shared their struggle with disease to inspire others, and two physicians who have made extraordinary contributions in their fields.

The Soar High Leaders Award was presented to Antonio T. Mitchell, MD, FACS, a board-certified urologist and chairman of the board of Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group. Dr. Mitchell has worked tirelessly to promote prostate cancer awareness about the importance of preventative health screenings, and disclosed during the ceremony that he is also a prostate cancer survivor.

Wendy S. Klein, MD, FACS, was also presented the Soar High Leaders Award for providing quality health care to women. She is currently senior deputy director of Virginia Commonwealth University's Institute for Women's Health.

The 2007 Survivor Eagle Fly Free Awards went to former President Bill Clinton (heart disease); songwriter and recording artist A'ngela Winbush (stage III ovarian cancer); Four-Star Admiral J. Paul Reason (prostate cancer), U.S. Navy (Ret.); and Mayte Prida (breast cancer).

To view a broadcast of the Gala visit:
www.urbanhealthcast.com/IAMMM/index.htm.

IAMMM Forms Health Collaborative to Fight Childhood Obesity

In September 2007, the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine hosted the inaugural meeting of its Collaborative Partners Council (CPC). The group will employ its collective knowledge and influence to develop and advocate for solution-based policies, preventative practices and strategies, and educational programs that address disparities in health and health care across the nation. CPC boasts an impressive list of eighty-six (86) organizations, dedicated to closing gaps in both health and education. (See page 5 for a complete list of members). The meeting was supported by a planning grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



Representatives from the Collaborative Partners Council attend inaugural meeting

In its first year, the CPC will focus on the problem of childhood obesity. According to

the Centers for Disease Control, in the past 20 years the percentage of overweight children aged 6 to 11 has more than doubled, and has more than tripled among adolescents aged 12 to 19. Each CPC organization has pledged to make this growing problem a priority in its own program agenda; publish at least one article on the causes and consequences of childhood obesity; and conduct an event that will highlight the issue in a national, regional, or statebased forum.

"The CPC can be very influential by using its collective talent and resources to brainstorm and implement solutions to health disparities that continue to plague communities of color. By mobilizing their members and constituents around childhood obesity and other issues, they can make a positive impact on rural and urban neighborhoods in the United States and abroad," said IAMMM president and CEO Madeline Y. Lawson.

To help representatives of CPC organizations begin crafting a plan of action against this particular epidemic, Louise Taylor, Ph.D., IAMMM policy and advocacy analyst, conducted a training session

on proactive steps the CPC can take to increase awareness about childhood obesity and other health issues. Dr. Taylor and IAMMM health policy consultant Marian Osterweis, Ph.D., also led a session on policy directives that can be applied to childhood obesity. Other highlights included presentations by Dr. John Ruffin, Director of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and Mary Woolley, President and CEO of Research!America, on the critical roles that federal agencies and research can play in addressing this issue and health disparities.

"The CPC's first meeting fostered a conducive networking environment and created an incredible opportunity for all of us to unite, engage, and learn about how we can work collectively to end health disparities," said Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, executive director of the Children's Environmental Health Network.

CPC participants worked in groups to identify the causes of childhood obesity; policies and practices that aggravate the epidemic; and ways to promote healthy lifestyle choices at home and school and in the media. In addition, the groups devised an action plan that the CPC can implement nationally.

During a closing ceremony, CPC members received certificates of appreciation. Their efforts were saluted by IAMMM board chairman Richard Allen Williams, MD, and members Barbara Young, Ed.D., Ludlow McKay, MHA, and Mary Redd.



Members of the Collaborative Partners Council

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

American Cancer Society, National Capital Region
American Diabetes Association - National
American Diabetes Association, DelMar Region
American Diabetes Association – New York
American Heart Association - National
American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association, Mid Atlantic Affiliate
American Kidney Fund
American Psychological Association
Arthritis Foundation, Metropolitan Washington Chapter
Association of American Indian Physicians
Attention Deficit Disorder Association
Avery Health Care Associates, PC
Black Caucus of Health Workers
Black Presbyterians United, DC Chapter
Black Women's Agenda
Bread for the City
California Rural Indian Health Board
Center for Black Women's Wellness, Inc.
Center for Research on Minority Health/Health Disparities Research, Education and Training Consortium
Center for the Advancement of Health, Scholars in Health Disparities Program
Children's Environment Health Network
City of Wilmington- Public Health/HPC
Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.
Cuban American National Council, Inc.
DC Department of Health Cardiovascular Health Program
DelMarva Foundation
Delta Research and Educational Foundation
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Columbia, MD Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- South Jersey Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.- Staten Island Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Bellefonte Alumnae Chapter
Diversity Focus
Girls Scouts, USA
Greater Washington Urban League
Health Pact Inc.
Hispanic Dental Association
Indiana Minority Health Coalition
Intercultural Cancer Council
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
Latin American Community Center, Inc.
Mended Hearts, Inc.
National Alliance of Black School Educators
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association for Practical Nurse Education and Service, Inc.
National Association for Black Social Workers, Inc.
National Association of People with AIDS
National Black Caucus of State Legislatures
National Black Church Initiative
National Black Nurses Association
National Capital Asthma Association
National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Council of Negro Women
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Indian Health Board
National Kidney Foundation of the National Capital Area
National Women's Law Center
New York City Mission Society
Office of the Civil Right, U.S. Deptment of Health and Human Services Region IV
Office of the Civil Right, U.S. Deptment of Health and Human Services Region V
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Poverty & Race Research Action Council
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Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County
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The Balm in Gilead
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The Links Foundation, Inc.
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The Opportunity Agenda
University of California at San Francisco-Center for Health and Community
UMDNJ-Institute for the Elimination of Health Disparities
University of District of Columbia – Community Outreach and Involvement
University of Michigan at Flint – Department of Health Sciences and Administration
University of Michigan at Flint – The Urban Health and Wellness Center
Voices of Detroit Initiative
Voices for America's Children
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Council of Academic Institutional Leaders Lend Expertise

Leaders from health profession schools and health associations from around the country have agreed to share their expertise and resources with IAMMM to strengthen and enhance community outreach to underserved minority populations. Charter members of the Council of Academic Institutional Leaders include the American Dental Education Association, Morehouse School of Medicine, University of Colorado Health Science Center, Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science, University of Nebraska Medical Center, University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center, Cornell University Medical College, Medical University of South Carolina, University of Maryland, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the Association of American Medical Colleges.

As IAMMM board member Roger Bulger, MD, who will take the lead on this effort, points out, these presidents, directors, vice presidents of health affairs, medical school faculty, and other high-ranking representatives from the member institutions are working on the cutting edge of research, practice, and trends in medicine and allied health sciences. IAMMM will be able to intensify the quality and effectiveness of its community-based activities by working in conjunction with these leaders who can bring to the table their considerable education, political, public relations, and financial resources and expertise. In addition, these collaborations will help IAMMM gain access to different communities and tailor local, regional, and national events to best suit the respective audience's specific issues and needs. The Council

will advise the IAMMM board and the CPC, and will facilitate collaborations between its own member organizations.

"The Council allows everyone to expand their influence and work with others who care about the same issues. I believe we can accomplish many goals together that none of us can envision doing alone. If we're successful, we can address emerging and recognized problems of health disparity and advocate their resolution at political, professional and educational levels," said Dr. Bulger.

LIST OF COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONAL LEADERS

American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Dental Education Association
Association of American Medical Colleges
Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science
Medical University of South Carolina
Morehouse School of Medicine
University of Cincinnati - Academic Health Center
University of Colorado at Denver, Health Science Center
University of Maryland School of Medicine
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Weill Cornell Medical College

IAMMM Hosts Workshop Series to Raise Stroke Awareness



Participants from Washington, DC's Ward 6

In 2007, the IAMMM created the program *The Power to End Stroke* to broaden awareness among residents in Washington, DC's Wards 1 and 6 about preventative measures they can take to decrease the incidence of strokes. The program is funded by the D.C. Department of Health and partners include the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association, and the University of the District of Columbia.

African American men and women aged 30 to 64 attended three local workshops on how to manage conditions that can lead to stroke, such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, and stress, and learned how to prepare meals that are both healthy and delicious. In addition to making presentations on reducing the risk of stroke, physicians Walter Faggett, James Oliver, and Pamela Ross made themselves available for one-on-one consultations. Health Pact conducted health screenings and offered attendees assistance in getting medical care and medication.

The Power to End Stroke, which will continue through April 2008, will serve as a test model for helping African American communities develop healthful habits. It is available for customizing and replication by members of IAMMM's Collaborative Partners Council.

IAMMM Welcomes New Board Members

IAMMM has appointed Richard Allen Williams, MD, chairman of its Board of Directors, and added new members David Baines, MD; Roger Bulger, MD; Pamela Freeman Fobbs, JD; and Roger G. Stanton. The 16-member board is responsible for directing and implementing the IAMMM's mission to eliminate health-related disparities by forging collaborations with other organizations around the nation that share this goal.

Dr. Baines earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University and an MD from the Mayo medical School. He is a physician at the ILIULIUK Family and Health Services Clinic in Unalaska, Alaska. Previously, he practiced for 14 years on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Idaho and was also a clinical director of the state's NezPerce Tribes clinic. A member of the Tlingit and Tsimshian tribes of Alaska, Dr. Baines frequently lectures on how he incorporates his culture and traditional beliefs into the practice of modern medicine. He has been a consultant for the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the national Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, Dr. Baines has published widely in medical journals and texts.

Newly elected vice chairman Dr. Bulger earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard College and a medical degree from Har-

vard Medical School. He recently retired from a two-year stint as a contractor and acting deputy director of the National Center for Minority Health and Disparities at the National Institutes of Health. An internist and infectious diseases specialist, Dr. Baines has taught at the University of Washington and Duke University School of Medicine. He was also dean of medicine and chancellor of the Medical Center at the University of Massachusetts, president of the University of Texas Health Science Center, and president of the Association of Academic Health Centers.

Robert Stanton, former director of the National Park Service, is a private consultant in conservation policy, planning, and management. He is also a senior fellow in the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, and has been a visiting professor in Howard University's public history program. Mr. Stanton earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Huston-Tillotson University, completed graduate work at Boston University, and is the recipient of honorary degrees from Texas A&M, Huston-Tillotson, Unity College, and Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College. Other awards include an Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Senior Executive Award.

2008
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