



# 2010 National Minority Quality Forum/CBC Health Braintrust Health Disparities Leadership Summit & Awards Dinner

## Biographical Sketches

### Charles J. Bentz MD, FACP

Charles J. Bentz, MD, FACP, is a general internist in Portland, Oregon, and a Fellow in the American College of Physicians. He currently serves as a primary-care provider at Fanno Creek Clinic and the Medical Director of the School of Physician Assistant Studies in the College of Health Professions at Pacific University. He has recently been named the Medical Director of Legacy Health System's Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program. Dr. Bentz launched the Providence Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Program in 1994. This effort gained national attention and contributed to the development of the Current Procedural Terminology codes for tobacco published by the American Medical Association in 2000, which were based upon this early work. In 2002, he collaborated with the Tobacco-Free Coalition of Oregon to develop and test a novel, clinic-based cessation program that consisted of connecting of private physician offices to state-level tobacco quit lines via fax referral, which has become a national standard. An outcome of these efforts brought Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funding to develop coding and reimbursement strategies. These strategies served as a template for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines for reimbursement for tobacco cessation published in 2005. The tobacco program that Dr. Bentz has created has been a national benchmark for over a decade, and key features have been published in peer-reviewed literature and are being successfully implemented all over the world, across a wide spectrum of clinical settings. Dr. Steve Schroeder, former Chief Executive Officer of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and current Director of the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center at the University of California, San Francisco, has called this tobacco cessation program the "platinum standard" for addressing tobacco use in health systems.

### John Brockington

An All-American running back at Ohio State under Woody Hayes, John Brockington quickly proved himself worthy of the Packers' first pick in 1971's NFL draft. His 1,105 rushing yards in 1971 earned him unanimous All-Pro and NFC Rookie of the Year honors. Mr. Brockington became the first running back in NFL history to surpass 1,000 yards in each of his first three seasons. Known for his speed out of the backfield, as well as his blocking and receiving, Mr. Brockington remains the third leading rusher in team history. A three-time Pro Bowler, he was inducted into the Packers Hall of Fame in 1984. Upon retiring from the NFL, Mr. Brockington moved to San Diego and entered the financial-services field, where he works with Guardian Financial Services. Prompted by his own experience with dialysis and transplantation, he founded The John Brockington Foundation to raise funds for dialysis patients and combat conditions that lead to kidney failure. With his wife and donor, Diane, and with help from former NFL players and coaches, the KIN (Keeping Inside the Numbers) Campaign was

launched in 2009. Over 200 participants from the underserved Southeast San Diego community have undergone free health screenings and discussed practical ways to overcome health obstacles at KIN Breakfasts.

### **Christopher P. Cannon, MD**

Christopher P. Cannon, MD, is a Senior Investigator in the Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction (TIMI) Study Group, Cardiovascular Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital, leading trials such as TACTICS-TIMI 18, PROVE IT-TIMI 22, and CLARITY-TIMI 28. He is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. He earned his doctorate in medicine from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, and after completing his residency in internal medicine at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, he was a cardiovascular fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Cannon has published over 900 original articles, reviews, book chapters, or electronic publications on the topic of acute coronary syndromes, including works in *Circulation*, the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, *Lancet*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. He has received numerous awards, including the Alfred Steiner Research Award and the Upjohn Achievement in Research Award, and leadership awards from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association. He is Editor-in-Chief of the ACC's Web site, *Cardiosource* (<http://www.cardiosource.com>), as well as the journal *Critical Pathways in Cardiology* and a 60-book series, *Contemporary Cardiology*. He has authored or edited 10 books, including the *New Heart Disease Handbook* for patients.

### **The Honorable Donna M. Christensen (VI-At Large)**

The Honorable Donna M. Christensen is a Member of Congress serving her seventh term as the representative from the US Virgin Islands. She is the first female physician to serve in Congress. She is a family physician and a former Assistant Commissioner of Health in the US Virgin Islands. She is the Chair of the Health Braintrust of the Congressional Black Caucus, where she has championed minority-health initiatives, including the Health Care Equality and Accountability Act, the Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act, and the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative. In the 111th Congress, she is a new member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the first nonvoting delegate to be named to the committee. She is also a member of the Committee on Natural Resources, which oversees territorial and public-land issues, and is a former Chair of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

### **Tony Coelho**

Tony Coelho is a former US congressman from California and primary author and sponsor of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In March 2009, Mr. Coelho was named Chairperson for the Partnership to Improve Patient Care. In this capacity, he will work to amplify the voice of the partnership's diverse members, including people with disabilities, racial and ethnic communities, and the elderly. Mr. Coelho also serves as Board Chairman of the America Association of People with Disabilities, the country's largest cross-disability membership organization. Mr. Coelho was elected to Congress in 1978 and served for six terms, until 1989. He served on the Agriculture, Interior, Veterans Affairs, and Administration Committees during his tenure, specializing in rights of the disabled. In 1986, he was elected House Majority Whip. President Bill Clinton appointed him to serve as Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, a position he held from 1994 to 2001. President Clinton also appointed him Co-Chair of the US Census Monitoring Board, a position he held until his appointment as General Chairman of Albert Gore's presidential campaign. Mr. Coelho now makes his home in Rehoboth Beach, DE. He participates annually at New York Law School for its Tony Coelho Lecture in Disability Employment Law & Policy. He has endowed a chair in public policy at the University

of California in Merced and also in neurology for pediatric surgery at the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition to currently chairing Life Without Limits and the Disability Pride & Power Committee, Mr. Coelho serves on the Epilepsy Foundation Board of Directors.

### **Lenore Coleman, PharmD**

Lenore Coleman, PharmD, has been a practicing pharmacist for over 20 years and has worked as a clinical pharmacist in acute-care, ambulatory-care, long-term-care, and community-pharmacy settings. Within each of these practices, Dr. Coleman has focused on the care and management of people with diabetes. Today she co-owns Total Diabetes Care and Medical Supplies, an American Diabetes Association–certified education center. She also is the owner of Total Lifestyle Change, a nonprofit organization that arranges nationwide outreach and education for the medically underserved; Healing Our Village, a program that uses broadcast media as an innovative health-education delivery system; and blackandbrownsugar.com, which provides diabetes education. Her book, also titled *Healing Our Village* and co-authored with James R. Gavin, MD, focuses on strategies to effectively manage type 2 diabetes, with a focus on prevention and wellness.

### **Congressman Danny K. Davis**

Danny K. Davis was chosen by the people of the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois as their Representative in Congress on November 5, 1996. He has been reelected by large majorities to succeeding Congresses, most recently to the 111th Congress on November 7, 2008. In the 111th Congress, Congressman Davis serves on the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Congressman Davis is a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Co-Chairman of the Community Health Centers Caucus, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sugar Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the India Caucus, the Steel Caucus, the Art Caucus and the Hellenic Caucus, to name a few. Congressman Davis has distinguished himself as an articulate voice for his constituents and as an effective legislator, able to move major bills to passage despite his relative lack of seniority. Congressman Davis has developed a unique and energetic style of communication and interaction with his constituents, setting up dozens of advisory task forces to consider significant questions of public policy. He hosts several weekly television and radio shows that feature audience call in and produces regular written reports to every household in the district. In addition, he maintains weekly office hours in the district. He is widely sought after as a speaker at district events and sponsors more than 40 town-hall meetings each year.

### **Representative William Davis**

Representative William Davis (D, 30th District, Illinois General Assembly) graduated from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale in 1989, earning a bachelor of arts degree in political science. He is currently completing his master of public administration degree at Governors State University. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and a founding member of the Better Funding for Better Schools Coalition. He also serves on the Foundation Board of South Suburban College. The Illinois Association of Code Enforcement, the Illinois Primary Healthcare Association, and the Illinois Association of Park Districts have recognized Davis as the Legislator of the Year.

### **Mark Dente, MD**

Mark Dente, MD, started his informatics career over 18 years ago after graduating Boston University School of Medicine, focusing on new approaches to increase patient safety, drive physician adoption of technology, and create new methods to implement evidence-based medicine. Prior to joining GE Healthcare, Dr. Dente served as President of MBS Service Inc, a consulting company providing international executive health-care management services. Earlier

in his career, he served as Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Wang Healthcare Information Systems and led that company's design of an ambulatory electronic medical record. As Chief Medical Informatics Officer for GE Healthcare Information Technology, his global responsibilities include applying domain expertise in informatics to drive comparative-effectiveness research, strategic evaluation of emerging technologies for the health-care portfolio, and developing and delivering GE's clinical informatics research direction and messaging globally. Additional responsibilities include clinical liaison for GE's standards-based interoperability strategies, knowledge management/evidence-based medicine, and secondary use of clinical data programs. As a physician executive, Dr. Dente continues to maintain close academic, government, and industry contacts. He is currently serving on the Advisory Council to the Board of Directors of Health Level Seven International (HL7) and is passionate about driving GE's Early Health—Personalized Medicine initiative at the national and international levels.

### **Gary V. Doern, PhD**

Gary V. Doern received his bachelor of science degree from Northwestern University in 1970 and his doctorate in pathology from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1977. Dr. Doern is Professor of Pathology and Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratories at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics, University of Iowa College of Medicine, Iowa City. Dr. Doern has been a productive researcher. His research endeavors, particularly in the area of antibiotic resistance, have led to nearly 300 publications in peer-reviewed journals. He has authored more than 100 book chapters, reviews, and monographs. He has been Chairman of the Clinical Microbiology Division of the American Society for Microbiology, Head of the American Board of Medical Microbiology, a member of the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy Program Committee and for nine years, a voting member of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (formerly the NCCLS). He is currently the Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, the foremost journal in its discipline worldwide. Dr. Doern has delivered well over 500 invited lectures in various medical-scientific educational forums worldwide. Dr. Doern is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the Infectious Disease Society of America. In 1995, he received the distinguished Becton-Dickinson Award from the American Society for Microbiology for lasting contributions to the discipline of clinical microbiology.

### **Steven V. Edelman, MD**

Steven V. Edelman, MD, is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD) and the Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare System of San Diego and the director of the Diabetes Care Clinic VA Medical Center. He graduated as the Valedictorian from the University of California at Davis Medical School, received his internal-medicine training at the Internal Medicine Residency at the University of California, Los Angeles, and completed his endocrinology fellowship at the Joslin and Lahey Clinics in Boston, MA, as well as a research fellowship at UCSD. Dr. Edelman has strong interests in education and patient advocacy. He is the founder and director of Taking Control of Your Diabetes (TCOYD), a not-for-profit organization with the goal of teaching and motivating patients in diabetes self-care. Since 1995, TCOYD has reached more than 100,000 US patients through a variety of education portals, including national conferences, publications, television, and community programs. Dr. Edelman has written more than 200 articles and five books. He has won numerous awards for teaching and humanitarianism and was recognized by *San Diego Magazine* as a Top Doctor several times. He is an active member of the Endocrine Society, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, the American Diabetes Association, the American Association of Diabetes Educators, the Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, and the International Diabetes Federation.

### **Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA**

Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA, is President of the National Medical Association (NMA). She is the Managing Partner and an Internist in a partnership in Baltimore, MD, and has been in private practice since 1984. Dr. Edwards received her medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and holds a master's in business administration from Loyola College of Baltimore. Her medical experience began with a four-year tour with the US Navy at Annapolis and the Bethesda Naval Hospital (Maryland). She was promoted to Chief of the Internal Medicine Department while in Annapolis. Dr. Edwards has held national offices in both the American Medical Association (AMA) and the NMA. In 1995 she became the first physician to serve concurrently as president of both local medical societies of the AMA and NMA. She is currently a delegate to the AMA from Maryland and a past chair of the AMA Women Physicians Congress. Dr. Edwards has served for more than 18 years on the NMA Board of Trustees in numerous capacities, including Chairman of the Board and Treasurer. As NMA President, she chairs the NMA Health Policy Committee. Dr. Edwards has served on several governor-appointed commissions and task forces, including the Maryland High Blood Pressure Commission and the Maryland hospital-rate-setting commission, the Health Services Cost Review Commission, where she was a commissioner for eight years.

### **Christopher Ervin, MD, FACEP**

Christopher Ervin, MD, FACEP, is a graduate of Furman University with a degree in chemistry and Duke University with a degree in medicine. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at Cook County Hospital after a preliminary year of general surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Ervin is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. He is also a Morehouse School of Medicine Executive Faculty Development Scholar. Dr. Ervin has served in several administrative roles at emergency departments throughout the country and as volunteer faculty for the Department of Emergency Medicine at Howard University Hospital. He has been the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Emergency Medicine Section and the Secretary of the House of Delegates of the National Medical Association (NMA) and has served on several committees within the organization. He has been on the American Medical Association/NMA Commission to End Healthcare Disparities (CEHD), with leadership positions on several committees. In addition, he represented the CEHD on the Sullivan Alliance. He has been part of the writing group developing the next set of guidelines for treating childhood obesity. Currently, Dr. Ervin is working with the Georgia Diabetes Coalition, the All Healer's Mental Health Alliance, and the National Black Alcohol and Addictions Council.

### **Keith C Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA**

Keith C Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA, Clinical Professor, Cardiology Division, Emory University, and Chief Science Officer, Association of Black Cardiologists, was previously the Medical Director of Heartbeats Life Center and Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at Xavier University College of Pharmacy in New Orleans, LA. Dr. Ferdinand currently serves as the Principal Investigator of the Healthy Heart Community Prevention Project, a cardiovascular-risk program that targets African American and other high-risk populations. Healthy Heart is a nationally recognized model for community-based health screening and intervention. Dr. Ferdinand was also the host and producer of *Health Issues 2000*, a community cable talk show, and previously produced *You and Your Health*, a local radio talk show in New Orleans. Dr. Ferdinand was a member of the ALLHAT Data Safety and Monitoring Board and Chair of Section Four of the Sixth Report of the Joint National Committee. He was a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Minority Populations for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and a member of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program Coordinating Committee. He was Director of the NHLBI Physician's Health Network, a program that educated

physicians and the lay population on cardiovascular-risk reduction. He is past President and a former member of the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, past President of the Orleans Division of the American Heart Association, and past Chair of the Board of Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

### **Sandra Gadson, MD**

Sandra Gadson, MD, is Past President of the National Medical Association. A nephrologist and founder of the first free-standing dialysis center in northern Indiana, she was also the first provider of dialysis services in Gary, IN, where she is Medical Director of the Northwest Indiana Dialysis Center. Previously, she worked as Vice President for Diagnostics and Therapeutic Services within the Methodist Hospitals health-care system; in 1994 she became President of the Medical Staff at Methodist Hospitals, the first woman elected to that position. She also worked as Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at Indiana University. Dr. Gadson has a long record of service with the National Medical Association, serving as President of the Northwest Indiana Chapter and Secretary of the Board of Trustees. In 1996 the chapter named her Physician of the Year. She holds memberships in the National Kidney Foundation, the American Society of Nephrology, and the American Medical Association. Dr. Gadson earned her medical doctorate at Meharry Medical College.

### **James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD**

James R. Gavin III, MD, PhD, is Clinical Professor of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis. He serves as Chief Executive Officer and Chief Medical Officer of Healing Our Village, Inc. He served as President and Chief Executive Officer of MicroIslet, Inc., San Diego, CA, maintaining an office base in Atlanta, was president of the Morehouse School of Medicine, and served as Senior Scientific Officer at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and as Director of the HHMI–National Institutes of Health Research Scholars Program. He is a past President of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) and was voted Clinician of the Year in Diabetes by the ADA in 1991. He was voted a Living Legend in Diabetes in 2009 by the American Association of Diabetes Educators. He has served on many advisory boards and on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Physiology* and the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*. He is on the Board of Trustees for Emory University, Livingstone College, and is a Trustee Emeritus of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Gavin is also Chairman Emeritus of the National Diabetes Education Program and a past Member of the Board of Scientific Councilors for the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

### **Newt Gingrich**

Since retiring from Congress, Newt Gingrich has worked extensively on the issues of health and health care, devoting the majority of his time to advocating a transformation of the entire system. In 2003, he founded the Center for Health Transformation (CHT), a collaboration of public- and private-sector leaders dedicated to the creation of a 21st-century intelligent health system that saves lives and saves money. Mr. Gingrich is widely recognized as a transformational leader, unparalleled in his ability to create and lead successful large-scale change. During his 20 years in Congress, Speaker Gingrich was committed to improving America's health-care system. Under his leadership as Speaker, Medicare was improved, investment in medical research was dramatically increased, and Food and Drug Administration reform was enacted to allow for quicker approval and access to new medicines for those with terminal and degenerative illnesses. The *Washington Times* called him The Indispensable Leader and *Time* magazine, in naming him Man of the Year for 1995, said: "Leaders make things possible. Exceptional leaders make them inevitable. Newt Gingrich belongs in the category of the exceptional." He is routinely in *Modern*

*Healthcare's Top 10 of Healthcare's Most Powerful People in Healthcare*, he received the Indispensable Person of the Year Award from the Alliance on Aging in 2008, and he regularly participates as a health-care expert in the *National Journal's* "Healthcare Expert Blog" and the *Washington Post's* health-reform blog, "Health Care Rx" and as a commentator on Fox News. Mr. Gingrich and CHT President and Chief Executive Officer Nancy Desmond published *The Art of Transformation* and 2008's *Real Change*, which devotes a chapter to the necessary changes in today's health-care system. Mr. Gingrich resides in Virginia with his wife, Callista. The Gingrich family includes two daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren.

### **Garth N. Graham, MD**

Garth N. Graham, MD, is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health in the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Minority Health develops and coordinates federal health policy that addresses minority health concerns and ensures that federal, state, and local health programs take into account the needs of disadvantaged racial and ethnic populations. He was previously appointed a White House Fellow and Special Assistant to former Secretary Tommy G. Thompson at the Department of Health and Human Services. He founded the Boston Men's Cardiovascular Health Project, a project designed to identify behavioral explanations for decreased adherence to adequate diet and exercise by African American men. Dr. Graham was the Founding Senior Editorial Board Member of the *Yale Journal of Health, Law, Policy, and Ethics*, served on the Editorial Board of the *Yale Journal of Biology and Science*, *Public Health Reports*, and a number of other guest editorial boards. He is currently on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, where he trained in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and serves as a Visiting Scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has authored scientific articles and presentations on cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and community medicine.

### **Laura Lee Hall, PhD**

Laura Lee Hall, PhD, currently directs strategic educational initiatives in the Education and Professional Development Division of the American College of Cardiology (ACC). Her projects include the launch of the in situ simulation educational program in acute-ST-elevation-myocardial-infarction care, the development and launch of CREDO: Coalition to Reduce Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Cardiovascular Outcomes, and two multiyear, multi-million-dollar performance-improvement continuing-medical-education initiatives in acute coronary syndromes and atrial fibrillation. Prior to joining the ACC, Dr. Hall was the scientific director at INNOVIA, an educational firm, where she focused on educational activities largely in the cardiovascular-disease arena, including institutional and individual provider-based training efforts. Previously, Dr. Hall served as the Deputy Director and Director of Research at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) over the course of 10 years, leading health and research advocacy, education, and communications. Prior to joining NAMI, Dr. Hall served as a Senior Health Analyst for the US Congress, in the Office of Technology Assessment. She received her doctorate in neuroscience from the Naval Medical School (Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences) and served as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health and the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Hall has authored more than four dozen articles, book chapters, and books and presented in many professional forums. She lives with her husband, John Price, and children, Henry and Isabella Pazaryna, in Severna Park, MD.

### **Stuart Hameroff, MD**

Stuart Hameroff, MD, is Professor of Anesthesiology and Psychology and Director of the Center for Consciousness Studies at the University of Arizona in Tucson. He works full time as a Clinical Anesthesiologist at University of Arizona Medical Center, a busy trauma hospital. His

research deals with mechanisms of anesthesia and how the brain produces consciousness. He teamed with Sir Roger Penrose to develop the controversial Orch OR (orchestrated objective reduction) theory of consciousness, based on quantum computation in microtubules within brain neurons. Dr. Hameroff has published over 100 articles and several books and appeared in the film *What the Bleep?*, and he organizes the biennial “Toward a Science of Consciousness” conferences in Tucson. His Web site is <http://www.quantumconsciousness.org>.

### **Charles D. Howell, MD**

Charles D. Howell, MD, is a Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, and Director of Hepatology Research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Howell received his bachelor of science degree in biology from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and went on to study biochemistry at Clemson University in South Carolina. His medical doctorate was acquired at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC. Dr. Howell completed his residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX, and was a Gastroenterology Fellow at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver. Dr. Howell has had a long-standing interest in racial disparities in chronic hepatitis C treatment, and he was an investigator in the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) VIRAHEP-C study. He is currently Principal Investigator on a Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (K24) to study racial disparities in liver diseases (sponsored by the NIDDK) and another study of ribavirin pharmacokinetics and hepatitis C treatment outcomes. He has been a regular presenter at the Digestive Disease Week and American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases annual scientific meetings, among others.

### **Elbert Huang, MD, MPH**

Elbert Huang, MD, MPH, is Assistant Professor of Medicine, Research Associate of the Center on Demography and Economics of Aging, and Co-investigator of the Diabetes Research and Training Center at the University of Chicago. He is a general internist who studies clinical and health-care policy issues at the intersection of diabetes, aging, and health economics. His main research focus is in the area of medical decision making for elderly patients with type 2 diabetes where uncertainty exists regarding how to best individualize diabetes treatments based on clinical parameters and patient preferences. Dr. Huang has established one of the most active research programs in geriatric diabetes in the country. In intervention research sponsored by the American Diabetes Association, Dr. Huang and colleagues are evaluating a Web-based decision tool that incorporates prognostic simulation modeling with treatment-preference elicitation. In clinical epidemiology, Dr. Huang is Principal Investigator with Andrew Karter from Kaiser Permanente of the Diabetes and Aging Project, the largest (about 112,000 patients) modern multiethnic-cohort study of older diabetes patients in existence. This five-year study, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, will provide a modern description of the natural history of diabetes in the elderly and help to confirm or deny concerns regarding the potential adverse effects of diabetes medications in the elderly. Apart from geriatric diabetes, Dr. Huang studies the economic impact of diabetes quality-improvement efforts; new diabetes technologies, such as continuous glucose monitoring; and the patient-centered medical home. Dr. Huang’s research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Diabetes Association, and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He received his bachelor of arts, medical doctorate, and master’s in public health from Harvard University and came to the University of Chicago in 2001. Dr. Huang is a native of Wisconsin.

### **Karen Ignagni**

Karen Ignagni is President and Chief Executive Officer of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the trade association representing the nation’s health-maintenance organizations. *The*

*Washingtonian* magazine named her one of the top three Top Guns of all trade-association heads. And *Modern Healthcare* magazine routinely ranks her among the 100 most powerful people in health care. Prior to joining one of AHIP's two predecessor organizations in 1993, Ms. Ignagni directed the AFL-CIO's Department of Employee Benefits. In the 1980s, she was a professional staff member of the US Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee. She previously worked at the Committee for National Health Insurance and the US Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Ignagni has authored more than 90 articles on a wide range of health-care-policy issues, and she appears regularly before congressional committees and on national newscasts. She sits on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the Board of the National Academy of Social Insurance, the Partnership for Prevention, and the Bryce Harlow Foundation. Previously, she served on the Social Security Advisory Council, the National Leadership Coalition on AIDS, and the Commonwealth Fund's Commission on Women's Health, among others. Ms. Ignagni received her master's degree in business administration from Loyola College's Executive Program.

### **Maulik S. Joshi, DrPH**

Maulik S. Joshi, DrPH, is President of the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) and Senior Vice President for Research at the American Hospital Association (AHA). As the independent, not-for-profit research affiliate of the AHA, HRET conducts applied research in improving quality and patient safety, reducing costs, eliminating health disparities, improving leadership and governance, reforming payment, and coordinating care. Before joining HRET, Dr. Joshi served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement and was previously a Senior Advisor for the Office of the Director at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Dr. Joshi has a doctorate in public health and a master's in health-services administration from the University of Michigan and a bachelor of science in mathematics from Lafayette College. Dr. Joshi is Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal for Healthcare Quality*. He has also co-edited *The Healthcare Quality Book: Vision, Strategy and Tools*, a graduate-level textbook (Health Administration Press, second edition published in October 2008, with over 5,000 sold) and authored *Healthcare Transformation: A Guide for the Hospital Board Member* (CRC Press and AHA Press, published May 2009). Additionally, Dr. Joshi serves on numerous governance and advisory boards.

### **Jeffrey A. Kelman, MD, MMSc**

Jeffrey A. Kelman, MD, MMSc, is Chief Medical Officer of the Center for Beneficiary Choices at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), US Department of Health and Human Services. In addition to his service at CMS, he is Medical Director at the Collington Episcopal Life Care Center and Senior Medical Consultant at the Congressional Budget Office, and he is associated with the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Kelman holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in medical science from Brown University and a doctorate in medicine from Harvard Medical School. He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, geriatrics, and medical direction in long-term care.

### **Gail Kerr, MD**

Gail Kerr, MD, is Chief, Division of Rheumatology, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington, DC, and Chief, Rheumatology Consortium, Howard University Hospital. She also serves as Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology, Georgetown University Hospital, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Washington, DC. She is board certified in both internal medicine and rheumatology. Dr. Kerr is a fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians, Edinburgh, the American College of Rheumatology, and the American College of Physicians. At present, Dr. Kerr is a Committee Member, Veterans Affairs Rheumatology Field Advisory Group, and chairs the National Veterans Affairs Rheumatology

Consortium. She is also a member of the US Pharmacopeia Rheumatology Expert Committee and formerly served on the Food and Drug Administration Arthritis Advisory Board. Dr. Kerr has served as the principal or co-investigator on numerous clinical studies. She has produced numerous abstracts and has published in many peer-reviewed journals and textbooks.

### **Mahesh Krishnan, MD, MPH, FASN**

Mahesh Krishnan, MD, MPH, FASN, is Vice President of Clinical Research in the Office of the Chief Medical Officer at DaVita Inc. Dr. Krishnan's former roles include Executive Director of Medical Policy and Global Health Economics for Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks, CA; Practicing Nephrologist with Virginia Nephrology Group in Arlington; and Founder and Managing Partner of the Clinical Consulting and Research Center in Fairfax, VA. Dr. Krishnan received his medical doctorate from Jefferson Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. At Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, Dr. Krishnan received a master's in public health, health-care finance, and management from the School of Public Health and Hygiene and a certificate in the business of medicine from the School of Continuing Studies. He is currently pursuing a master's in business administration in medical services management from the Carey School of Business in Baltimore. As a postgraduate student, Dr. Krishnan completed a clinical fellowship in nephrology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he received a Best Teaching by a Fellow Award. At Georgetown University Medical Center and Washington Veterans Medical Center, both in Washington, DC, he was Chief Resident in Internal Medicine. With expertise in nephrology, internal medicine, epidemiology, public health, and health economics, among others, Dr. Krishnan has served as a principal investigator, a primary investigator, and a subinvestigator of multiple clinical trials. A frequent lecturer and presenter, Dr. Krishnan is an Editorial Board member of *Nephrology News and Issues*. His work has been published in *American Journal of Kidney Disease*, *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, *Nephrology Nursing Journal*, and other publications.

### **Kenyatta Y. Lee, MD**

Kenyatta Y. Lee, MD, was born in Richmond, VA. He attended undergraduate school at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and performed his undergraduate medical training at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, MN. While at Mayo, he spent his research trimester in Jacksonville, FL. Here he completed his third-year thesis, looking at the factors responsible for the infant-mortality rate in Jacksonville, Florida's urban core. He completed his residency in Family Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Lee currently works as the Assistant Medical Director of the Commonwealth Family Practice Group and Soutel Plaza Family Practice and Pediatrics. He is also the Medical Director of the Community Affairs Department. His responsibilities include the oversight of the disease-management programs via the registry programs, and he is actively involved in enhancing the quality of care for the Commonwealth Family Practice Group and the clinics operated by the Community Affairs Department. Dr. Lee currently lives in Jacksonville with his wife of eight years and their four children. In his spare time he enjoys fishing and spending quality time with his family.

### **Jack Lewin, MD**

Jack Lewin, MD, has been Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) since November 2006. Prior to coming to ACC, Dr. Lewin was Chief Executive Officer of the 35,000-member California Medical Association and its various subsidiary companies. Dr. Lewin was also formerly Hawaii's Director of Health from 1986 to 1994, overseeing 6,500 employees and a \$1 billion budget. In this role, he helped Hawaii achieve near-universal access to health care and revitalize statewide public-health systems. In Hawaii, he was also Chief Executive Officer of the statewide 13-facility Community Hospital System. As a commissioned

officer in the US Public Health Service prior to his role in Hawaii, Dr. Lewin was the founder and first Director of the Navajo Nation Department of Health, serving the needs of Americas largest Indian tribe, straddling the three states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. He serves on numerous national boards and advisory bodies. He is Founder and President of the Physicians Foundations, which is among the top 10 health-related philanthropies in the nation, focused on promoting quality, patient safety, and health-information-technology adoption, and he is President of the national Patient Safety Institute. He was an adviser on health policy to President Bill Clinton. Dr. Lewin received his medical degree and internal-medicine training from the University of Southern California School of Medicine and Los Angeles County–University of Southern California Medical Center.

### **Randall Maxey, MD, PhD**

Randall Maxey, MD, PhD, is President of the Alliance of Minority Medical Associations. He has served as Director of Nephrology for both the Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital and the Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center. He has also served as Medical Director for the Pacific Coast Dialysis Center, as well as Supervising Medical Director for both the Pacific Dialysis Center–Peritoneal Dialysis, Guam Renal Care–Hemodialysis Center and the Los Angeles Dialysis Center. Dr. Maxey has served as attending physician at numerous hospitals throughout Southern California, including Daniel Freeman Memorial Hospital, Robert F. Kennedy Medical Center, and Cedars Sinai Medical Center. His academic appointments and university positions are numerous as well, and he possesses specialized certification in Hyperbaric Medicine. He has served as a Senior Scientist with Hoffman-LaRoche and as an Analytical Chemist for Procter & Gamble. He is also Founding President and a Member of the Board of the Alliance of Minority Nephrologists.

### **Kevin H McKinney, MD, FACE, FACP**

Kevin H. McKinney, MD, FACE, FACP, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, and a Distinguished Clinician-Educator in Internal Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB). Dr. McKinney received his medical degree from UTMB in 1992. He completed residencies in endocrinology and metabolism and in internal medicine at UTMB. Dr. McKinney is a member of the Galveston County Medical Society, the Houston Medical Forum, the American College of Physicians, the Texas Academy of Internal Medicine, and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. Dr. McKinney was Associate Medical Director for Endocrinology at UTMB from 1998 to 2001. He is currently Chair of the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and Medical Director of the Adult Clinical Endocrinology. He currently serves on the National Medical Association’s Board of Trustees Committee on Educational Affairs.

### **Helena O. Mishoe, PhD, MPH**

Rear Admiral Helena O. Mishoe, Assistant Surgeon General, US Public Health Service, currently serves as Director for the Office of Research Training and Minority Health in the Office of the Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She received her doctorate in microbiology from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. In 1981, she joined the NIH intramural research teams and moved up the research ranks as staff fellow, senior staff fellow, and expert in molecular biology and gene expression. In 1988, She joined the extramural program as an Extramural Health Scientist Administrator in the Division of Blood Diseases and Resources, NHLBI. She has a number of notable accomplishments in her distinguished career in scientific program administration in blood-cell development, stem-cell biology, and stem-cell transplantation. Rear Admiral Mishoe serves as the first Director of the Office of Research Training and Minority Health. The office is dedicated to ensuring greater participation in NHLBI training and career-development programs

through recruitment, mentoring, and retention of individuals in biomedical and behavioral research. Among its roles, the office fosters greater participation by individuals underrepresented in biomedical-and-behavioral-research, research-training, and career-development programs of concern to the NHLBI. Rear Admiral Mishoe also has oversight and coordination responsibilities for the NHLBI's agenda for health-disparities research and training.

### **Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD**

Edith Peterson Mitchell, MD, is Clinical Professor of Medicine and Medical Oncology and Program Leader in Gastrointestinal Oncology at Thomas Jefferson University. In addition, she holds the position of Associate Director of Diversity Programs for the Kimmel Cancer Center at Thomas Jefferson University. She received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry with distinction from Tennessee State University and her medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond. In 1973, while attending medical school, Dr. Mitchell entered the Air Force and received a commission through the Health Professions Scholarship Program. She entered active duty after completion of her internship and residency in internal medicine at Meharry Medical College and a fellowship in Medical Oncology at Georgetown University. Dr. Mitchell's research in pancreatic cancer and other gastrointestinal malignancies involves new-drug evaluation and chemotherapy, development of new therapeutic regimens, chemoradiation strategies for combined-modality therapy, patient-selection criteria, and supportive care for patients with gastrointestinal cancer. Dr. Mitchell has authored and co-authored more than 100 articles, book chapters, and abstracts on cancer treatment, prevention, and control. As a distinguished researcher, she has received 21 cancer-research and principal-investigator awards, and she serves on the National Cancer Institute Review Panel and the Cancer Investigations Review Committee. In addition to her medical achievements, Dr. Mitchell is a retired Brigadier General, having served as the Air National Guard Assistant to the Command Surgeon for US Transportation Command and Headquarters Air Mobility Command based at the Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. General Mitchell has been awarded over 15 military-service medals and ribbons, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Achievement and Commendation Medals, National Defense Service Medal, and Humanitarian Service Medal. Dr. Mitchell was selected for inclusion in America's Top Oncologists.

### **C. Daniel Mullins, PhD**

C. Daniel Mullins, PhD, is a Professor within the Pharmaceutical Health Services Research Department at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. He received his bachelor's degree in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and his master's and doctorate in economics from Duke University. His research and teaching focus on pharmacoeconomics, comparative-effectiveness research, and health-disparities research. He is the Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health (NIH)/National Institute on Aging-sponsored grant on "Response to Medicare Reimbursement Policy Change by Minority and All ESRD Patients" and the lead economist on an NIH/National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute grant with Elijah T. Saunders, MD. He was the Shared Resources Core Director for the NIH-sponsored University of Maryland Center for Health Disparities Research, Training, and Outreach and has served as a co-investigator on other grants funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Health Resources and Services Administration, and NIH. He was a member of the Health Systems Research Study Section of AHRQ from 2004 to 2006 and currently is an ad hoc Study Section member for the National Cancer Institute. In addition to his work on federal grants, Professor Mullins has designed many cost-effectiveness analyses and budget-impact models for both the pharmaceutical and the insurance industries. He is a co-editor for *Clinical Therapeutics and Value in Health* and is author/co-author of over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on pharmacoeconomics, outcomes research, and pharmaceutical policy and health-disparities research in such journals as the *American Journal of Managed Care*, *American*

*Journal of Public Health, Cancer, Chest, Journal of Trauma, Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy, Health Services Research, Pharmacoeconomics, Social Science & Medicine, and Transplantation.*

### **Keith C. Norris, MD**

Keith C. Norris, MD, named one of America's Leading Doctors by *Black Enterprise* magazine (2008), is the Principal Investigator of the Transitional Research Network (RTRN). A grant funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will establish the network to increase the opportunity for multisite clinical and translational research among minority and other collaborating institutions throughout the nation. His research interests focus on the prevention and early treatment of chronic kidney disease (CKD), with an emphasis on improving outcomes for African American and Latino populations. Other areas include the role of vitamin D in CKD and hypertension. Dr. Norris attended Cornell University from 1973 to 1976. He earned his medical doctorate from Howard University School of Medicine in Washington, DC. He is board certified in internal medicine and nephrology and is certified as a specialist in clinical hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension. Currently, he is a doctoral candidate in metaphysics, spirituality, and holistic health at the College of Metaphysical Studies and New Age Ministries in Clearwater, FL. Dr. Norris is a Professor of Medicine and presently Interim President at the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science and is Assistant Dean for Translational Science at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition to RTRN, he is actively involved by serving as principal investigator for four additional NIH grants and as co-principal investigator for several others, focusing mainly on health disparities in CKD and cardiometabolic disorders. Dr. Norris has received numerous awards and honors, including induction into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame (Science) in 2003 for his work in hypertension and kidney disease.

### **Gail Nunlee-Bland, MD, FACE, FAAP**

Gail Nunlee-Bland, MD, FACE, FAAP, is the interim Chief of Endocrinology and Director of the Diabetes Treatment Center at Howard University Hospital. She is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine. Dr. Nunlee-Bland is a graduate of Howard University College of Medicine, Class of 1980. She completed her internship and residency in pediatrics at Howard University Hospital and her pediatric endocrine fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Nunlee-Bland has professional memberships in the American Diabetes Association, Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, Endocrine Society, and American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists. She has served on several advisory committees and has presented at national and local scientific meetings on diabetes and obesity. She has numerous publications related to diabetes in the African-American population and is currently conducting research in the areas of diabetes and obesity. Dr. Nunlee-Bland is passionate about improving access to quality diabetes care. This passion has translated into the American Diabetes Association-recognized Diabetes Treatment Center. The Diabetes Treatment Center is a resource for patients and practitioners to have access to the expertise of nutritionists, diabetes educators, podiatrists, and diabetes specialists.

### **Steven R. Patierno, PhD**

Steven R. Patierno, PhD, is Executive Director of the George Washington Cancer Institute (GWCI), overseeing a comprehensive oncology center dedicated to advancing multi- and transdisciplinary cancer research, outreach and education, prevention and control, and treatment. Dr. Patierno is the Vivian Gill Distinguished Professor of Oncology, Founding Director of the Molecular and Cellular Oncology Program, Professor of Pharmacology, Genetics and Urology in the School of Medicine and Health Science, and Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health in the School of Public Health and Health Services. Dr. Patierno is internationally

recognized as a leading expert in carcinogenesis, molecular oncology, and translational research. His research portfolio also includes both population- and community-based research in cancer disparities, prevention and control, education and outreach, patient navigation, and survivorship. This includes patient care through a major grant from the National Cancer Institute to establish the DC City-Wide Patient Navigator Research Program, to assist African American and Latina women overcome access barriers to cancer health care and evaluate the efficacy of patient navigation. Dr. Patierno's Cancer Survivorship program has launched the first clinical cancer survivorship center in Washington, DC, and is host to a major grant from Pfizer Inc/Pfizer Foundation for the GWCI's Center for the Advancement of Cancer Survivorship, Navigation and Policy (caSNP). Central to the mission of the GWCI is the elimination of cancer health disparities in Metropolitan Washington, DC, and Dr. Patierno has received numerous awards for his citywide leadership in this area. He co-chaired the American Association of Cancer Research Think Tank and First National Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial and Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved and has spoken at many national conferences as an expert in cancer disparities, including the 2008 Surgeons General National Call to Action on Cancer Prevention and Survivorship.

### **Anne L. Peters, MD**

Anne L. Peters, MD, is a nationally and internationally respected diabetologist and one of bestdoctors.com's Best Doctors in America. She is Professor of Medicine and Director of the University of Southern California Clinical Diabetes Programs. Dr. Peters treats a spectrum of patients, from Hollywood producers, writers, and stars who frequent her clinic in Beverly Hills (and lots of "regular" people as well) to the poor who populate her free diabetes clinic in East Los Angeles. She serves as the principal investigator for two major National Institutes of Health studies that are based in East Los Angeles, where she works with her team to prevent diabetes in the surrounding communities. Her leadership has been instrumental in the development of a countywide diabetes program developed through the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Dr. Peters' research has been published in leading medical journals, including *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *American Journal of Medicine*, and *Diabetes Care*, and she has been quoted in, among others, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *New York Times*. She is author of the book *Conquering Diabetes*. Formerly Chairperson of the American Diabetes Association Council on Health Care Delivery and Public Health, Dr. Peters speaks nationally and internationally. She has appeared on *Larry King Live*, *Dateline*, CNN, *E.R.*, and the Discovery Channel, among others.

### **Gary A. Puckrein, PhD**

Gary A. Puckrein, PhD, is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Minority Quality Forum. He also serves as Executive Director of the Alliance of Minority Medical Associations (a collaborative effort of the Asian and Pacific Physicians' Association, the Association of American Indian Physicians, the Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the National Medical Association). In 1989 Dr. Puckrein founded the Forum's predecessor organization, the National Minority Health Month Foundation, to help communities and policy makers eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness in special populations through the use of evidence-based, data-driven initiatives. Dr. Puckrein is responsible for congressional proclamations designating April as National Minority Health Month each year. Dr. Puckrein leads the Zip Code Analysis Project, which is building a comprehensive database that links vital statistics and other elements (including demographic, environmental, claims, prescription, laboratory, hospital, and clinic data) in a centralized warehouse, organized around zip codes. Dr. Puckrein has launched a series of atlases to measure and analyze health status in small geographic areas, evaluate the impact of specific interventions, and monitor changes in health outcomes. Dr. Puckrein has published successful

magazines, *American Visions* and *Minority Health Today*. Dr. Puckrein was awarded his doctorate from Brown University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa.

### **Phylicia Rashad**

Best known as Clair Huxtable from *The Cosby Show* and the first black actress to win a Tony Award for a dramatic leading role, Phylicia Rashad is a committed advocate for children, women's issues, and fine arts. Ms. Rashad earned two Emmy Award nominations and a People's Choice Award for Favorite Television Female Performer during her eight years on *The Cosby Show*. She has also produced and performed in a number of other television programs. Successful on the stage as well, Ms. Rashad completed a leading role in the New York production of *Blue* and has starred on Broadway in *Into the Woods*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Dreamgirls*, *The Wiz*, and *Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death*. Most recently, she became the first black actress to win a Tony Award for a dramatic leading role, which she received for her portrayal of Lena Younger in the Broadway revival of *A Raisin in the Sun*. The daughter of a highly creative Houston family, Ms. Rashad graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Howard University. She supports the work of the PRASAD Project, an international charitable organization designed to help communities by giving them the tools and opportunities they need for self-reliance. Ms. Rashad is also committed to the mission of Children's Hospital, which provides premium pediatric health care and services to children in the District of Columbia, and to RNT—Recruiting New Teachers. In addition to supporting these organizations, she is dedicated to communicating the importance of the fine arts in education.

### **Elena V. Rios, MD, MSPH**

Elena V. Rios, MD, MSPH, serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), representing Hispanic physicians in the United States. The mission of the organization is to improve the health of Hispanics. Dr. Rios also serves as President of NHMA's National Hispanic Health Foundation, affiliated with the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, to direct educational and research activities. In addition, Dr. Rios serves on the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda and Campaign Against Obesity Boards of Directors, the American Medical Association Commission to End Health Disparities, and the GE Healthcare Advisory Board. Dr. Rios has lectured and published articles and has received several leadership awards, including the 2009 Top 100 Influential and Innovative Hispanics from *Hispanic Business Magazine*. Dr. Rios has been honored by the US Department of Health and Human Services; the Congressional Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American Caucuses; the American Public Health Association Latino Caucus; the Association of Hispanic Health Executives; Minority Health Month, Inc.; *Hispanic Magazine*; Verizon (first Pollin Community Service Award); and Amerimed. Dr. Rios earned her bachelor's degree in human biology/public administration at Stanford University in 1977; her master's in public health at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Public Health in 1980; and her medical doctorate at the UCLA School of Medicine in 1987. She completed her internal-medicine residency at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, CA, and the White Memorial Medical Center in East Los Angeles in 1990 and her National Research Service Award Primary Care Research Fellowship at the UCLA Division of General Internal Medicine in 1992.

### **René F. Rodriguez, MD**

René F. Rodriguez, MD, is President of the Interamerican College of Physicians and Surgeons (ICPS) and Chief of the Orthopaedic Section in the Surgery Department of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Miami, FL. He also serves on the orthopedic staff of the Jackson Memorial Medical Center, Cedars Medical Center, and the University of Miami School of Medicine. He received his medical degree from Salamanca University in Spain and his

postgraduate training at New York Polyclinic Hospital, Queens Hospital Center, Jewish Chronic Diseases Hospital, and Queens Hospital Center. He received a specialty board certification from the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and is licensed to practice in New Jersey; New York; Washington, DC; and Florida. Dr. Rodriguez is Founder and Editor-in-Chief of *Medico Interamericano*, the official publication of the ICPS, and *Medico de Familia*. He is a fellow at numerous professional societies. In addition, he is Cofounder and Cochairman of the National Hispanic Youth Initiative, Founder and Chairman of the National Confederation of Hispanic-American Medical Associations, and Founder of the Healthlink of Americas Conference. Dr. Rodriguez has been the recipient of many awards in the United States and other countries, including the Officer of the Cross, Spain's Civil Order Merit by the King of Spain, and the Knight of the Order of Jerusalem, Knight of Malta.

### **J. James Rohack, MD**

J. James Rohack, MD, is a Senior Staff Cardiologist at Scott & White (S&W) Clinic and Director of the S&W Center for Healthcare Policy as well as having dual professorships in the Department of Medicine and Humanities at Texas A&M Health Science Center in Temple, TX. He assumed the presidency of the American Medical Association (AMA) in June 2009, having been a member of the AMA Board of Trustees since 2001 and served as Chair from 2004 to 2005. He has served as Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners of the Joint Commission and chaired the National Advisory Council to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and he is one of the principals of the Hospital Quality Alliance. He was named as number 20 of the Top 50 Most Powerful Physician Executives in Healthcare by *Modern Healthcare/Modern Physician* in 2009. Born in Rochester, NY, he received his bachelor-of-science degree with highest honors from the University of Texas at El Paso and his medical doctorate with honors from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 1980. He has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from both institutions. Dr. Rohack lives on a small ranch near Bryan, TX, that also serves as a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and release facility directed by his wife, Charli. They have one daughter.

### **Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard**

Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, the representative of California's 34th Congressional District, is a political pioneer. In 1999, the congresswoman became the first Latina in US history appointed to the House Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful committees in Congress. As a member of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, the congresswoman oversees funding for all the health-related programs and agencies of the federal government, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. A national leader in public-health and prevention efforts, the congresswoman also co-founded the bipartisan Congressional Study Group on Public Health to educate members and staff about public-health issues. In recognition of her efforts to promote public-health and prevention initiatives, the congresswoman was recently named Chairwoman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Health Care Task Force. In this role, Congresswoman Roybal-Allard is committed to ensuring that any health-care reform package must do the following: prioritize public-health and prevention efforts to save lives and bring down costs; address and eliminate the underlying causes of health disparities, which threaten the health of communities across the nation; and focus on models of health care that result in healthier families at lower health-care costs. Born and raised in Boyle Heights in Los Angeles, the congresswoman is the eldest daughter of Lucille Beserra Roybal and the late Honorable Edward R. Roybal, who served as a Member of Congress for 30 years. The 1965 graduate of the California State University at Los Angeles is married to Edward T. Allard III.

## Secretary Kathleen Sebelius

Kathleen Sebelius was sworn in as the 21st Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on April 28, 2009. As Secretary, she leads the principal agency charged with keeping Americans healthy, ensuring that they get the health care they need, and providing children, families, and seniors with the essential human services on which they depend. She oversees one of the largest civilian departments in the federal government, with nearly 80,000 employees. Since taking office, Secretary Sebelius has been a leader on some of the Obama administration's top priorities. As the country's highest-ranking health official, she has been a powerful voice for reforming our health-insurance system. She has also been charged by the President with coordinating the response to the 2009 H1N1 flu virus. And under her leadership, HHS has provided a wide range of services, from health care to child care to energy assistance to help families weather the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Secretary Sebelius has answered President Obama's call to form partnerships across government to improve the lives of Americans. She is Co-Chair, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, of the President's Food Safety Working Group. With Attorney General Holder, she chairs the new Health Care Fraud Prevention and Action Team (HEAT). She has teamed up with Education Secretary Duncan to improve early childhood education. And as part of President Obama's Year of Community Living, she is working with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Donovan to improve the lives of seniors and people with disabilities who wish to live at home.

## Rev. Al Sharpton

With over 40 years of experience as a community leader, politician, minister, and advocate, Rev. Al Sharpton is one of America's most-renowned civil-rights leaders. Whether running for President of the United States in 2004 or leading civil rights protests, Rev. Sharpton's highly visible career began at the tender age of four, when he preached his first sermon. A successful civil-rights career soon followed, helping Rev. Sharpton hold such notable positions as the Youth Director of New York's Operation Breadbasket, Director of Ministers for the National Rainbow PUSH Coalition, and Founder of his own broad-based, progressive civil-rights organization, the National Action Network. Rev. Sharpton's stance, in his own words, has taken him "from the streets to the suites," and his irrefutable impact on national politics has been applauded by both supporters and nonsupporters alike. Rev. Sharpton continues to challenge the American political establishment to be inclusive to all people, regardless of race, gender, class, or beliefs. In his 2003 book, *Al on America*, Rev. Sharpton describes this vision for America and states his book should be used "to fight against the pro-big business, anti-labor, pro-death penalty matrix that has crippled America, and to talk about where I think we ought to be going in the 21st century." Rev. Sharpton draws on his experience as a grassroots organizer, community activist, and politician to offer "real deal" commentary, practical answers, and solutions.

## James Sloand, MD

James Sloand, MD, obtained his doctorate from the St. Louis University School of Medicine. He remained in St. Louis, MO, for his residency in Internal Medicine. Dr. Sloand then completed his fellowship in nephrology at the University of Rochester (U of R), where he remained on the faculty for the past 25 years as a clinician, teacher, and researcher, attaining the rank of Professor of Medicine. Dr. Sloand continues to serve on the adjunct faculty at the U of R. When at the U of R, Dr. Sloand was the Director of Peritoneal Dialysis and the recipient of several teaching awards. He also served as the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Board for the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) of upstate New York and received the National Volunteer Award from the NKF in 2005. Dr. Sloand also continues to serve as a member of the New York State Chronic Kidney Disease Task Force. Currently, Dr. Sloand is the Senior Director of Medical Affairs of Baxter's North American Renal Division located outside of Chicago, IL.

### **Sanya A. Springfield, PhD**

Sanya Springfield, PhD, serves as the Director of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In this role, she is responsible for overseeing CRCHD's mission to coordinate and strengthen the NCI's cancer-research portfolio in basic, clinical, translational, and population-based research to address cancer health disparities; lead NCI's efforts in the training of students and investigators from diverse populations who will be part of the next generation of competitive researchers in cancer and cancer-health-disparities research; and create state-of-the-art regional networks and centers dedicated to cancer-health-disparities research and care through geographic program management. Dr. Springfield has also led and collaborated on NCI's and the National Institutes of Health's efforts to develop research and diversity-training capacity in the areas of cancer and cancer health disparities. Dr. Springfield has a long history in diversity training and disparities research in the public and academic sectors. Previously, Dr. Springfield was the Chief of the current NCI Diversity Training Branch, where she developed and oversaw two highly successful training and research partnership programs, the Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences and Minority Institution/Cancer Center Partnership. Dr. Springfield has received a number of awards for her contributions to diversity training and disparities research in cancer and cancer health disparities, as well as the ongoing national effort to strengthen diversity in the cancer workforce. Dr. Springfield completed her doctorate at Howard University, where she trained in physiology and biophysics.

### **Edward L. Treadwell, MD**

Edward L. Treadwell, MD, is Director of Rheumatology Research, Division of Rheumatology/Immunology, Department of Internal Medicine, East Carolina University School of Medicine, Greenville, NC. Dr. Treadwell is a fellow of the American College of Rheumatology and the American College of Physicians as well as a member of numerous professional societies including the American Medical Association, National Medical Association, Southern Medical Association, Henry Kunkel Society of Immunologists, Association of Clinical Research Professionals, and many others. He co-chairs the Rheumatology Section for the National Medical Association and is Chairman, Ethnic Minority Study Group, American College of Rheumatology. He also serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of National Medical Association* and the *Journal of Rheumatology*. Dr. Treadwell as received multiple grants while serving as the principal investigator or co-investigator for numerous clinical studies. His research activities have focused on understanding the origination and pathogenesis of autoantibodies to cellular antigens in an effort to understand the causes of autoimmunity as it relates to systemic lupus erythematosus. He has published in numerous peer-reviewed journals.

### **Thomas Tsang, MD, MPH**

Thomas Tsang, MD, MPH, is Medical Director, Meaningful Use Division, at the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. He was Chief Medical Officer at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. He is committed to promoting community-based primary care and reducing minority health disparities. His interests include hepatitis B prevention, information technology, and health-services research. As Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the New York University (NYU) School of Medicine, Dr. Tsang is actively engaged in community-based participatory research, focusing on Asian American health issues, including hepatitis B clinical research. He is also Director of the Health Disparities Training Program at the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health. He spearheaded the implementation of electronic health records and advocated the use of clinical informatics in the area of chronic disease management at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. He is a co-principal investigator in the Asian American Hepatitis B Program sponsored by the City Council of New York, a comprehensive program for education, screening, vaccination, and treatment of patients

at high risk of hepatitis B infection. He serves on several scientific advisory boards, including the Board of Health for the City of New York.

### **Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz**

Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz represents Florida's 20th Congressional District, which encompasses parts of the state as far north as Fort Lauderdale, and as far south as Miami Beach. Before joining the US Congress, she was first a Representative and later a Senator in the Florida Legislature. Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz serves on the House Committee on Appropriations, which, in conjunction with its Senate counterpart, makes funding decisions on every discretionary program in the federal budget. She serves as a "Cardinal," chairing the Legislative Branch Subcommittee. She also serves on the House Judiciary Committee, which handles issues ranging from terrorism to protection of civil liberties. As a Chief Deputy Whip, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz works to help advance important legislation. This role places her on the leadership team of the House of Representatives. In her first term, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz served as a Senior Whip, the only freshman chosen to serve on the Whip team. In March 2009, after she announced her own battle with breast cancer, Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz introduced the Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act, or EARLY Act (H.R. 1740), a piece of legislation that directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop and implement a national education campaign about the threat that breast cancer poses to all young women and the particular heightened risks of certain ethnic, cultural, and racial groups. She was born in Long Island, NY, and received her bachelor's and master's degrees from University of Florida. She and her husband, Steve, live in Weston, FL, with their three children.

### **J.C. Watts, Jr.**

J.C. Watts, Jr. is the chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies, a multi-industry holding company headquartered in Washington, DC, with operations in Texas and Oklahoma. Mr. Watts has built a diverse business organization that includes the first African-American-owned John Deere dealerships in America; CLS Group, a project-management firm with construction and engineering operations; OakCrest Capital, a private-equity firm; and Watts Partners, a public-affairs consulting company. He serves on the Board of Directors of Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Dillard's department stores. In addition, Watts Partners has successfully worked on major civil-rights issues to ensure voting rights, and it has worked to alleviate global poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa and elsewhere. Mr. Watts served as a Member of the US Congress from the fourth district of Oklahoma from 1994 until 2003. In 1998 he was elected Chairman of the Republican Conference. He co-authored the American Community Renewal and New Markets Act, which President Bill Clinton signed into law in 2000. He was the author of President George W. Bush's faith-based initiative, the Community Solutions Act of 2001. He also developed legislation with Congressman John Lewis to establish the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mr. Watts was born in Eufaula, OK. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor's degree in journalism. He has continued his public service by leading a US delegation to Vienna, Austria, at the request of President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell, to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Conference on Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia. He joined President Bush on his historic trip to Africa in 2003. He co-founded and co-chaired the Coalition for AIDS Relief in Africa. He serves on the Board of the Boy Scouts of America. He also created the J.C. and Frankie Watts Foundation to focus on urban renewal and other charitable initiatives.

### **Leonard Weather, Jr., MD**

Leonard Weather, Jr., MD, is a gynecologist, specializing in infertility, fibroids, pelvic pain, and endometriosis. He hails from Utica, NY, and lived and practiced in New Orleans, LA, for a

number of years, until Hurricane Katrina. He presently resides in Shreveport, LA, and is married to Cynthia Montgomery, MD, who is also an obstetrician/gynecologist. Dr. Weather is also a health educator, ordained minister, photographer, and avid traveler. He has traveled extensively throughout Africa, Europe, and Asia. He is the publisher of the *Dr Weather Report*, a bimonthly health-care e-newsletter. He has authored three volumes of inspirational poetry and an infertility handbook. His most recent book of poetry and inspirational words, *It's All about Love*, was published in April 2009. Dr. Weather is an active researcher in gynecological clinical trials and has presented over 122 peer-reviewed presentations and papers on laser surgery; outpatient treatment of infertility, endometriosis, pelvic pain, and fibroids. Dr. Weather is a graduate of the Howard University College of Pharmacy. He received his medical doctorate from Rush Medical College and trained in gynecology and obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Dr. Weather recently became President-Elect of the National Medical Association, and he will be installed as the 111th President in August 2010 in Orlando, FL, at the association's 107th Annual Meeting. In September 2009, he was appointed Co-Chair of the Commission to End Health Care Disparities and Scientific Advisor to the Endometriosis Association.

### **Armin D. Weinberg, PhD**

Armin D. Weinberg, PhD, has directed the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center since its inception in 1987 as the Center for Cancer Control Research. He began his career at Baylor University in 1975 as Director of the Education Division of the DeBakey Heart Center. Dr. Weinberg is the Principal Investigator of the project Eliminating Disparities in Clinical Trials (EDICT), launched in 2005, the EDICT initiative is a research study designed to address the problems and find workable solutions to recruiting and retaining populations that are underrepresented in clinical trials, such as low-income populations, the elderly, racial/ethnic minorities, or those who live in rural areas. Conducted by the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine in collaboration with the Intercultural Cancer Council, this four-year project is funded through a \$5.5 million grant from Genentech, Inc. Recognizing that medically underserved populations have the lowest rates of participation in clinical trials, EDICT is focusing on two critical components—policy and intervention research—to remedy this inequality in representation. Dr. Weinberg is the Principal Investigator of the project The Alliance for Biomedical Advances (TABAA), a grant funded by the Pharmaceuticals Research and Manufacturers of America.

### **Richard Allen Williams, MD**

Richard Allen Williams, MD, was born and raised in Wilmington, DE, the youngest of eight children. He received the medical doctorate from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, performed his internship at the University of California San Francisco Medical Center, his internal-medicine residency at the Los Angeles County–University of Southern California Medical Center, and his cardiology fellowship at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, MA. Dr. Williams has numerous publications and awards to his credit and is the author of *The Textbook of Black-Related Diseases*, published by McGraw-Hill in 1975. This is a 900-page book which detailed medical conditions peculiar to African Americans; no other book of its kind has been written before or since, and it is widely considered the classic seminal work on the medical status of blacks. Dr. Williams founded the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) in 1974 and served as its president for 10 years. He also became the first Chairman of the Board of Directors and started the *ABC Newsletter*. The ABC established the endowed Dr. Richard Allen Williams Scholarship for Black Medical Students in his honor in 1980. Dr. Williams then founded the Minority Health Institute in 1987; he is President and Chief Executive Officer of that organization.