

DEMOCRATIC FORUM
Achieving Health Equity: The Path Forward
April 29, 2016

Panelist Biographies

**“Examining Disparities Across the Continuum of Care
through the Lens of Heart Disease”**

11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Adolph P. Falcón, MPP

Executive Vice President

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

Mr. Falcón, Executive Vice President, provides leadership and management for the Alliance's program portfolio and development efforts. A nationally recognized expert on Hispanic health policy, he also serves as Director of the Alliance's Healthy Americas Institute at the University Of Southern California Keck School Of Medicine.

Mr. Falcón currently serves as principal investigator for the Alliance/Merck Ciencia (Science) Hispanic Scholars Program, a \$4 million scholarship and internship program to increase Hispanic participation in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers. He also serves as principal investigator of Nuestras Voces (Our Voices), a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), working nationally and in 11 communities to reduce tobacco-related and cancer disparities. He previously served as principal investigator for initiatives funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies, Food and Drug Administration, Kresge Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Newman's Own Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation among others.

Mr. Falcón is a board member and treasurer of the National Human Services Assembly, board member of ChangeLab Solutions, and a founding steering committee member of the Partnership to Improve Patient Care. He previously served on the Boards of the Children's Safety Network, Public Finance Project, U.S. Programs Committee of Save the Children, and the Welfare Information Network among others.

In a career committed to the policies and programs that serve the aspirations of Hispanic communities, prior to joining the Alliance Mr. Falcón was editor-in-chief of the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, a Ziegler Fellow in Civil Rights and Human Liberties, a senior associate at the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and a family services program director at the Hill Health Center. He received his Masters of Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government and his Bachelor of Arts from Yale University.



Cara James, PhD

Director

Office of Minority Health

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Department of Health and Human Services



Dr. Cara James is the Director of the Office of Minority Health (OMH) at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The principal aim for CMS is better care, healthier people, and smarter spending. To help achieve this aim, CMS OMH ensures that the voices and needs of minority and underserved populations are present in the development, implementation, and evaluation of CMS programs and services. CMS OMH serves as the principal advisor and coordinator to the Agency dedicated to fulfilling that commitment for minority and other underserved populations. As such, CMS OMH provides the leadership, vision, and direction to address goals and objectives, identified by HHS and CMS, related to improving minority health and achieving health equity.

Under Dr. James' leadership, CMS OMH has tripled in size and makes consistent strides towards achieving its mission of improved minority health, reduced health care disparities, and the attainment of health equity. Her guidance has led to the development of two of the Office's flagship initiatives, *From Coverage to Care* and *CMS's Equity Plan for Improving Quality in Medicare*. These initiatives are aimed at helping consumers understand their coverage and connect to care, and reducing health care disparities across a variety of settings. During Dr. James' tenure, CMS OMH has committed to strengthening the quality and quantity of patient demographic data to improve the understanding and awareness of health disparities and their causes.

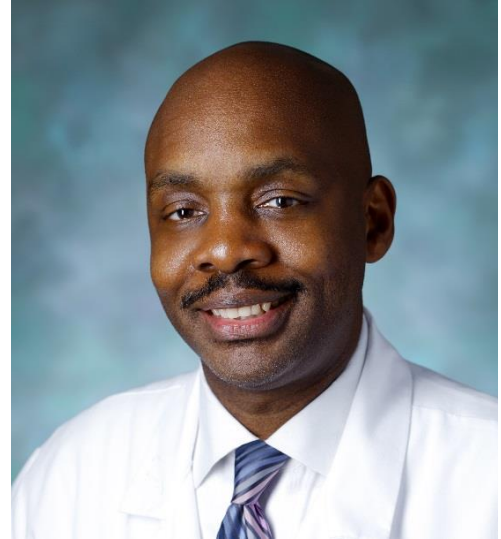
Prior to joining the Office of Minority Health at CMS, Dr. James was with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, where she served as the Director of the Disparities Policy Project and the Director of the Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program. While with the Foundation she worked on a broad array of health and access issues for racial and ethnic minorities, including the potential impact of the Affordable Care Act and understanding state-level disparities in health and access to care. Before joining the staff at Kaiser, she worked at The Picker Institute and Harvard University.

Dr. James is a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities and has served on several IOM committees including the Committee on Leading Health Indicators for Healthy People 2020. She also serves on a National Academy of Sciences consensus study entitled, *Educating Health Professionals to Address the Social Determinants of Health*. She is well published in the areas of health disparities and minority health and co-authored one of the background chapters for the IOM Report *Unequal Treatment*. She also is a board member of Health Care Access Maryland. Dr. James received both her Ph.D. in Health Policy and her A.B. in Psychology from Harvard University.

Richard T. Benson, MD, PhD

Incoming President
Greater Washington Region Board
American Heart Association

Dr. Richard T. Benson is the Associate Medical Director of Stroke at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center with the NIH Stroke Program. As the only Comprehensive stroke program in the Greater Washington Region (GWR), and as an ACGME certified vascular neurology fellowship training program site for the NIH training program, Dr. Benson works very closely with the Medical Director and the other NIH stroke team faculty members to develop, grow, and support this program.



Dr. Benson is also the chair of the American Heart Association (AHA) Missions' Committee for the GWR, and was responsible for enrolling over 900 community members in the AHA sponsored Heart 360 "Check it, Change it" blood pressure self-management program. Dr. Benson worked in academia, the public, and the private sectors. Most notably he was a program director in the Office of Minority Health and Research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). During his tenure at the NINDS, he was the lead program director tasked with developing and implementing programs to address the NIH's Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals related to minority health and health disparities in neurological disorders. In addition to managing a large portfolio of grants, some of which were related to stroke, Dr. Benson assisted in the organization, review, and funding of several large co-operative agreements related to minority health and health disparities. He also completed courses in program management, contracting, and program development at the NIH. While working as a program director at the NIH, Dr. Benson spent 20% effort as an attending stroke neurologist with the NIH stroke team.

After leaving the NIH in 2008, Dr. Benson worked for one of the largest private neurology groups in northern Virginia and was the clerkship director for the VCU-Inova campus medical student neurology rotation. Dr. Benson attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. After working one year as a biochemist at Case Western Reserve Medical School, he attended Meharry Medical College where he received an MD and a PhD in Neurophysiology. His research thesis dealt with "Excessive Methylation in Parkinsonism." At Meharry, Dr. Benson received numerous research honors and he was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) National Medical Honor Society. Subsequently, he completed a Neurology residency at the Harvard-Longwood Neurology Program in Boston, Massachusetts. Dr. Benson then completed a two-year Stroke Fellowship in the Neurological Institute at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, while completing a Master's degree in Epidemiology. He has worked previously at Long Island Jewish Medical Center; St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospitals; Alexandria-Fairfax Neurology, PC; and Inova Alexandria/Fairfax Hospitals. His areas of interest include: health disparities, minority and community health, issues related to stroke and/or cerebrovascular disease, and translational research related to various neurological diseases.

Rhonda Moore Johnson, MD, MPH

Senior Medical Director
Health Equity & Quality Services
Highmark Inc.

Rhonda Moore Johnson is the senior medical director of Health Equity & Quality Services for Highmark Inc., headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In this role, Dr. Johnson leads Highmark's efforts to reduce racial and ethnic health care disparities through clinical interventions and improvements in health literacy and health-plan cultural competency.

Dr. Johnson has been both a clinician and physician administrator. Over the course of her career, she has practiced pediatrics and adolescent medicine in rural and inner city areas of southwest Georgia and Cincinnati, Ohio. She also previously served as a senior medical consultant for two national quality improvement initiatives. Dr. Johnson has served on numerous national and state advisory committees, and she is the immediate past president of the Gateway Medical Society, a component society of the National Medical Association.

She is certified in health care quality management by the American Board of Quality Assurance & Utilization Review Physicians, Inc., is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and a Certified Healthcare Insurance Executive by the American Health Insurance Plans.

Dr. Johnson earned her A.B. degree from Harvard University, her M.D. at the Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine and her M.P.H. from Ohio State University.



Janet S. Wright, MD, FACC

Executive Director

Million Hearts®

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Department of Health and Human Services

Janet S. Wright MD, FACC is the executive director of Million Hearts®, an HHS national initiative co-led by CDC and CMS with the explicit goal to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes in the U.S. by 2017.

From 2008 to 2011, Dr. Wright served as Senior Vice President for Science and Quality at the American College of Cardiology. In that role, she provided medical and scientific oversight of clinical guidelines, performance measures, health policy statements, and appropriate use criteria; quality improvement projects; and the National Cardiovascular Data Registry, a suite of databases containing more than 12 million patient records in both inpatient and outpatient care settings.

Dr. Wright practiced cardiology for many years in Chico, California, and during those years, she served on American College of Cardiology's Board of Trustees, National Committee for Quality Assurance's Physician Program Committee, and the Center for Information Therapy, a non-profit organization committed to the provision of personalized health information during each health encounter. Her primary interests are the design and implementation of systems of care to achieve optimal outcomes for patients and the full deployment of hooks, tricks, and cues that help people get and stay healthy.



**Kim A. Williams, MD, MACC, FAHA,
MASNC, FESC**

Immediate Past President
American College of Cardiology
Chief, Division of Cardiology, Rush University Medical
Center



Dr. Kim Allan Williams was born and raised in inner-city Chicago, and attended the College of The University of Chicago (1971 to 1975), followed by the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine (1975 to 1979), internal medicine residency at Emory University (1979 to 1982), and overlapping fellowships in Cardiology at the University of Chicago (1982 to 1985), Clinical Pharmacology (1984 to 1985), and Nuclear Medicine (1984 to 1986). He is board certified in Internal Medicine, Cardiovascular Diseases, Nuclear Medicine, Nuclear Cardiology and Cardiovascular Computed Tomography.

Dr. Williams joined the faculty of the University of Chicago in 1986, specializing in clinical cardiology, nuclear medicine and nuclear cardiology. He served as Professor of Medicine and Radiology and Director of Nuclear Cardiology at The University of Chicago School of Medicine until 2010. Among numerous awards and honors for his teaching in the medical school, residencies and fellowships, he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha in 2008.

In 2010, he became the Dorothy Susan Timmis Endowed Professor of Medicine and Radiology and Chairman of the Division of Cardiology at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, MI. At Wayne State, he has started the Urban Cardiology Initiative – a program of education of physicians on disparities in healthcare, primary school education on cardiovascular health and community health screening in inner city Detroit. In November, 2013 he returned to Chicago as the James B. Herrick Endowed Professor of Medicine and Cardiology at Rush University Medical Center.

Dr. Williams has published numerous peer reviewed articles, monographs, book chapters, editorials, and review articles in the field of nuclear cardiology and minority health issues, with emphasis on education and innovations in perfusion imaging and quantitation of ventricular function. His research interests include selective adenosine receptor agonists, fluorinated perfusion PET imaging, health care disparities and payment policy, and appropriate use of cardiac imaging.

Dr. Williams has served on numerous committees and boards at the national level including the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology (ASNC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the Certifying Board of Nuclear Cardiology, the Certifying Board of Cardiac Computed Tomography, the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography and the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC). He served as President of ASNC from 2004 to 2005. He served as Chairman of the Board of ABC from 2008 to 2010. He also served on the Cardiovascular Disease Examination Board of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM-CV) until 2012. He currently serves as the ACC Immediate Past President 2016.

Brenda Battle, BSN, MBA

Vice President of Care Delivery Innovation
Urban Health Initiative and
Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer
University of Chicago Medicine and
Biological Sciences Division



Brenda Battle, BSN, MBA joined the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences Division in 2012 as Vice President for Care Delivery Innovations, Urban Health Initiative and Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. In her role Battle is responsible for collaborating with medical and administrative leadership to foster innovation in the University of Chicago Medicine's care delivery system, assist in the implementation of new models of care and facilitate integration of care between the hospital and community. Battle's role entails assisting the U of C in developing a thoughtful, coordinated response to a changing health care environment. Battle is the lead administrator of the Urban Health Initiative, University of Chicago Medicine's long-term commitment to improving health and access to quality care for the South Side of Chicago through patient care, community-based research and medical education. In her role, Battle provides assistance to the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion and the Vice President of Human Resources to craft strategies and programs to create an environment that promotes diversity, inclusion and culturally sensitive care delivery models.

Prior to joining the University of Chicago, Battle was the director of the Center for Diversity and Cultural Competence for Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO. In her role, Battle oversaw programs to eliminate health disparities and to promote diversity, cultural competence and health literacy within Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine.

Battle served as Vice President of Operations and later Vice President, Government and Community Affairs for Medical Transportation Management, Inc., a national contractor for non-emergent transportation benefits. She has more than 30 years of health-care experience beginning with a nursing career, and including managed care, long-term care and home care.

Battle has authored a book chapter on the impact of cultural competence on eliminating health disparities. She has become a national speaker on topics related to health literacy, eliminating health disparities and cultural competency. She is pursuing a PhD in Nursing at the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

Battle is a past member of Board of Directors of the Missouri Foundation for Health (MFH), serving as Secretary of the Board. She also serves on the Executive and Programs and Grants Committees of the MFH. She is the past Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Conference for Community and Justice, St. Louis. She is an Advisory Board Member of the Program to Eliminate Cancer Disparities (PeCAD) at Siteman Cancer Center, the African American Advisory Board for the Alzheimers Disease Research Center at Washington University School of Medicine and Gateway Homeless Services.

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**“Transforming Medical Research to Meet the Needs of
a Diverse Population”**

12:45 PM – 1:45 PM

Paul Underwood, MD, FACC

Medical Director
Clinical Interventional Cardiology
Boston Scientific

Paul Underwood, MD, FACC, FSCAI is a native of Knoxville, TN and attended Morehouse College for his premedical studies. He received his MD degree from the Mayo Clinic, followed by a cardiology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. His interventional cardiology training was completed at the Iowa Heart Center in Des Moines.

Following his internal medicine training at Mayo, he moved to the Virgin Islands to head the ER and ICU at St. Croix Hospital. After completing his cardiology training, Dr. Underwood practiced interventional cardiology and clinical research in Phoenix for over 18 years. He left clinical practice and joined Boston Scientific in 2009 to become a medical director in the cardiology business.

While in Phoenix he held several hospital committee appointments and was a member of the Arizona Council of the American College of Cardiology. Dr. Underwood has been actively involved in community-based efforts focused on promoting cardiovascular health. He is past president of the Association of Black Cardiologists and founding member for the Center for African American Health-AZ. He served the American Heart Association Desert Mountain Affiliate, as well as, nationally on the Women and Minority Leadership Committee, the Power To End Stroke Advisory Committee and the Science Advisory & Coordinating Committee.

At Boston Scientific, Dr. Underwood recently received the Interventional Cardiology Business Unit Diversity Award for his work with the PLATINUM Diversity trial, the first interventional cardiology study to focus solely on women and minorities. In 2015 he also received the Chairperson's Award from the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention. He is currently a medical director for the interventional cardiology/structural heart franchise and a member of Close the Gap, Boston Scientific's health equity education initiative. Dr. Underwood has authored more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and has been an investigator in over 90 clinical trials.



Abigail Echo-Hawk, MA

Co-Director, Partnerships for Native Health
Initiative for Research and Education to Advance
Community
Washington State University



Abigail Echo-Hawk, MA (Pawnee) is the Co-Director of Partnerships for Native Health, a program located in the Initiative for Research and Education to Advance Community at Washington State University. In this role, she works with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to engage them in health disparities research and with health researchers to ensure research is done in a manner that respects tribal sovereignty and is culturally appropriate.

Specializing in facilitating cross cultural partnerships, Ms. Echo-Hawk has been an integral part of establishing health research projects and public health initiatives with rural and urban tribal communities across the United States. Her work embodies respect for Native culture, knowledge of community's needs, and willingness to work in true partnership with communities. As a dedicated community volunteer, Abigail has concentrated on policy and institutional change in order to minimize health disparities for women of color locally and nationally. Current advisory and board memberships include Native American Women's Dialogue on Infant Mortality, Hope Heart Institute, Center for Indigenous Law and Justice and the Coalition to End Gender Based Violence.

Martin Mendoza, PhD

Health Program Coordinator
Office of Minority Health
U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
Department of Health and Human Services



Dr. Martin Mendoza serves as a Health Program Coordinator in the FDA Office of Minority Health (OMH), Office of the Commissioner. He is part of the Research and Collaborations division within OMH and serves as the lead for all FDA OMH extramural research which includes projects in the FDA Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation (CERSI) cooperative agreements with Johns Hopkins University, Georgetown University, Stanford University, and the University of California San Francisco.

Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Mendoza spent several years in the Office of Clinical Research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), NIH. There, he was part of programmatic management for all NINDS-sponsored clinical trials and oversaw the institute's Congressionally-mandated reporting of women and minorities in clinical research. Previously, Dr. Mendoza was an active researcher within the NIH intramural research program, conducting laboratory-based research at the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Aging, and the National Human Genome Research Institute where he served as a genetic mapper for the Human Genome Project. Dr. Mendoza is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County and received his doctorate in cancer biology from Johns Hopkins University.

Gary A. Puckrein, PhD

President and Chief Executive Officer
National Minority Quality Forum

Dr. Gary A. Puckrein is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Minority Quality Forum. The Forum is dedicated to improving the quality of health care through the use of evidence-based, data driven initiatives. The Forum maintains a centralized data warehouse of vital statistics, demographics, environmental information, provider claims, prescription drug use, clinical laboratory values, health-care access points, and other data. The Forum employs these data resources to build web-based indexes and atlases that enable users to measure and forecast health status and disease prevalence in small geographic areas, evaluate the impact of specific interventions, and monitor changes in health outcomes. The Forum has also recently launched the Clinical Trial Engagement Network, the health-care industry resource addressing a critical need in drug research: improving the representation of diverse populations, including African Americans, Asian Americans and Hispanics, in clinical trials.



Dr. Puckrein is considered a preeminent authority on health information products and was the publisher of *American Visions* and *Minority Health Today*. Dr. Puckrein has served on numerous health-care advisory boards, including the National Advisory Board on Health Disparities for the Health Research and Educational Trust (American Hospital Association), the CLAS/Health Disparities Expert Panel (National Committee for Quality Assurance), and the Pharmacy Education Advisory Council (American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy). Between 1974 and 1992, Dr. Puckrein taught and lectured at Brown University, Rutgers University, Connecticut College, and Roger Williams College. Dr. Puckrein has received many awards and honors, including being named a visiting scholar and fellow at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and a visiting fellow at Princeton University. He was awarded doctoral and master's degrees in history from Brown University, and a bachelor's degree from California State University at Los Angeles.

Gary G. Bennett, PhD

Bishop-MacDermott Family Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience, Global Health and Medicine
Duke University



Gary G. Bennett is the Bishop-MacDermott Family Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience, Global Health and Medicine at Duke University. He directs Duke's Global Digital Health Science Center (Duke Digital Health), which leverages digital health technologies to improve health outcomes in medically vulnerable populations. Dr. Bennett also leads the Duke Obesity Prevention Program and holds appointments in the Duke Cancer Institute and the Duke Center for Biobehavioral Health Disparities Research. Dr. Bennett is President-Elect of the Society of Behavioral Medicine. Dr. Bennett's research program designs, tests, and disseminates digital obesity treatments for medically vulnerable patients in primary care practice. Dr. Bennett developed the interactive obesity treatment approach (iOTA), which has been evaluated in several trials, both domestically and abroad. His recent work has demonstrated the effectiveness of coach-led, digital health weight loss and hypertension control interventions delivered via web, smartphone, and interactive voice response systems. His recent intervention trials in medically vulnerable communities have been the focus of numerous invited addresses for professional and lay audiences alike. He has authored more than 125 scientific papers in the past decade and his research program has been continuously supported by the NIH.

Dr. Bennett has served on numerous NIH committees, grant review panels, editorial boards, and guidelines councils. Dr. Bennett is committed to the dissemination of evidence-based treatments; he serves on science advisory and executive boards of several community, professional, and commercial organizations. He is a member of the American Psychological Association's obesity treatment guidelines panel and works with committees at the Institute of Medicine, American Heart Association, and American Council on Exercise to reduce Americans' high rates of physical inactivity and obesity. He also co-founded two digital health startups: Crimson Health Solutions (acquired by Health Dialog in 2007) and Scale Down. Prior to joining Duke in 2009, Dr. Bennett served on the faculties of the Harvard School of Public Health and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dr. Bennett earned a bachelor's degree at Morehouse College, followed by doctoral studies in clinical health psychology at Duke University, a clinical psychology internship at Duke University Medical Center and postdoctoral studies in social epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

George A. Mensah, MD, FACC, FCP(SA) Hon

Director, Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science

Acting Director, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences

Senior Advisor, Office of the Director

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health (NIH)



Dr. George Mensah is an accomplished clinician-scientist who currently serves as a senior advisor in the Office of the Director at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He also serves as Director of the Center for Translation Research and Implementation Science (CTRIS) and Acting Director of the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences. In these positions, Dr. Mensah leads a trans-NHLBI effort to advance late-stage translational research in heart, lung, and blood diseases and sleep disorders.

Dr. Mensah's primary focus is the application of T4 translation research and implementation science approaches to address gaps in the prevention and treatment of heart, lung, and blood diseases and the elimination of health inequities. His goal is to maximize the population health impact of investments made in fundamental discovery science and pre-clinical or early-stage translational research in heart, lung, and blood diseases.

Dr. Mensah trained in internal medicine and the subspecialty of cardiovascular diseases. His professional experience includes 20 years of public service between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the NIH. He has had management experience as a chief of cardiology; head of a clinical care department; and a past member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology as Governor for Public Health.

In addition to his public service at CDC, Dr. Mensah had 15 years of experience in direct patient care, teaching, and research at Cornell University Medical Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). He was a professor with tenure at MCG, director of the medical specialties practice at the MCG Hospitals & Clinics, and department head of cardiovascular care at the VA Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia. He holds a merit of proficiency from the American Society of Echocardiography and has been designated a hypertension specialist by the American Society of Hypertension. He has been admitted to fellowships in several medical societies in Africa, Europe and the US.

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**“Building a Diverse and Culturally Competent
Healthcare Workforce”**

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Cheri C. Wilson, MA, MHS, CPHQ

Director

Corporate Office of Diversity & Inclusion

RWJ Barnabas Health

Cheri C. Wilson received a BA in Russian from Howard University, an MA in Russian Area Studies from the University of Minnesota, was a PhD candidate (ABD) in Russian history at the University of Minnesota, and received an MHS in Health Finance and Management from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is multilingual—fluent in Russian, speaks French and Spanish with a reading knowledge of German.



Ms. Wilson is a nationally recognized diversity and inclusion, cultural and linguistic competence, and health equity subject matter expert, who is also a highly regarded public speaker and trainer. She is the Corporate Director of Diversity and Inclusion at RWJ Barnabas Health, the largest health system in New Jersey. Beginning in May 2010, she was appointed a Faculty Research Associate in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions and was promoted to Assistant Scientist in February 2014. Previously, she was an Acting Assistant Director of the Quality Improvement Department at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) and a Past President of the Maryland Association for Healthcare Quality (MAHQ) (2009).

Ms. Wilson is a member of: the Health Disparities Subcommittee, Advisory Committee to the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Steering Committee of the Commission to End Health Care Disparities (CEHCD), where she Chairs the Patient Level Data Collection Reporting and Use Workgroup, the Leadership Council of the New Jersey Statewide Network for Cultural Competence, and GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality. She was a member of: the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Maryland Health Disparities Collaborative, where she served on three workgroups, the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council (MHQCC), Cultural and Linguistic Competency Workgroup, and the Maryland Health Care Commission Maryland Medical Care Database Workgroup for Reporting Utilization by Race, Ethnicity, and Language. In addition, Ms. Wilson co- chaired the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE) and was a reviewer for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), Communication and Dissemination Research panel.

Ms. Wilson educates clinical and support staff in healthcare, health, behavioral health, human and social service organizations, public health, medical, and nursing students, K-12 students as well as community members. She has presented at national, state, and local conferences on the issues of cultural and linguistic competence, unconscious bias, overcoming language barriers, health and healthcare disparities, health equity, and the social determinants of health. The focus of her work is primarily upon the intersection between cultural competence, health and healthcare disparities, health equity and patient safety and healthcare quality.

Marc A. Nivet, EdD, MBA

Chief Diversity Officer

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

Marc A. Nivet is the Chief Diversity Officer for the Association of American Medical Colleges, where he provides strategic vision and programmatic leadership on issues surrounding community engagement, diversity, and health equity at universities, medical schools and teaching hospitals across the United States and Canada. Dr. Nivet has spent over 20 years in academic medicine developing creative program initiatives and innovative approaches to the mission of excellence in research, education and patient care.



Prior to joining the AAMC, Dr. Nivet served as the COO and Treasurer for the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, which fosters innovation in health professional education that aligns workforce training with the dynamic needs of patients. He also served as a special assistant to the Senior Vice President for Health at New York University, and held management positions with the Sallie Mae Fund, and the Associated Medical Schools of New York. He began his career in medical education in student affairs at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Nivet earned his Doctorate in Higher Education Management from the University Of Pennsylvania and his Masters of Business Administration degree with a focus on health care management from George Washington University's School of Business.

Dr. Nivet is a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, and a former president of the National Association of Medical Minority Educators. He currently serves the academic medicine communities on a variety of boards and commissions, including the NIH National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council (NIGMS), HRSA Bureau of Health Professions National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice, the CDC Medical College Roundtable and is an advisor to the ETS Policy Evaluation and Research Council. He is a trustee of both the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Institute of the Health Professions.

Maureen Y. Lichtveld, MD, MPH

Professor and Chair

Tulane University, School of Public Health and
Tropical Medicine

President

Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools



Maureen Lichtveld, MD, MPH has 35 year experience in environmental public health and currently is Professor and Chair, Department of Global Environmental Health Sciences, Tulane University, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She served as one of the highest ranking CDC environmental health scientists engaged in national environmental health research, and policy, often accompanied by congressional testimonies. During her 18 year CDC/ATSDR tenure Dr. Lichtveld engaged in designing research tools and protocols guiding national environmental health studies in communities living near hazardous waste sites nationwide and science-driven policies. The research tools and protocols were adopted by all states for their respective state-based environmental health programs.

Her research uniquely integrates *environmental health, health disparities, and disasters*, with significant bridging expertise in *community-based participatory research, women's health, environmental policy, and health systems relevant to disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience*. She is endowed chair in environmental policy and Associate Director, Population Sciences, Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium. As Director of the Center for Gulf Coast Environmental Health Research, Leadership, and Strategic Initiatives, her \$29M research portfolio encompasses national and global environmental health including the first ever NIH (GEOHealth) award to Suriname, a lower middle income country in the Caribbean region, to examine the impact of dietary exposures to goldmining- and agriculturally- related contaminants on vulnerable pregnant women and infants.

Since 1988, she has served as IOM(NAM) consultant, is a *member of US. EPA Scientific Advisory Board, the NAS IOM Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine, and member, Health Disparities Subcommittee, Advisory Committee to the Director CDC*. She was elected *Chair, Editorial Board, American Journal of Public Health and President, Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools*, leading the advancement of Hispanic health in collaboration with schools of medicine, public health, nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry. Dr. Lichtveld was honored as *CDC's Environmental Health Scientist of the Year and twice named Woman of the Year by the City of New Orleans* for her contributions to science. She was recently inducted as a lifelong member of the Johns Hopkins University Society of Scholars.

Verlie A. Tisdale, PhD

Professor of Biology

Dean, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Claflin University



Dr. Verlie A. Graham Tisdale is the Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and a Professor of Biology at Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. She is a 1967 graduate of Carver High School in Lake City, South Carolina. She earned her B.S. degree in Chemistry and Biology at Claflin University and earned both the Master of Science degree and the Ph.D from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. She did further study and earned her Management Development Certification at Harvard University in Cambridge Massachusetts.

Dr. Tisdale distinguished herself as a health profession advisor, health science educator, and a biologist. For her academic achievements, and for her service and dedication to help young men and women enter graduate school and into the health care professions, she has received numerous awards and citations. She is the recipient of the George E. Brown SNMA Region III Premedical Advisor Award, the 1993 Iowa College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery Outstanding Advisor Award and twice the recipient of the Prairie View A&M University Advisor Award. In 1994, she was inducted into Florence County School South Carolina District III Academic Hall of Fame. She is listed in several editions of Who's Who Among America's Teachers, was recognized by the Orangeburg Business Community and the First National Bank as the 2002 Distinguished University Educator of the year and the 2004 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church for Exemplary Teaching. Under her leadership, Claflin University Mathematics and Computer Science Department received certification from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the Chemistry Department received the American Chemistry Society (ACS) approval. She has hired award winning faculty including the *National Millennium Award for Excellence in Teaching* (2002, 2004), the *South Carolina Governors Professor of the Year* at a four-year Institution, 2005 and the 2006 *South Carolina Governor's Co-Professors* of the year in Research Awareness.

Dr. Tisdale serves on community, college, academic and professional committees at the local and the national level; holds membership in several professional societies; has publications in scientific journals and has made scientific presentations before leading scientific scholars. She counts among her greatest accomplishments all the young men and women who have gone on to become physicians, surgeons, dentists, allied health care professionals and professors.

Isha Weerasinghe, MS

Director for Policy and Advocacy
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health
Organizations (AAPCHO)

Isha is the Director for Policy and Advocacy at AAPCHO. As part of her work, Isha works with local and national partners within and outside the AAPCHO network to help ensure that the needs of Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander-serving community health centers are a national priority. Isha is the Co-Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans' (NCAPA) Health Committee, Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Hepatitis B: Focus on Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, advises Hep B United, a national coalition focused on reducing hepatitis B disparities on policy issues, and is a board member of the South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA).



Prior to joining AAPCHO, she worked at New York University's Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH), for a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct community-based participatory research called B Free CEED: National Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Hepatitis B Disparities. She has also worked for The Belaku Trust, an NGO in Bangalore, India focused on women's empowerment and health research, for Pfizer, Inc. in comparative effectiveness and outcomes research, and for the New York State Department of Health's AIDS Institute. Isha received her Bachelor's in Arts from Bryn Mawr College, and her Master's in Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Tiffany Groover, MD, MPH

Medical Director

Chase Brexton Health Care, Glen Burnie

Dr. Groover currently serves as the medical director of the Chase Brexton Health Care site in Glen Burnie Maryland. She completed her residency training three years ago at the Boston University Internal Medicine Residency Program. Prior to starting her postgraduate training, she completed both her undergraduate education in community health/child development and her graduate training in the public health program with the study of epidemiology and biostatistics at Tufts University. Dr. Groover continued her time at Tufts, receiving her medical degree in 2010.



Over the years, she has been dedicated to the eradication of racial and ethnic health disparities, providing care to the underserved, and changing the framework of health care. In her earlier years, Dr. Groover promoted racial and ethnic health disparity awareness in medical and public health school curriculums. As a council member of the American College of Physicians (ACP) during her residency training, she presented at the College's annual meeting, discussing the racial and ethnic disparities in the health of African American patients. She also served as an ACP health policy intern where she assisted in the analysis of current issues in health and medical education policy. In her final years of residency, Dr. Groover established a resource for community minority youth educational programs that provides health education, exposure to the multiple disciplines in medicine and fosters mentorship with the goal of increasing the number of minority youth in health careers. This program is still in existence today.

Despite the time commitment of medical director, Dr. Groover continues to embrace primary care and face the challenges of health care inequities both directly and indirectly. She works to improve health care delivery and provide patient care in her capacity as medical director. And on a larger scale, as the appointed advisor of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Groover plays a role in providing input to improving physician reimbursement and the development of new payment models, changes that will not only renew but also strengthen the foundation of primary care.