COLLABORATION:

A KEY TO CULTURAL CHANGE TO ACHIEVE HEALTH EQUITY
Our work extends beyond the medicines we create. Together, we’re working to improve health and access to life-saving medicines in our local communities and around the globe. Through partnerships and our signature volunteer programs, we aim to identify and promote successful solutions to health issues that can be scaled and replicated to make life better for people here at home and around the world.

Learn more about our commitment to local communities and people everywhere at lilly.com.
The National Medical Association’s Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly is acclaimed as the nation’s foremost forum on medical science and African American health. Each year, African American physicians and other health professionals from across the country convene to participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, discuss health policy priorities, and to share experience through networking opportunities. Through NMA’s 26 Scientific Specialty Sections, the Convention attracts the broadest spectrum of African American physicians, academicians and scientists in the country. The program opens on a Saturday July 27th with special sessions and workshops, and continues through the Wednesday July 31st.
The National Medical Association gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the following contributors:

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Historical Overview

The National Medical Association (NMA) convened its inaugural National Colloquium on African American Health in October of 1999. Chaired by NMA President Gary C. Dennis, the preeminent ambition of the first Colloquium was simply to equip this generation of health care advocates in their struggle to reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare.

The reason for selecting this mission was just as straightforward: **African Americans were—and continue to be—disproportionately represented on virtually every health index.** The negative impact of health disparities in many preventable and treatable conditions are well documented, with deleterious consequences for the quality of life of African Americans. Whereas the picture has improved since 1999, the gains are marginal when compared to the general population. As such, Colloquium continues to be a leadership training and advocacy forum, structured to conduct focused exploration of critical health policy issues that impact African Americans. Colloquium also provides a platform for the development of NMA health policy positions to be advanced at the local, state, and federal levels. The focus is to build an “army” of health advocates. Since 1999, the Colloquium has trained thousands of physicians and other health professional advocates. These individuals, in turn, have worked to advocate for health policies that address the needs of their communities and patients.

Program Goal, Purpose, & Format

The theme for this year’s Colloquium is “Collaboration: A Key to Cultural Change to Achieve Health Equity.” The leaders of African American professional organizations from across all disciplines have been invited in an effort to revitalize the Black Congress on Health, Law, and Economics (BCHLE). The format will include keynote presentations and panels. The emphasis of these panels is to highlight the common missions our organizations have in the fight to eliminate the disparities that plague our community. The Colloquium will also feature panels discussing the issues and policy solutions for maternal morbidity and mortality, environmental health, and sexual/child trafficking. Ultimately, the goal of this forum is to result in the creation of a position paper for distribution to the political parties as they develop platforms for the Presidential elections in 2020.

Collaboration is essential, if our voices are to rise above the noise and be heard. Only together we can eliminate the negative and be a powerful, positive force for change.

Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the role of collaboration across professional disciplines in addressing issues of health disparities and equity.
2. Describe the role of health care providers in identifying and appropriately treating victims of human trafficking.
3. Discuss issues of criminal justice, restorative justice and returning ex-offenders in the context of impact to community and public health.
4. Recognize the relationship between climate change and asthma.
5. Discuss ways of expanding access to sexual and reproductive healthcare to diverse communities.
6. Identify strategies to reduce maternal morbidity/mortality disparities including opportunities to partner with advocacy organizations.
7. Discuss the healthcare legislative agenda of the 116th Congress.
Educational Credits

The National Medical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The National Medical Association designates this live activity for a maximum of **12.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits™**. Physicians should only claim the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Physicians wishing to claim credit for participation in this activity must be register for the Colloquium and complete the program evaluation. A certificate of credit, signed by the CME Director, will be sent to in approximately two weeks post activity. Questions regarding the credit process may be directed to cme@nmanet.org.

Disclaimer: The National Medical Association, its staff and consultants are not responsible for injury or illness resulting from the use of medications or modalities discussed during this educational activity.

Faculty Disclosures

(Available at time of printing 3/25/2019 see program insert for any updates).

The following planners, moderators, and speakers declare no relevant relationships with commercial entities:

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Lakesha Butler, PharmD
Robert Dixon
Roselyn E. Epps, M.D.
Gabriel Felix
Sandra Gadson, M.D.
Gloria B. Goodwin, M.S.W.
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Donni M. Turner, JD, M.A.
Yuri Walker, J.D., R.N., M.P.H.
Richelle R. Webb Dixon, MHSA
Britt Weinstock, Ph.D., M.A.
Agenda

Friday, March 29th

4:30 – 7:00 pm  Colloquium Registration

6:00 – 8:00 pm  Welcome Reception


Welcome & Opening Remarks

Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D.
119th President
National Medical Association
Chicago, Illinois

Virginia A. Caine, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees
National Medical Association
Past President American Public Health Association (2004)
Indianapolis, Indiana

Martin Hamlette, J.D., M.H.A.
Executive Director
National Medical Association
Silver Spring, Maryland

Saturday, March 30th

7:30 – 5:00 pm  Colloquium Registration

7:30 – 8:45 am  Breakfast and Networking with Exhibitors

8:00 – 8:30 am  Book Signing: “Under Fire: Reporting from the Front Lines of the Trump White House”

April Ryan
White House Correspondent & Washington, DC Bureau Chief
American Urban Radio Networks
Washington, District of Columbia
8:45 am – 9:15 am  Welcome and Opening Remarks
Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D.
119th President
National Medical Association
Chicago, Illinois
Derrick Humphries, Esq.
Founding Partner
Humphries and Partners, PLLC
Washington, District of Columbia
Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D-SC)
President
National Black Caucus of State Legislators
Orangeburg, South Carolina
Gloria B. Goodwin, M.S.W.
President
Auxiliary to the National Medical Association
Jacksonville, North Carolina
Gabriel Felix
President
Student National Medical Association
Washington, District of Columbia

9:15 – 10:15 am  Keynote Address
Race and the Political Landscape: Growing Concerns for Black America
April Ryan
White House Correspondent & Washington, DC Bureau Chief
American Urban Radio Networks
Washington, District of Columbia
Questions and Answers

10:15 – 10:30 am  Break and Networking with Exhibitors

10:30 – 11:45 am  Health Services Professionals: Insights and Recommendations for 2020
Moderator
Gabriel Felix
President
Student National Medical Association
Howard University School of Medicine
NMA Board of Trustees
Washington, District of Columbia
Panel
Millicent Gorham, Ph.D. (Hon) M.B.A.
Executive Director
National Black Nurses Association
Silver Spring, Maryland
Richelle R. Webb Dixon, MHSA
President
National Association of Health Services Executives
Washington, District of Columbia
Martin S. Karpeh, Jr., M.D.  
President-Elect  
Society of Black Academic Surgeons  
Norfolk, Virginia

Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BCPS  
President  
National Pharmaceutical Association  
Cary, North Carolina

Cathy Runnels, M.S., CCC-SLP  
Chair  
National Black Association of Speech, Language and Hearing  
Washington, District of Columbia

Questions and Answers

11:45 – 12:15 pm  Break and Networking with Exhibitors

12:15 – 1:15 pm  Working Lunch

Donald Calloway Jr., J.D.  
CEO, Pine Street Strategies  
MSNBC Commentator  
Washington, District of Columbia

1:15 – 2:15 pm  Solving Childhood Sex Trafficking: Coordinating Care and Serving Victims

Moderator  Sandra L. Gadson, M.D.  
106th President, National Medical Association  
International President, Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Gary, Indiana

Panel  Roselyn E. Epps, M.D.  
Community Advocate  
President, Medical Society and Alliance Foundation, Inc  
Silver Spring, M.D.

Theopia Jackson, Ph.D.  
President-Elect  
Association of Black Psychologists  
Oakland, California

Questions and Answers

2:15 – 3:15 pm  Law and Law Enforcement Professionals: And Justice for All – Fairness for the Victims, Accused, Convicted and Returning Citizens

Moderator  Derrick A. Humphries, Esq.  
Humphries & Partners, PLLC  
Washington, District of Columbia
Panel
Yuri Walker, J.D., R.N.
Vice President – Sections & Divisions
National Bar Association
Washington, District of Columbia

Huberta Jackson-Lowman, Ph.D.
Past President
Association of Black Psychologists
Fort Washington, Maryland

Robert (Tony) Dixon
President, Washington, DC Chapter
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

Questions and Answers

3:15 – 4:15 pm
Environmental Health and Asthma: Asthma, the Environment, and the Effects on First Responders

Moderator
Kerene N. Tayloe, Esq.
Director, Federal Legislative Affairs
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Washington, District of Columbia

Panel
Michael Lenoir, M.D.
Past President
National Medical Association
Oakland, California

Mark Mitchell, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor
Health & Climate Solutions Hub
Center for Climate Change Communication
George Mason University
Hartford, Connecticut

Addington C. Stewart
President
International Association of Black Professional Firefighters
St. Louis, Missouri

Questions and Answers

4:15 – 5:15 pm
One on One Conversation Keeping Access and Achieving Health Equity: The Importance of Planned Parenthood

Leana Wen, M.D.
President
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
New York, New York

Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D.
President
National Medical Association

Questions and Answers
**Sunday, March 31st**

7:30 – 1:00 pm  
**Registration Open**

7:30 – 8:45 am  
**Breakfast Networking with Exhibitors**

8:45 – 9:00 am  
**Welcome - Day 2**

Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D.  
President  
National Medical Association  
Chicago, Illinois

9:00 – 10:15 pm  
**Maternal Morbidity & Mortality: Seeking Solutions and Establishing Collaborations**

**Moderator**  
Carla F. Ortique, M.D.  
Vice Chair  
Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force  
Past Speaker, NMA House of Delegates  
Houston, Texas

**Panel**  
Michael K. Lindsay, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine  
Department of OB/GYN  
University School of Medicine  
Atlanta, Georgia
Joia Crear-Perry, M.D.  
Founder and President  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
New Orleans, Louisiana

Haywood L. Brown, M.D.  
VP of Diversity, Inclusion & Equal Opportunity  
Title IX Administrator  
University of South Florida System  
Past President, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists  
Tampa, Florida

Questions and Answers

10:15 – 11:30 am  
Healthcare Outlook for the 116th Congress

Moderator  
J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., MSCE  
Executive Vice President & COO  
Trust for America’s Health  
Washington, District of Columbia

Hillary Beard  
Senior Advisor  
Congresswoman Terri Sewell (AL)

Mia R. Keeys, M.A.  
Health Equity Advisor  
Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL)

Keenan Austin Reed, M.B.A.  
Chief of Staff  
Congressman Donald McEachin (VA)

Donni M. Turner, M.A., J.D.  
Senior Education Policy Advisor  
Senate Budget Committee  
Senator Bernie Sanders (VT)

Britt Weinstock, Ph.D., M.A.  
Staff Director  
Senate HELP Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security  
Senator Bernie Sanders (VT)

Questions and Answers

11:30 – 12:00 pm  
Break and Networking with Exhibitors

12:00 – 1:00 pm  
Working Brunch  
National Institutes of Health - All of Us Research Program

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.  
President-Elect  
National Medical Association  
Los Angeles, California

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.  
Immediate Past President  
National Medical Association  
Washington, District of Columbia
1:00 – 1:15 pm  |  Next Steps
Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D.
President
National Medical Association
Chicago, Illinois

1:30 – 5:00 pm  |  Interim House of Delegates Meeting

5:15 – 7:00 pm  |  Legislative Toolkit for Capitol Hill Visits
Tammy Boyd, J.D., M.P.H.
Managing Partner
TKB Global Strategies, LLC
Washington, District of Columbia
Melissa Bishop Murphy, J.D., M.B.A.
Senior Director
Pfizer, Inc.
Michael Ybarra, M.D.
Vice President
Medical Affairs and Strategic Alliances
PhRMA
Washington, District of Columbia
Jacqueline Ayers, J.D.
Vice President
Government Relations & Public Policy
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Washington, District of Columbia
Kenneth Zinn
Public Policy Director
National Nurses United
Silver Spring, Maryland

Monday, April 1st - Capitol Hill Day

7:30 – 8:30 am  |  Continental Breakfast

8:45 am  |  Departure for Capitol Hill

9:30 – 12:00 pm  |  Congressional Visits and Hearings

12:00 – 12:30 pm  |  Photo Session – U.S. Capitol Steps

1:00 – 2:30 pm  |  Working Lunch: Capitol Hill Day Recap
Biographies

Jacqueline Ayers, J.D.

Jacqueline has over a decade of federal policy and advocacy experience working on an array of legislative issues, including women’s issues, health care access and equity, higher education, voting rights and civil rights. At PPFA she is responsible for leading the strategic direction of the organization’s federal policy priorities on Capitol Hill, implementing effective issue campaigns, guiding coalition efforts and affiliate engagement on a broad range of reproductive health and rights issues. She began her career as the Associate Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana and as a legislative Women’s Research and Education Institute (WREI) Fellow in the office of Congressman Robert C. Scott of Virginia. In 2016, Jacqueline also completed the first Rockwood Fellowship for Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice. A proud native of Louisville, Kentucky, she is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis, Indiana and licensed to practice law in the state of Indiana.

Tammy Boyd, J.D., M.P.H.

Tammy Boyd is the Director of Health Policy for the Black Women’s Health Imperative. Boyd is an established healthcare executive with proven expertise in government relations, political compliance, and advocacy. She has extensive experience in creating and executing federal legislative policy strategy and facilitating outreach to members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Boyd most recently served as Managing Partner, for TKB Global Strategies, LLC/Watts Partners, where she successfully executed government affairs strategies through engagement of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and federal agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS), and Department of Veteran Affairs.

Along with her past roles with DaVita, Inc., and Johnson and Johnson, Boyd also served as Legislative Director for Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) where she exercised oversight over legislative activities within the office, including tax, trade, health care (Medicare, Medicaid, and Graduate Medical Education), financial services, judiciary and energy.

Boyd is a member of the American, National, and Mississippi Bar Associations and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Boyd has been featured in USA Today (04/17); Clarion Ledger (04/17); Huffington Post (03/17); and Essence Magazine (02/2017), during inaugural events for the Smithsonian National African American History & Culture Museum.

Boyd received a M.P.H. degree from Emory University School of Public Health and a Juris Doctorate degree from American University, Washington College Of Law.

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.

Dr. Brooks received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Morehouse College and his M.D. degree from Howard University College of Medicine and completed a residency in Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital-Oakland. He practiced in the underserved communities of North Oakland and Richmond for four years before accepting a pediatric position at the Watts Health Care Corporation where he is presently Associate Medical Director and Chief of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, and Chairman of the Quality Management Committee. Dr. Brooks is Medical Director of the Jordan High School-Based Health Clinic; Chairman of the Immunize LA Families Coalition leading the group for 10 years, and Board member of the California Immunization Coalition. He served on the Executive Committee of Centinela Hospital where he was Chairman of their Peer Review Committee. He serves on the Physician Quality Committee for LA Care, and also a medical director/consultant. Dr. Brooks is past-president of the Golden State (CA) Medical Association and past president of the Miller-Lawrence Medical and Dental Society, both components of the National Medical Association of which he is the National Secretary. Additionally, he is Assistant Clinical Professor, Western University of Health Sciences as well as a member of many civic organizations.
Haywood L. Brown, M.D.

Dr. Haywood L. Brown is F. Bayard Carter Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, NC. He was Professor and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Duke University Medical Center from 2002 to June 2016. He received his undergraduate degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, NC and his Medical Degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. He completed his residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences in Knoxville, TN, followed by subspecialty fellowship training in Maternal and Fetal Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine/Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Brown has participated in ACOG activities in District IV, V and VII over his 30-year career in Obstetrics and Gynecology. This includes being the Scientific Program Chair and General Chair (2001–2002) for the Annual Clinical Meeting. He chaired the steering committee for the District of Columbia National Institutes of Health Initiative on Infant Mortality Reduction, the Perinatal and Patient Safety Health Disparities Collaborative for HRSA and serves as the Chief Evaluator for Indianapolis Healthy Start. Dr. Brown is especially committed to the care of women at high risk for adverse pregnancy outcome, particularly those disadvantaged.

Dr. Brown has served as Chair of CREOG and has been on the Board of Directors for the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine and is past President of the Society. He is past President of the American Gynecological Obstetrical Society (AGOS) and Chair of the Ob-Gyn Section of the National Medical Association. He also served as a Director of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Brown is past president of the North Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society and is immediate Past District IV Chair of ACOG.

Doris Browne, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Doris Browne is President and CEO of Browne and Associates, Inc. (BAI), a certified service disabled veteran and woman owned health consulting company, which manages diversified health programs addressing the health status and disparities of national and international populations. BAI’s mission is to provide education, training, disease prevention consultation and a comprehensive worksite wellness program to its clientele. Programs are primarily focused in the areas of breast and prostate cancers, women’s health, other non-communicable diseases, disaster management, and HIV/AIDS with an emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention and positive health outcomes.

Throughout her career, Dr. Browne has been dedicated to eliminating health disparities, focusing on prevention, health education, and wellness programs. Her public health background includes health education programs on substance abuse, sex education, and community health education programs. Her work has transcended U.S. borders, and she has worked on projects focusing on breast cancer and HIV/AIDS, and participated in an international disaster preparedness and humanitarian assistance program for 17 West African Nations following the Ebola epidemic. The program focused on facilitation/instructions for National Emergency Operations Center, Integrated One-Health Surveillance & Early Warning Scenarios.

She retired from the National Cancer Institute where she managed the breast cancer portfolio for the Breast and Gynecologic Cancer Research Group in the Division of Cancer Prevention and is the recipient of a National Institutes of Health Merit Award (2010). Dr. Browne is also a retired Colonel of the US Army Medical Corps and former Director for Medical Research and Development for the US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, where she was responsible for the biomedical research programs for the Army and the Department of Defense (DoD). Colonel Browne also served as the Director for Prevention and Standards for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs with responsibility for analysis, review, and formulation of policies, guidelines and programs on women’s health issues, oversight for health promotion and disease prevention, and TRICARE preventive benefits. She was also Chairperson for the DoD Breast Cancer Prevention, Education, and Diagnosis Initiatives, and represented the DoD on the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. Beyond these great military accomplishments, she held various senior level positions of responsibility including establishing the disaster medical management emergency support team for radiation accidents/incidents; writing a text book on management of radiation casualties; participating on several NATO Panels and Working Groups; and serving as the Senior Medical Consultant for the U.S. Delegation Subgroup on Accident Response to U.S.-Russian Safety, Security, and Dismantlement Working Group and DoD Partnership for Peace program.

Dr. Browne was a Woodrow Wilson Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars where her research focused on estrogen receptor negative breast cancer health disparities. Her experiences also include training and technical assistance in clinical trials, chronic disease management, and HIV/AIDS. She has worked extensively with the National Medical Association’s (NMA) Project I.M.P.A.C.T. (Increase Minority Participation and Awareness of Clinical
Trials), a coordinated effort to raise awareness and educate physicians and consumers about research, and to develop physicians as effective clinical investigators and facilitators of research in minority communities. Dr. Browne graduated from Tougaloo College (BS), University of California at Los Angeles (M.P.H.), and Georgetown University (M.D.) and completed an internship, residency, and fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church and the chair of its Health Ministry. Dr. Browne is a member of numerous professional organizations and recipient of many awards. She is the mother of one daughter - Nicole, son-in-law - Kevin, and granddaughter - Payton Arianna.

Lakesha Butler, PharmD, BCPS

Dr. Lakesha Butler is a clinical professor of pharmacy practice at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She is also the current President of the National Pharmaceutical Association whose mission is to serve the underserved and represent the ideals of minority pharmacists. Additionally, she is the Chair of the American Association Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Pharmacy Practice Section, the largest section in AACP with over 2000 pharmacy faculty members and she holds a number of other leadership roles within her profession, institution and community. Dr. Butler earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Mercer University College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, GA and completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of Illinois - Chicago. Dr. Butler is a strong advocate for increasing cultural competency among healthcare professionals, improving diversity and inclusion in and outside of the classroom, decreasing health disparities and developing leaders. Her research interests include cultural competency, health literacy, decreasing health disparities among minorities and underserved populations, in addition to incorporating innovative and active learning strategies in the classroom. She is the co-author of the pharmacy textbook, Patient Communication for Pharmacy, and numerous other peer-reviewed articles. Additionally, she is a sought-after speaker providing many invited podium presentations both regionally and nationally. She has received numerous awards including Champion for Diversity, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society as a faculty, SIU Phenomenal Woman, Community Leadership Award for Faculty, SIUE Teaching Distinction Award, and the Urban League Young Professionals Distinguished Award in Education and Youth Empowerment to name a few.

Virginia A. Caine, M.D.

Virginia A. Caine, M.D. is an Associate Professor of Medicine for the Infectious Disease Division of the Indiana University School of Medicine. She is the Director of the Marion County Public Health Department. She currently serves as the National Medical Association’s Chair of Infectious Diseases Session and Co-Chair of the HIV/AIDS Session.

Dr. Caine is a specialist in Infectious Diseases, with a national reputation for her work in AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. She has served as an Expert Panel Member for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in drafting their treatment guidelines for sexually transmitted diseases and served as an advisor to the National Institute of Health on AIDS clinical treatment guidelines. She is a board member for the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Editorial Board. She received the National Medical Association’s “2010 Practitioner of the Year” Award.

Dr. Caine earned her medical degree at New Your Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at the University of Cincinnati. She received her Infectious Disease training at the University of Washington in Seattle. She has authored over 20 clinical research papers and written chapters in three books.

Donald Calloway Jr., J.D.

Donald Calloway is CEO and founder of Pine Street Strategies, where he leads the firm’s tax, general congressional advocacy, and media production practices. Don guides the firm’s overall strategic direction while advising corporate, non-profit and political clients on congressional, regulatory, and political climates. Before Pine Street, Don led federal regulatory and congressional affairs at Anheuser-Busch in Washington D.C., having joined the A-B federal group after leading the company’s agenda throughout 10 states. Prior to joining Anheuser Busch, Don was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, while he was also a senior associate in the business litigation practice of Thompson Coburn LLP At TC he was responsible for leading defense verdicts in federal and state matters for multiple corporate clients in products liability, medical malpractice, and commercial disputes. Don is a frequent contributor to news and public affairs programs on national networks including MSNBC, Fox News, and SIRIUS XM Radio.
Joia Crear-Perry, M.D.

Dr. Crear-Perry is the Founder and President of the National Birth Equity Collaborative. Most recently, she addressed the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to urge a human rights framework to improve maternal mortality. Previously, she served as the Executive Director of the Birthing Project, Director of Women’s and Children’s Services at Jefferson Community Healthcare Center and as the Director of Clinical Services for the City of New Orleans Health Department where she was responsible for four facilities that provided health care for the homeless, pediatric, WIC, and gynecologic services within the New Orleans clinical service area. Dr. Crear-Perry continues to work to improve access and availability of affordable health care to New Orleans’ citizens post the Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005.

After receiving her bachelor’s trainings at Princeton University and Xavier University, Dr. Crear-Perry completed her medical degree at Louisiana State University and her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Tulane University’s School of Medicine. She was also recognized as a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

A proud recipient of the Congressional Black Caucus Healthcare Hero’s award, and the Maternal Health Task Force Maternal Health Visionary Award, Dr. Crear-Perry currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Community Catalyst, and the New Orleans African American Museum. She is married to Dr. Andre Perry and has three children: Jade 25, Carlos 21, and Robeson 7.

Daniel E. Dawes, J.D.

Daniel E. Dawes, J.D., is a nationally recognized leader in the movement to advance health equity among under-resourced, vulnerable and marginalized communities. An attorney, scholar and health policy expert, Dawes brings a forward-thinking, inclusive and multidisciplinary approach to the law and public policy, and has been at the forefront of recent major federal health policy negotiations in the United States. Among his many achievements, he was an instrumental figure in shaping the Mental Health Parity Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, and the Affordable Care Act ("ObamaCare").

Dawes is the Executive Director of Health Policy at Morehouse School of Medicine, Associate Professor in the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine, Senior Advisor and General Counsel to the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine and an Associate Professor of complex health systems at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. In addition, he is the co-founder of the Health Equity Leadership & Exchange Network (HELEN), which is a nationwide network of over 1500 governmental and non-governmental leaders and scholars focused on bolstering leadership and the exchange of research, information, and solutions relative to the advancement of evidence-based health equity-focused policies and programs.

A published expert on health reform, health equity, and the social determinants of health, Dawes is the author of the groundbreaking book, 150 Years of Obamacare, published by Johns Hopkins University Press, which has received critical acclaim and endorsements from a bipartisan group of national leaders. He is currently the editor of the Johns Hopkins University Press special book series, Health Equity in America, and the author of a forthcoming book, The Political Determinants of Health, which will also be published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Dawes has served as an Attorney & Manager of Federal Affairs and Grassroots Network for Premier healthcare alliance and Senior Legislative and Federal Affairs Officer at the American Psychological Association (APA). Prior to working for the APA, he worked on the United States Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee under the leadership of Senator Edward M. Kennedy where he advised the Senator and members of the committee on an array of issues related to health care, public health, employment, education, and disability law and policy. Prior to his work with the Senate HELP Committee, Dawes received the prestigious Louis Stokes Health Policy Fellowship and worked for the CBC Health Braintrust under the leadership of Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen, M.D. on legislative efforts related to health system transformation, health disparities, disability, and emergency preparedness/bioterrorism.

Dawes is an elected fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and serves on several boards, commissions, and councils focused on improving health outcomes and elevating health equity in the United States, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Federal Advisory Committee on Health Disparities, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s National Advisory Committee, Association of American Medical Colleges Health Equity Advisory Board, the National League of Cities National Advisory Board, the National Urban League’s Advisory Panel, The White House National HIV/AIDS Strategy Committee, the Better Medicare Alliance’s Council of Scholars, the Aetna Foundation’s Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge Advisory Council, National Health IT Collaborative for the Underserved National Advisory
Richelle Webb Dixon, MHSA

Richelle Webb Dixon currently serves as System Vice President for Operations Integration with Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), based in Englewood, Colorado. In this position, Richelle assists with developing the operations model for the new ministry, CommonSpirit Health which will be formed from the merger of CHI and Dignity Health in January 2019. In addition, Richelle currently serves as President of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE), the premier professional organization for African American healthcare executives.

Under her leadership, NAHSE is strategically focused on advocacy, innovation and organizational sustainability. In 2018, Richelle spearheaded the year long celebration of NAHSE’s 50th Anniversary. Richelle is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and serves on numerous boards including the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity, ACHE-SouthEast Texas Chapter, San Jose Clinic (Houston, TX), and is the Lead Judge on the Panel of Judges for Quality Texas—a foundation that assists organizations with improving performance based upon the Baldrige criteria. Professionally, Richelle has devoted her career to ensuring that all individuals, especially minorities have access to affordable, quality healthcare. She has more than twenty years of executive experience and believes in mentoring the next generation of executive leaders.

Richelle received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and a Masters in Health Services Administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is married to Tyrone Dixon and together they have a beautiful daughter. Richelle enjoys volunteering, traveling and spending time with her family and friends. In 2017, Richelle was awarded the ACHE-SouthEast Texas Regent’s Award and was inducted into the University of Michigan Track & Field Hall of Fame.

Robert (Tony) Dixon

Robert Anthony Dixon, aka Tony, began his law enforcement career as a Criminal Investigator with the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office (DOL) of Labor Management Standards Administration. He was recruited by and transferred to DOL’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) as a Special Agent, where he conducted hundreds of investigations and rose to the rank of Senior Special Agent. He was soon promoted to the Headquarters role of Deputy Director and spearheaded numerous OIG investigative changes resulting in productive OIG and DOL policy reforms. After holding various managerial positions, he was promoted to OIG Director of Investigations and was the first and only African American to hold the position. He is the recipient of numerous recognitions, among them the Secretary of Labor’s Exceptional Service Impact, Exceptional Achievement, and Distinguished Career Service awards and the OIG Academy’s William R. Barton award. Tony retired from the federal government in 2016, but not from his commitment to law enforcement and community service. He is an active member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and currently serves as President of its Washington Metropolitan Chapter. In this role he continues his commitment to service by working to ensure that NOBLE lives up to its motto of “justice by action” while serving as a relevant and constructive voice in significant law enforcement discussions.
Roselyn E. Epps, M.D.

Roselyn E. Epps, M.D., FAAP, FAAD is a pediatrician and dermatologist at the US Food and Drug Administration. For over 20 years, Dr. Epps was engaged in pediatric dermatology education and the clinical practice of dermatology. Dr. Epps was in private practice of Dermatology in Silver Spring, M.D. She is Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health and in the Department of Dermatology at Howard University College of Medicine, and Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and of Dermatology at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Dr. Epps received her B.S., Cum Laude, from Brown University, Providence RI and her M.D., with honors, from Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, DC. During her junior year of medical school, she was an inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. After graduation, she completed her Pediatric Residency at Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, DC. Following that, she completed her Dermatology Residency, which included adult and children’s dermatology, at The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN. Dr. Epps is certified by three medical specialty Boards. She has been certified and recertified by both the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Dermatology, and is certified by the subspecialty Board in Pediatric Dermatology. Dr. Epps is a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners. She is licensed to practice medicine in Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and Florida.

From 1997 until 2011, Dr. Epps served as Chief of the Dermatology Division, Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, DC. In addition to teaching medical students and pediatric and dermatology residents from the area medical institutions, Dr. Epps conducted institutional and practice based research. Because of her unique training and qualifications, she was invited to be a research assistant and grant reviewer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and invited to give advice to Federal regulatory bodies. She has served as a member of the Advisory Committee on Dermatologic and Ophthalmic Drugs for the FDA, and participates as an invited expert in the Best Pharmaceuticals for Children Act meetings.

Dr. Epps has been requested to develop dermatology questions for the American Board of Pediatrics. She has authored scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals. She is the author of chapter, Diseases of Black Skin, published in Dermatology, 2nd Edition (Springer Press). She is co-editor of The Complete Family Health Book (St. Martin’s Press), and authored its chapter on dermatology, that addresses these conditions in children and adults. Dr. Epps serves as a manuscript reviewer for four professional journals. She has also made scientific presentations at local and national dermatology and pediatric conferences.

Recognized as an authoritative source, Dr. Epps has been interviewed by the print, radio, and television media. Washingtonian magazine, Washingtonian Mom, and NorthernVirginia Magazine listed her as one of their Top Doctors. She was invited to attend the 2002 Leadership Conference of the American Academy of Dermatology, and the Women of Color as Leaders in Public Health and Health Policy in 2003, sponsored by the Harvard Medical School Office for Diversity and Community Partnership.

Active in professional organizations, Dr. Epps is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She was president of the Washington DC Dermatological Society. Dr. Epps is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, the American Dermatological Association, the Society for Pediatric Dermatology, the National Medical Association, the American Medical Association, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, and Washington DC Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Epps is currently president of the Medical Society and Alliance Foundation, Inc. (MSAF), in Washington, DC. The purpose of the foundation is to promote the betterment of public health in Washington, DC. She also serves as president of American Medical Women’s Association local chapter, Branch 1, in the Washington DC area.

Gabriel Felix

Gabriel Felix is a 4th year medical student at Howard University College of Medicine. He is originally from Rockland County, New York and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Binghamton University in upstate New York. After obtaining his degree, he worked at Kessler Foundation in West Orange, New Jersey in the Traumatic Brain Injury Research Department. While there he worked on several clinical trials and participated in the organization’s community outreach programs while developing his interests in advocacy for underserved populations. His work cultivated interests in health disparities, mental health, disability research, and leadership development.

In addition to serving as the National President, he has active leadership roles at his medical school campus. He currently serves as the vice-chair for the Council on Honor, Professionalism, and Ethics and is a council member on the Student Grievance Committee. He is also involved with the SNMA at a chapter and regional level. Outside of medical school and SNMA, Gabriel volunteers as a vocalist at his local church and enjoys running, yoga, and kick-boxing.
**Sandra L. Gadson, M.D.**

A practicing Nephrologist in Gary, Indiana, is a past president of the National Medical Association. Dr. Gadson completed her term as the 106th President in August of 2006. Her career in medicine reflects years of distinguished service at the local, state, and national level to eliminate healthcare disparities and increase parity in medicine, especially in the area of kidney disease.

Dr. Gadson is Co-Chair of the Commission to End Health Care Disparities, an organization comprised of clinicians, public health experts, and researchers representing 58 medical specialties and affiliated organizations. She also is the founding chair of the National Medical Association’s Pay for Performance Task Force which is dedicated to ensuring that the quality movement does not worsen health disparities. Dr. Gadson founded the first free-standing dialysis center in Northern Indiana and was the first provider of dialysis services in the City of Gary where she is Co-Medical Director of the Northwest Indiana Dialysis Center.

Her past experiences include positions as Vice President for Diagnostics and Therapeutic Services at the Methodist Hospitals, Inc. in Gary and Merrillville, Indiana; Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at Indiana University, Northwest Campus; and a faculty appointment in Family Practice. At the Methodist Hospital, Dr. Gadson chaired the Diagnostic and Therapeutics Committee, the Medical Council, and in 1994 became president of the medical staff, the first woman ever elected to that position in the history of the hospital. She has authored peer-reviewed articles for the American Journal of Nephrology and other medical publications.

Dr. Gadson has a long and distinguished record of service with the National Medical Association. Before ascending to the presidency, she served as president of the Northwest Indiana Chapter; Hoosier State President; Regional Chair of the NMA; a Trustee from 1994–2002; and Secretary of the Board for two terms. In 1996, the Northwest Indiana Chapter named Dr. Gadson “Physician of the Year.” In 2006, Ebony listed her as one of the 100 most influential African Americans in America.

She earned an undergraduate degree from Hampton University, and her medical degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago.

Dr. Gadson holds memberships in several organizations, including the American Journal of Nephrology, American Society of Nephrology, International Society of Nephrology, Lake County Medical Society, Indiana State Medical Association, and American Medical Association. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and a Life Member of the National Council of Negro Women and NAACP.

**Gloria B. Goodwin, MSW**

Gloria Baker Goodwin, MSW is the 80th President of the Auxiliary to the National Medical Association, Inc. (ANMA) Her platform for 2018–2019 is, “Continuing the Fight of Opioid Addiction Through Prevention, Education, and Behavioral Therapies in the African-American Communities.” She is very pleased to be a member of the ANMA, because it is dedicated to providing quality health education, outreach activities, and advocating for improved health and equitable healthcare for African Americans. She is a graduate of Livingstone College with a bachelor’s degree in Sociology, a Master of Social Work from Appalachian State University, and completed advance studies in Psychology and Social Work from the University of Munich.

Gloria is currently working at Onslow Oncology Practice providing cancer patients with “Hope”.

As a two-time cancer survivor herself, Gloria set up a “LOOK GOOD FEEL GOOD PROGRAM” that teaches cancer patients that this disease may rob one of their energy, appetite and strength but doesn’t have to take away their self-confidence. She also established a Nutritional Assistance Program to provide support for both chemotherapy and radiation patients. She is a Team Captain with Relay for Life raising over a hundred thousand dollars toward cancer research.

As the president of the ANMA she believes that a person’s access to quality healthcare and the status of a person’s life circumstances also impacts his or her health and wellbeing.

**J. Nadine Gracia, M.D., MSCE**

Dr. J. Nadine Gracia is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Trust for America’s Health (TFAH), a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public health policy, research, and advocacy organization. Prior to joining TFAH, Dr. Gracia served in the Obama Administration as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In that capacity, she directed departmental policies and programs to end health disparities and advance health equity. She provided executive leadership on administration priorities including the Affordable Care Act and My Brother’s Keeper. She also led the
Millicent Gorham, Ph.D. (Hon), M.B.A.

Millicent Gorham is the Executive Director of the National Black Nurses Association, Inc., which represents 150,000 African American nurses in the United States. Millicent was appointed to that position in October 1995. She handles all administrative, fund development, advocacy, communications, marketing and conference planning, with a staff of five and a budget of $1.4 million.

Millicent has more than 35 years of government relations experience. For four years she worked as the health legislative assistant to U.S. Representative Louis Stokes, (D-OH). She was the coordinator of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust and served on the steering committee of the CBC Health Brain Trust for 18 years. She served as the assistant director of government relations for the American Optometric Association for eight years. And, for four years, Millicent worked as the director of government relations for the National Rural Health Association.

In 2016, Millicent was appointed to the Pfizer, Inc. Multicultural Advisory Board and the Patient Advocacy Committee of Astellas Pharmaceutical Company. In 2017, she was appointed to the Board of Directors of Nurse.com; the Board of Directors of the United Medical Center in Washington, DC; and, to the Advisory Council of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America. She was elected to the National Board of the Association of Black Cardiologists. From March 2013 to March 2015, she served on the Diversity Advisory Board for MGM Resorts International. Millicent served two three year terms on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners, 2006–2012.

In 2011, Millicent was awarded an honorary degree from Simmons College, her alma mater and became an honorary fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She received an M.B.A. from Howard University, with a concentration in health services.

Martin Hamlette, J.D., MHA

Martin Hamlette, J.D., MHA, is the Executive Director of the National Medical Association (NMA).

A seasoned healthcare administrator, Mr. Hamlette is experienced in both the public and private sectors, including health law and policy, current healthcare reform issues, the impact of health reform on medically diverse populations and the professionals who treat them. In 2007, he was named chief health policy advisor within the Washington, DC Executive Office of the Mayor, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs, by Mayor Adrian M. Fenty. As policy and legislative strategist, he guided the mayor and agency directors within the District’s healthcare cluster, authored policy positions, drafted legislation and testified at public hearings. Mr. Hamlette received a letter of commendation from the mayor for his efforts.

Subsequently, Mr. Hamlette served in private practice as counsel and administrator to medical providers, state government and a professional medical association on issues arising from and related to the Affordable Care Act.

A resident of Washington, DC for 20 years, Mr. Hamlette has been a leader in the healthcare community having served on the Board of Directors for the American College of Healthcare Executives (National Capital Chapter) and as an adjunct professor of health law and management at Marymount University. He has given numerous talks, interviews and was highlighted by Dr. Sanjay Gupta’s public health and policy column in MedPage Today magazine.

Mr. Hamlette earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Howard University. He earned a Juris doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law where he also served as a county court judicial clerk, moot court coach and was Finalist in the Hon. Walter H. Rice Moot Court Competition. He has a master of health administration degree, with a concentration in finance, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health. He has been licensed to practice law for nearly 15 years in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and New Jersey.

He is a member of Alfred Street Baptist Church (Alexandria, Va.), the National Bar Association, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., 100 Black Men of America and a 32nd degree Prince Hall Mason. He is an avid golfer and long distance runner.
Derrick A. Humphries, Esq.

Derrick A. Humphries is the founding partner of the law office of Humphries & Partners, PLLC, a diverse global, legal services network based in Washington, DC. His attitude, core values, years of experience, knowledge, ability to collaborate, and team building skills empower him to serve as the learned General Counsel and trusted advisor to CEOs and Board Leaders of corporations, associations, public and private individuals. He is considered a legal “expert” in the legal aspects of organizational development including governance and mission. Mr. Humphries provides access to select legal talent through the availability and collaborative efforts of the attorneys and other professions who form the office’s Counsels’ Council.

Mr. Humphries successfully coordinated the bi-partisan and inclusive resolution of a plethora of legal, public policy, media and other problems which elevated the national visibility and impact of the Congressional Black Caucus during his tenure as Legal Counsel and Media Director for the Caucus; convened and orchestrated a Summit that attracted nearly 10,000 leaders from diverse fields including law, health, economics, business owners, firefighters and telecommunications technology as the National Director and General Counsel for the Black Congress on Health, Law and Economics Foundation.

He was a major architect of the diverse national “Buckle Up” (seatbelts) partnership which included the US Department of Transportation, General Motors, Meharry Medical College, the National Football League Players Association, and the Congressional Black Caucus, among others. This health and safety joint venture changed the attitude of America’s diverse populations and increased the nation’s African American seat belt use from 51% to an unprecedented 77%, and the nation’s overall seat belt use from 73% to 75% in a three (3) year period.

In addition to his legal expertise in “What remarkable associations do that others don’t”, Mr. Humphries is sought after for public speaking engagements on a number of topics including: How to Build Your Association into a Multi-Million Dollar Powerhouse with Influence in Influential Circles; as a trainer on various subjects including critical thinking skills and leadership; as a guest lecturer at universities; and to serve on various boards both locally and nationally. He is a life member of the University of Michigan’s Letterman’s Club (football) and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Mr. Humphries demonstrates his compassion for his neighbors and others through his active church involvement and commitments to multicultural dialogue.

Theopia Jackson, Ph.D.

Theopia Jackson, Ph.D. received her master’s degree in clinical psychology from Howard University, Washington DC and doctorate from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, California. She is currently serving as the Program Director for the Department of Humanistic & Clinical Psychology; previous leadership positions at Saybrook include Academic Advisor, Assistant Academic Dean/Dean of Students, and Assistant Psychology Chair. Dr. Jackson is a licensed clinical psychologist practicing at UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland in the Healthy Hearts program; formerly in the Department of Psychiatry and Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center and a small private practice. In addition, she is the Co-Chair of the Education & Training committee for the Association of Black Psychologists, Inc. (ABPs) and the president for the Bay Area chapter. Her other professional affiliations include membership in the Association of Family Therapists of Northern California (co-founder of the Cultural Accountability Committee), American Psychological Association (Division 32 Society for Humanistic Psychology: Member-at-Large), California Psychological Association (Division VII Diversity and Social Justice: Chair-Elect), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Additionally, she serves on the medical advisory council for Baykids Studios and for the Sickle Cell Community Advisory Council (SCCAC). Dr. Jackson has a long history of providing child, adolescent, and family therapy services, specializing in serving populations coping with chronic illness and complex trauma. She is an accomplished scholar-practitioner and educator who provides cultural competency workshops/seminars/consultation. She has been invited to participate on several national and local California initiatives intended to establish integrative health care that is culturally-attuned and linguistically responsive. Dr. Jackson is a life-learner who believes that professional knowledge both shapes and is shaped by community wisdom. She and her husband of 30+ years are the proud parents of three children, her best teachers.

Huberta Jackson-Lowman, Ph.D.

Huberta Jackson-Lowman is a Full Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida, and a past Department Chair. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses
in FAMU’s Department of Psychology, the only Psychology Department in the US that claims an Afrikan-centered thrust. She is the editor of the anthology, Afrikan American Women: Living at the Crossroads of Race, Gender, Class and Culture (2014.) Currently, she serves as the President of the National Association of Black Psychologists (ABPsi), which is composed of psychologists of Afrikan ancestry in the United States and around the world. She is certified through the Association of Black Psychologists as a diplomate and fellow in Afrikan-centered psychology.

Dr. Jackson-Lowman demonstrates an ongoing commitment to the health and well-being of Black families and youth. Prior to relocating to Tallahassee, FL, she resided in Pittsburgh, PA. Her work experiences there include serving as the Director of the Mayor’s Commission on Families, an initiative designed to address the high black infant mortality rate in Pittsburgh, and as co-director of the Institute for Black Families which implemented primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention programs for families. She was also a co-founder of the Sankofa Institute of Pittsburgh, a grassroots Rites of Passage initiative for adolescents; and an active member of the Advocates for African American Students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). The Advocates engaged in research, community educational, organizational, and advocacy strategies that challenged the Pittsburgh School Board’s failure to educate Black children. In 1992, along with her husband and several other activists in the Pittsburgh community, the Advocates filed a legal complaint with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission against the PPS for its dismal failure to educate Black children and youth. As a result of the complaint, the Pittsburgh Board of Education agreed to set up an Equity Commission charged with monitoring the progress and undertaking efforts to enhance the educational outcomes of Afrikan American students.

A current project involves the implementation of Community Healing Days in Tallahassee. Community Healing DaysSM, developed by the Community Healing Network (CHN), is a national initiative designed to place healing on the agenda of people of Afrikan ancestry. It is a three-day event, typically held during the third weekend of October, which focuses on raising consciousness about the impact of the myth of black inferiority and the lie of white superiority on the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the Black community, and which also strives to promote the truth about people of Afrikan ancestry. The Tallahassee Community Healing Coalition will hold its seventh annual Community Healing DaysSM in October 2018. In addition to these activities, Dr. Jackson-Lowman served as a Commissioner on the Tallahassee/ Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls from 2013–15.

In 2008, The Association of Black Psychologists recognized Dr. Jackson-Lowman for her contributions to research and scholarship within ABPSI. One area of focus of her research examines the effects of cultural identity and cultural misorientation on Black women’s attitudes, behaviors, mental health, and relationships. She has developed measures examining the internalization of myths of Black womanhood—The Engendered Racial Myths Scale (ERMS)—and relationships between Black women—Black Women’s Relationship Scale (BWRS). She has also published articles examining use of proverbs to promote cultural socialization. An emerging area of research in which she has also published promotes the use of cultural policy to empower troubled neighborhoods.

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Dr. Jackson-Lowman has also been instrumental in training trainers to implement Emotional Emancipation CirclesSM (EECs) in the greater Tallahassee community. EECs are self-help groups developed by CHN in collaboration with ABPs. They are designed to assist the Black community in its recovery from the myth of black inferiority and lie of white superiority, and to foster the reclamation of our cultural values and ways of functioning. In the coming year, she plans to initiate EECs in Tallahassee community.

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Martin S. Karpeh, Jr., M.D.

Martin S. Karpeh, Jr., M.D., is the Chairman/Surgeon in Chief of the Department of Surgery at HackensackUMC. Dr. Karpeh was previously the Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Beth Israel; the Associate Director of Continuum Cancer Centers of New York; and the Director of Surgical Oncology at the Continuum Cancer Centers of New York.

Dr. Karpeh’s medical specialty is Surgical Oncology, with specializations/clinical interests in esophageal cancer, gastric cancers, pancreatic/biliary malignancies, soft tissue sarcoma and melanoma. He also has extensive experience with benign foregut surgery.

Dr. Karpeh is board certified by the American Board of Surgery. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine, Hershey, Pennsylvania, and completed his general
surgery residency training at the Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He then went on to complete a fellowship in Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, New York.

Dr. Karpeh is frequently named to the list of top doctors, including listed among New York Magazine’s “Best Doctors” in June 2011, and most recently appeared in the Castle Connolly 2011 edition of “Top Doctors: New York Metro Area,” “America’s Top Doctors” and “America’s Top Doctors for Cancer.”

Mia R. Keeys, M.A.

Mia R. Keeys serves as the Health Policy Advisor to Congresswoman Robin Kelly (D-IL), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. Mia is originally from Philadelphia, PA, but also calls Jakarta, Indonesia and Johannesburg, South Africa “home.” Through her efforts promoting health equity nationwide and internationally, Mia works with her colleagues developing health, economic, and education policies and programs that illuminate and address critical issues of historically underserved populations. Mia bases her health equity philosophy on understanding “upstream” issues—access, affordability, and socially determining factors—which affect communities’ abilities to make healthy choices across their lives. Mia especially frames her research and work around youth of color and their ability to manifest their life vision, a philosophy which she illustrates in her 2015 TEDx talk, “A Racial Imagination Quotient.”

The National Minority Quality Forum recognizes Mia as a 40 Under 40 Leader in Minority Health. The National Academy of Medicine features Mia’s work in their national project and exhibit, “Visualizing Health Equity”. Previously, Mia has been a Kaiser Family Foundation Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholar; a Fellow for the City of Philadelphia in the Deputy Mayor’s Office for Health and Opportunity; an HIV/AIDS researcher in South Africa; and a U.S. Fulbright Fellow to Indonesia, where she lived and worked in various health administrative and research capacities for three years, while simultaneously learning the national language, Bahasa Indonesian. She has also held summer associate appointments with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health.

Mia holds Bachelor of Arts degrees in English and Psychology from Cheyney University, and a Master of Arts degree in Medical Sociology from Vanderbilt University, where she was also a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow through Meharry Medical College. Mia is also a creative non-fiction writer, with training from the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Yolanda Lawson M.D.

Yolanda Lawson M.D., Board Certified OB/GYN and Associate Attending at Baylor University Medical Center, has a genuine passion for the physical, emotional and overall health of women. She dedicates her energy and time to maintaining the excellence of which MadeWell Obstetrics and Gynecology was built upon: Providing superior, organic healthcare with diplomacy, concern and respect.

She earned her M.D. at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She performed her internship at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia and completed her residency at St. John Hospital & Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Lawson offers a broadened approach to healthcare likely due to her extensive exposure at several major medical centers.

Dr. Lawson is a member of the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Dallas County Medical Society, sits on a variety of boards and volunteers among many other community activities and organizations. These are all accomplishments that attribute to Dr. Lawson’s commitment and while her studies include the latest of educational, innovative healthcare techniques and technology she knows that women are not textbooks. She continues to expand upon her knowledge while maintaining a spirit of charity with volunteer work.

Michael A. Lenoir, M.D.

Michael Lenoir, M.D. is at present, an allergist in the East Bay Area, board certified in both a Fellow of both the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He is a lifelong member of the American College of Allergy and served on the Board the American Association of Certified Allergist. Dr. Lenoir is Past President of the National Medical Association, and currently serves as the chair of the Allergy and Asthma Section. He has practiced allergy full time in San Francisco and Oakland since 1977. Dr. Lenoir has served as the chairperson of the Underserved Committee of the American Academy of
Allergy and as the Past President of the Northern California Allergy Association.

For 20 years he was the Director of Allergy Services at San Francisco General Hospital. He has a special interest in asthma in the African American and high-risk communities and genetic polymorphisms. Dr. Lenoir served as the Chair of the Underserved Committee of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He also served as the President of the Northern California Allergy Association.

From 1981 to 1993, Dr. Lenoir served as the medical editor for KCBS radio, hosting a 2 hour weekly talk show. Since 1985, he has been the CEO of the Ethnic Health America Network that produced the Telly award-winning Ethnic Health America program, a 30-minute TV health magazine at one time aired in 1400 cities nationwide on MBC Network. Dr. Lenoir is the host and executive producer of the About Health program, a one-hour talk show on Pacifica Radio, KPFA. His popular one minute feature About Health Time currently airs several times per week on KBLX radio in San Francisco. He served as the executive producer of the video Clinical Trials in the African American Community which won top honors from among 1100 entries in the Health Video awards in 2005 and was a finalist in the Community Service Video category, International Health and Video Awards in 2006.

Dr. Lenoir served as the President of the National Association of Physician Broadcasters. In 1994 and 2001, Dr. Lenoir received the Ken Alvord Distinguished Community Service Award from that organization. He was one of 50 physicians, nationwide, chosen to receive the Pfizer Positive Physician Award from the American Medical Association. Additionally, in 1988, he was named the Oakland Citizen of the Year by the Oakland Tribune and named one of America’s leading African American Allergist by Black Enterprise Magazine in the August 2001 and 2008 issues. Since 2000, every year including 2010 Dr. Lenoir has been named as one of the 200 best physicians by San Francisco or by Oakland Magazine.

Dr. Lenoir has been an active member of the National Medical Association for over 30 years. He has served as a Speaker of the House of Delegates of the National Medical Association, Trustee for the National Medical Association (NMA) for 6 years and previously chaired the Pediatric, Community Medicine and Allergy Sections of that organization. In these capacities, he has received the De Haven Hixson Award from the NMA Section on Aerospace and Military Medicine, the Grace James Award from the Pediatric Section and the Floyd Malveaux Award from the Allergy and Asthma Section. In addition Dr. Lenoir has served as the principal investigator on the NMAs Clinical Trials Grant, Project IMPACT, The Immunization Grant and presently its two current asthma grants.

Dr. Lenoir is married to Denise Washington Lenoir. She has a Masters in Nursing and is a family nurse practitioner. He has 4 daughters and 5 grandchildren. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and holds memberships in Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. His hobbies are photography and golf.

**Michael K. Lindsay, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dr. Michael K. Lindsay received his BS degree in chemistry from Morehouse College, M.D. degree from Yale University and M.P.H. in Epidemiology from Emory. He completed his postgraduate training at Boston City Hospital and his fellowship in Maternal Fetal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati and is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal Fetal Medicine.

He is the Chief of the Gynecology and Obstetrics Service at the Grady Healthcare System and is the Luella Klein Professor and Director Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine, office at Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. Lindsay is the past Chairman of the Committee on Ethics of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; the Grady Hospital Ethics Committee; and former section chair of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Section National Medical Association. He is currently the Chair of the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee. He is a member of ACOG, AMA., NMA and the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine.
Dr. Lindsay’s professional career has been dedicated to providing clinical services to underserved women and conducting clinical research on determinants of adverse pregnancy outcome in this population. His interest is perinatal epidemiology with a focus on pregnancy outcome in substance abusers and prevention of maternal and perinatal HIV infection.

**Niva Lubin-Johnson, M.D.**

Dr. Niva Lubin-Johnson has been an advocate of quality healthcare for all and is the 119th President of the National Medical Association. In its 123-year history, she is the third President and first woman to serve as President, Speaker of the House Delegates and Chair of the Board of Trustees.

She was in the last class to finish her Medical Degree in 3 years from Southern Illinois University and completed Internal Medicine at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Lubin-Johnson was in private practice for 29 years and continues to serve on various committees at 2 hospitals on the Southside of Chicago.

Dr. Lubin-Johnson is Vice-Chair of the Women’s Physician Section and has been Chair of the Minority Affairs Section of the American Medical Association. She is a member of the American College of Physicians and Life-member of the Student National Medical Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She believes in the need for wellness and preventive care to prevent physician burnout and is laser-focused on increasing the numbers of African Americans entering and completing medical school and completing residency.

**Mark Mitchell M.D., M.P.H.**

Mark Mitchell M.D., M.P.H., FACPM
Associate Professor of Climate Change, Energy, & Environmental Health Equity at George Mason University’s Center for Climate Change Communications. Dr. Mitchell co-directs their Health and Climate Solutions Hub, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and is State Liaison for the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. He also chairs the National Medical Association’s Council on Medical Legislation and co-chairs the NMA’s Commission on Environmental Health, where he provides environmental health education and advocates on behalf of NMA.

A preventive medicine physician trained in environmental health and health policy, Dr. Mitchell has spent over twenty years working in the public health sector, including as Director of the Hartford, Connecticut Health Department. He spent fifteen years working with environmental justice communities to prevent and reduce environmentally related disease as well as to change policies that are detrimental to environmental health.

Dr. Mitchell was a Principal Investigator on the first ever national physician survey on climate and health. He now works with clinicians in Virginia, Florida, Ohio, and Missouri to help coordinate efforts by physicians and nurses to educate and advocate for reducing the health effects of climate change. He has served on several U.S. EPA and FDA advisory committees and has received a number of awards for his community and environmental health leadership.

Dr. Mitchell earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his Masters of Public Health from The Johns Hopkins University.

**Melissa Bishop Murphy, J.D., M.B.A.**

Senior Director at Pfizer, Inc. Melisa has over eighteen years of health care experience. Sixteen years of public affairs/government relations experience on the state and federal levels. Seasoned leader, experienced government regulator and chief counsel, excellent communicator, managed people and projects with demonstrated success in productivity and performance improvement.

She earned her BA from Stillman College, a J.D. from Georgetown University, and an M.B.A. from University of Georgia.

**Carla F. Ortique, M.D.**

Carla F. Ortique, M.D., is a compassionate physician who has dedicated her medical practice to women’s healthcare issues and the elimination of racial and ethnic healthcare disparities.

Dr. Ortique received her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine where she also completed her residency in family medicine. She began her
medical practice at Rockford, Illinois-based Crusader Clinic, a nonprofit, federally qualified health clinic dedicated to championing the needs of the underserved. After three years as a practicing family physician she completed a second residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Regions Hospital, a University of Minnesota affiliate.

Board certified in family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Ortique is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. She is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a partner of The Womens Specialist of Houston at Texas Children’s Hospital Pavilion for Women.

Dr. Ortique has served as a member of the Texas Collaborative for Health Mothers and Babies (Texas Quality Improvement Network) Executive Committee and serves as co-chair of the Texas State Task Force on Maternal Morbidity and Mortality. She was recently appointed Chair of the Texas State Subcommittee on Maternal Health Disparity and also serves as Co-chair of the Houston Maternal Health Steering Committee on the board of Texas Medical Association Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization committed to connecting the charitable concerns of physicians with the people of Texas.

Dr. Ortique is very active in organized medicine on a state and national level having served in numerous capacities with the National Medical Association including Postgraduate Physician Trustee; Secretary, Vice Speaker and Speaker, House of Delegates; chair, Fiscal and Administrative Affairs Committee; and member of the Judicial Council. She has held numerous leadership positions with the Texas Medical Association most recently chairing the Committee on Women’s Reproductive Health.

She is a former board member with the TMF Health Quality Institute, a nonprofit consulting company focused on improving healthcare and the healthcare system to better the health, well-being and experience of patients and caregivers. In 2012, the organization recognized Dr. Ortique with the Overton Award, which recognizes physicians who have made significant and notable contributions to improving the quality of health care in Texas through support of TMF and its medical peer review and quality improvement activities.

Dr. Ortique is a volunteer for the March of Dimes and Girl Scouts San Jacinto Council. She is a member of The Links Incorporated and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Keenan Austin Reed, M.B.A.

Accomplished leader in Washington politics possessing the unique combination of success in the political and private sectors and an advanced degree in Business Administration. Ms. Reed has proven ability to build and maintain partnerships with stakeholders, businesses, and community leaders. Successfully planned and led political campaigns including political analysis and planning, personnel and administrative oversight, and candidate management.

Cathy Runnels, M.S., CCC-SLP

Cathy Runnels, CEO of Accent on Speech, LLC assists professionals and students in developing effective public speaking skills for greater career impact. With over 20 years industry experience, Ms. Runnels works with on-air journalists, government and corporate personnel as well small businesses, non-profits and agency teams on communicating their company mission for fund-raisers, marketing and customer outreach. Another training component for select clients involves accent / dialect management when Standard American English is a second language.

Her office is located in Chevy Chase, Maryland. She conducts training nationally and internationally offering in person and remote services. She has trained Broadcasters at: CBS, C-SPAN, WTOP, CBN and Pentagon TV among others. Her university teaching/supervising affiliations includes: Medill/Northwestern, George Washington, Howard, Johns Hopkins, Maryland and Syracuse Universities.

Ms. Runnels received the Master’s of Science degree from Syracuse University with undergraduate studies at Chapman University. She became a Fellow of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association in 2014, voted Alumna of the Year at Syracuse University in 2011 and currently Chairs the National Black Association of Speech Language and Hearing (NBASLH).
April D. Ryan

White House Correspondent April Ryan has a unique vantage point as the only black female reporter covering urban issues from the White House—a position she has held since the Clinton era. On behalf of the American Urban Radio Networks, and through her “Fabric of America” news blog, she delivers her readership and listeners (millions of African Americans and close to 300 radio affiliates) a “unique urban and minority perspective in news.” Her position as a White House Correspondent has afforded her unusual insight into the racial sensitivities, issues, and attendant political struggles of our nation’s last presidents.

April can be seen almost daily on television as a political analyst on such programs as Hardball with Chris Matthews, The Situation Room with Wolf Blitzer, The Late Show with Stephen Colbert and Real Time with Bill Maher (among others).

She has been featured in Vogue, Cosmopolitan, Glamour and Elle magazines—to name a few.

April Ryan has served on the board of the prestigious White House Correspondents Association. She is one of only three African Americans in the Association’s over 100-year history to serve on its board. She is also an esteemed member of the National Press Club. In 2015, Ms. Ryan was nominated for an NAACP Image Award (Outstanding Literary Work - Debut Author) for her first book.

April is a Baltimore native and Morgan State University graduate, and she gives back to this community by serving as a mentor to aspiring journalists, and assisting with developing “up and coming” broadcasters. April considers her greatest life’s work raising her two daughters—Ryan and Grace—who are phenomenal young women.

April Ryan is the author of the award winning book, The Presidency In Black And White, and her latest book, At Mama’s Knee: Mothers And Race In Black And White (December 2016), where she looks at race relations through the lessons and wisdom that mothers have given their children. A paperback version of The Presidency In Black And White—with updates about President Trump—will be published later this year.

Addington C. Stewart

Addington C. Stewart is the President of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters (IABPFF). Prior to being elected IABPFF President, Mr. Stewart served as the South-Central Regional Director 2008–2016, Executive Assistant Director of the SCR, and Corresponding Secretary of the SCR. Mr. Stewart was President of F.I.R.E. 1999–2008 and is a current member of the F.I.R.E. Retiree’s a local chapter in the IABPFF. Mr. Stewart is a lifetime member of the IABPFF.

A 35-year veteran of the St. Louis Fire Department, he joined the St. Louis Fire Department in 1978, and retired in April 2013 as a Fire Captain and Field Commander at Lambert International Airport. A graduate of the Carl Holmes Executive Development Institute (EDI) in 1999, Mr. Stewart has served as an EDI Instructor since 2000.

Mr. Stewart is happily married and the proud father of 5 adult children and grandfather of 13 beautiful grandchildren.

Kerene N. Tayloe, Esq.

Kerene N. Tayloe, Esq. is a social justice advocate who has worked tirelessly in the areas of Environmental Justice, Civil Rights, and voter protection. She is the Director of Federal Legislative Affairs for WE ACT for Environmental Justice. WE ACT, founded in Harlem, NY over 30 years ago, works to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. As Kerene grows in her influence in the fight for our environmental justice, she has shared her insight and experience as a speaker at various events including Afropunk, Broccoli City Fest, The Clean Energy Leadership Institute and The Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, just to name a few.

In addition to her environmental work, Kerene has worked in many political arenas but is most proud of helping to elect New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the first African American to represent the city of Yonkers in the State Senate and the first woman in New York State history to lead a conference in Albany, NY. She is a member of many organizations and associations, including the world’s largest and most influential sorority founded for Black women, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Donni Turner, J.D.

Donni Turner, a Capitol Hill veteran, legislative strategist, political advisor, and former White House intern, has inside knowledge of the political system and provides unique expertise on various public policy initiatives. Currently, senior
education policy advisor to Senator Bernard Sanders and budget analyst with the Senate Budget Committee, Donni is responsible for the Senator’s College for All free college bill, among other education legislative priorities.

As policy advisor to Bernie 2016, she drafted policy statements, talking points and legislation, including the Senator’s popular higher education proposal supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities. As director of policy for the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Donni was responsible for the Department’s legislative and policy initiatives. At the Podesta Group, a bipartisan government relations and public affairs firm, Donni Turner provided expert counsel on a wide variety of issues, including homeland security, governmental affairs, education, and technology. Before joining the Podesta Group, Donni served as Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Richard Durbin, the Assistant Majority Leader. Earlier, she was the Legislative Director for U.S. Representative David Scott. Donni began her career as a congressional staffer in the office of former U.S. Senator Max Cleland. As Senator Cleland’s Senior Staff Counsel, she led the Senator’s efforts to enact legislation to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Prior to joining the office of Senator Cleland, Donni worked for U.S. District Court Judge Clarence Cooper and at the Department of Veterans Affairs as a law clerk in the Research Center. Donni was also an intern with the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, Georgia State Representative Bob Holmes, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn.

An Atlanta native, Donni holds a J.D. from Howard University School of Law, a master’s in political science from Clark Atlanta University and a B.A. in political science from Spelman College. She also attended Smith College as an exchange student in government studies. Donni is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Ms. Yuri N. Walker is the Director, Risk Management Program, Office of Quality, Safety, and Value, in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. She has been in this position since 2008 and worked in the VA Office of the Medical Inspector, Clinical Investigation Section, prior to assuming her current position. Ms. Walker has an undergraduate degree in Nursing from California State University, Los Angeles; Master’s degree in Public Health from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) and a law degree from St. Louis University (Missouri).

She was also awarded a Certificate in Health Law and served as a Lead Articles Editor for the Journal of Health Law. She is a licensed attorney and is admitted to practice as a member of the state bars of Missouri and Illinois as well as the federal bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. She is a member of the Board of Governors of the National Bar Association as Vice President, Sections & Divisions.

Ms. Walker is a retired United States Air Force veteran; she was the Chief Nurse of the 932d Medical Squadron (Reserve), Scott AFB, Illinois, at the time of her retirement. She was mobilized for Operation Desert Storm in 1990 and Operation Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom in 2003. Her military recognition includes award of the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medals from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal.

**Yuri N. Walker, RN, JD, MPH**

Ms. Yuri N. Walker is the Director, Risk Management Program, Office of Quality, Safety, and Value, in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. She has been in this position since 2008 and worked in the VA Office of the Medical Inspector, Clinical Investigation Section, prior to assuming her current position. Ms. Walker has an undergraduate degree in Nursing from California State University, Los Angeles; Master’s degree in Public Health from the University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) and a law degree from St. Louis University (Missouri).

Leana Wen, M.D.

Dr. Leana Wen is the new President of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. She is the first physician in nearly 50 years to lead the organization. Planned Parenthood provides vital health services to nearly 2.5 million men and women each year through its more than 600 health centers across the country.

Prior to joining the Planned Parenthood Family in November 2018, Dr. Wen was the Baltimore City Health Commissioner. In this role, she led the oldest, continuously-operating health department in the U.S., founded in 1793, with 1,000 employees committed to improving well-being and combating disparities.

Under her direction, the Baltimore City Health Department led the country in health innovations and was recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials as the Local Health Department of the Year. Facing an unprecedented number of people dying from opioid overdose, Dr. Wen issued a blanket prescription for the opioid antidote, naloxone, to all 620,000 residents of Baltimore. This program saved nearly 3,000 lives in three years. Under Dr. Wen’s direction, the B’More for Healthy Babies program resulted in a nearly 40 percent reduction of infant mortality. She started Vision for Baltimore, which provides glasses free of charge to every child who needs them. Following the 2015 Baltimore protests, Dr. Wen began programs to deliver medications and improve food access to seniors. She expanded trauma and mental health services; secured funding for Safe Streets, a program designed
to treat gun violence as a contagious disease; and led public health campaigns on vaccinations, childhood obesity, and racism as a public health issue.

Dr. Wen has fought to protect women and families from the Trump administration’s relentless attacks on basic health care protections. In March 2018, the City of Baltimore sued the Trump administration for cutting teen pregnancy prevention funds, which resulted in a federal judge ordering the restoration of $5 million in grant funding to Baltimore’s teen pregnancy prevention programs. She has fought Trump administration changes to the Title X program to protect funding for 23 health clinics in Baltimore providing reproductive health care for low-income women.

As a practicing physician, she organized thousands of doctors and health professionals against President Trump’s proposed gag rule, saying it fundamentally changes the nature of the doctor-patient relationship and will dramatically reduce the quality of care for women. Dr. Wen also helped to lead a lawsuit against the Trump administration for intentionally and unlawfully sabotaging the Affordable Care Act, jeopardizing health care for her city’s residents.

Born in Shanghai, China, Dr. Wen immigrated to the United States with her family just before her eighth birthday. She and her parents were granted political asylum, and they became U.S. citizens in 2003.

Dr. Wen graduated summa cum laude from California State University, Los Angeles at the age of 18, and earned her medical degree from Washington University School of Medicine before becoming a Rhodes Scholar. She obtained her Master’s degrees at the University of Oxford and completed her residency training at Brigham & Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was a Clinical Fellow at Harvard Medical School. During medical school, she was elected president of the American Medical Student Association and took a year off to fulfill her leadership duties, including leading 65,000 physicians-in-training to fight for universal health and advocate for reproductive rights.

Growing up, Dr. Wen, as well as her mother and younger sister, often relied on Planned Parenthood for health care. During medical school, she volunteered at a Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis.

Dr. Wen has received recognition as Modern Healthcare’s 50 Most Influential Physician Executives and Leaders and Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare. A Fellow of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and Academy of Medicine, she serves on the faculty at the George Washington University School of Medicine and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In 2016, Dr. Wen was honored to be the recipient American Public Health Association’s highest award for local public health work. In 2017, she was named one of Governing’s Public Officials of the Year and in 2018, she was named one of the 50 most influential people in healthcare for 2018 by Time Magazine.

Dr. Wen and her husband have a one-year old son, Eli.

Michael Ybarra, M.D.

Emergency Physician and Vice President of Medical Affairs and Strategic Alliances at PhRM.A. with 10+ years of advocacy, health policy, and direct patient care experience.

Dr. Ybarra has a hybrid career of delivering emergency care in the District of Columbia, and impacting federal health policy through issue management and coalition development.

Ybarra leads alliance outreach to provider, multicultural, and LGBT organizations. His issue areas include communications with health care professionals and delivery reform. Dr. Ybarra is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine and Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine.

Kenneth Zinn

Kenneth Zinn is the Political Director of National Nurses United, the largest union of registered nurses in the United States. Ken has 36 years experience as a campaigner in the labor and progressive movement in the U.S. and internationally. Prior to joining the NNU, Ken served as Organizing Director and Director of the Center for Strategic Research at the AFL-CIO, North American director of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions, and international affairs and strategic campaigns director at the United Mine Workers of America. He got his start in the US anti-apartheid movement.
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Maternal Health in the African American Community:
Issue Brief and Recommendations

African-American mothers are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than White mothers, with 40.0 deaths per 100,000 live births for Black women and 12.4 deaths per 100,000 births for White women. This racial disparity has persisted for the past 60 years. Due to racism, sexism and other systemic barriers that have contributed to income inequality, Black women are also typically paid just 63 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men. Median wages for Black women in the United States are $36,227 per year, which is $21,698 less than the median wages for White, non-Hispanic men. Economic inequalities impact the ability of African-American women and their families to not only support themselves, but also secure sufficient health care. The effects of lower wages, along with Black women’s inadequate access to high-quality reproductive health information and services contribute to declining maternal health.

The children of African-American mothers are also placed at a paramount disadvantage from the time of conception. Nationwide, 14 % of the babies that are born in the U.S. are African American, yet they contribute to roughly 30 % of the infants who die in their first year of their life. Further, infants who are born to African-American mothers die at twice the rate of those born to White women.

Through an examination of the causative factors that perpetuate maternal mortality among African American women, including implicit bias and accessibility to quality service, the National Medical Association (NMA) has highlighted the repercussions of this epidemic in the African American community.

NMA Recommendations

Medical Mortality Review Boards
Establish and support Maternal Mortality Review Boards at the state level for every state, with confidential protections for providers, that require a review for every pregnancy-related death, and which can develop recommendations to prevent future deaths.

Implicit Bias Training Grants
Address implicit bias by establishing competitive grants directed to medical schools, nursing schools, and other health professionals training programs, to support implicit bias training with an emphasis on obstetrics and gynecology.

Expanded Coverage of Postpartum Care
Expand access to care by ensuring that mothers retain their Medicaid coverage from two months after giving birth to one year after giving birth, the entire postpartum period.
**Recommendations (continued)**

**Pregnancy Medical Home Programs**

Establish pregnancy medical home programs to incentivize maternal health care providers to deliver integrated health care services to pregnant women and new mothers by conducting standardized medical, obstetric, and psychosocial risk assessments for each pregnant patient. Connect high-risk patients with a care manager that coordinates health care and social services.

**Provision for Family Planning Services**

Integrate family planning services with maternal health services for women to discuss contraceptive use options.

**Support of Doulas**

Establish grants for culturally competent companions, or doulas, who support a birthing woman during labor and birth for emotional, physical, and informational support.

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1. [https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ourstories/mchb75th/mchb75maternalmortality.pdf](https://www.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/ourstories/mchb75th/mchb75maternalmortality.pdf)


4. Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017. Health Facts: Births by Race and Ethnicity, available at [https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/births-by-race-ethnicity/?dataView=1&currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22collId%22%3A2%22Location%22%2C%22sort2%22%3A%22asc%22%7D](https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/births-by-race-ethnicity/?dataView=1&currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22collId%22%3A2%22Location%22%2C%22sort2%22%3A%22asc%22%7D)


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**About the National Medical Association**

The National Medical Association (NMA) is the nation’s oldest and largest organization representing the collective voice of more than 50,000 African American physicians and health professionals in the United States, and the patients they serve. Established in 1895, the NMA is the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of disparities in health. NMA is committed to improving the quality of health among minorities and disadvantaged people through its membership, professional development, community health education, advocacy, research and partnerships with federal and private agencies. Throughout its history the National Medical Association has focused primarily on health issues related to African Americans and medically underserved populations; however, its principles, goals, initiatives and philosophy encompass all ethnic groups.
Background

According to the July 2016 U.S. Census, White Americans are 61.3% of the population, while African-Americans represent just 13.3% of the U.S. population. Yet, 15,070 homicides were recorded in the United States of which 7881 were African American victims and 6576 were White victims in 2016. Nearly 80% of all homicides are due to a firearm or related injury. Despite the progress among African Americans since the Civil Rights Act of 1964, people of color continue to suffer disparate and discriminatory access to economic opportunities, education, housing, health care and unfair treatment in the criminal justice system. The latest challenge faced by the physicians and public health providers who serve the African American community is the detrimental and seemingly insurmountable, causes and effects of violence in impoverished communities of color.

The National Medical Association (NMA) has highlighted the repercussions of violence in the African American community and continues to examine the role of racism in the perpetuation of the violent environment in which many African-Americans dwell. NMA is also exploring the effects of gang violence, intimate partner violence/child maltreatment and police use of excessive force. This issue brief delves into these areas and offers actionable recommendations for our community of practitioners and interested policymakers.

This issue brief will provide an overview on how forms of violence adversely affect African American communities and provides a series of recommendations for the prevention of gun violence which are listed below.

Recommendations

Public Health

Establish local Violence Fatality Review Boards and the development of local systems that interface with at risk youth who are the victims or perpetrators of violence.

Establish the National Violent Death Reporting System of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (NVDS–CDC) which will identify, qualify and quantify the problem.

Deterrence/Investigation

Have Police Departments to train officers in, and promote, community policing.

Develop Uniform Standards requiring police officers to receive implicit bias training, mental health assessment and de-escalation response training.

Establish Officer re-certification requirements

Create sites for Safe Fugitive Surrender.
Recommendations (continued)

Research Conducted with University Partnerships
Conduct National Gun Violence Research Studies to be funded by the CDC.

Establish best practices in violence prevention, which can be evaluated and reproduced, with testable methods and solutions to treat and prevent violence.

Programming
Employ Multidisciplinary Services/Access utilizing Community Partnerships, Community Building Strategies (**Interrupter Model) and Community Stabilization Programs with an acute and sustained approach to Wrap Around Services.

Promote Equitable Access to Economics, Education, Housing, Healthcare, Mental Health, Social Services & Criminal Justice

Deploy an Interrupter’s Model which integrates workers who are community based and trained to identify persons or situations that pose a risk for violence in the community and act to utilize systems in place to break the cycle of violence.

Promote ‘healthy community’ initiatives, i.e. community gardens, safe spaces to exercise, community education programs, safe affordable childcare and senior care options. Aggressive screening for lead toxicity with early intervention in high-risk communities.

Partnerships/Collaboration
Establish an extensive network with coordination across disciplines, comprised of community-based organizations, faith-based organizations and public institutions such as law enforcement departments, public health departments, academic institutions, hospitals and public schools.

Investment
In addition to investment in the above listed recommendations, grant and local/federal funds will be needed for programming aimed at public education on the risk factors for violence and violence prevention strategies.

Accountability Standards
Transparency: Endorse and support the use of both body cams and dashboard cams.

Oversight: Police and citizen review boards to address police officer misconduct and complaints against officers. Establish a Police Registry, which lists law enforcement agents that are fired from any police department due to misconduct, insubordination or knowingly falsifying an application to a police department. This registry is designed to prevent unqualified officers from moving from one department to another.

Impartiality: Support and advocate for local municipalities, state and federal mandates that require special prosecutors be assigned to review and prosecute, if indicated, all officer involved misconduct and fatal shootings.

Documentation: Physicians to routinely screen patients for any history of interactions with police, the nature of these interactions and any physical or mental symptoms that are a result of these interactions. These histories and any physical exam findings to be documented in the patient’s record.

Establish a Police Registry, which lists law enforcement agents that are fired from any police department due to misconduct, insubordination, or knowingly falsifying an application to a police department and is designed to prevent disqualified officers from moving from one department to another.

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