Disparities in Health in America: Celebrating Social Entrepreneurs Working Towards Social Justice

6TH Annual Summer Workshop
JUNE 21 – 27, 2008

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Twenty-five years of research demonstrate that there are wide disparities in health throughout America. Unfortunately, the American Medical Association has recently reported that over the last two decades there has been very little improvement in the gap that continues to exist. Health disparities are differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of diseases and other adverse health conditions that exist when specific population subgroups are compared. It is now known that the distribution of health is not at random, but that health is systematically distributed according to different levels of social advantage. It is also becoming increasing apparent that the way we have address health and health disparities in the 20th century did not work nor will it work in the 21st Century in addressing this issue. This workshop examines the complexity of this issue. It is not just an issue of access or an academic exercise in being trained in the right methodology. It is a blend of social and societal factors that are fundamental in creating disparities in health. In addition to examining these factors, the workshop will focus on the formulation of public policy objectives to reduce and ultimately eliminate health disparities.

The following is some of the distinguished speakers who have volunteered their time to teach in this workshop. It is a list of whose whose expertise you will rarely see on the same program. In addition, this year we will also again highlight the work of Kellogg Health Disparities Scholars and some of the alumni, celebrating a decade of social entrepreneurs working toward social justice.

Some of the distinguished Keynotes and Workshop Speakers

S. Leonard Syme, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, Epidemiology and Community Health/Human Development,
University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Leonard Syme has been a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley, since 1968. His major research interest has been psychosocial risk factors such as job stress, social support and poverty. In doing this research, he has studied San Francisco bus drivers; Japanese civil servants living in Japan, Hawaii and California; British civil servants; and people living in Alameda County, California. Dr. Syme has written two books and over 130 published papers, and has been a visiting professor at universities in England and Japan. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and has received several honors related to his teaching and research, among them the Lilienfeld Award for Excellence in Teaching, the J.D. Bruce Award for Distinguished Contributions in Preventative Medicine, and the University of California Distinguished Emeritus Professor Award. Now retired, Dr. Syme is Principal Investigator of The Wellness Guide Project in California, which is attempting to empower people and communities using printed materials, television, and community resource development.
Dr. Reveille received his rheumatology training at Johns Hopkins University under Dr. Arnett in the 1980's. After fellowship, he was Assistant Professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham for 4 years before being recruited by Dr. Arnett to join the faculty at UT in 1987. He was promoted to Associate Professor 3 years later and became Professor in 1997. Dr. Reveille was principal investigator at the UT site for the Lupus in Minorities - Nature vs Nurture study (1993-2003) and in 1997, he received the Alfred and Anna Brohn Memorial Award for Service to the Lupus Foundation of America. He was the Director of the North American Spondylitis Consortium (1999-2004) and since 2003, has served as Chairman of the Spondyloarthropathy Component in the XIV International Histocompatibility Workshop and co-chairman of the Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network (SPARTAN). Dr. Reveille has received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Spondylitis Association of America in 2003. In 2002, Dr. Reveille became Director of the Division of Rheumatology and was also Fellowship Program Director (2003-2005). He is also the American College of Rheumatology’s Official Liaison to the Pan American League Against Rheumatism (PANLAR). Dr. Reveille is involved in Phase III studies of biologic therapies for ankylosing spondylitis and was named as “Super Docs 2005” in Texas Monthly magazine in August 2005.

Fatimah Jackson, Professor, Applied Biological Anthropology, University of Maryland College Park

Dr. Jackson's research has emphasized the biological effects of specific human cultural behaviors, particularly dietary practices, in influencing the pattern of human biological diversity and the cadence and direction of human microevolution. She has studied the influence of dietary cyanogenic glycosides from common foods on human metabolic biology, examined the potential for human-plant coevolution, and evaluated the possible use of plant allelochemicals as biodegradable vector control agents. Much of her research is focused on Africa where she has concentrated on the biological histories of African peoples and the patterns of human ecogenetic variation in this continent.

Dr. Jackson's research provides an integrated approach to the question of modern human diversity. In addition to conducting extensive field research, her laboratory is one of the few in biological anthropology to develop experimental models for human biocultural interactions.
Dr. Rick Kittles, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Section of Genetic Medicine, Cancer Research Center, University of Chicago

Dr. Kittles' research focus is to formally evaluate genetic mechanisms involved in complex diseases. His work entails understanding how genetic variation is structured across human populations and how that variation contributes to inter-individual variation in disease susceptibility and other phenotypes such as drug response and skin color. Currently his work explores sequence variation within candidate genes in well-characterized populations for prostate and breast cancer, cardiovascular disease, and human pigmentation. His interests also include biological and socio-cultural issues related to "Race" and health disparities and the utility of admixture mapping for genes for common traits and disease in African Americans and Hispanic Americans. Dr. Kittles also is currently scientific director of the African Ancestry Inc., a genetic testing service for determining individuals' African ancestry.

Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D, M.P.H., Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Houston.

Janis Faye Hutchinson, Ph.D., M.P.H. is a biological/medical anthropologist in the Department of Anthropology, University of Houston. Dr. Hutchinson received her doctorate from the University of Kansas; and her master's and bachelor degrees from the University of Alabama. Her research interests include condom use, HIV/AIDS, racism and health, and health issues among African Americans. Her publications focus on these topics and African-American identity as shown in Cultural Portrayals of African Americans: Creating an Ethnic/Racial Identity, 1997. She is currently examining the impact of recent DNA information (mapping of the human genome) on health beliefs among Indian Americans.
Linda Burhansstipanov, M.S.P.H., Dr.P.H., Director of Native American Cancer Initiatives, Inc. of Pine, Colorado

Linda Burhansstipanov, M.S.P.H., Dr.P.H. is of the Western Cherokee Tribe and is the Director of Native American Cancer Initiatives, Inc. of Pine, Colorado (1993 to present). She formerly (1989-1993) was the program director of Native American Cancer Research Program for the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. She has 18 years experience as faculty for California State University Long Beach and was promoted to "full professor" in 1988. She is actively involved with Native American health and wellness endeavors nationwide and serves on numerous national and local advisory boards and committees to promote research and programmatic efforts to assist Native People in obtaining higher levels of health. Examples of her primary areas of interest are culturally competent cancer prevention and control initiatives, HIV/AIDS prevention and control among Native Peoples, and Native American women's health issues. She has authored several books and numerous articles, the majority of which focus on the health concerns of Native Peoples. She was among ten individuals honored as a leader in the fight against breast cancer by Avon and the National Association of Breast Cancer Organizations.

Lynne T. Bemis, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Division of Medical Oncology, University of Colorado Health Science Center, Denver, Co.

She earned a degree in Biology (1979) from the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Her pre-doctoral work was at Harvard Medical School’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital in the Department of Women’s Pathology. The focus of her Ph.D. thesis was the regulation of gene transcription, earned with honors in Biochemistry (1989) from the University of New Hampshire, Durham. She has experience working in biochemistry, molecular biology and molecular genetics with a focus on the genetics of cancer. Additionally, she is a member of the faculty and co-investigator on the NHGRI (National Human Genome Research Institute) - funded project, called Genetic Education for Native Americans (GENA). GENA is a team - taught genetic education curriculum, which addresses cultural concerns about genetics and provides necessary background information in cancer genetics. Dr. Bemis actively conducts laboratory research focusing on cellular and genetic changes in the development of cancer, publishes journal articles describing her research and has presented talks nationally and internationally. In addition, she has collaborated with Dr. Linda Burhansstipanov to develop a mentoring program and curriculum designed to inform medically underserved communities about health implications of the Human Genome Project.
Armin Weinberg, Ph.D., Director, Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center. Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas

Dr. Armin D. Weinberg is Director of the Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Research Center and Professor of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. He has directed the Center since its inception in 1987 as the Center for Cancer Control Research. He began his career at Baylor in 1975 as Director of the Education Division of the DeBakey Heart Center.

Recognizing that the community models that he had developed as Director of the DeBakey Heart Center Education Division could be applied to other chronic diseases, Dr. Weinberg began to pursue funding in cancer and chronic disease prevention and control. Dr. Weinberg’s efforts have successfully kept Baylor in the forefront of cancer prevention, screening, and control activities at both the state, national and international levels. Center projects to reduce the burden of cancer and other chronic diseases have been supported by more than $40 million of external funding from NIH, CDC, HRSA, ACS, and numerous private foundations. Dr. Weinberg has published over 100 papers in well-respected journals such as JAMA, Cancer, and Preventive Medicine, served on several editorial boards and for seven years served as the Associate Editor for Health Values (now the American Journal of Health Behavior) before being named Editor in Chief in 1988. In addition to many state, national, and international presentations, he has served on numerous grant review panels at NIH as well as state, national and international committees of professional and medical associations including the WHO and the United Nations.

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Dr. Weinberg has also taken a leadership role in Baylor’s efforts to forge international partnerships. He represented Baylor as a founding member of the International Consortium for Research on the Health Effects of Radiation, founded in response to the Chernobyl nuclear accident. Relatedly, Dr. Weinberg has spearheaded the effort in establishing the partnerships with Semipalatinsk - Kazakhstan, Baku – Azerbaijan, Sakhalin - Russia, sponsored by the American International Health Alliance, with funding from the US Agency for International Development.

Dr. Weinberg is co-founding Chair of the Intercultural Cancer Council. This national consortium was an outgrowth of the Biennial Symposia on Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer, which Dr. Weinberg has co-directed since 1991. The Biennial Symposium has become the largest national gathering of health professionals, scientific researchers, cancer survivors, and advocates interested in reducing the burden of cancer in minority and medically underserved populations.

Dr. Weinberg has been honored with numerous awards (American Cancer Society – Humanitarian Award, American Jewish Committee: Academicians Award, International Spirit of Life Foundation Advocacy Award, National Patient Advocate Foundation - National Health Care Hero, Rotary Club of Houston: Paul Harris Fellow, Semipalatinsk State Medical Academy – Honorary Doctorate, State of Israel Bonds: Maimonides Award, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Jill Ireland Award for Volunteerism for work on behalf of the ICC, Texas Cancer Council: Gib Lewis Award for Public Education and the Texas School Health Association: Distinguished Service Award) for his dedicated efforts in improving the quality of life for individuals and communities alike. Dr. Weinberg has participated in various national efforts such as the National Legislative Advisory Committee appointed by Senator Feinstein to review the national cancer act and currently serves on the Board of C-Change: Collaborating to Conquer Cancer (formerly the National Dialogue on Cancer) led by Former President George Bush and Barbara Bush and vice-chaired by Senator Diane Feinstein.
Dr. Soskolne obtained his Ph.D. in Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in 1982. He won the Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) annual student prize in 1983 for his Ph.D. thesis. Directly post-Ph.D., he was Director of the Epidemiology Research Unit of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biostatistics at the University of Toronto. He moved to the University of Alberta in 1985, where he established and directed its epidemiology program and, from 1994, he built the graduate training program for the Department of Public Health Sciences. His major research contribution out of Alberta has been a follow-up study to that conducted for his Ph.D. These two pieces of work formed the basis for the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), in 1991, designating "occupational exposures to strong-inorganic-acid mists containing sulfuric acid" as a definitive human (Group 1) carcinogen, one of only 75 carcinogens-carcinogenic mixtures so recognized, and one of only two so designated in the absence of animal data.

Between 1984 and 1996, Dr. Soskolne spearheaded efforts to bring the question of professional ethics into focus for epidemiologists worldwide. He has authored and/or co-authored and/or edited and/or co-edited over 300 published papers, chapters, books, proceedings, and, in 1997-1998, he served as a senior editor for the International Labour Office's Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety.

Dr. Soskolne hosted the 1996 annual conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) in Edmonton. In 1997, he hosted that of the Society for Epidemiologic Research. In recognition of Dr. Soskolne’s contributions to the ISEE he was, in 1998, honoured with a distinguished service award by the ISEE, as well as the Edmonton Ambassador Award.

In 2002, Dr. Soskolne became a member of the Council of Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini. The Collegium includes a select group of Fellows, not to exceed 180 throughout the world, each of clear personal distinction and integrity, distinguished by their contributions to occupational and environmental health science and policy.
Dr. McLachlan received his B.A. degree in Liberal Arts from the Johns Hopkins University and a doctoral degree in pharmacology from the George Washington University.

Before coming to Tulane and Xavier in 1995, he spent the previous two decades at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), the world’s largest and most comprehensive center for research on the effects of environmental factors on human health. While at NIEHS, Dr. McLachlan’s scientific contributions led to his discovery of the mechanisms by which environmental chemicals alter fetal development. Dr. McLachlan was named Scientific Director of the NIEHS in 1989.

In his first five years in New Orleans, Dr. McLachlan established a Program in the Environment and Women’s Health, formed the nation’s first Center in Environmental Astrobiology, and initiated the Mississippi River Interdisciplinary Research Program.

Dr. McLachlan’s scientific findings and thoughts have been published in over 150 journal articles, 50 book chapters and 5 edited books. He presents, on average, 30 invited lectures per year and has provided scientific counsel to numerous government agencies, most recently, the European Parliament.

His pioneering research on environmental chemicals that mimic the female hormone, estrogen, has established a new field of research called environmental signaling or endocrine disruption. With his leadership, the CBR has become the internationally recognized focal point for research and communication in this important area of environmental study.

Dr. McLachlan’s wide range of research interests is reflected in his community service and awards. He has worked to facilitate environmental literacy among New Orleans school children. His interests in the environment and fetal development led to his appointment as a board member of the Children’s Environmental Health Network. He was presented a lifetime achievement award by the consumers’ organization, DES Action, on behalf of the approximately 4 million women exposed to diethylstilbestrol (DES) during pregnancy. In May 2000, he received the “Hero of the Year” award from the Breast Cancer Fund.

In recognition for his vision and skills, Dr. McLachlan was awarded the prestigious NIH Directors Award just before coming to New Orleans, and in April 1997, he, along with Tiger Woods and George W. Bush, was selected by Newsweek magazine for the “Century Club: One of the 100 People to Watch as America Moves into the Next Millennium.”
John McLachlan's Environmental Endocrinology Laboratory utilizes cutting edge techniques to study environmental signaling. The major area of concentration for the lab's work is environmental estrogens – natural and synthetic chemicals that interact with the estrogen receptor. Lab members examine the interaction of environmental chemicals with other steroid receptors, as well as cellular signaling pathways. Model systems used in these studies include breast and endometrial cancer cell lines. The function of these compounds in animal systems is also examined.

Harold P. Freeman, M.D.  President and Founder, Ralph Lauren Center for Cancer Care and Prevention, Harlem, NY, Senior Advisor to the Director, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md.

Dr. Freeman served as national president of the American Cancer Society from 1988-1989. He is the chief architect of the American Cancer Society’s initiative on Cancer in the Poor and is a leading authority on the interrelationships between race, poverty, and cancer. The Society established the “Harold P. Freeman Award” in 1990 to recognize his work in this area. This award is presented annually by American Cancer Society divisions throughout the U.S. to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fight against cancer in the poor.

Dr. Freeman pioneered the “Patient Navigation Program” which addresses disparities in access to treatment, particularly among poor and uninsured people. This program is designed to assist medically underserved patients in navigating their way through a complex health system by overcoming barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The success of Dr. Freeman’s “Patient Navigation Program” has led many other health care organizations to adopt similar initiatives.

Based on this model the Patient Navigator and Chronic Disease Prevention Act was signed into law by President Bush in June 2005.

Dr. Freeman is past chairman of the President’s Cancer Panel, to which he was appointed for four consecutive three-year terms, first by President Bush in 1991 and subsequently by President Clinton in 1994, 1997 and 2000.

As a graduate of Catholic University of America, Dr. Freeman received the Harris
Award for “Outstanding Scholar, Gentleman, and Athlete.” He later was recognized as “Outstanding Alumnus in the Medical Arts” at Catholic University and was inducted into the Athlete’s Hall of Fame of the University. Additionally, he received the Daniel Hale Williams Award for Outstanding Achievements as Chief Resident at Howard University Hospital.

Honorary Doctor of Science degrees have been awarded to Dr. Freeman from Albany Medical College, Niagara University, Adelphi University, and Catholic University of America. He was also awarded the University of California at San Francisco Medal. Other selected awards include: The Mary Lasker Award for Public Service; the Time, Inc. International Health and Medical Media Awards’ Lifetime Achievement Award; the American Cancer Society’s Medal of Honor; the CDC Foundation’s Champion of Prevention Award; the Breast Cancer Research Foundation’s “Jill Rose Award,” the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s Special Recognition Award; the Avon Breast Cancer National Leadership Award; the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer National Foundation’s Betty Ford Award; the International Spirit of Life Foundation and the Washington Cancer Institute’s Spirit of Life Award; the Mayo Clinic Charles G. Moertel Memorial Lectureship Award; the Association of Community Cancer Centers’ Achievement Award; the George Washington University Cancer Institute’s Distinguished Public Service Award; the Rudin Prize in Medicine and Health; the 2006 Black History Makers Award of The Associated Black Charities; The Dorothy Height Life Time Achievement Award and The First Annual Medical Assembly “Humanitarian Award” at the United Nations Meeting the Global Challenge of Cancer in New York City.

At the Centennial Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) held in Los Angeles on April 15, 2007 Dr. Freeman received two awards: “The Public Service Award” presented to him by the President of AACR during the opening ceremony and “The 2nd Annual Minorities in Cancer Research–Jane Wright Lectureship Award”. He delivered the “Jayne Wright Lecture.”
A professor at the School of Law since 1990, Vernellia Randall writes extensively on and speaks internationally about race, women, and health care. She is the recipient of the Ohio Commission on Minority Health Chairman’s Award, and she was named one of the “Top 10 Most Influential African-Americans” on the 2001 Black Equal Opportunity Employment Journal list.

Professor Randall hasn’t always been associated with the study or practice of law. “I grew up during Jim Crow in the South,” she says. “If you were a black woman going to college, you either became a nurse or a teacher.” She chose nursing. She did like the profession, though, and had worked in nursing homes while in high school. As a nurse, Professor Randall provided public health nursing services and served as an administrator for a statewide health program in Alaska.

Involved in public health work for more than 15 years, Professor Randall focused on eliminating disparities in health care for minorities and the poor. She believed a thorough knowledge of the law would help her become more effective in her mission, so she enrolled in law school. After graduating in 1987 from Lewis and Clark Law School, she became an associate with a Portland, Oregon, law firm specializing in health care law and issues relating to health and disability insurance coverage. She also served as an adjunct faculty member at Lewis and Clark College.

She soon turned to teaching full time, wanting to make a “greater intellectual impact.” She has never regretted the decision. “I love the ‘aha’ moments that students get,” she says.

Since coming to the School of Law, Professor Randall has also served as a consultant to the Clinton administration advisory committee on health care reform and as a grant reviewer for the National Institute of Health. She was also an expert witness in the State of Missouri v. Philip Morris trial. She has been recognized in Who’s Who in the World since 1995 and Who’s Who in the United States since 1998.

Kenneth E. Thorpe is the Robert W. Woodruff Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Policy & Management, in the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

Kenneth E. Thorpe, Ph.D., Robert W. Woodruff Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Policy & Management, in the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. He also directs the Emory Center on Health Outcomes and Quality. He was the Vanselow Professor of Health Policy and Director, Institute for Health Services Research at Tulane University. He was previously Professor of Health Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; an Associate Professor and Director of the Program on Health Care Financing and Insurance at the Harvard University School of Public Health and Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Health at Columbia University. Professor Thorpe was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Policy in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 1993 to 1995. In this capacity, he
coordinated all financial estimates and program impacts of President Clinton's health care reform proposals for the White House.

He has worked with several groups (including the American College of Physicians, American Hospital Association, National Coalition on Health Care, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, Service Employees International Union, and the United Hospital Fund) and policymakers (including Senators Wellstone, Corzine, Bingaman, Snowe, Clinton and Kennedy) to develop and evaluate alternative approaches for providing health insurance to the uninsured. Professor Thorpe received his Ph.D. from the Rand Graduate School, an M.A. from Duke University and his B.A. from the University of Michigan.

Barbara Kivimae Krimgold, Senior Project Director, Center for the Advancement of Health, Washington, D.C.

Barbara Kivimae Krimgold is director of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Scholars in Health Disparities program and director of the upcoming Web site project, "Celebrating Diversity Interactive Database: Quality of Life Indicators for Urban Americans of Color" at the Center for the Advancement of Health. She is also a senior advisor to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Men's Health project, "Saving Men's Lives." With a broad background in health policy spanning three decades, she translates research about population health into health policy frameworks and information for media and policy communities. For more than 10 years she served as a health policy professional within the U.S. Office of Management and Budget – serving under Presidents Ford, Carter and Reagan – and as the top health policy professional for the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging. She has worked with many non-profit organizations and several foundations on U.S. and global health programs. She is the co-editor of Income, Socioeconomic Status and Health: Exploring the Relationships and The American Woman 1996-97: Women and Work and the co-author of Improving Health: It Doesn't Take a Revolution and Incorporating Socioeconomic Factors into U.S. Health Policy: Addressing the Barriers. She graduated from Harvard College and won a National Defense Education Act Fellowship to study at Harvard's Graduate Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
Vence L. Bonham, J.D., Chief, Education and Community Involvement Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute, Bethesda, Md.

Human Genome Research Institute, (NHGRI) in Bethesda, Maryland. Mr. Bonham also directs the NHGRI Education and Community Involvement Branch, which leads the Institute's community engagement and public education programs. He is also an Associate Investigator in the Social and Behavioral Research Branch of the Division of Intramural Research at the National Human Genome Research Institute where he studies health professionals' and the public's understanding of race and genetics.

Joan Y. Reede, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.

Dr. Joan Reede is the Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. In addition she holds the appointments of Assistant Professor of Maternal and Child Health at the School of Public Health, and Assistant in Health Policy at Massachusetts General Hospital. She serves on the Board of Governors for the NIH Clinical Center and the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Minority Health.

Dr. Joan Reede works to recruit and prepare minority students for jobs in the biomedical professions, and to promote better health care policies for the benefit of minority populations. In 2001, she became Harvard Medical School's first dean for diversity and community partnership. She is the first African American woman to hold that rank at HMS and one of the few African American women to hold a deanship at a medical school in the United States.

Joan Reede was born in 1953 and grew up in the Boston area. She traces her roots to a great-great-grandmother, Alie Taswell, who was born into slavery in Georgia in the 1860s. Taswell and her descendents strove to improve opportunities for those who followed, and Reede's parents set high standards and encouraged her to pursue any career she wanted. A family friend, Amanda Cook, a graduate of Radcliffe College,
encouraged her to work with others to achieve success.

By the time Joan reached seventh grade, she knew she was interested in becoming a doctor. Watching the television program *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, she said she noticed that "nurses got orders and doctors gave them."

When she was ready to apply for college admission, however, a school counselor discouraged her from applying to Brown University. It was the first time she had been told she couldn't do something she wanted to do. She applied anyway and was accepted. After earning a bachelor of science from Brown in 1977, Reede trained at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and earned her M.D. in 1980.

She completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and a fellowship in child psychiatry at Boston's Children's Hospital, then got married and had a daughter, Loretta Jackson. After her divorce in the late 1980s, she went on to earn two more degrees, an M.P.H. in 1990 and an M.S. in 1992 from Harvard School of Public Health, all while raising Loretta as a single parent.

At Harvard, Dr. Reede was struck by the absence of minorities among the School of Public Health faculty. In 1990, after a year as a fellow at Harvard Medical School, Reede and several colleagues founded the Biomedical Science Careers Program (BSCP), to match minority students from high school through post-graduate levels with mentors in their fields of interest. BSCP also offers information on funding and training opportunities, and sponsors a biennial conference bringing together students and advisors for a day of discussion, seminars, and networking.

Dr. Reede is also a founder and director of the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy, which offers physicians with an interest in minority and disadvantaged populations a year of professional training for leadership positions in health care policy and practice. She believes that "Health is linked to a large extent to social issues of poverty, employment, and education. So encouraging children to stay in school, recognize the opportunity education provides, and see hope for a promising future helps children, families, and community...I felt like it was the right thing to do, but not what my training as a pediatrician necessarily prepared me to do. Access to health care was my original interest, and I hope that these programs will help to train individuals who will be leaders, educators, and researchers in the field, and who will be health care providers prepared to ensure improved access for disadvantaged people."

Like her ancestors, who prepared the way for her, Dr. Joan Reede is motivated to expand opportunities for future generations, and is inspired by her role as a parent. Her daughter inspires her. "From the very beginning, my daughter, Loretta, has made a significant impact on my personal and career development...She continues to remind me of what is really important in life. She brings into proper perspective how I want to be viewed by her and how I would like her life to be."

**Shiriki Kumanyika, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine**

Shiriki Kumanyika, Ph.D., M.P.H., a professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, has won the first-ever American Heart Association Population Research Prize. She received the prestigious national distinction for her continued tireless efforts in a career devoted to elucidating the role of diet modifications in preventing heart disease, stroke and related disorders.
Kumanyika, who is the associate dean for health promotion and disease prevention at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, has trained a generation of scientists and devoted her life to the prevention of heart disease and stroke. Her research focuses on the role of nutritional factors in the primary and secondary prevention of chronic diseases, with a particular focus on obesity, sodium reduction and related health problems such as hypertension and diabetes. She has been the principal investigator or co-investigator of major randomized clinical trials of dietary changes in modifying cardiovascular risk factors. Her studies involve developing and evaluating culturally appropriate interventions to prevent or treat obesity among African Americans in clinical or community settings. “I see the creation of this (AHA Population Research) prize as both a coming of age and a challenge for population-oriented research to fight heart disease and stroke,” Kumanyika said. “This award is a coming of age because it puts an ultimate finishing touch on the AHA’s commitment to see population science as a critical dimension in the bigger picture of cardiovascular research. It is a challenge because of the bigger picture. Population research addresses the impossible to control, difficult to modify, socially fluctuating and all too political reality that determines: who develops heart disease and stroke; whose risks are identified early versus late; who is treated; and who is ultimately able to achieve the potential for longevity and high quality of life.” Kumanyika said disparities in cardiovascular disease are “so vivid and so longstanding that, we know, unfortunately, almost without having to count, that African Americans for example, or people with low incomes will have more heart disease and stroke and be more likely to die from it. I look forward to the day when the recipient of this award can say that we have remedied this situation.” Kumanyika has a unique interdisciplinary background that integrates epidemiology, nutrition, prevention, minority health, aging and women’s health issues. A native of Baltimore, Md., she holds a B.A. from Syracuse University, master of science in social work from Columbia University, Ph.D. in human nutrition from Cornell University and master of public health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health. She has served the American Heart Association in many roles over the last two decades, including as a spokesperson on diet and related health issues, as chair of the Council on Epidemiology and Prevention, and as a member of the national Board of Directors.

Marjorie Kagawa-Singer, Ph.D., M.N., R.N, Professor, Department of Asian American Studies and Department of Community Health Sciences, UCLA School of Public Health, Los Angeles.

Professor Kagawa-Singer is the Director of the Concurrent MA Degree Program in Community Health Sciences and Asian American Studies and the Principal Investigator at the UCLA Minority Training Program for Cancer Control Research. She is also the Co-Director of the UCLA EXPORT Center for Education, Research and Strategic Communication on Minority Health Disparities. She serves on multiple local, state, and national committees involved with issues of ethnicity and health care. Kagawa-Singer’s current cancer related research includes intervention studies to promote mammography in 11 different Asian American and Pacific Islander groups: Hmong, Thai, Cambodian, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Filipino, Vietnamese, Laotian, Chamorro, Guamanin, and Chinese women in six sites across the U.S. Also underway is a study of the quality of life of elderly women following breast cancer, and a study to develop a spirituality scale for elderly with chronic conditions. She participates as co-PI on several other studies related to her expertise in cross cultural health.
Marilyn Aguirre-Molina, EdD  Professor of Population and Family Health at the Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University in New York City.

Prior to joining the Columbia faculty Dr. Aguirre-Molina held positions within foundations. She served as the Executive Vice President of the California Endowment, and as a Senior Program Officer at The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Preceding her work within philanthropy she was an Associate Professor in the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Environmental and Community Medicine. In this capacity she taught within the MD/MPH program and engaged in applied community-based public health research.

The focus of Dr. Aguirre-Molina’s work is on program development and applied research that address public health approaches to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other high risk behaviors among young people. She has published in this area of study.

In addition to her interests in youth, she has worked extensively on Latino health policy issues, and access to care for Latinos and other underserved populations. The Robert Wood Johnson commissioned a study and resulting monograph that she prepared entitled, Latinos’ Barriers to Primary and Preventive Services. In addition, she edited (with C. Molina and R. Zambra) a second book entitled, Health Issues in the Latino Community (2001), and more recently, Latina Health: A Public Health Reader (2003), both published by Jossey-Bass Publishers, Inc.

At Columbia University she established and currently directs the Columbia University and Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) Academic Exchange Program. She also serves as the Chair of the Admissions Committee, and directs the Department’s Fellowship Program.

Dr. Aguirre-Molina is a member of numerous national boards and committees. Among the boards and committees are the National Institutes of Health - National Advisory Council of the NIAAA, and the NIAAA panel on College Drinking. She recently served as a member of the Institute of Medicine panel that published the report on Reducing Underage Drinking - A Collective Responsibility. She was also elected to the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association.

As a Kellogg Foundation Fellow, Dr. Aguirre-Molina traveled extensively in Latin American, as well as Sweden and South Africa, where she studied the political economy of selected countries.

She currently serves as a consultant to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and is a member of the selection panel of the Johnson & Johnson Community Health Care Program (corporate giving).

Marilyn received a Bachelor of Science degree (cum laude) in Health Sciences from Hunter College - City University of New York. In addition, she attended Columbia University were she received a Master of Science degree in Community Health and a Doctorate in Health Education and Administration. She is a native New Yorker.
Cathy D. Meade, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., Professor, University of South Florida, Director of the Education Program, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute, Tampa, Florida

Cathy D. Meade, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., is Director of the Education Program at the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute. She is nationally recognized for her expertise in cancer communications, literacy, and community health education and outreach. She has led investigations focused on development and evaluation of cancer education and health communication programs, for diverse populations, including Hispanic populations. In 1998, she initiated the national Cancer, Culture, and Literacy Conferences to improve care across the continuum of cancer control by enhancing the knowledge and skills of professionals responsible for creating multicultural, multilingual, and literacy-sensitive communications.

Ken Resnicow, Ph.D., Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education, University of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Resnicow obtained his BA in Psychology and Philosophy, Yeshiva College in 1980 and Ph.D. in Health Psychology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Ferkauf Graduate School in 1985. Research interests include: the design and evaluation of health promotion programs for special populations, particularly cardiovascular and cancer prevention interventions for African Americans; understanding the relationship between ethnicity and health behaviors; school-based health promotion programs; substance use prevention and harm reduction and motivational interviewing for chronic disease prevention.

Current studies include: Health Body Healthy Spirit, an NHLBI funded
intervention to increase physical activity, fruits, and vegetables among African Americans recruited through Black churches using motivational interviewing; GO GIRLS, an NHLBI funded study to develop an obesity prevention program for overweight African American females; Body and Soul, an NIH/ACS collaboration to disseminate proven cancer control interventions using lay health advisors; and a FOGARTY/NIH study to develop smoking prevention programs for South African Youth.