The University of Maryland School of Law
Law & Health Care Program

invites you to attend

BRIDGING THE RACIAL
DIVIDE IN HEALTH CARE:
Eliminating Racial and Ethnic
Disparities in Health Status

FRIDAY,
MARCH 11, 2005
at the
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF LAW
BRIDGING THE RACIAL DIVIDE IN HEALTH CARE:

Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Status

“Racial and ethnic minorities tend to receive a lower quality of healthcare than non-minorities, even when access-related factors, such as patients’ insurance status and income, are controlled. The sources of these disparities are complex, are rooted in historic and contemporary inequities, and involve many participants at several levels.”


Racial and ethnic disparities, or inequalities, in health status are a critical issue in Maryland and across America. Despite improvements in the overall health of the U.S. population, the quality of health care in this country is far from uniform across racial and ethnic groups. In fact, for millions of minorities, the health care system remains separate and unequal. The causes of these disparities are complex, but may include such factors as socioeconomic differences, environmental degradation, and discrimination.

In addition, African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos and some Asian Americans, while comprising an increasingly large percentage of the U.S. population, remain significantly underrepresented in the medical and research professions. While America will soon become a nation of minorities, there is still a tremendous lack of minority physicians and health care workers. A recent report from a blue ribbon panel studying healthcare workforce diversity concluded that “the fact that the nation’s health professions have not kept pace with changing demographics may be an even greater cause of disparities in health access and outcomes than the persistent lack of health insurance for tens of millions of Americans.”

Racial and ethnic disparities in health status have been well documented. It is time to move from identifying the problem to implementing the solutions. This conference will showcase innovative leaders who are tackling the disparities challenges, community by community. Among the topics to be discussed at this conference are:

- Promising practices for eliminating health disparities
- The role of the legislative branch in combating disparities
- Increasing workforce diversity as a strategy to eliminate disparities
- Foundations and government funders as catalysts to eliminate disparities

This all-day conference will bring together academics, policy makers, foundation and community leaders, and others to discuss innovative and results-oriented strategies to eliminate health disparities in Maryland and across the country.

Papers written by several of the speakers will be included in a symposium issue of the Journal of Health Care Law and Policy.
**The Law & Health Care Program** at the University of Maryland School of Law was established in response to a growing demand for health law expertise by lawyers and health professionals enabling them to address today’s health law issues from both a legal and interdisciplinary perspective. The Program combines an interdisciplinary approach to education with research on emerging medical, health policy and law-related issues.

The *Journal of Health Care Law and Policy* is a law review for the interdisciplinary discussion of leading issues in the health law and health policy fields. The symposium issue, "Bridging the Racial Divide: Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Status" will be published during the 2005-2006 academic year.

**The Abell Foundation**, inaugurated half a century ago, set an agenda that allocated grants for schools, hospitals, and human service organizations reaching out to the disadvantaged in the Baltimore community and the region. In the past two decades, the Foundation has sharpened its focus to address complex challenges to break through the cycles of urban poverty. Today, the Foundation places the highest priority on creating solutions that are both innovative and will ensure accountability.

The health of a community can only be as strong as the well-being of its residents. Through grants awarded in this area, the Foundation seeks to address societal issues associated with family disintegration, family planning, child support, teenage parenting, domestic violence, children’s health and well-being, child abuse and neglect, hunger, food self-sufficiency and homelessness. The Foundation also focuses on initiatives alleviating health problems that confront the under-served and uninsured, and supports advocates for a comprehensive system of universal health care.
AGENDA

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:45-9:00 a.m.
Welcome and Introductions
Diane Hoffmann, JD, MS, Associate Dean
Director, Law & Health Care Program

9:00-9:45 a.m.
Morning Plenary-Reflections on Effective Strategies for Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Status Across America
Raynard Kington, MD, PhD, Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health

9:45-11:00 a.m.
Promising Practices for Eliminating Disparities In Maryland
“Eliminating Disparities in Cancer in Minority Communities”
Dr. Claudia Baquet, MD, MPH, Associate Dean for Policy and Planning, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine

9:45-11:00 a.m.
Promising Practices for Eliminating Disparities In Maryland
“Community-Based Approaches to Eliminating Disparities”
Dr. Chris Gibbons, MD, MPH, Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute

11:00-11:15 – Break

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Promising Practices for Eliminating Disparities Across America
“Addressing Disparities through Community-Based Approaches in Urban America”
Neil Calman, MD, President of the Institute for Urban Family Health, New York, NY

“Addressing Disparities in Immigrant Communities,”
Francesca Gany, MD, MS, Director, Center for Immigrant Health, NYU School of Medicine

12:30-1:45 a.m. – Lunch
Introduction
Karen H. Rothenberg, JD, MPA
Dean and Marjorie Cook Professor of Law

Lunch Plenary – “Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Status: A Perspective from Capitol Hill,”
Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, JD 7th District of Maryland
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.  
*The Role of the Legislative Branch in Combating Disparities*

“*Current Legislative Initiatives to Address Health Disparities,*”
Dora Hughes, MD, MPH, Senior Aide to Senator Edward Kennedy

“*Evaluating The Efficacy of Federal and State Legislative Initiatives to Address Racial Disparities,*”
Mara Youdelman, JD, LLM, National Health Law Program

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.  
*Increasing Workforce Diversity as a Strategy to Eliminate Disparities*

“*The Sullivan Commission Report and the Duke Medical School Experience,*”
Brenda Armstrong, MD, Associate Dean, Medical Education, Director of Admissions, Duke University School of Medicine

“*Legal Framework Behind Workforce Diversity,*”
Thomas E. Perez, JD, MPP, Law School Assistant Professor, University of Maryland Member, Sullivan Commission on Healthcare Workforce Diversity

3:45 - 4:00 p.m. – Break

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
*Foundations and Government Funders as Catalysts to Eliminate Disparities*

"*Federal Efforts to Eliminate Disparities: One Agency’s Perspective,*”
Carolyn Clancy, MD, Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

“*Foundation Innovation in Eliminating Disparities*”
Ignatius Bau, JD, Program Officer, The California Endowment

“*Moving the Disparities Ball Forward*”
Marcia Lillie-Blanton, PhD, Vice President, Kaiser Family Foundation

5:15 - 5:30 p.m. – Concluding Remarks

*Reception Immediately Following*
**DIRECTIONS AND PARKING**
From I-95 take route 395 (downtown Baltimore) and exit on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Turn right at fourth traffic light onto Baltimore St. Turn left at second traffic light onto Paca St. Go 1/4 block and turn right into the Baltimore Grand Garage at 5 N. Paca St. The law school is directly across the street from the garage, at the corner of Paca and Baltimore Streets. Parking fees are the responsibility of the participants.

**FOOD SERVICE**
Registration includes a continental breakfast, lunch and light refreshments.

**SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**
If you require special accommodations to attend or participate, please provide information about your requirements to Lu Ann Marshall at 410-706-4128 (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice) at least five business days in advance.

**QUESTIONS**
Please contact Lu Ann Marshall at 410-706-4128 or lmarshal@law.umaryland.edu.
REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN REGISTRATION FORM TO:
LU ANN MARSHALL, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW,
500 WEST BALTIMORE STREET, BALTIMORE, MD 21201-1786

OR REGISTER ONLINE AT: WWW.LAW.UMARYLAND.EDU/CONFERENCES.ASP

PROGRAM IS FREE—HOWEVER, REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE
ADEQUATE SPACE, MEALS, AND MATERIALS—SO PLEASE REGISTER EARLY.

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Name (please print)
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Affiliation or Employer
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Address
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City, State, Zip Code
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Daytime Telephone Number/FAX/Email

Check here if you do not wish your name included on our list of Conference participants

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