

# 4th Annual TriCaucus Minority Health Summit



## *The Power of Many: Putting Unity in Community*



# 2006 TriCaucus Health Summit

The Power of Many: *Putting Unity in Community*



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# 2006 TriCaucus Health Summit

## The Power of Many: *Putting Unity in Community*



November 17-18, 2006

### A G E N D A

The 2006 TriCaucus Health Summit will begin on Friday evening, with a welcome reception. Following members' and sponsors' welcoming remarks, there will be a minority health policy panel discussion about current and emerging health policy issues and their repercussions on racial and ethnic minority communities.

#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2006

##### 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm **Opening Panel and Welcome Reception**

Sidley Austin LLP  
1501 K Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, NW (in the historic "Investment Building")  
Washington, DC

##### 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm **Current Health Policy Topics and the Impact on Minority Health: *An Informed Minority Health Policy Discussion***

During the panel discussion, Members of Congress and national experts will explore numerous health policy issues – from the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program and the Ryan White CARE Act, to Medicaid, Medicare, health disparities and health information technology – and their impact on the health and health care of racial and ethnic minority Americans.

##### Panelists:

- **Congresswoman Donna Christensen**, Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust
- **Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis**, Chair, Health Task Force, Congressional Hispanic Caucus
- **Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo**, Chair, CAPAC Health Task Force
- **Congressman Michael Honda**, Chair, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
- **Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton**

##### Other members of Congress

- **Gil L. Robertson, IV**, Journalist, Author of *Not in My Family* and HIV/AIDS Advocate
- **Dr. John Ruffin**, Director, National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health
- **Rachel Joseph**, Co-Chair, National Steering Committee for the Reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- **Dr. Gail Christopher**, The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies
- **Dr. Brian Smedley**, The Opportunity Agenda

##### 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm **Welcome Reception**



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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

**8:00 am to 4:00 pm**     **2006 TriCaucus Health Summit**  
The Ballroom, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC

**8:00 am to 8:50 am**     **Breakfast and Registration**

**8:50 am to 9:00 am**     **A health and fitness moment by the American Council for Fitness and Nutrition**

**9:00 am to 9:30 am**     **Welcoming remarks from Members and Key Sponsors**

**9:30 am to 11:00 am**     **Session 1: Social Determinants of Health**  
This session will explore social determinants of health and how these factors sustain and exacerbate racial and ethnic health disparities.

**Moderator:**

**Dora L. Hughes, M.D., M.P.H.**, Office of Senator Barack Obama

**Panelists:**

- **Juliet Choi, American Red Cross.** *Ms. Choi will begin with a brief introduction about social determinants of health.*
- **Dr. Natasha Williams, Community Voices.** *Dr. Williams will discuss the lessons learned in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina various social determinants of health, their interconnectedness and their impact on the health of individuals and communities.*
- **Belinda Pettiford, National Healthy Start Association.** *Ms. Pettiford will speak about the National Healthy Start Association's community-based maternal and child health programs that address infant mortality, low birth weight and health disparities in prenatal outcomes, as well as the importance of community involvement in the design and implementation of their efforts.*
- **Nazrat Mirza, Children's National Medical Center.** *Dr. Mirza will discuss the chronic condition of childhood obesity among children of color and the efforts of the COOL Kids Project.*



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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

### 10:45 am to 12:00 pm **Session 2: Under-Addressed and Emerging Health Issues**

This session will highlight some of the under-addressed and emerging health issues that have a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minority communities.

#### Moderator:

**Marilyn Rosa-Bray, M.D.**, Medical Director, Grifols

#### Panelists:

- **Thelma King Theil, The Hepatitis Foundation International.** *Ms. Theil will discuss the disproportionate prevalence of hepatitis viruses within communities of color, as well as the important role that hepatitis education and prevention plays in reducing hepatitis incidence and improving better health decisions.*
- **Sharon Latson, the VITAS Healthcare Corporation.** *Ms. Latson will discuss the important role that hospice plays in the health and health care of people in the latter stages of life. Additionally, Ms. Latson will discuss the comprehensive hospice benefits that are offered through Medicare.*
- **Myla Moss, American Dental Education Association.** *Ms. Moss will explore racial and ethnic disparities in oral and dental health care access and outcomes. She also will discuss the link between dental and oral health, and other health issues.*
- **Elisa Jaramillo, CASA of Maryland, the Health Care Access Project.** *Ms. Jaramillo will introduce the organization and share lessons learned about expanding access to and addressing issues of cultural and linguistic competence in health care, particularly with regard to emerging immigrant communities and changing demographics.*
- **Dr. Juan Ramos, Member of the Board of Directors, National Hispanic Council on Aging; formerly with National Institute of Mental Health.** *Dr. Ramos will discuss the importance of behavioral health awareness for communities of color. He will elaborate on the need for greater national collaboration for behavioral health issues amongst communities of color.*



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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm Special Lunch Presentation**

**Moderator:**

**Rick Blake, Senior Health Advisor, Office of Congressman Ed Towns.** *Mr. Blake will briefly discuss Mr. Towns' legislative priorities that address HIT, as well as will introduce our lunch presentation speakers and serve as the moderator of the lunch panel.*

**Lunch Presentation:**

**Silas Buchanon and Dr. Lucy Perez, Universal Patient Record Information Systems (UPRIS) Corporation.** *Mr. Buchanon will give a presentation the potentiality of health information technology, as well as how such technology could be used to measure and analyze health disparities. Dr. Perez will discuss the positive impact that health information technology may have on health care quality and health outcomes.*

**Special Presentation:**

**Moderator and Opening Remarks:**

**Bonnie Johnson, Office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.** *Ms. Johnson will discuss her personal success story with following a low-impact training program. Additionally, she will introduce Dr. Ferdowsian and Mr. Warren, who will address obesity, overweight and the importance of sound nutrition and portion size.*

**Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.** *Dr. Ferdowsian will explore the inextricable link between numerous chronic conditions, and overweight and obesity in communities of color, as well as the important role that nutrition and portion size education can play in creating healthier communities.*

**Vance Warren, Retired DC Police Officer.** *Mr. Warren will discuss his personal experiences with taking charge of his diet and nutrition, and the impact it has had on his health and well being.*



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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

**1:00 pm to 2:00 pm      Session 3: Chronic Disease Prevention and Care**

This session will highlight the issues around and models to address chronic diseases within racial and ethnic minority communities.

- **Dr. Consuela Hunt, Children's Health Project.** *Dr. Shield-Harris will deliver remarks about the racial and ethnic disparities in asthma.*
- **Dr. Shiriki Kumanyika, University of Pennsylvania.** *Dr. Kumanyika will deliver remarks about the health impacts of overweight and obesity, and the racial and ethnic differences in overweight and obesity.*
- **Catalina Sol, La Clinica del Pueblo.** *Ms. Sol will raise awareness about the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS in communities of color, the importance of knowing your status, HIV prevention and the importance of the Ryan White CARE Act in HIV/AIDS care and treatment in racial and ethnic minority communities.*
- **Dr. John Ford, Director of Health Disparities Program, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.** *Dr. Ford will focus on community-based efforts to raise awareness about prostate cancer prevalence in the racial and ethnic minority communities, as well as the importance of prostate cancer screening and prevention to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in prostate cancer prevalence and deaths.*

**2:00 pm to 3:00 pm      Session 4: How to Achieve Culturally and Linguistically Competent Healthcare**

This session will focus on models and strategies to bolster and improve culturally and linguistically competent health care. Additionally, this session will highlight the impact of cultural and linguistic competence on minority health care and health outcomes.

**Moderator:**

**Melina Afzal, LCSW, Social Worker, DaVita Inc.**

**Panelists:**

- **Dr. Olivia Carter-Pokras, Associate Professor, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Latino Providers Network of Baltimore City and Sonia Mora, Montgomery County, Latino Health Initiative** *Dr. Carter-Pokras and Ms. Mora will discuss the use of a promotora de salud program to disseminate breast and cervical cancer education materials, and information on where to obtain free or low-cost breast and cervical cancer screening to the Latino community in Baltimore. Dr. Carter-Pokras and Ms. Mora also will discuss the importance of culturally and linguistically competent healthcare and how the medical model can be supplemented with non-traditional models of care.*



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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

...Continued  
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

### Session 4: How to Achieve Culturally and Linguistically Competent Healthcare

...Continued

- **Sally Smith, National Indian Health Board of Directors.** *Ms. Smith could focus her presentation on the numerous models that are implemented to ensure and protect cultural and linguistic competence in healthcare among American Indian populations. She also could mention the importance of recognizing and incorporating traditional healing methods under the umbrella of culturally competent health care.*
- **Dr. Luis Padilla, Unity Health Center at Cardoza.** *Dr. Padilla will discuss the model that the Unity Health Center created uses to improve culturally and linguistically competent health care.*
- **Betty Lam, Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services,** *Ms. Lam will highlight the steps that the county department has undertaken to ensure language access to vital safety net programs and services for the county's residents.*

3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

### Lessons Learned and Wrap-Up

Members of Congress will take center stage during this plenary to discuss the lessons learned from the day, take questions from the audience and propose ideas based on the lessons learned.

#### Moderator:

**Daron Watts, Coalition to Promote Minority Health**

#### Panelists:

- **Briana M. Webster-Patterson, Families USA.** *Ms. Webster-Patterson will begin the wrap-up discussion with a presentation on how minority health stakeholders can get involved in the minority health policy process.*
- **Dr. Garth Graham, Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services.** *Dr. Graham will introduce a new initiative being launched by the Office of Minority Health to reduce health disparities and improve minority health across the country.*
- **Members of Congress**



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### ABOUT THE SPONSORS

#### **The American Public Health Association**

The American Public Health Association (APHA) is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the world, representing more than 50,000 members from over 50 occupations of public health. APHA has been influencing policies and setting priorities in public health for over 125 years. Throughout its history it has been in the forefront of numerous efforts to prevent disease and promote health. APHA brings together researchers, health service providers, administrators, teachers, and other health workers in a unique, multidisciplinary environment of professional exchange, study, and action. APHA is concerned with a broad set of issues affecting personal and environmental health, including federal and state funding for health programs, pollution control, programs and policies related to chronic and infectious diseases, a smoke-free society, and professional education in public health. Contact: American Public Health Association, 800 I. Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-3710, telephone: (202) 777 APHA (2742), Fax: (202) 777-2532.

#### **Amgen**

Amgen discovers, develops and delivers innovative human therapeutics. A biotechnology pioneer since 1980, Amgen was one of the first companies to realize the new science's promise by bringing safe, effective medicines from lab, to manufacturing plant, to patient. Amgen therapeutics have changed the practice of medicine, helping millions of people around the world in the fight against cancer, kidney disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and other serious illnesses. With a deep and broad pipeline of potential new medicines, Amgen remains committed to advancing science to dramatically improve people's lives. To learn more about our pioneering science and our vital medicines, visit [www.amgen.com](http://www.amgen.com).

#### **Bristol-Myers Squibb**

At Bristol-Myers Squibb, our mission is to extend and enhance human life by providing the highest-quality pharmaceuticals and health care products. Bristol-Myers Squibb is a leading provider of medicines to fight cancer, cardiovascular and infectious diseases -- including HIV/AIDS -- and serious mental illness. In our world-class research and development facilities -- located in New Jersey, Connecticut and elsewhere around the globe -- we're looking for new and better treatments for cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses and conditions. Augmenting our internal R&D capabilities, Bristol-Myers Squibb has an extraordinary history of successful partnerships to develop and deliver important new medicines to people who need them worldwide. More information about Bristol Myers Squibb can be found at [www.bms.com](http://www.bms.com).

#### **The Coalition to Promote Minority Health**

Established in 2004, the Coalition to Promote Minority Health is a 501(c)(3) that works with community minded industry leaders, non-profits and the government to develop innovative approaches to promote healthy lifestyles in minority communities across the nation. The Founder of the Coalition is Daron Watts, a partner at the international law firm Sidley Austin LLP. In addition to Sidley, the growing coalition is currently supported by community minded businesses such as Sidley Austin LLP, Herbalife International, Inc., Del Monte Foods Corporation, Colgate-Palmolive and Pitney Bowes Corporation and counts several offices in the Tri-Caucus and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, among its government partners.



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### DaVita

DaVita is a leading kidney care provider, serving kidney patients with high-quality specialized prevention and treatment services. The DaVita patient population includes nearly 100,000 patients who have been diagnosed with End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), a group representing approximately one-quarter of all Americans with ESRD and approximately one-third of all Americans receiving dialysis services. In addition, DaVita's Kidney Education and You (KEY) program helps patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) remain as healthy and active as possible. Spanning 42 states and the District of Columbia, the DaVita network includes more than 1,250 outpatient facilities as well as acute inpatient units in over 750 hospitals. DaVita's nationwide network is staffed by 28,000 teammates and more than 1,000 medical directors. This comprehensive care team includes nephrologists, nephrology nurses, patient care technicians, pharmacists, clinical researchers, dieticians, social workers, and other highly-trained kidney care specialists.

### Grifols

Grifols has been present in healthcare since 1940, creating innovative products and services based on the values of ethics and responsibility. Grifols' activities focus on fulfilling the needs of healthcare professionals working in therapeutics, pharmacy, diagnostics and blood banking. For more than 60 years, Grifols has developed, manufactured and marketed products designed to improve human health. The Company manufactures products of proven efficacy, quality and safety. More information about Grifols can be found at [www.grifols.com](http://www.grifols.com).

### Ovations

Ovations is an innovative leader in the health and well-being industry, serving approximately 70 million Americans. Through our family of companies, we contribute outstanding clinical insight with consumer-friendly services and advanced technology to help people achieve optimal health. Ovations is a diversified health and well-being company dedicated to making the health care system work better. The company directs its resources into designing products, providing services and applying technologies that: improve access to health and well-being services; simplify the health care experience; promote quality; and, make health care more affordable.

### PhRMA

PhRMA, through the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA), has helped more than three million Americans nationwide find programs that provide prescription medicines for free or nearly free. The PPA, sponsored by America's pharmaceutical research companies, is the largest private-sector effort connecting low-income, uninsured and underinsured patients to more than 475 public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 180 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. Patients in need can visit the PPA's easy-to-use Web site ([www.pparx.org](http://www.pparx.org)) or call the toll-free phone number (1-888-4PPA-NOW) where trained operators field calls in more than 150 languages. Over 2,500 brand-name and generic prescription medicines are available through participating patient assistance programs. In addition, the PPA provides information on nearly 10,000 free healthcare clinics and has connected nearly 85,000 patients with clinics and health care providers in their communities. More than 1,300 national and local organizations, including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the National Urban League, Easter Seals and the National Alliance for Hispanic Health, have partnered with America's pharmaceutical research companies to help spread the word about the PPA.



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### Sepracor

Sepracor Inc. is a research-based pharmaceutical company dedicated to treating and preventing human disease by discovering, developing and commercializing innovative pharmaceutical products that are directed toward serving unmet medical needs. Sepracor's drug development program has yielded a portfolio of pharmaceutical products and candidates with a focus on respiratory and central nervous system disorders. Sepracor's corporate headquarters are located in Marlborough, Massachusetts.

### VITAS Innovative Hospice Care®

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care®, a pioneer and leader in the hospice movement since 1978, is the nation's largest provider of end-of-life care. VITAS provides a special form of care for people during the last months of life. When medical treatments cannot cure a disease, the VITAS team of hospice professionals can assist by controlling pain, reducing anxiety and providing medical, spiritual and emotional comfort and support to patients and their families. Since 1978 when the company was founded by a minister and a nurse, VITAS has been a leader in the American hospice movement, helping to define the standards of care and working as an advocate to expand access to population groups historically underserved by healthcare providers.



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### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Melina Afzal, LCSW**

Ms. Afzal is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the District of Columbia. Her profound personal experiences have shaped who she is today and have greatly influenced her professional career.

In 1977, Ms. Afzal and her family immigrated to Northern Virginia from Tehran, Iran. Through her family's experiences and struggles, Ms. Afzal quickly became aware of the inequalities, injustices and divide among certain populations. At a young age, she began developing values deeply rooted in social justice. She then took action by working with and advocating for disenfranchised populations.

Ms. Afzal has committed her life to enhancing the wellness of individuals and communities by providing support, knowledge and resources. She believes that individuals, when provided with the appropriate skills and support, can enhance the quality of their lives, thus strengthening the community in which they live. She has worked with multiple and diverse communities. Her particular area of interest is HIV/AIDS, mental health and substance use.

Currently, Ms. Afzal resides in Washington D. C. where she is a part-time Renal Social Worker with Davita Dialysis and the co-founder of Full Circle Grassroots Consultants, LLC., She has found a nice professional balance in which she can provide direct clinical services, engage in community organizing, provide education and training, and impact policy on service delivery.

#### **Madeleine Z. Bordallo**

A lifetime public servant, in 2003 Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo became the first woman to represent Guam in the U.S. House of Representatives. Bordallo brings to Congress over forty years of public service experience in the executive and legislative branches of the Government of Guam and numerous non-governmental organizations. The 109th Congress is Bordallo's second term.

Congresswoman Bordallo is a member of the Armed Services Committee, where she serves on the subcommittees on Readiness and Projection Forces. Bordallo is an advocate of Guam's strategic location as the military considers force realignment in the region. She also serves on the Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction over territorial matters, with positions on the subcommittees on Fisheries & Oceans and National Parks. A member of the Committee on Small Business, Bordallo serves as Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Government Oversight.

In addition to her committee responsibilities, Congresswoman Bordallo serves as Secretary of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. She is also a member of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus, the Korean Caucus, the Army Caucus, and the Navy/Marine Corps Caucus, the Travel and Tourism Caucus, and the Women's Caucus.

The 108th Congress passed several significant measures that were introduced by Congresswoman Bordallo in her freshman term. Some of these successful legislative initiatives that were signed into law by the President include amending Guam's Organic Act to create an independent and unified Judiciary, increasing federal assistance for the impact of immigration resulting from Compact treaty obligations, and authorizing greater federal funding for the control and eradication of the invasive Brown Tree Snake. Bordallo's legislative efforts have benefited from the close relationships she has established with other



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Members from the U.S. territories, the Hawaiian delegation, and House leadership on both sides of the aisle. She has also worked in a bi-partisan approach with other government officials from Guam to address federal issues that are important to the island.

Congresswoman Bordallo, who is a resident of Tamuning, Guam, was born in Minnesota. She graduated from George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam, in 1951, and attended St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana, and St. Catherine's College in St. Paul, Minnesota, graduating in 1953 with a degree in music. That year, she married Ricardo J. "Ricky" Bordallo and they have a daughter, Deborah, and a granddaughter, Nicole.

Congresswoman Bordallo began her public career with local radio and television broadcaster KUAM in 1954. Her involvement in the community has also been extensive, with Bordallo founding the Guam Council of Women's Clubs, the Guam Symphony Society, Y Inetnon Famalaoan (Women for Service), and the Marianas Association for Persons with Disabilities. She was also a past President of the Federation of Asia Pacific Women's Associations and has been taken a leadership role in dozens of other community organizations throughout her life.

Bordallo was introduced to public service through her husband Ricky, who served as Governor of Guam from 1975-1978 and 1983-1986. As First Lady of Guam, Bordallo was a strong advocate of promoting the indigenous Chamorro culture and the arts, both of which are lifelong passions. In between her husband's two terms as Governor, Bordallo became the first woman from her party to serve as a Guam Senator. She was a member of the 16th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd Guam Legislatures. Following the death of her husband in 1990, she made an unsuccessful bid for Governor, and in doing so became the first woman in Guam's history to lead her party's ticket. From 1995-2002, she served two consecutive terms as Guam's first woman Lieutenant Governor. In this role, she championed the cause of island beautification as a way to enhance Guam's tourism based economy.

### **Dr. Olivia Carter-Pokras**

Dr. Olivia Carter-Pokras is a nationally known Latina health researcher and an Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine; and Associate Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Maryland College Park. A second-generation Bolivian, she earned a PhD in Epidemiology and a MHS in Biostatistics from Johns Hopkins University where she also serves as an Associate faculty member of the Department of Epidemiology. Prior to joining the faculty at the University of Maryland, Dr. Carter-Pokras served as the Director of the Division of Policy and Data at the Office of Minority Health in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Carter-Pokras has received awards from the Secretary of HHS, the Assistant Secretary for Health, the Surgeon General, the Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Director of the National Center for Health Statistics, and the Latino Caucus of the American Public Health Association for her career achievements to improve racial and ethnic data and develop national health policy.

Dr. Carter-Pokras has published over 40 journal articles, Federal government publications, book chapters and books, and her research has played a critical role in national recognition of health disparities experienced by the Latino community. She has an extensive history of ensuring that the community has a voice in research conducted at the national and local levels. Dr. Carter-Pokras is Principal Investigator for the University of Maryland's cultural competency and health disparities academic award from NIH. She is an elected American College of Epidemiology fellow, an elected member of the American Public Health



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Association's Executive Board, and serves on the Latino Health Steering Committee in Montgomery County Maryland. She co-chairs Maryland's Measuring Disparities Committee and the health subcommittee of the Latino Providers Network in Baltimore. Dr. Carter-Pokras lectures on epidemiologic methods, cultural competency and health disparities. She is currently conducting health assessments of Latinos in Baltimore and Montgomery County in close partnership with local government and community based organizations.

### **Juliet K. Choi**

In September 2006, Juliet K. Choi joined the national headquarters of the American Red Cross as the Senior Associate for National Partnership Development with Partner Services, Preparedness & Response Department. Ms. Choi comes to the American Red Cross from the Asian American Justice Center as the inaugural NAPABA Partners Community Law Fellow and staff attorney where her expertise focused on language rights/access with an emphasis on access to healthcare and the courts and led AAJC's relief efforts in the gulf region, working with a broad coalition of community groups and local, state, and federal agencies to ensure access and language access to necessary support services.

A certified mediator, Ms. Choi previously served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Dennis M. Sweeney of the Circuit Court for Howard County, Maryland. She received her law school's prestigious Alumni Association Award as the graduating student deemed by the faculty to have contributed most largely to the law school through her qualities of character and leadership. Additionally, in 2002, she was first recognized as an Asian Pacific American Bar Association Educational Fund (AEF) Fellow for her work with the Disability Rights Section of the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and then as a NAPABA Law Foundation Presidential Scholar for leadership. She is a graduate of the University Of Maryland School Of Law and received her B.A. in Economics from the University of Virginia. Ms. Choi's experience includes consultancy with local, state and federal agencies on multi-agency system reform and community coalition building.

Her leadership and volunteer work have included serving on a wide array of boards and committees for such groups as Georgetown Medical Center's National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health; Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute; City of Alexandria, Virginia; State of Virginia; Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland; and Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center. Recently invited to join the National Diversity Council of the American Red Cross, she currently serves on the Leadership and Diversity Committee, Civil Policy Group of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) and the board of directors of the National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association.

### **Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen**



The Honorable Donna M. Christensen continues to distinguish herself as a leader in the United States Congress. As a Member serving her fifth term, she is the first female physician in the history of the U.S. Congress, the first woman to represent an offshore Territory, and the first woman Delegate from the United States Virgin Islands.

In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Delegate Christensen serves on the following House Committees, Subcommittees and Caucuses: She serves on the Committee on Resources, which oversees territorial and public land issues, the Committee on Small Business, which oversees entrepreneurship and business activities and on the Homeland Security Committee which oversees preparing the nation to prevent and withstand attack.



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Christensen serves on the Committee on Resources' Subcommittee on National Parks, where she is the Ranking Democrat. She serves on the Small Business's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform and Oversight which oversees federal regulations on small businesses and on Homeland Security's Subcommittees on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology; Management, Integration and Oversight; and Prevention of Nuclear and Biological Attack.

Delegate Christensen is a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus and chairs the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust, which oversees and advocates minority health issues nationally and internationally. She is a Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues; Member of the Steering Committee of the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus; Member of the Congressional Rural Caucus; Member of the Coastal Caucus; Member of the Congressional Fire Caucus and additionally, a Member of the Congressional National Guard and Reserve Caucus.

She is the recipient of many honors and awards, especially for her work in health. In recent years she was honored as a "Distinguished Alumna" by the George Washington University, and received The Distinguished Service Award from the Howard University School of Medicine, and an honorary Doctor of Laws from Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

### **Dr. Garth Graham, M.D., M.P.H. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**



Dr. Garth N. Graham is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health in the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Minority Health develops and coordinates Federal health policy that addresses minority health concerns and ensures that Federal, State and local health programs take into account the needs of disadvantaged, racial and ethnic populations. The Office of Minority Health (OMH) was created by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 1986 as a result of the Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health.

He was previously appointed a White House Fellow and special assistant to former Secretary Tommy G. Thompson at the Department of Health and Human Services. He founded the Boston Men's Cardiovascular Health Project, a project designed to identify behavioral explanations for decreased adherence to adequate diet and exercise by African American men. Dr Graham was the Founding Senior Editorial Board Member of the Yale Journal of Health, Law, Policy, and Ethics, served on the Editorial Board of the Yale Journal of Biology and Science, Public Health Reports and a number of other guest editorial boards. He also served on the Public Health Executive Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Board of Directors of Physicians for Human Rights, Chairman of the American Medical Association/MSS National Minority Issues Committee and on the Steering Committee of the Boston Men's Health Coalition. He is currently on the faculty of Harvard Medical School where he trained in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and serves as a visiting scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has authored scientific articles and presentations on cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS and community medicine.

Dr. Graham earned an M.D. from the Yale School of Medicine, where he graduated cum laude. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society and named a Yale President Public Service Fellow. He also earned an M.P.H. from the Yale School of Epidemiology and Public Health with a focus in



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health policy administration. He has received numerous accolades for his leadership and service in promoting health, including the 2002 American Medical Association Leadership Award, the Partners in Excellence Award, the Miriam Kathleen Dasey Award from Yale Medical School and the 2005 Reginald Hawkins award. The Business Network Journal also named him one of the Forty Leaders Under Forty.

### **Philip L. Haberstro**

Philip L. Haberstro is founder (1989) and CEO of the Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo and WNY, Inc. The non-profit Institute provides "Healthy Community" advocacy, training and management services to public, private, civic and non-profit organizations throughout the Greater Buffalo region, New York State and the U.S. . Located in historic downtown Buffalo, the Institute serves the city as a provider for their award winning employee health promotion and community building programs.

Mr. Haberstro utilizes and advocates the "Healthy Community" concept as a guiding model for creating positive cultural change. The Institute is highly respected for its sound planning strategies and capacity to build coalitions among diverse groups at the local level. Phil is a frequent advisor and speaker on leadership and the creation of "Healthy Communities" through the social, environmental, economic and human factors that influence quality of life.

Mr. Haberstro has labored tirelessly to enhance grassroots capacity for city, state and national health promotion and social capital building initiatives that engage the public, private, non-profit and civic sectors in creating sustainable solutions to the challenges our communities face. He previously served as program Chair of the NYS Governor's Council on Lifetime Health and Fitness, President of the NYS Federation of Professional Health Educators and Alumni Chair for the National Civic League's All America City Award.

Currently, Mr. Haberstro's professional leadership activities include: Coordinator for the Buffalo Niagara All America City committee, Director of the Be Active New York State initiative, and Executive Director of the National Association for Health & Fitness

Mr. Haberstro serves on the national advisory council of the Institute for Health and Productivity Management and the American Council for Fitness and Nutrition.

### **Congressman Mike Honda**

Mike Honda was born in California, but spent his early childhood with his family in an internment camp for Japanese Americans in Amache, Colorado during World War II. In 1965, Honda entered the Peace Corps and moved to El Salvador for two years, where he built schools and health clinics in rural communities. Honda returned from El Salvador with a passion for teaching and community outreach, and earned a degree in Biological Sciences and a BA in Spanish at San Jose State University, and later a Masters in Education. For twenty years, Honda served as a science teacher and principal in the San Jose Public School system.

In 1971, Mike Honda was appointed by then-Mayor Norm Mineta to the San Jose City Planning Commission. In 1981, he was elected to the San Jose Unified School Board. In 1990, Honda became the first and only Asian Pacific American to serve on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. In 1996, Honda was elected to the California State Assembly where he served as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. In November 2000, Honda was elected to Congress to represent the 15<sup>th</sup> District of California—a seat previously held by his friend and mentor, U.S. Transportation Secretary, Norman Y.



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Mineta. California's 15<sup>th</sup> District contains the largest Asian Pacific American population of any Congressional District in the continental United States. Honda serves on the Transportation and Science Committees, and serves as the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

### **Dora L. Hughes, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dr. Dora Hughes advises Senator Barack Obama on a broad range of health and education issues and helps to develop his national policy and legislative agenda. She previously served as Deputy Director for Health for Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in the United States Senate. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Dr. Hughes served as Senior Program Officer at The Commonwealth Fund, a national health foundation in New York City. She completed medical school at Vanderbilt University, residency at Brigham & Women's Hospital and public health school at Harvard University. Dr. Hughes is board-certified in internal medicine.

### **Consuela Hunt, MD**

Consuela Hunt has worked with the Children's Health Project of DC for 6 years, providing pediatric care to medically underserved children and their families in the District of Columbia.

She is an alumna of the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond Virginia, where she received her Doctor of Medicine degree in 2000. There she was involved in the Student National Medical Association helping to mentor undergraduate students interested in attending medical school. Her undergraduate degree was completed at Norfolk State Univ. in Norfolk, VA.

She completed her pediatric internship and residency at Georgetown University Medical Center in 2003 and has been with the Children's Health Project of DC at Children's National Medical Center since that time. She has obtained board certification in General Pediatrics and is committed to providing comprehensive primary care to children in the District of Columbia.

### **Dr. Elisa Jaramillo**

Dr. Elisa Jaramillo received her degree as a medical doctor in her home country of Colombia and she recently received the MPH degree from Harvard University. She has been working as the Senior Manager for the Health Programs of CASA of Maryland for the past year. Founded in 1985, CASA of Maryland is the largest non-profit organization serving Latino and low-income immigrant communities in Maryland. The organization provides services from offices in East Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Baltimore, Long Branch and Wheaton.

As the Senior Manager of the Health Programs of CASA of Maryland, Dr. Jaramillo ensures the development and implementation of 11 prevention-based public health programs which promote community leadership in building a healthy community, provide education and access to screening and treatment for HIV, diabetes, heart-health and cancer. She also supervises three programs that address the need for improved access to medical treatment by providing a bilingual telephone health-information line (Hotline) to inform community members of available services, facilitating their navigation through the system, and by providing medical interpreting services for limited English speakers of Spanish and French. This involves the provision of trained medical interpreters to community clinics and for associated specialty care. In the last year, approximately 3,000 individuals received assistance through the Bilingual Health Information Line and over 2,300 individuals benefited by having a qualified medical interpreter during the appointment.

Additionally, CASA provides primary health care services once per week in one of our sites.



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### **Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH**

Shiriki Kumanyika, PhD, MPH is Professor of Epidemiology, Associate Dean for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and Founding Director of the Graduate Program in Public Health Studies at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Her primary research focus is obesity, both treatment and prevention, in African Americans. She leads a National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIH)-funded Center of Excellence on Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research on Health Disparities, and Training (EXPORT) that focuses on reducing ethnic disparities in obesity and related health problems. With support

from this EXPORT Center as well as the CDC, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Dr. Kumanyika is developing the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network (AACORN) to improve the quality, quantity, and relevance of research on obesity in African American communities and to increase the number and visibility of African American scholars involved in obesity related research fields.

Dr. Kumanyika has published more than 200 scientific articles and monographs and has lectured widely on nutrition and public health topics, both in the United States and abroad. Her advisory roles within the United States include current service on the NIH Clinical Obesity Research Panel and recent membership on Institute of Medicine Committees related to the Prevention of Obesity in Children and Youth. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine. She is also currently the Vice Chair of the Executive Board of the American Public Health Association. Her international activities include 10 years of service as Chair of the Prevention Group of the International Obesity Task Force of the International Association for the Study of Obesity as well as having served as Chair, Vice Chair or Co-Chair of three recent World Health Organization consultations on nutrition and obesity issues.

### **Betty H. Lam**

Ms. Betty Lam joined the Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) in the summer of 2004 as the Chief of the Office of Community Affairs. In that capacity, Ms. Lam is responsible for developing and implementing outreach strategies targeting communities that are underserved. The Office also leads department-wide linguistic and cultural competency initiatives. Prior to the current post, Ms. Lam was appointed as the Community Liaison for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 2002, and was later detailed over to work on special assignments at the Office of Civil Rights for the Federal Department of Health & Human Services. Before coming to the Greater Washington D.C. area in 2002, Ms. Lam had lived and worked in Boston, Massachusetts for 19 years and held various positions in the public and private sectors including the Director of Interpreter Services and the Asian Health Initiative for New England Medical Center, Director of Community Relations for the Metropolitan District Commission, and the Managing Editor of the Sampan Newspaper, a bilingual publication based in Boston. Ms. Lam received her Master of Arts degree in Journalism from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

### **Sonia E. Mora**

Sonia Mora is currently the Manager of the Latino Health Initiative at the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services in Maryland, where she is responsible for overseeing all technical, management, and fiscal activities relating to the Latino Health Initiative (LHI), a unique program that aims to address the need and wishes of Latinos in Montgomery County, Maryland for culturally competent and linguistically appropriate help services.



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For the past fifteen years, Sonia has been a leader working with racial/ethnic minority communities on numerous cutting-edge health issues. Sonia has successfully provided services in several areas related to health disparities and has provided technical consultation to community-based organizations in the development, implementation, and evaluation of prevention programs. Sonia has excelled as a trainer to private and public organizations involved in the provision of culturally and linguistically competent health services to Latinos nationwide. She has served as technical consultant to numerous national and international organizations in the development, adaptation, and translation of health education materials for Spanish-speaking audiences.

Sonia received a bachelor's degree in Health Sciences from Marymount University and is currently completing her Master in Public Health degree at Walden University. She is also Adjunct Instructor for the Center for Global Health at the George Washington University.

### **Myla J. Moss, MA, MSW**

Ms. Moss is Director of Congressional Relations and Regulatory Affairs. As ADEA's chief lobbyist she advances ADEA's legislative priorities on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. She has had a rich career in the nation's capitol in a variety of organizations, including the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, and on Capitol Hill as the Director of the U.S. House of Representatives Congressional Page Program, and as a Graduate Fellow with the House Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. Ms. Moss has a broad range of experience with appropriations, health professions training, Graduate Medical Education (GME), Ryan White reauthorization, health care access issues, regulatory matters, and student financial assistance legislation. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work in 1992, and a Masters in English Literature in 1988, both from Howard University. Ms. Moss is also a part-time sales associate for Neiman Marcus. Ms. Moss has just been re-elected for the local office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for LeDroit Park in Washington DC.



### **Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton**

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton is now in her eighth term as the Congresswoman for the District of Columbia. Named by President Jimmy Carter as the first woman to chair the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, she came to Congress as a national figure who had been a civil rights and feminist leader, tenured professor of law, and board member of three Fortune 500 companies. Ms. Norton also had been named one of the 100 most important American women in one survey and one of the most powerful women in Washington in another.

The Congresswoman's work for full congressional voting representation and for full democracy for the people of the District of Columbia continues her lifelong struggle for universal human rights. Congresswoman Norton has used her background in national affairs and in law to become a leader in the House in important posts. She has served in the Democratic House leadership group and as the Democratic chair of the Women's Caucus, and she has been a member of the Committee on the Reorganization of the Congress, appointed by the Speaker when the Democrats controlled the House. Her success in writing bills and getting them enacted has made her one of the most effective legislative leaders in the House. She has the full vote in House committees and serves on the Committee on Homeland Security, the Government Reform Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.



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Congresswoman Norton led her city in the Congress through the most serious financial crisis in a century during the 1990's. She achieved a historic package that for the first time restructured the financial relationship between the Congress and the District by transferring \$5 billion in unfunded pension liability and billions more in state costs to the federal government. Her numerous accomplishments for her district also include other historic breakthroughs, among them the achievement of the right to vote on the House floor (until the rules were changed by the Republicans); a two day debate and the first vote on D.C. statehood; and senatorial courtesy achieved for the first time during the Clinton administration in the selection of federal judges.

Congresswoman Norton has placed major emphasis on bringing home many unique economic benefits to her constituents, as well. Among the most noteworthy are her bill that allows D.C. residents to attend any public U.S. college at low in-state tuition or \$2,500 to attend certain private colleges; a unique D.C.-only \$5,000 homebuyer tax credit that has increased sharply home ownership and helped stabilize the city's population; and D.C.-only tax breaks for employing D.C. residents and for maintaining businesses in the District. Among her major job and development initiatives and bills are the relocation of 6,000 jobs to the Navy Yard; private development of the 55 acre Southeast Federal Center to benefit the District; and successful efforts that have kept the Department of Transportation Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms from leaving for the suburbs.

Congresswoman Norton, who taught full time before being elected, continues as a tenured professor of law at Georgetown University, teaching a course there every year. After receiving her bachelors degree from Antioch College in Ohio, she simultaneously earned her law degree as well as a masters degree in American Studies from Yale. Yale Law School has awarded her the Citation of Merit as an Outstanding Alumna of Yale Law School, and Yale Graduate School has awarded her the Yale Wilbur Cross Medal as an Outstanding Alumna of the Graduate School, the highest awards conferred by each on alumnae. She is the recipient of more than 50 honorary degrees.

Congresswoman Norton has served on the board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the Board of Governors of the D.C. Bar Association, as well as the boards of civil rights, and other national organizations. The Congresswoman is a third generation Washingtonian and is the mother of John Holmes Norton and Katherine Felicia Norton.

### **Dr. Luis Padilla**

Dr. Padilla is currently the medical director of Unity Health Care's Upper Cardozo Health Center located in Columbia Heights, Washington DC. He received his undergraduate B.A. in philosophy and B.S. in biology from the University of California at Irvine in 1994. He received his medical degree from Wake Forest School of medicine in 2001 and completed his family medicine residency training from Brown University in 2004. He is a board certified family physician who lives with his wife and cat, in Columbia Heights, just six blocks from the Upper Cardozo Health Center.

### **Juan Ramos, Ph.D.**

He retired after 35 years at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) where he held a number of program and administrative positions, and was in the Senior Executive Service from its inception in July 1979. He received a Master of Social Work degree from the School of Social Work, University of Southern California and a Ph.D from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. Most of his effort was in the development of social work research pertinent to



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mental health and mental illness; development of research and research training initiatives; facilitating clinical and research training and mental health services pertinent to minority populations with emphasis on promoting the establishment of local, state and national organizations to address minority mental health issues. In addition, he facilitated the organization and development of a number of international epidemiological studies on the incidence and prevalence of mental disorders, and physical and mental disabilities. He has been a long time advocate for the implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He has received recognition from numerous national health and mental health organizations. Since his retirement he has been actively involved as a consultant and as member of Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Council on Aging and the Center for Behavioral Health Solutions. He is also a member of the Nominations and Board Development Committee and other committees of the National Mental Health Association; of the External Advisory Committee to the Center on Interventions in Bipolar Disorder in Hispanic Communities; and two committees exploring the development of a National Leadership Council of Hispanic Behavioral Health Associations and a partnership with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) on a study of the implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 focusing on meaningful access to services for persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).

### **Marilyn Rosa-Bray, M.D.**

Dr. Marilyn Rosa-Bray is an internist at Newcastle Medical Pavilion in Seattle Washington. In her practice she treats patients with a wide array of health conditions and chronic diseases such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension and others. Since obtaining her Medical Degree at the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in 1997, Dr. Rosa-Bray has gone out of her way to treat underserved and impoverished populations. Before moving to Seattle, Washington State Dr. Rosa-Bray lived in Flint Michigan where she was a physician at the Olive Branch Mission, Free Medical Clinic and later at the Genesee County Free Clinic. Moving to Seattle in 2001, she continued her commitment to the underserved at the Carolyn Downs Family Medical Center which offers health services to a largely Hispanic population.

Dr. Rosa-Bray has also published extensively and is currently working on a manuscript that examines alternative methods for chronic disease management. She is the recipient of many honors and awards including: Who's Who in Healthcare (2006), Outstanding Citizen in Puerto Rico (2005), and Who's Who in American Women (2004). Dr. Rosa-Bray has participated in a number of health focused community outreach programs on topics such as obesity, diabetes, and osteoporosis, and domestic violence.

In addition to her regular practice Dr. Rosa-Bray serves as the Medical Director for Grifols Biomat, a company that collects human plasma for the production of life-saving plasma therapies. In that capacity Dr. Rosa-Bray oversees the training of allied health professionals who perform health screening and counseling to thousands of plasma donors each year. Dr. Rosa-Bray also serves as Medical consultant to the Milliman Company where she has oversight of Spanish translations of patient education materials and clinical care guidelines.

Dr. Rosa-Bray is Board Certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



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### **Brian D. Smedley, Ph.D.**

Brian D. Smedley is Research Director and a co-founder of a new communications, research, and policy organization, The Opportunity Agenda ([www.opportunityagenda.org](http://www.opportunityagenda.org)). Formerly, he was a Senior Program Officer in the Division of Health Sciences Policy of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as Study Director for the IOM reports, *In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce* and *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, among other reports on health disparities, social and behavioral influences on health, diversity in the health professions, and minority health research policy. Smedley came to the IOM from the American Psychological Association, where he worked on a wide range of social, health, and education policy topics in his capacity as Director for Public Interest Policy. Prior to working at the APA, Smedley served as a Congressional Science Fellow in the office of Rep. Robert C. Scott (D-VA), sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Among his awards and distinctions, in 2004 Smedley was honored by the Rainbow/PUSH coalition as a "Health Trailblazer" award winner; in 2002 he was awarded the Congressional Black Caucus "Healthcare Hero" award; and in August, 2002, was awarded the Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest by the APA.

### **Catalina Sol**

Catalina Sol is the HIV/AIDS Department Director at La Clinica del Pueblo. La Clinica del Pueblo is a free, non-for-profit, community clinic serving uninsured persons in the metropolitan area, targeting immigrant Latinos for quality health care. La Clinica's HIV/AIDS Department includes direct services for persons living with HIV, including primary medical care, case management, rental assistance, mental health services, interpreters services, and support groups. In addition, La Clinica provides a range of peer-based prevention services, including HIV counseling and testing, and comprehensive HIV prevention interventions for at-risk Latino groups. As Department Director, Ms. Sol is directly responsible for program development and evaluation; monitoring of program goals; training and quality assurance; and staff supervision.

Ms. Sol has worked for the past fifteen years in health care settings serving immigrant, uninsured Latinos in the Washington Metropolitan. She holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from John Hopkins University, and is from El Salvador.

### **Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis**

Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis was first elected to Congress in November, 2000, and is serving her third term in the U.S. House of Representatives. She represents California's 32<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, which includes portions of East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. Prior to her election to Congress, Solis served eight years in the California state legislature. Congresswoman Solis' priorities in Congress include expanding access to affordable health insurance, protecting our environment and improving the lives of working families. In 2003, Solis became the first Latina appointed to the powerful House Committee on Energy and Commerce. As a member of this exclusive Committee, Solis continues her career long commitment to improving the quality of health care and fighting for environmental justice. Solis serves as Ranking Member of the Committee's Environment and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee and is a member of the Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee. In 2005, Solis was elected Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and named Chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group. Under these two important leadership roles, Solis continues to advocate for issues of importance to women and their families, including workplace rights, violence against women and international women's rights. Solis has been an outspoken leader in efforts to end the murders of almost 400 women in the U.S. border town of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Solis is serving her second term as the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Task Force on Health, under which she spearheads annual



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summits across the country to inform the public about racial and ethnic health disparities and efforts to eliminate them. Solis is also a Regional Whip for Southern California. In Congress, Solis has won legislative victories to authorize the federal government to examine how it can improve the San Gabriel River Watershed's recreational and environmental opportunities (Public Law No. 108-042) and to remove barriers to U.S. citizenship for the more than 45,000 non-U.S. citizens serving in the U.S. military and reserves (Public Law 108-136). Congresswoman Solis is a nationally recognized leader for environmental justice. In August 2000, she became the first woman awarded the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for her pioneering work on environmental justice issues in California. Her California environmental justice legislation, enacted in 1999, was the first of its kind in the nation to become law. Congresswoman Solis graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, in 1979 and earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California in 1981. She worked in the Carter White House Office of Hispanic Affairs and Congresswoman Solis was first elected to public office in 1985 as a member of the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees. She served in the California State Assembly from 1992 to 1994, and in 1994 made history by becoming the first Latina elected to the California State Senate. As the chairwoman of the powerful Senate Industrial Relations Committee, she led the battle to increase the state's minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75 an hour in 1996. She also authored a record seventeen state laws aimed at combating domestic violence. Congresswoman Solis is a lifetime resident of the San Gabriel Valley and currently resides in the city of El Monte with her husband Sam, a small business owner. Her parents and her six siblings continue to be a great source of inspiration to Congresswoman Solis.

### **Briana Webster-Patterson**

Briana Webster-Patterson is currently Program Manager of Minority Health Initiatives at Families USA. In this capacity, she works to integrate minority health policy into the organization's larger body of work as well as inform the efforts of other policymakers. She also assists in outreach to minority health stakeholders ranging from grassroots activists to minority journalists to elected officials. She currently assists in the day-to-day management of the National Health Policy Training Alliance for Communities of Color, an initiative that aims to build the capacity of communities of color to effectively engage in health policy and advocacy.

Ms. Webster-Patterson (who served as the first Paul Wellstone Fellow at Families USA from 2004-2005) received her Bachelor of Science in Public Health with a concentration in Health Policy and Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to arriving at Families USA, Ms. Webster-Patterson worked on research projects focusing on health disparities and adolescent sexual health, and she assisted Hispanic communities with State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) enrollment efforts in North Carolina.

### **Natasha H. Williams**

Natasha H. Williams, Ph.D., J.D., MPH is a Senior Researcher at Community Voices at the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Williams received her Ph.D. from Brandeis University in Social Policy in May 2003. She served as the A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. Research Fellow in Social Justice at Harvard Law School, a National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism trainee at the Heller Graduate School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, a postdoctoral fellow in urban health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a H. Jack Geiger Congressional Fellow in Health Policy in the office of Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust.



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Dr. Williams received her Masters of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 1995, her Juris Doctor from George Mason School of Law in 1994 and her Bachelor of Science in medical technology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore in 1990.

Her research focuses on the intersection of law, public health and social policy in the areas of on men's health, prison health, prisoner reentry and health disparities.

