

# **What Have We Learned and Where Do We Go From Here? Three Years of the National Healthcare Disparities Report**

**Monday, April 24, 2006  
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D.**

Carolyn M. Clancy was appointed Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) on February 5, 2003. Prior to her appointment, Dr. Clancy had served as AHRQ's Acting Director since March 2002 and previously was Director of the Agency's Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research (COER). Dr. Clancy, who is a general internist and health services researcher, is a graduate of Boston College and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Following clinical training in internal medicine, Dr. Clancy was a Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She was also an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond before joining AHRQ in 1990. Dr. Clancy holds an academic appointment at George Washington University School of Medicine (Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine) and serves as Senior Associate Editor, *Health Services Research*. Dr. Clancy has served on multiple editorial boards (currently *Annals of Family Medicine*, *American Journal of Medical Quality*, and *Medical Care Research and Review*). Dr. Clancy has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and has edited or contributed to seven books. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine and was elected a Master of the American College of Physicians in 2004. Her major research interests include various dimensions of health care quality and patient, including women's health, primary care, access to care services, and the impact of financial incentives on physicians' decisions.

### **Kevin Fiscella, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dr. Fiscella is a tenured Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community & Preventive Medicine, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Associate Director of the Rochester Center to Improve Communication in Health Care. He has extensive experience as a clinician working with racially and ethnic diverse patients who confront multiple access barriers. He has worked for over twenty years in community health

centers, including a seven-year stint as medical director. He also served for eight years as medical director of a community methadone maintenance program. He currently maintains a family medicine practice at Westside Health Services, an inner-city health center in Rochester New York. He has long-standing interest in use of quality improvement to improve health care to minority patients. He has served on advisory boards for Aetna, the American Medical Association, the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the National Quality Forum, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, among others. He is currently directing a project, funded by the National Cancer Institute, designed to reduce disparities in cancer-related care using lay patient navigators. He is also directing a second project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that examines the impact of selected racial and ethnic disparities on minority mortality.

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

Dr. Dora Hughes is the Health and Education Advisor to Senator Barack Obama, where she advises him 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 based 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.

**Marsha Lillie-Blanton, Dr. P.H.**

Marsha Lillie-Blanton is a vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation where she directs the Foundation's policy research on access to care for vulnerable populations. She also holds an adjunct faculty position in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research and policy interests are in the areas of substance abuse, racial/ethnic disparities in health and health care, and HIV/AIDS. Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Lillie-Blanton served as Associate Director of Health Services Quality and Public Health Issues at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Dr. Lillie-Blanton has over fifteen years of work experience in health policy research and management positions. She has authored and co-authored numerous articles, book chapters, and reports on health care access and financing issues for vulnerable populations. She also served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on *Guidance for Designing a National Healthcare Disparities Report*. Dr. Lillie-Blanton currently serves on a number of boards including the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Public Health* and the journal *Health Affairs*, and the AcademyHealth board of directors. She is also an elected member of the National

Academy of Social Insurance. Dr. Lillie-Blanton is active in civic and local affairs. She is a former chair of the D.C. Department of Health Medicaid Medical Care Advisory Committee and a current member of the D.C. Health Coverage Advisory Panel. Dr. Lillie-Blanton received a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master's and doctorate degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

### **John C. Nelson, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dr. Nelson was elected to the American Medical Association's (AMA) Board of Trustees (BOT) in 1994 and re-elected for second and third terms in 1997 and 2001. He served as secretary-treasurer of the AMA from 2002-2003, and has been a member of the AMA-BOT Executive Committee since 1998. During the past 10 years on the AMA-BOT, he has served on the audit committee, finance committee, the task force on fraud and abuse and as a spokesperson for AMA anti-violence activities. Dr. Nelson came to the AMA-BOT with a long history of service to organized medicine. He is a former president of the Utah Medical Association and the Salt Lake County Medical Society. His national service began in 1981, when he was elected to the AMA House of Delegates. Dr. Nelson served the AMA as a member and chair of its council on legislation and was a charter member of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission, which advised the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He recently served the National Advisory Committee for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and was appointed to serve on the Medicaid Advisory Commission. A recognized and influential leader in Utah's public health activities, Dr. Nelson is a former deputy director of Utah's Department of Health and has served on the governor's task forces on child abuse and neglect and teenage pregnancy prevention. He is a member of the Committee on Health Issues for the Utah Domestic Violence Advisory Committee and the Utah Health Advisory Council. For his role in reforming the state's school health curriculum, the Utah State Office of Education presented him the "Light of Learning" award. A committed leader in his community, Dr. Nelson is a member of the board for the Christmas Box House International (a shelter for battered children) and a passionate, tireless local spokesperson on such issues as family violence, alcohol and substance abuse prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, health system reform, and clinical quality improvement. Dr. Nelson's service to the United States includes a tour of duty in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and a year at Dugway Proving Grounds in Utah. A board-certified ob-gyn, Dr. Nelson has a private ob-gyn practice Salt Lake City. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Born in Chicago, Dr. Nelson received his M.D. and M.P.H. degrees from the University of Utah School of Medicine, and completed his residency at the University of Utah after an internship at Providence Hospital in Portland, Ore.

**Ruth E. Zambrana, Ph.D.**

Ruth E. Zambrana is currently a professor in the Women's Studies Department and Director of Research at the Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity at the University of Maryland, College Park and an adjunct professor of Family Medicine at University of Maryland Baltimore, School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine. Dr. Zambrana has worked in the area of health disparities of low-income and Latino women, children and families for over 25 years. She was formerly the Elisabeth Shirley Enochs Professor of Child Welfare, Social Work Program at George Mason University (1993-99), a Visiting Senior Research Scientist at the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (1992-93), and a faculty member at the UCLA School of Social Welfare for 10 years. Her work focuses on the intersection of gender, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status and institutional factors on the health status of low-income groups with emphasis on Latino women and children. Her relevant books include: *Latino Families* (editor, 1994), *Health Issues in the Latino Community* (co-editor, 2001) and *Drawing from the Data: Working Effectively with Latino Families* (2003). Recent work focuses on domains of patient-centered care that include health literacy, perceived mistrust, knowledge, values and health behaviors by gender, race, ethnicity and SES.. Dr. Zambrana is recognized by her peers as an expert in the field of racial and ethnic health disparities and institutional barriers to health care. She is frequently invited to give keynote addresses and colloquia at universities, community based and non-profit organizations. She has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and monographs. She serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the Poor and Underserved* and is a reviewer for 10-15 medical and social science journals. She is a member of the Latino Caucus of the American Public Health Association and Member, Health Information Services Workgroup and Health Equity Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.