A 2020 VISION: TRANSCENDING COVID-19 TO A HEALTHIER BLACK AMERICA

OPENING AND AWARDS CEREMONY

JULY 31, 2020  6:30–8:00 PM (EDT)

2020 ANNUAL CONVENTION AND SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY
We Gratefully Acknowledge and Thank Gilead Sciences for Sponsorship of the 2020 Opening and Awards Ceremony
History has graced us with individuals of great intellect and character who used their gifts to create the foundation of the medical profession, as well as the National Medical Association. This legacy allows us to further our knowledge and advance the professional and technical arenas in which we conduct research, educate new professionals and give care to the millions of Americans we serve.

The past has evolved into a present of constant change and growth. The speed at which we must adapt to new environments is phenomenal and creates new challenges for us all. Today, we celebrate the achievements of those among us who have faced these new challenges, who have developed unprecedented advancements in medicine, created thoughtful practices to assist the new America that is so varied and diverse, and set standards that guide us toward tomorrow. As we honor our friends and colleagues today, let us celebrate the past that has given us the wisdom of experience and the future that holds such promise for us all.
PRESIDING
Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.
120th President, National Medical Association
Lakewood, California

Yolanda Lawson, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees, National Medical Association
Dallas, Texas

WELCOME
Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.
Yolanda Lawson, M.D.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

INVOCATION
Nelson L. Adams, III, M.D.
107th President National Medical Association
North Miami Beach, Florida

GREETINGS
Martin Hamlette, J.D., M.H.A.
Executive Director, National Medical Association
Washington, DC

Lady Marie Hammonds, R.N., B.S.N.
President, Auxiliary to the National Medical Association
Washington, DC
INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER & SCROLL OF MERIT AWARDEE

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Stacey Abrams, M.P.A., J.D.
Atlanta, Georgia

PRESENTATION OF NMA AWARDS

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.
Yolanda Lawson, M.D.

PRESENTATION OF W. MONTAGUE COBB/ NMA HEALTH INSTITUTE AWARDS

Randall C. Morgan, Jr., M.D., M.B.A.
Executive Director, W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute
Sarasota, Florida

PRESENTATION OF TOP HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS UNDER FORTY

Michael Harrell, Jr., M.D.
National Medical Association Postgraduate Trustee
Boston, Massachusetts

PRESENTATION OF NMA AND GILEAD EMERGING SCHOLARS AWARDS

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.
Yolanda Lawson, M.D.

NMA 2020 ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH AWARDS

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Oliver T. Brooks, M.D.
Yolanda Lawson, M.D.
SCROLL OF MERIT
The National Medical Association’s highest honor, designated by the President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to individuals or organizations whose efforts and contributions have been preeminent in medicine, health advocacy, or service to the National Medical Association.

PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR
This award is given for noted national and international achievement and prominence.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
This award is presented to an individual for exceptional work in medical service, medical research or academic medicine.

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT
This award is given for noted national and international achievement and prominence.

LARGE LOCAL SOCIETY OF THE YEAR
This award is given to a local society with at least 100 members that demonstrates exemplary leadership in membership recruitment, community service and medical education.

SMALL LOCAL SOCIETY OF THE YEAR
This award is given to a local society with less than 100 members that demonstrates exemplary leadership in membership recruitment, community service and medical education.

W. MONTAGUE COBB LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
In recognition of a lifetime of exceptional achievement in medicine, education, health policy, leadership, and quality of life for African Americans.

CATO T. LAURENCEIN DISTINGUISHED RESEARCH CAREER
This award is presented in recognition of an exceptional career in medical research and noteworthy innovations in medicine and healthcare.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
TOP HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS UNDER FORTY AWARDS
This award is presented by the NMA Post-Graduate Section, which represents the residents, fellows, and physicians in the first five years of practice. This program honors individuals under the age of 40, in the Health Professional Community, who are working to change the face, practice, and future of medicine for the better.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS
NMA Emerging Scholars
Gilead Sciences Emerging Scholars

NMA NATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HEALTH AWARDS
JAMES M. WHITTICO, JR., M.D.
COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARD
LOUIS STOKES HEALTH POLICY AWARD
Stacey Abrams is a New York Times bestselling author, serial entrepreneur, nonprofit CEO and political leader. After serving for eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, seven as Democratic Leader, in 2018, Abrams became the Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia, winning more votes than any other Democrat in the state’s history. Abrams was the first black woman to become the gubernatorial nominee for a major party in the United States, and she was the first black woman and first Georgian to deliver a Response to the State of the Union. After witnessing the gross mismanagement of the 2018 election by the Secretary of State’s office, Abrams launched Fair Fight to ensure every American has a voice in our election system through programs such as Fair Fight 2020, an initiative to fund and train voter protection teams in 20 battleground states. Over the course of her career, Abrams has founded multiple organizations devoted to voting rights, training and hiring young people of color, and tackling social issues at both the state and national levels. In 2019, she launched Fair Count to ensure accuracy in the 2020 Census and greater participation in civic engagement, and the Southern Economic Advancement Project, a public policy initiative to broaden economic power and build equity in the South.

Abrams is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, where she serves on the Subcommittee on Diversity. As a Next Generation Fellow of the American Assembly on U.S. Global Policy and the Future of International Institutions, she also served as a discussion leader, editor, and essay contributor. She was also selected as a Salzburg Seminar Fellow on East Asian Studies, an American Marshall Memorial Fellow, an American Council of Young Political Leaders Fellow, a Council on Italy Fellow, a British-American Project Fellow and a U.S.-Russia Young Leaders Fellow. As the top-ranking Democrat in Georgia, she traveled to and met with leaders in South Korea, Israel and Taiwan, and she worked closely with several members of the consular corps. Her international policy travel includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Abrams is a member of former Secretary of State John Kerry’s World War Zero bipartisan coalition on climate change. She has been a featured speaker at the Aspen Ministers Forum, the Kerry Initiative-Yale Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, the National Security Action Forum and the Council on Foreign Relations, as well as a contributor to Foreign Affairs Magazine.

She is a recipient of the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award and a current member of the Board of Directors for the Center for American Progress. Abrams has also written eight romantic suspense novels under the pen name Selena Montgomery, in addition to Lead from the Outside, formerly Minority Leader, a guidebook on making real change, and Our Time is Now, which appeared in bookstores in June.

Abrams received degrees from Spelman College, the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and Yale Law School. Born in Madison, Wisconsin, she and her five siblings grew up in Gulfport, Mississippi and were raised in Georgia.
Mona Hanna-Attisha, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP is founder and director of the Michigan State University and Hurley Children’s Hospital Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative and model public health program in Flint, Michigan. A pediatrician, scientist, activist and author, Dr. Hanna-Attisha has testified three times before the United States Congress, awarded the Freedom of Expression Courage Award by PEN America, and named one of Time magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World for her role in uncovering the Flint Water Crisis and leading recovery efforts. In response to the 2016 Time Magazine recognition she said “I am honored and humbled to be on the TIME 100 Most Influential People list. However, the most influential people in my world are the people of Flint—the smart, strong and resilient people of Flint that are approaching their third year of unsafe water. I hope this recognition continues to bring awareness to the ongoing Flint water crisis, and the very human story behind the crisis.” She has appeared on CNN, MSNBC, BBC and countless other media outlets championing the cause of children in Flint and beyond. She is founding donor of the Flint Child Health and Development Fund (flintkids.org).

Dr. Hanna-Attisha received her bachelor’s and Master of Public Health degrees from the University of Michigan and her medical degree from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine (MSU CHM). She completed her residency at Children’s Hospital of Michigan in Detroit, where she was chief resident. She is currently an Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Human Development at MSU CHM.

Her new bestselling book What the Eyes Don’t See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City is a riveting, beautifully rendered account of a shameful disaster that became a tale of activism and hope, the story of a city on the ropes that came together to fight for justice, self-determination, and the right to build a better world for their—and all of our—children.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for her role in exposing the Flint Water Crisis including named to the Politico 50; 2016 Ridenhour Prize for Truth-Telling and the PEN American Center James C. Goodale Freedom of Expression Award and one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans of 2016.

In 2017, Dr. Hanna-Attisha was named an honorary co-chair of the March for Science. Hanna-Attisha and Edwards donated the $250,000 award to victims of the crisis. She was awarded the 22nd Heinz Award for Public Policy in 2017 for exposing the Flint Water Crisis and her subsequent work. In 2018, she was inducted to the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame by the Michigan Women’s Historical Center and in 2019, she was awarded the inaugural Vilcek-Gold Award for Humanism in Healthcare.

Dr. Hanna-Attisha has also been recognized by environmental organizations, including the Michigan League of Conservation Voters, the Michigan Environmental Council, the Ecology Center and Children’s Environmental Health Network. She is a highly-sought-after lecturer and presenter to national and international audiences.
Kimberly Smith, M.D., M.P.H., has been fighting for causes since her teen years as a self-described “troublemaker” demonstrating for civil rights. That passion propelled her through medical school and a career in infectious diseases. She started treating AIDS patients in Chicago early in the epidemic and has made eradicating HIV her life’s work. As a clinician at Rush University Medical Center, Dr. Smith broke new ground researching gender and racial disparities in the HIV community and co-edited HIV/AIDS in U.S. Communities of Color, one of the few books addressing the HIV epidemic among minorities.

A pioneering woman of color, Dr. Smith is one of the first to lead research and development for a multinational pharmaceutical company. As head of R&D for ViiV Healthcare, the only company 100% dedicated to HIV medicines, she leads the industry in developing new drugs that have the potential to transform how HIV is treated, including medicines to move the current treatment paradigm from three drugs to two, the first-ever, once-monthly, long-acting treatment, and the first ever long-acting HIV prevention mediation.

Dr. Smith is a graduate of the University of Michigan School of Medicine and holds an M.P.H. degree from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. She completed her internship, residency, and Infectious Disease fellowship at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Following her training she served on the faculty of the Section of Infectious Disease at Rush for over a decade and as an Attending Physician at Stroger Hospital & the CORE Center in Chicago.

Prior to joining ViiV, Dr. Smith served as Principle Investigator of the Rush University Medical Center Clinical Research Site of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG). Dr. Smith also served as the chair of the ACTG Underrepresented Populations Committee.

Dr. Smith has been a member of National Institutes of Health study sections, the HIV Medicine Association Board of Directors, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Board of Scientific Counselors and numerous advisory committees. Dr. Smith has published more than 100 articles, abstracts and manuscripts and she co-edited one of the few books, HIV/AIDS in U.S. Communities of Color, which addressed the HIV epidemic among minorities in the US.

Dr. Smith has been an active HIV clinician, clinical educator, community leader and advocate. She has lectured at countless local national and international conferences including the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, the International AIDS Conference, The International Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, and Infectious Diseases Society of America.

In 2008, Dr. Smith was recognized with the Black AIDS Institute “Heroes in the Struggle” Award for patient care and advocacy. In 2011, she was awarded the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence in Medicine for efforts promoting HIV awareness, treatment and prevention in African-American communities; and she was selected as the recipient of the 2011 Infectious Diseases Society of America’s HIV Medicine Association Clinical Educator Award. That same year she was included in the POZ 100, “100 People, Things and Ideas We Love.”
Dr. Billie Wright Adams is a dedicated member of the National Medical Association for over fifty years, a past chair of the Pediatric Section, and a recipient of the section’s Grace M. James Award.

Dr. Adams’ legacy to the NMA and the Pediatric Section was her vision to establish the Dr. Billie Wright Adams Scholarship over thirty years ago. Dr. Adams realized NMA’s viability is the continuous engagement of the younger generation of medical students, residents and fellows. The Dr. Billie Wright Adams Scholars are selected from pediatric programs across the country and receive financial support to attend the annual NMA Convention and Pediatric Section Program. This scholarship fosters leadership and career development through networking and mentorship, and as many of her fellow scholars would say this program was vital to our professional development.

Dr. Adams was born in 1935 in Bluefield, West Virginia. Her passion for civic activities and community service came from her physician father, Dr. William Morris Wright. Dr. Adams received her bachelor’s degree from Fisk University, a master’s degree in Zoology from Indiana University, and her medical degree from Howard University School of Medicine in 1960. From 1960–1964, she completed her Residency in Pediatrics and Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, IL.

Dr. Adams conducted research in the Department of Hematology at the Hektoen Institute for Medical Research in Chicago from 1964–1967. Shifting to clinical care, education and mentorship, Dr. Adams was faculty in the Department of Pediatrics and appointed Chief of the Pediatric Hematology Clinic in 1970 at Michael Reese Hospital. In 1976 she became Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois and coordinated the medical student rotations at Cook County Hospital. In 1980 she was designated Project Director by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Pediatric Primary Care Residency at Mercy Hospital. She served as the Assistant Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Mercy Hospital from 1981–1987. Dr. Adams opened a pediatric private practice on Chicago’s south side, practiced for over fifty years, and retired in December 2015.

Dr. Adams served in numerous organizations, including the Ounce of Prevention Fund, President of the Chicago Pediatric Society from 1974–1976, Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation, the Ancona School, March of Dimes, Planned Parenthood, the Robert Taylor Boys and Girls Club in Chicago, the Taskforce on Black Adoption, and founding member of the Midwest Association for Sickle Cell Anemia in 1971. Among her many awards are “Pediatrician of the Year” in 1997 from the Illinois AAP Chapter and the Chicago Medical Society Public Service Award in 1999.
Dr. Khadijah Lang received a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemistry from Fisk University, her M.D. at Charles R Drew/UCLA School of Medicine, and completed a Family Medicine residency with a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine from UCLA. She is in her third decade of private practice, an Associate Clinical Professor of Family Medicine, and was Principal Investigator in a national uterine fibroids study.

While President of Golden State Medical Association (GSMA), Dr. Lang led the organization to receive the CMA’s 2017 Ethnic Physician Organization of the Year, and exposed racially disparate patterns with the Medical Board of California, forcing policy changes. Now NMA Region VI Chair, she is Past President of Charles R. Drew Medical Society, an active member of the NMA’s HOD and BOT, Chair for the Council of International Affairs, and has served on the CCWP. She mentors, instructs, plans CME and community health programs, and lectures, focusing on Advocacy, Black Maternal Mortality, Climate Change and Health Education awards. NMA’s 2018 Practitioner of the Year, other past awarders include the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Black Women for Wellness, multiple legislators, and she is the “Champion Mentor” for SNMA’s Region I chapter.

Dr. Lang first visited African clinics as a medical student in 1984, observing first-hand their dire need. She returned in 1989 as a resident, presenting on Hypertension Prevention Programs in Kenya at an Annual International Conference, and in June 1993 presented on Maternal and Child Health Care in Yaounde, Cameroon. Her contributions to the African continent through mentoring, educational presentations, and medical volunteering have continued over the decades.

Through her direction, GSMA’s African medical missions delivered over $150,000 in donated pharmaceutical and medical supplies into Mozambique which ALL reached patients in need or were used by GSMA’s medical teams training local providers in advanced medical/surgical techniques and procedures to build their country’s health system’s capacity. She lectures to Maputo’s Emergency Medicine Residency Program, in countryside clinics, rural hospitals, and at NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE. In Ethiopia she assisted the Harrar Ministry of Health to design a program to help mitigate adverse maternal outcomes for women with FGM, and established an MOU between the Ethiopian Medical Association (EMO) and GSMA in Addis Ababa. She directed an anti-malarial mission for 500+ homeless women and children in Ghana, and recently secured an MOU for GSMA and NMA to provide medical missions to Botswana with governmental support.

International recognition of her as a scholar of medical science is demonstrated by their commendation letters, including the Mozambique CDC, the US Ambassador, Mozambique’s National Director of Health and their Ambassador. Each acknowledged the substantial impact her teaching and medical mission work has made for the country’s healthcare system. Accra Pharmaceutical Association, Harrari Minister of Health, and EMO also acclaimed the health benefits their people received from the medical/educational services Dr. Lang provided, and Africa Focus, Inc. named her 2019 Ambassador of Goodwill.
Dr. Freeman is a Bronx native and a granddaughter of slaves from Virginia. After the Emancipation Proclamation, Dr. Freeman’s grandfather, reunited with his mother and moved to New York City and settled in the Williamsbridge section of the Bronx, where Dr. Freeman grew up. Initially attending Hunter College in New York City to study Social Work, Dr. Freeman was attracted to the sciences and changed career paths. After completing her undergraduate degree, she went on to obtain a medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine in 1955—one of only 4 women in her class of 150. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, New York.

Dr. Freeman began her career at Beth Israel Medical Center. She initially focused on the just developing epidemic of opioid addiction and worked with researcher Dr. Vincent Dole and Psychiatrist Dr. Marie Nyswander, who helped develop the use of methadone to treat heroin addiction at the prestigious Rockefeller University in New York City. Dr. Freeman was one of the pioneers on the front lines in the fight against the opioid crisis, treating the very first woman at a methadone clinic where she initially worked part-time, splitting her time there and at the medical clinic at Beth Israel. One of her greatest successes was treating a woman who went on to graduate from Hunter College, Phi Beta Kappa, while still on methadone. It is this drive to affect community health that sets Dr. Freeman apart from many of her peers. She believes in listening to each patient and creating a partnership to maintain and improve lifelong health.

Dr. Freeman has also been highlighted in a video presentation in Facebook, which is quite inspiring and highlights her dedication to patient care and her passion for her profession. Today, in her 90’s, Dr. Freeman practices Internal Medicine in her private office in Harlem, which she opened in 1981, and continues to take public transportation to the methadone clinic at Beth Israel at the opposite end of Manhattan in the lower east side. Along with being a national member, Dr. Freeman is a member of her local society, Manhattan Central Medical Society, and despite her hectic schedule she regularly attends meetings and contributes with her vast knowledge of the practice of medicine to the conversation. She also continues to mentor students in her office, where she exudes pride in being a woman of color in the medical field who cares for women, and men, of color.

After more than 50 years of practicing medicine, Dr. Freeman plans to continue to practice medicine as long as she can make a “dent’ in the people she sees. She models compassion and empathy as she cares for patients in the Harlem community. She is the same doctor with the same persona if caring for a patient with addiction or one with diabetes or an ankle sprain. She modeled the understanding the intersections of medicine and health with economic, politics, education and social justice. She has been recognized by her colleagues and community and is the recipient of many accolades. She has been described as a woman of remarkable grace and poise, elegant and well-spoken yet never pretentious or overbearing. She shares her experience and counsel selflessly. She is a medical practitioner of singular stature.
The Atlanta Medical Association (AMA) is being honored for the exceptional work the organization has done through its outstanding leadership, commitment, dedication and compassion to the physician and patient community in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. The Atlanta Medical Association was founded in 1890 and is one of the oldest African American local medical associations in the United States. Several of its founding fathers help to establish not only The Georgia State Medical Association, founded in 1893, but also the National Medical Association which was founded five years later in 1895 in Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta Medical Association is continuing the mission of the National Medical Association by advancing the art and science of medicine for African American people through education, advocacy and health policy.

The AMA continues to keep its members abreast of current medical, political and social matters that can impact their patients, practice or communities with symposiums, workshops and political panels with state legislators throughout the years. They have partnered with other organizations to address disparities in healthcare in the State of Georgia and aligning their legislative agenda.

The association’s list of accomplishments are numerous, included a few below:

Recruitment and growth in membership for 2020 has had a 38% increase through new benefits and programming. Programming has been enhanced through offering professional development and “Business of Medicine” workshops/webinars. They established a new “Young Physician Committee” to attract younger physicians to join the organization.

Health Education Programs in the Community
• Participates in two community-based task forces and provide significant input: Emory Healthcare Community Outreach Taskforce and Georgia Coalition 2 Save Lives
• Added a COVID-19 page to their newly designed website

Pre-med mentoring program, also known as the S.H.A.D.O.W. PROGRAM
1) Education  2) Testing  3) Advocacy  4) Building our brand
Each of these activities are inter-related. The signature activity is a web-based educational seminar entitled “Ask A Black Doctor Series”.

A few of their COVID-19 activities include:
• Supported existing efforts to feed the hungry
• Helped to increase the amount of COVID-19 testing being done in our community, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities
• Supported legislation to make wearing masks in public mandatory
• Helped organize contact tracing for our community
• Partnered with other organizations for a more unified COVID-19 response
• Assisted in numerous nursing homes and assisted living facilities in getting COVID-19 testing for their residents
• Established the foundation for the development of numerous drive-through testing centers in metro Atlanta

Advocacy
• ATL-Med invited to join Emory Healthcare COVID Community Outreach Steering Committee
• ATL-Med Invited to join and help lead the African American Health Professionals Alliance
The Bronx is the most densely populated county in the United States. It contains the poorest Congressional district in the USA. Westchester County is the second most populous county in New York. It ranks second after Manhattan for median income per person, with a higher concentration of income in smaller households. Most of our members work in the Bronx, but live in Westchester. With these statistics in mind, its President created the “Westchester and Bronx Society of Black Physicians” (WBSBP) in May 2018.

As a young organization seeking validation, they developed subcommittees devoted to education, media, community health, mentorship, research, and advocacy. They hosted quarterly “meet and greet” sessions that provided continuing medical education, opportunities for recruitment, and networking. They partnered with medical schools and academic centers in our region, providing mentorship and sponsorship to medical students, residents and junior faculty. Their membership is comprised of physicians whose expertise and resources reach national and international medical organizations.

Through the pandemic of COVID-19, which devastated our area, our young organization found its voice. New York has the highest death census in this pandemic, with our congressional district having the second highest deaths. Most of our membership was embroiled in frontline COVID care, and it is because of this situation, WBSBP was moved to action. We connected with physicians in Italy and South Korea, seeking guidance, which we shared in collaborations locally. We hosted webinars on COVID-19 for our communities, utilized radio, magazine, churches, and local television networks to impart information. We shared information with local physicians and the community by opening our website (www.westchesterbronxsocietybp.com) to the public, regardless of membership, which has now become a centralized hub of communication.

In working with Mount Vernon, NY Mayor Shawn Patterson, Senator Andrea Stewart- Cousins, and others whom we provide awareness information and guidance, we have made an impact in our communities, and on our people. Community organizations such as the “God Squad”, an organization comprised of multiple religious sects, allowed us to participate in their conversation with Bill DeBlasio, Mayor of New York City were we suggested utilizing the police officers as mask distributors and educators to our communities instead of “enforcers” of wearing the mask. We sent a letter to Dr. Ben Carson asking for direction of funding to our district for medical clinics to be placed in public housing under the “Envision” program, a progressive program addressing health care disparities contributing to the high fatality rate in our communities.

The Federal government is practicing medicine in an unprecedented manner, using the Mayo Clinic to gather donated blood from our communities for convalescent plasma, while making it difficult to obtain convalescent plasma in our own at risk population.

We alerted ER physicians to prescribe convalescent plasma early in treatment, instead of deferring to intubation for respiratory issues or evidence of cytokine storm. We have embarked on an awareness campaign involving our district Congresswoman, Alexandria Occasio-Cortez, the Congressional Black Caucus, and our neighboring NMA chapters, apprising them of this issue, and its direct impact on the death rates of African Americans and Latin Americans across the USA.

We have not only found our voice, but we are singing loudly, and are proud to introduce you to WBSBP for this prestigious award.
“Dr. Royal is an alumnus who has dedicated his entire life to advancing Meharry and the betterment of others, often at great personal sacrifice” said Dr. James E. K. Hildreth, president and CEO of Meharry Medical College. Dr. Hildreth went on to say “Dr. Royal was always willing to share his successes with Meharry through his leadership, contributions and recognition of the College.”

Dr. Royal was the first board member to contribute $100,000 to Meharry. As others followed suit, a giving society was named for him—The Royal Society. He and his wife also established the Pamela and Frank S. Royal Sr. Endowed Scholarship at Meharry. During his time on the board, Dr. Royal has given more than $2 million to the college. In 1997 under Dr. Royal’s leadership as chairman of the board of trustees, the College embarked upon a $125 million capital campaign. The goal was exceeded with $127.5 million raised at the campaign’s conclusion on June 30, 2005. At the time, the goal was the largest ever attempted and the dollar total was the third highest raised among the nation’s historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). The success from this campaign put Meharry Medical College on course for new achievements and a new era of growth.

In 1961, Dr. Royal earned his B.S. from Virginia Union University, graduating Cum Laude. He went on to complete his M.D. from Meharry in 1968, after which he started a private practice in Richmond, Virginia in 1969. During his medical career, Dr. Royal also served as Chief of Staff at Richmond Community Hospital and as an assistant clinical professor of family practice at the Medical College of Virginia. An advocate of improved health services for the underserved in the late 1980’s, Dr. Royal spearheaded the construction of a new Richmond City Community Hospital in the city’s east end.

Dr. Royal has served on the board of directors of several major corporations, including Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), Smithfield Foods, Inc., SunTrust Banks, Inc., Chesapeake Corporation, Dominion Resources, Inc. and CSX Corporation. He is also an Honorary Trustee and former Chairman of the Board of Virginia Union University.

In addition to his professional success, Dr. Royal has continually dedicated his time, talent and resources to serving the underserved, strengthening his community and mentoring youth. He is an emeritus director of the YMCA of Greater Richmond, a past president and member of the National Medical Association and a life member of the NAACP, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.
Dr. Mae C. Jemison is leading 100 Year Starship™ (100YSS), a bold, far reaching nonprofit initiative to assure the capabilities exist for human travel beyond our solar system to another star within the next 100 years. Jemison is building a multi-faceted global community to foster the cultural, scientific, social and technical commitment, support and financial framework to accomplish the 100YSS vision—An inclusive, Audacious Journey (that) Transforms Life Here on Earth and Beyond. 100YSS programs include: Annual Public Symposium – Pathways to the Stars – Footprints on Earth; the Canopus Awards for Excellence in Interstellar Writing; the 100YSS Crucibles – invitation only, trans disciplinary workshops to generate new disciplines that leapfrog technological and systemic hurdles; 100YSS@EU in Brussels. The 100YSS Way Research Institute is a home to generate the radical leaps that accelerate knowledge, technology, design, and thinking not just for the stars, but to enhance life on Earth. Jemison led the team that won the competitive, single awardee seed funding grant in February 2012 from DARPA the US Defense Department’s premier research group.

Jemison started The Jemison Group, Inc. a technology consulting firm integrating critical socio-cultural issues into the design of engineering and science projects, such as satellite technology for health care delivery and solar dish Stirling engine electricity in developing countries. The Jemison Group explores and develops stand-alone science and technology companies. BioSentient Corporation, a medical devices and services company focused on improving health and human performance is such a company. An Environmental Studies professor at Dartmouth College, Jemison worked on sustainable development and technology design particularly for the developing world. Before joining NASA she was the Area Peace Corps Medical Officer for Sierra Leona and Liberia and a general practice physician in Los Angeles.

In 1994, Jemison founded The Earth We Share™ (TEWS™), the international science camp for students 12-16 years old. TEWS™ is a program of the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence nonprofit which launched TEWS-Space Race in 2011 in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District; it will impact up to 10,000 middle school students and train hundreds of teachers. Other foundation programs include Reality Leads Fantasy – Celebrating Women of Color in Flight that highlighted women in aviation and space from around the world. EXPO Inspire is a hands-on public STEM fair for students, teachers, parents and all comers.

Jemison is Bayer Corporation USA’s national science literacy ambassador. She is the space operations advisor for the upcoming National Geographic global miniseries MARS. Jemison is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and on the board of Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Valspar corporations, Texas Medical Center, and the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. She was the Founding Chair of the Texas State Product Development and Small Business Incubator Board, Chair of the Texas State Biotechnology and Life Sciences Industry Cluster and the Greater Houston Partnership Disaster Planning and Recovery Task Force. Jemison is an inductee of the National Women’s Hall of Fame, the National Medical Association Hall of Fame and Texas Science Hall of Fame as well as a recipient of the National Organization for Women’s Intrepid Award, the Kilby Science Award and National Association of Corporate Director’s Directorship 100 most influential people in the boardroom and corporate governance in 2014 among many honors. September 2011 she was a featured panelist on the CNBC special The Business of Science and is pleased to have been one of the teachers on The Dream School. Jemison is author of several books including Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from my life, titles under the Scholastic True Books series on space exploration and was the first real astronaut to appear on the Star Trek TV series.
ARMEN HENDERSON, M.D.

Armen Henderson is a Philadelphia native and graduate of Meharry School of Medicine c/o 2014 (along with Vanderbilt MBA c/o 2014). He completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami in 2017 and stayed on as faculty and is currently serving as an assistant professor of medicine at University of Miami - Miller School of Medicine.

Since moving to Miami, he has been an organizer with Dream Defenders, a Florida based social justice organization and founded the Dade County Street Response, 501c3 focusing on physician-led community-wide crisis efforts. He was also recently named the Florida state gun violence prevention fellow with Doctors For America.

AYODELE ADESANYA, M.D.

After completion of his medical and graduate education at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, he joined the OSU Family Medicine Residency with clinical interests in cardiovascular health and research aims to study biological mechanisms to prevent cardiovascular disease.

He plans to practice as a primary care physician-scientist and especially look forward to serving whole families and medically underserved communities.
DANIELLE JACKSON, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Jackson obtained her M.D. from Howard University College of Medicine. Her passions in psychiatry and behavioral health include advocating for social justice, culturally competent patient care, in addition to addressing healthcare inequities among underrepresented minority populations due to discrimination. Her specific interest is the education of physicians and other health-care providers in structural factors that contribute to healthcare inequities in the Black American population with mental health and/or substance use disorders. She is the elected American Psychiatric Association - Black Caucus, Resident and Fellow/ Early Career Psychiatrist Representative ’19–22.

In 2019, she was selected as a Scholar in the inaugural cohort of the Recognizing and Eliminating Disparities in Addiction Through Culturally Informed Healthcare Program. This SAMHSA funded initiative has a dual mission: to increase the number of minority physicians represented in addiction psychiatry and to train these physicians as experts in health disparities and cultural competency issues that serve as barriers to treatment in underserved communities. She has been active in advocacy, contributing to action papers for the APA and utilizes social media as a tool to educate non-psychiatrists, medical students and the lay public. She is working to bring standardized culturally competent addiction treatment to residents in her new role as Co-Chair of the AAAP Early Career Psychiatry Committee. Most recently she was awarded the APA Foundation/ SAMHSA Minority Substance Abuse Fellowship for this 2020–2021.

TIFFANI BELL, M.D.

Dr. Tiffani Bell is a Triple Board Certified Physician who specializes in Adult Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Obesity Medicine. Dr. Bell completed medical school at Medical College of Virginia School of Medicine, and both, residency and fellowship at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She has worked in academic medicine and has held leadership positions in several national organizations including; currently serving as a Delegate from the American Psychiatric Association to American Medical Association Young Physicians’ Section and previously serving on the Minority Affairs Section Governing Council for the American Medical Association. Dr. Bell also serves as the Eastern Trustee on the Black Psychiatrists of America’s Executive Board and was the BPA’s Member in Training Representative prior to her current role. She is passionate about education, advocacy, and helping the underserved.
LANE PRINCESS BREWER, M.D.

Dr. LaPrincess Brewer is a cardiologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine within the Mayo Clinic Division of Preventive Cardiology, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine in Rochester, MN. She earned her master of public health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD. She completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Brewer completed clinical fellowships in Cardiovascular Diseases and Preventive Cardiology within the Mayo Clinic Department of Cardiovascular Medicine. She was awarded highly competitive career development awards including the American Heart Association-Harold Amos Medical Faculty Development Program Award.

BRANDON HENRY, M.D.

Dr. Henry grew up loving and playing a plethora of sports including baseball, football, basketball and soccer. He culminated his collegiate career with a B.A. degree in Biological Sciences and was named the Most Outstanding Graduate of the Science Educational Equity program. He continued his education at Howard University College of Medicine and served as class president for all 4 years. He completed pediatric residency at Loma Linda University Children’s Hospital.

Dr. Henry worked as a general pediatrician. His love of sports led him to pursue a primary care sports medicine fellowship at the Baylor Sports Medicine Fellowship in Waco, Texas. This fellowship granted him the privilege of being a team physician for Baylor University athletics, including the Big 12 Tournament Champions women’s soccer team, McLennan Community College athletics, and University High School athletics. He serves as the Assistant Director for the Tour For Diversity in Medicine. Tour For Diversity in Medicine is an organization that works to educate, inspire and cultivate the future generations of minority physicians, dentists and pharmacists. He is a lifetime member of the Student National Medical Association. Dr. Henry is also an active member of the National Medical Association, American Medical Society of Sports Medicine, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Currently Dr. Henry is practicing Sports Medicine at Riverside Medical Clinic where he is a team physician for California Baptist University Athletics, Corona Centennial High School, Santiago High School and Citrus Hill High School. He is also the Director of Sports Medicine and the Medical Director for the Masters in Athletic Training program at California Baptist University. He is a member of the faculty in the RUHS/UCR Sports Medicine Fellowship.
CARL LAMBERT, M.D.

Dr. Carl Earl Lambert, Jr. received a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology in 2007 from Washington University in St. Louis in, his M.D. from Rush University Medical College in 2011, and completed his residency at the West Suburban Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program in 2014. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and is involved with academic medicine as well as mentorship, recruitment, and retention of minority students into medicine. He enjoys providing thorough, compassionate, and whole-person continuity and preventative care to people from all communities and walks of life as medical director of the Rush University Family Physicians group.

Dr. Lambert is involved in the Rush community in several capacities, including being a committed and engaged clinical teacher and preceptor, a small-group clinician educator and facilitator in the new integrated curriculum, director for the Rush Family Medicine Leadership Program, director of the service-learning curriculum, an active member of the Admissions Executive Committee, as well as faculty advisor for both the Student National Medical Association and the Rush Christian Fellowship. Dr. Lambert is a diplomat of the American Board of Family Medicine, a member of the Christian Community Health Fellowship, an academic advisor for both the National Medical Fellowship Minority Primary Care Leadership Program and the Chicago Area Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program.

Dr. Lambert is the recipient of several awards, including the 2011 David Jones Peck, M.D. Award, induction into the Arnold P. Gold Medical Humanism Honor Society, the 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Educator Award from the Office of Congressman Danny Davis, the 2017 recipient of the Leonidas J. Berry, M.D. Award for Diversity and Inclusion, the 2017 Family Medicine Preceptor of the Year Award, and the 2018 recipient of the Rush Medical College Positive Learning Environment Award.
JOEL BERVELL

A rising second-year at Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM), Joel Bervell graduated from Yale University, where he earned a BA in Molecular Cellular Developmental Biology. Joel completed his Master in Medical Science at Boston University and spent a year working as a clinical research assistant at Providence Hospital. As a child of immigrants, Joel and his siblings co-founded Hugs for Ghana, an entirely student-led non-profit dedicated to hand-delivering school supplies, medical supplies, and other necessities to children worldwide. With nearly 150 active high school volunteers nationwide, they have raised over $500,000 worth of material and monetary donations.

MICHAEL DENNING

An incoming first-year at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Michael Denning was an EC Scholar and Early Assurance in Medicine Scholar at East Carolina University (ECU). During this three-year tenure, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Public Health Studies, Master of Business Administration, and Healthcare Management Certificate. Interning with Vidant Health, Massachusetts General Hospital, and Stanford Health, Michael’s research and clinical interests focus on childhood trauma (ACEs), injury prevention, and minority health disparities.

Established in 2004, this award provides $5,000 to two (2) African American, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year medical students (for the 2018–2019 Academic Year) who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership, financial need and potential for distinguished contributions to medicine. These awards are the highest academic honors presented to students by the National Medical Association.
CHRISTEEBELLA AKPALA

A rising second-year at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Christeebella Akpala grew up with a strong commitment to faith, community, service, and leadership. She pursued a career in nursing, working as an Intensive Care/Radiology nurse for a few years at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, where she got even more passionate about the medical field. She was chosen to represent the Mayo Clinic in rural Africa, providing spinal cord teaching to healthcare providers in the setting of limited resources. She was also a 2020 Scholar for the National Medical fellowships Primary Care leadership program. Her current research focuses on creating a COVID-19 registry to provide data for retrospective studies.

CELINE MARLIN ANDREWS

An incoming first-year medical student, Celine Marlin Andrews completed her undergraduate at Colgate University, majoring in both Biology and English as a foundation for her future in healthcare. During her senior year, Celine was one of a small group to be selected to study abroad in Washington D.C. and work at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her passion for science and research increased and she took an opportunity to return to the NIH after graduation to continue her research. After completing a two-year research postbaccalaureate in the lab of Dr. Astird Haase, Celine is now finalizing her first author methods manuscript as she eagerly awaits the start of her first year of medical school at Virginia Tech Carilion.
Dr. Roger Mitchell Jr. is a forensic pathologist who serves as the Chief Medical Examiner of the Nation’s Capital. He is one of only four black Chief Medical Examiners of a major city in the US. Dr. Mitchell is an expert in Violence as a Public Health Issue and has recently appeared on MSNBC Morning Joe and CBS Sunday Morning advocating for federal funding for firearm violence prevention research. He has been bringing attention to the issue of Firearm Violence in the African American Community for over a decade and serves as Chair of the Task Force on Gun Violence for the National Medical Association (NMA). He recently co-authored a position paper on The Violence Epidemic in the African American Community for the Journal of the National Medical Association, published in 2017.

Dr. Mitchell is a national expert on deaths that occur while in the custody of law enforcement and has served as an expert in many high profile cases. He recently served as Chairman and lead author among a group of nationally recognized forensic pathologists tasked with making recommendations for the Definition, Investigation, Postmortem Examination and Reporting of Deaths in Custody for the medical examiner/coroner community.
Most of Reggie Ware’s career has been spent fighting health disparities for Black Americans by educating, informing and inspiring them to make better decisions about their health and understanding that one size doesn’t fit all when it comes to healthcare. Black people’s health needs are different and require a different game plan, one that leverages culture, content and technology to improve health outcomes.

As CEO of BlackDoctor.org (BDO), Ware and his team produce more culturally relevant health content for Black consumers than anyone else in the country. BDO is the nation’s largest and most trusted health and wellness destination for Black Americans. After 15 years of service, BDO reaches 19 million people per month on its platform, is the most trusted health resource for Black people and has more Facebook followers than WebMD. BDO also boasts the largest database of Black doctors and most are a part of our free doctor search tool, which allows users to find culturally-sensitive doctors in their area. This unique website is full of more than 10,000 articles and videos.

Ware’s previous media experience includes being the founder and publisher of Heart & Soul magazine, which was the nation’s first national health magazine for Black women. Under Ware’s guidance, H&S magazine reached over 1 million people per month and was among the largest magazines targeted to Black women.

Ware also oversaw the launch of two Television properties for Black Enterprise. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in marketing from the University of Arizona, which he attended on a football scholarship. He grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio and now resides in Chicago, IL.
Dr. Floyd J. Malveaux a native of Louisiana received his B.S. degree from Creighton University in 1961 and his M.S. degree from Loyola University, New Orleans in 1964, both in biological sciences. Malveaux then attended Michigan State University where he obtained his Ph.D. degree in microbiology and public health in 1968. He later received his M.D. degree from Howard University College of Medicine in 1974.

Dr. Malveaux was executive director of the Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc. (MCAN). He was a nationally recognized expert on asthma and allergic diseases and was emeritus dean of the College of Medicine and professor of microbiology and medicine at Howard University.

Dr. Malveaux led Howard’s participation in several multi-million dollar initiatives to identify and address risk factors that contribute to increased deaths from asthma among inner-city children and to reduce and prevent asthma among at-risk populations. In addition, he worked extensively to address health disparities and improve the quality of health care and health outcomes, especially among low-income, urban, and underserved populations.

He returned in 1978 to the Department of Medicine at Howard University and established the Conjoint Training Program in Allergy and Immunology. In 1984, he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University where he initiated studies on asthma mortality and morbidity. Dr. Malveaux returned to Howard University in 1989 as chairman of the Department of Microbiology and associate professor of microbiology and medicine. He became dean of the Howard University College of Medicine in 1995 and served in that capacity until 2005. During that period, he also held positions as interim vice president and vice provost for health affairs and as professor of microbiology and medicine. He also served on the Science Advisory Board of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Malveaux was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and was elected to the Institute of Medicine (as of July 1, 2015, the National Academy of Medicine). He was active in numerous professional organizations and served on the boards of a number of institutions. Dr. Malveaux held several positions with the National Medical Association, including being a member of the Board of Trustees (1988-1994) and was first chair of the Allergy/Immunology Section. Dr. Malveaux was founder and president of the Urban Asthma and Allergy Center in Baltimore from 1986 to 1989.

He has served as a member of many professional organizations including on the board of directors for the American Lung Association, the National Allergy and Infectious Diseases Advisory Council, and the American Academy of Allergy. He worked extensively with the National Medical Association holding a number of positions including member of the board of trustees and first chair of the Allergy/Immunology Section. Malveaux was a member of the Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society.

Malveaux has also received numerous awards, including election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, the National Institutes of Health’s National Research Service Award, the Vivian B. Allen Foundation, the Georgetown School of Medicine, Outstanding Faculty Research Award from Howard University, Legacy of Leadership Award from Howard University Hospital and the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine.
Lift ev’ry voice and sing,
’Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on ’til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
’Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.
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It would be difficult to recount all of the contributions they made during their remarkable lives as physicians, educators, leaders, mentors, pioneers, and caring individuals.

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