



HDEART CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016, ISSUE 1

These 7 individuals, along its 2 co-founders, were the inaugural leadership of HDEART. Starting from pictures on the left and going left to right with the Presidents of the founding institutions - Drs. Malcolm Gills, Rice University; Arthur K. Smith, University of Houston; Priscilla Slade, Texas Southern University; John Mendelsohn, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center; Ralph Feigin, Baylor College of Medicine; James T. Willerson, UT Health Science Center Houston, & George C. Wright, Prairie View A&M University along with its cofounders, Alvin M. Tarlov, Rice University & Lovell A. Jones, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center. On the right is the first two past chairs and the current chair of HDEART, Drs. M. Roy Wilson, now President of Wayne State University; Nancy Dickey, Texas A&M Health Science Center, and the current chair, Kirk Calhoun, President of the University of Texas Health Northeast.



THE HDEART DISPARITIES EDUCATION, AWARENESS RESEARCH & TRAINING (HDEART) CONSORTIUM

In the spring of 2002 the **Congressionally mandated Center for Research on Minority Health (CRMH)** at the **University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center**, under the leadership of Dr. Lovell A. Jones, and the **Texas Program for Society and Health at Rice University** under the leadership of Dr. Alvin Tarlov, brought together faculty from the **University of Houston, the University of Texas School of Public Health, Prairie View A & M University, Rice University, Baylor College of Medicine, the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Texas Southern University and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center** to discuss the formation

of a **Health Disparities Consortium Program**. The intent of the proposed consortium was to develop a unique concept that would take the strengths of the each of the respective institutions and bring them together under a biopsychosocial approach to address health disparities in this nation. With health disparities having become a major area of interest, both in terms of research, educational and service programs, it was the opinion of the group that the creation of such a consortium was vital in addressing health disparities. It would be a forum in which a joint effort by the member institutions would more successful than each institution trying address this separately. It decided by the leadership that our initial effort would focus on education

while determining where we might collaborate with regard to research projects. Given that our efforts would brought than just education, we elected to name the Consortium the **Health Disparities, Education, Awareness, Research & Training Consortium** or **HDEART**. It was Dr. Tarlov who came up the name of our inaugural course - Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice. Below are members of the **Congressionally mandated Center for Research on Minority Health** who were responsible for aiding in launching of **HDEART** & both the Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice Course & Workshop.

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HDEART PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Kirk Calhoun, MD
President, UT
Health Northeast

Below are the current members
of the HDEART Consortium.

HDEART Institutions & Organizations

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
The University of Houston
Rice University
Prairie View A&M University
Baylor College of Medicine
Texas Southern University
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
The University of Houston Downtown
The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston,
The University of Texas Health Center at Tyler
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
The University of Texas at Austin
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
The University of Miami
University of Florida Health Science Center
The University of North Texas Health Science Center
Moffitt Comprehensive Cancer Center Florida
A&M University
Sam Houston State University
Tulane University
Texas Woman's University
University of New Mexico
Michael E. DeBakey Veteran Administration Hospital
Harris County Public Health
The City of Houston Department of Health & Human Services.
Texas Tech University Health Science Center
Texas A&M University College Station Meharry Medical College
Lee College
The State of Texas Department Health & Human Services
Morehouse School of Medicine
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Keystone Symposia on Molecular & Cell Biology



LAUNCHING OF THE DISPARITIES IN HEALTH IN AMERICA: WORKING TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM

Following the meeting with each of the Presidents, a communication was sent to each about the formation of HDEART and our intent to launch an educational course that would involve students and faculty from all campuses. The question was whether to launch the course at Rice University or the University of Houston. The final decision was to launch the inaugural course at the University of Houston, have course numbers at each of the member institutions and rotate between academic campuses of the University of Houston, Rice University and Texas Southern University.

In the Fall 2002, the consortium successfully held its inaugural anchor course: **Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice** on the campus of the **University of Houston** with twenty-six students (21 undergraduates and five graduate students).

From 2002 to 2007, the anchor course rotated among three institutions, the University of Houston (UH) (fall 2002, 2005) Rice University (fall 2003, 2006) and Texas Southern University (TSU) (fall 2004, 2007). In the fall 2005, the course started its second rotation by

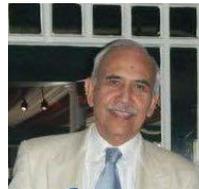
returning to the University of Houston. This time the course had 81 students (69 undergraduates and 12 graduates, with the course being teleconferenced to five member institutions outside of Metropolitan Houston. This brought the total number of students taking the course to over 120. In the fall 2006, the course returned to Rice University and was teleconferenced again to member institutions, returning to Texas Southern University in 2007. In 2008, a new member joined HDEART in the Houston area, the University of Houston Downtown (UHD). We continued this four member rotation until 2013, where the fall course presently housed for the last three years at the University of Houston Downtown, with students from the other member institutions attending as well as video conferencing to member institutions outside of Houston. Today, the Disparities Course serves as the anchor course for two academic programs, the Health Disparities Certification at the University of Texas Health Science Center School of Public Health and the BS degree in Health Disparities, Policy and Advocacy at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

School of Allied Health Sciences. In addition to the anchor course, starting in the fall 2003, HDEART also hosted a second course, **Human Genomics & Health Disparities, at Prairie View A & M University**. This latter course was initially teleconferenced to the **University of Texas School of Public Health** into the **Texas Medical Center**. Today, this course continues as one of the main molecular biology courses taught at **Prairie View A & M University**. In 2003, Dr. Jay Gogue, became the President & Chancellor of the University of Houston Central campus and immediately became a strong supporter of the HDEART Consortium. When the HDEART

returned to the University of Houston in 2005, Dr. Gogue proved both technical and in-kind support to videoconference the fall course to Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and other member institutions outside of Houston. With support of Dr. Gogue, Dr Dickey and the President of the University of Houston Down (UHD) Dr. Max Castillo, UHD became the fourth member of the course rotation Houston, joining the UH Central campus, Rice and TSU.



Jay Gogue, PhD



Max Castillo, PhD



Our inaugural speaker for the first class of the **Fall 2002 Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice Course** held at the University of Houston Central Campus was **Dr. Francis Collins, then director of the National Human Genomic Research Institute**. Pictured with Dr. Collins are Health Equity Scholars, Dr. Janice Chilton and Dr. Theresa Duello.



HEALTH EQUITY SCHOLARS

Since 2006, the **Center for Research on Minority Health (CRMH)/Kellogg Health Scholars** have been meeting at the **Disparities in Health in America: Working on Social Justice Summer Workshop**, gathering at an informal alumni reception and dinner on Thursday evenings at each of the last **Disparities in Health in America: Working on Social Justice Summer Workshop (2006 to present)**.

Over the last few years, this annual event has expanded to include any fellow and/or trainee who came through the **Experimental Gynecology /Endocrinology Laboratory**, to fellows and/or trainees who have mentored by faculty affiliated with CRMH, Kellogg Health Scholars in some form or fashion to mentees of mentees and now to those who have participated in the course and/or workshop.

This past summer the list of people invited to the event exceeded 75. At this year's event, Dr. Lisako McKyer, Workshop 2005 Alumni and one of the co-chairs of the 2016 Workshop, had each of the fellows and others

attending to introduce themselves and talk about what the center and this event meant to them and their careers. It was made obvious that it is now time to connect the dots in a more formal way by attempting to link as many of those who have benefited from this effort. Therefore, the network is being formalized as part of the HDEART Consortium. So far, we have close to 200 individuals who have responded and filled out the form. A few have expressed an interest, but are concerned about supplying information online. If you would like a paper version I can send such to you. Again, to obtain the online form please click on this [link](#).

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES OF THE HDEART CONSORTIUM & THE HEALTH EQUITY SCHOLARS

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Bridging the Gap

Science Benefiting the Community

This section of the Newsletter will highlight some of the milestones of HDEART and the Health Equity Scholars who have been impacted by their involvement with the programs of the Center for Research on Minority Health (CRMH)/Dorothy I. Height Center for Health Equity & Evaluation Research (DHCHEER) as well as the faculty of HDEART. A highlight of the 13th Annual Disparities in Health in America: Working Toward Social Justice Workshop was this note from young student, not of color, relating what the workshop meant to him.

“The primary benefit of participating in the workshop was the deepened understanding of disparities and how it is manifested. Prior to the conference, I thought about health disparities in terms of access to healthy foods and facilities for physical activities, health information, and adequate healthcare. In short, I thought about health disparities in the limited context of health education. At the end of the six days, I walked away from the workshop with a heightened awareness of the complexity of health disparity. While this knowledge does not change the fact that I am a health educator with narrow lenses, it forces me to consciously situate my work in the broader picture, thereby gaining a better sense of my goal as a health disparities researcher.

The workshop has also forced me to engage in reflection and self-examination of my own work. There were two comments that I found particularly profound: Dr. Lichtveld stated, “If research is not working for the community, it is not worth doing,” and Dr. Powell defined her work as a “me-search” that she approaches with humility and a keen sense of her limited knowledge. They, along with Dr. Walker, made me question my mooring and motivation. What makes me do what I’m trying to do? Now I sit uneasy. All these speakers had a connection and vested interest in the communities they served. I continue to feel like an outsider. How can I work with communities to alleviate disparities when I feel alienated from their experiences, their culture, and their history? The workshop has helped me to realize that there is no cold objectivity in health disparities research – it is research with a heart and soul and blazing passion.”



One of the highlights of HDEART & the CRMH was the visit by President George H.W. Bush in February 2004.

HDEART CONSORTIUM

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