



September 14, 2018

To the HDEART-Consortium Institutional Members Representatives:

Dr. Lovell Jones has worked his entire professional career to bring awareness to the issue of health disparities that ethnic minorities and the medically underserved often face. He created solutions to address those health inequities and to improve the lives of many people. In 2002, he was instrumental in launching the Health Disparities, Education, Awareness Research & Training Consortium (HDEART-C) with several institutions in Houston's Medical Center, including Baylor College of Medicine, Prairie View A&M University, Rice University, Texas Southern University, the University of Houston Main Campus, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

The HDEART-C members are now located in several states across the United States and its territories. The Consortium's ongoing mission is to develop and maintain an alliance of academic universities and health-related institutions and to access and utilize the expertise of its members to address health disparities through collaboration and education. The goal is to strengthen each member institution's capacity to address health disparities academically and socially through outstanding collaborative research efforts.

After a long, often challenging, but always rewarding career, Dr. Jones has decided that it is now time to pass the reins of the HDEART-C on to the next generation. Dr. Jones' extraordinary effort and his special legacy of the HDEART-C will continue to train students and many others in improving access to medical treatment, implementing prevention and screening programs, driving participation in clinical trials, encouraging healthy behaviors, and eliminating health disparities.

My thanks to Dr. Jones and his family for their sacrifice and dedicated work. We thank them for HDEART-C and the impact it will have on generations of public health officials, scientists, educators, students, and health care providers. We wish them all the best and continued great happiness as Lovell's freedom and options in retirement will undoubtedly be enhanced. They deserve this relaxation time together, and we commit to continuing the excellent work of the HDEART Consortium.

In addition, the leadership team of the Transitional Advisory Council of the HDEART Consortium want to announce that Dr. E. Lisako McKyer has agreed to become the new Executive Director. Her credentials include:

- Associate Dean for Climate & Diversity, and Professor of Health Promotion & Community Health Sciences, Texas A&M School of Public Health
- Joint appointments, College of Medicine *and* College of Education & Human Development
- Former Director, NIMHD-funded Transdisciplinary Center for Health Equity Research, Texas A&M
- Research portfolio including 75+ publications, \$30+ million total funding (~\$5.5 as PI/Lead)
- Fellow status, American Academic of Health Behavior
- HDEART-Consortium Summer Workshop Planning Committee Co-Chair

Dr. McKyer's leadership style, while markedly different from Dr. Jones, best suits the needs of the HDEART Consortium as we move forward with renewed vigor.

Lastly, the members of the Transitional Advisory Council of the HDEART Consortium join Dr. McKyer and me in expressing our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Jones for his remarkable and tireless efforts to improve health care inequities among ethnic minorities and the medically underserved.

Sincerely,



Kirk A. Calhoun, M.D., FACP  
President