



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

*Over Twenty Years' Service to
America's Diverse Communities*

With the American Federation of Teachers



**Register
Now**

Dialogue on Diversity, with its Sponsors and Collaborating Organizations,
invites you for the 2014 HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM,
HEALTH CARE REFORM AND AN AGE OF WELLNESS,

May 15th, 2014 at the American Federation of Teachers, 555 New Jersey Avenue N.W.

Time: 8:30 registration, program from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Health Screening 10:00 am 2:00 pm

News Advisory April 25, 2014, Washington, D.C.. The 2014 program zeroes in on the chief thrust of our concerns for healthcare. It is now recognized that all the preventive stratagems, all the testing, all the treatments for disease once it strikes – all are aimed at designing a life of sharpened faculties of mind and body, the stuff from which the classic ideal of a happy existence and a productive career was shaped. The word often used in our time for this overarching logic of our health care work is “wellness”. It is exactly to this end that the notion of “wellness” orders all the other acts and practices and theories.

Getting down to the nitty gritty of actual world economics and strategy, today's Symposium first takes up the substantial tasks of integrating the massive health care reform, long overdue in America, into the existing insurance industry and the existing state Insurance Regulatory bodies. Again, how one can measure, let alone predict, how the preventive activity encouraged by the reform may in the medium long run sufficiently lower the incidence of active diseases to reduce the aggregate costs of care in the society? This is one of the desired ends of the preventive campaign – but surely not the only one, the exuberance of a healthy society being itself the top desideratum. The ultimate force of the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) radical pro-prevention provisions, and the extension of this body of preventive practice to a significant portion of the national population is just getting underway. But this future state of fully developed prevention, every soul equipped with full preventive armor, is something that cannot be achieved immediately. Perhaps in the next decade the effects may begin to be visible. And the trajectory of medical expense in America estimated!

Hon. Raul Ruiz, physician congressman from California, is slated to give the overview on health care policy in the introductory session.

Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, key midday speaker, the outspoken District of Columbia Delegate in the House of Representatives, reviews the stance of important issues in the Congress with a discussion of the direction of the American legislative temper in the present agitated age.

The Midday session also sees presentation of two awards, to **Dr. Elena Rios**, President of the National Hispanic Medical Association the Health Leadership Award, while the Health Equity Award goes to **Marcos Pesquera**, of Adventist HealthCare.

Attendees will be greeted on behalf of the hosting American Federation of Teachers by the **Mary Lehman McDonald**, AFT's Director for HealthCare.

Mayra Alvarez, moving from the tasks of designing public health policy in the HHS office of health reform to the post of Associate Director of the Office of Minority Health, is tasked now with exploring the effects of the ACA on the country's minority communities. **Dania Palanker** makes a repeat appearance this year in the economics and law session analyzing the intricacies of the ACA in the much disputed questions of insurance and the workings of the exchanges. **Professor Leighton Ku**, of the Health Policy Department at GWU, explores the complexities affecting the coordination of Medicaid, care for the uninsured, “safety net” provision for low income patients, in a texture of ACOs, Managed Care Plans, Medical-Home entities, and independent providers – all form the organizational minefield in which Professor Ku and his colleagues have become skilled navigators.

Prevention, one of the key terms in any discussion of healthcare, covers a range of practices and instrumentalities – from taking walks to MRI imaging and heart surgery. A related term, “Wellness” embraces the preventive regimen but also goes on to cultivate the practices, usually low-tech exercises, that sharpen the individual’s faculties, those of movement and agility, perception, resilience, and sound thinking. **Freya Spielberg**, Professor at GWU, discusses the methods she has employed, often with IT assists, and relying throughout on teaching skilled behavioral counseling in patient-centered care projects, bringing elemental life-style preventive practices into poor communities around the world. **John Abraham**, of the American Federation of Teachers, brings his formidable knowledge of employee relations to bear in discussing the effects of the ACA in triggering the ability of new swaths of persons to have access to medical office preventive services. The chief of preventive services at the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at HHS, **Linda Harris**, explores, among other facets of their work, the pioneering use of mobile devices affording health information and access instructions to economically disadvantaged groups in the population. **Dr. Rocio Medina**, Vice President, Nutrition Training, Herbalife, reviews a surprisingly broad range of life-style practices, fit to become, with due cultivation, salutary habits, to build a sound foundation of Wellness.

Joxel Garcia, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, reviews the achievements of the Department in ensconcing the great majority of its population in suitable insurance arrangements, even before the ACA came on the scene, and in running a world class HIV/AIDS prevention regime, explains the attainments of this remarkable department.

The second prong of our overarching concerns for health care lies in the bane of disparities of access and treatment, together with the barriers of language and social class and poverty that bar large numbers of people from a due part of the health care cornucopia that is there to be had in America. **Dr. Malcolm Joseph**, Medical Director for Care First, presides at the afternoon’s central panel: an in depth look as these problems. **Marcos Pesquera**, heading the Health Equity and Wellness program at Adventist HealthCare, describes this world class project. **Dr. Maria E. Rosa**, Dean of Nursing at West Coast University, discusses the key role of nurses – the technicians, the indispensable conduits of information between patients and physicians, the comforters of patients and families.

In a symposium segment on Health IT, **Scott Weinstein**, formerly of the office of the National Coordinator for Health IT in the HHS, now with a leading health law firm in Washington, reviews the progress of projects for engaging the privacy problem in Electronic Health Records (EHR) by building complex algorithms for privacy protection into the structure of the effective record management software, and deals at length with the potential for useful State privacy legislation on the EHR problematic. **Jose Bolanos**, California physician and IT entrepreneur, holds forth on the burgeoning range of applications for sophisticated information facilities in medical offices and hospitals. **Luis Belen**, founder and guiding spirit within several organizations promoting the use of IT resources by country’s underserved, chiefly cultural and racial minorities, has designed applications facilitating the use of the equalizing devices for finding health information and accessing providers, a task made the more relevant with the spread of viable insurance coverage among these groups.

Program is Free and Open to the Public

Lunch and Refreshments provided

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1629 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, D.C. TEL: 703-631-0650 FAX: 703-631-0617

E-MAIL: DIALOG.DIV@PRODIGY.NET WWW.DIALOGUEONDIVERSITY.ORG DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY IS A §501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.