



DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

Over Twenty Five Years of Service to America's Diverse Communities

NEWS ADVISORY

CONTACT: 703-631-0650

DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY'S 2018 HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM

THE QUEST FOR POLICY STABILITY — ROUTES TO WELLNESS

Washington, D.C. — May 28, 2018 The current Health Care Symposium, presented by Dialogue on Diversity on June 20th, will mark the nineteenth edition in this highly successful program series, which is a cornerstone of the Dialogue's annual program cycle. "The simple cures of our infancy have now come to be the drive for that mysterious thing called Wellness in a mature view, shaped in the present era," remarked Ma. Cristina Caballero, Dialogue on Diversity President/CEO, "and we are now looking at Prevention, the sovereign cause of Wellness in our life styles – and we are even cautiously expecting a prolonging of life with the advent of Precision Medicine — which is the focus of today's research, much of which is centered in our back yard at NIH." The 2018 agenda strikes a number of pertinent notes in the progress of medicine and health care practice.

➤ **Yvette Oquendo-Berruz**, a Medical Director for the CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield organization, a frequent sponsor for Dialogue on Diversity programs, is scheduled as main speaker for the lunch session, with a discussion of the central importance of the family, or primary care physician, whose office, the all-sufficient arena of treatment for the great majority of illnesses, is also the essential link to the entire medical cosmos, inclusive of specialized expertise and high-tech testing and treatment facilities.

➤ The Symposium takes a fresh look, first of all, at the legalities of the prevailing health care apparatus, tottering on shaky legs through an era of political tumult. The state of the laws and regulations, federal and state, that govern health insurance top the bill of concerns. **Mara Youdelman** of the Health Law Project details the perilous ride that federal health insurance law has been through in the year just past, surviving minus the so called "mandate" feature. The curious train of results from this mandate change is set out in Symposium presentations. **Mila Kofman**, heading the DC HealthLink, details the task of bringing together needy Washingtonians with their choice among subtly variegated insurance structures. Again, the D.C. Health Alliance, on the other hand, represented by **Ms. Chin Le**, offers a rough-hewn but sufficient form of insurance for those, no questions asked, who do not qualify for the exchange-approved policies (this includes the numerous migrants that even the ACA casts into uninsurable territory, leaving society to run the social risk of epidemics, the cost of avoidable serious medical emergencies, and more).

➤ Precision Medicine, the bundle of techniques that NIH research is striving to perfect, attacks cancer, for a prime example, by minute infusions of matter designed at the molecular level to attack precisely the species of cancer unique to the individual patient. Expert representatives describe this NIH Bio-Imaging research, while others additionally report on the massive million-subject/multi-year statistical study, "All-of-Us Research", purposing to ferret out heretofore hidden causal links between life-style, diet, and history and the incidence of resultant disease.

➤ Afternoon Panels bring together experts voicing the theme of overcoming barriers that block health care for significant numbers of persons in the country's population. Here is the age-old task of exercising "cultural competency" in the face of linguistic disconnects, expounded by **Dr. Sergio Rimola**, and recouping the learning deficits that shabby educational practices have left in the growing generation. Finally a fascinating discussion of the fortunes of refugees, those arriving from

places as diverse as Syria and Puerto Rico and Central America, and how they can access rudimentary health services in the District of Columbia, is discussed by **Debra Crawford** of the D.C. Office of Refugee Resettlement, the city agency aiming to ease the special uphill patches in the rough road refugees encounter in the fast moving U.S. society.

➤ A frequent Dialogue speaker, **Scott Weinstein**, of McDermott Will and Emery, recounts the transforming effects of information technology in the varied fields of medicine. The advent of sophisticated information technology is first of all the key to maintaining patients' full medical and treatment records, to be available in "real-time", serving as well as a resource for efficient studies of treatment strategies, efficacy of pharmaceuticals, etc. Administrative use of IT, moreover, is a saving means of abating a variety of medical errors (which for years had spawned not a few medical disasters). Further, the technological and legal means of ensuring privacy against the potentially intrusive capacities of IT, are another crucial concern and form an added field of IT applications.

➤ A review, the first in these Symposia, of the special work of support that civil society groups and individuals can put behind the efforts to advance knowledge and promote access for a variety of conditions is offered by **Carmen Pastor** of Fuerza Contra Alzheimer's, by **Hilda Crespo** of the Aspira Association on HIV/AIDS, and by experts on Cancer, childhood bullying, end of life care, and other situations.

Invited speakers include **Dr. Eliseo Pérez-Stable**, Director of Minority Health for NIH, **Dr. LaQuandra Nesbitt**, Director of the District of Columbia Department of Health, **John Oliver Davies-Cole**, State Epidemiologist for the District of Columbia, **Janel George** of the National Women's Law Center, experts on health care economics, colleagues of **Prof. Leighton Ku**, from GWU, **Amelia Vance**, Director, Educational Privacy, of the Future of Privacy Forum, **Yanira Cruz**, President, National Hispanic Council on Aging, and others.

Readers and friends of the Dialogue are urged to register promptly for this popular program at ***www.dialogueondiversity.org***

OFFICE: 1629 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, D.C. TEL: 703-631-0650 FAX: 703-631-0617 E-MAIL: IALOG.DIV@PRODIGY.NET

WWW.DIALOGUEONDIVERSITY.ORG DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY IS A §501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION.