



# DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY

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

## HEALTH CARE SYMPOSIUM 2019

### THE POWER OF WELLNESS: LAW, SCIENCE, AND THE HUMAN TOUCH

June 13, 2019 — Washington, D.C. A roster of expert speakers powers the twentieth edition of Dialogue on Diversity's annual Health Care Symposium. Again this year the Symposium site is the conference center at the offices of our host UNIDOS<sup>US</sup> (formerly La Raza) at 1126 Sixteenth Street, N.W. in Washington. Welcome was made by **Ms. Cristina Caballero**, President of Dialogue on Diversity, and by **Jackie Reyes-Yanes**, Director of the D.C. Office on Latino Affairs, one of the program sponsors. "The overview of the still unsettled state of U.S. health care," noted Ms. Caballero, "makes us query both the institution and its framework of laws. Today's agenda, then, proffers a systematic look at Health and Health Care in the U.S., its laws, the science that powers it, and the lot of minority ethnic communities in the midst." An opening exposition by **Karen Davenport** spells out the intricacies of the insurance, financing and coverage of the curative and preventive needs of the American population, of varied income levels and ethnic origins, all with impressive analytic precision. **Sarah Coombs**, policy analyst at the National Partnership for Women and Families, holds forth with an inside view of the pulling and hauling of the legislative process, which she observed in 2009-10 on the staff of a key committee. The agenda continues as **Professor Leighton Ku**, of The George Washington University, focuses on Medicaid, the single largest health program, lately expanded by the ACA, reviewing the growing number of generally perverse initiatives that would weaken its coverage

**Dr. Elena Rios**, as chief speaker, conveys the story of the National Hispanic Medical Association, which she founded and now heads — a leading Latino society within the medical profession, reflecting a decades long march of Hispanic physicians for a place in the sun.

Minority health, a perennial Dialogue theme, puts the spotlight on discrimination in health care and on the harms it has inflicted on minority communities. **Dr. Mary Roach** of the National Institutes of Health offers a ground-level look at the fact of discrimination in the country's neighborhoods. Again, most poignantly, workers returning from the front lines in the rescue efforts to aid Latino children. Also invited is **Giselle Lundy-Ponce**, a supporter of pre-K training, who tells of her work in language with Latino children.

Turning to the hugely productive world of scientific research **Dr. Jane Knisely** of the NIH Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warns of the danger of radical obsolescence in Anti-biotics: the target types of bacteria have evolved into new, highly resistant strains that the drugs do not reach. What are the prospects for development of successor remedies sidestepping the evolutionary bent of the germs?

**Jason Resendez** of Latinos Contra Alzheimer's, reviews that group's work funding research, while schooling families of patients in the hard tasks of attending them. **Hilda Crespo** of the Aspira Association recounts its support of the battle against HIV/AIDS — a struggle that a three-pronged approach of research, education, and treatments is winning, especially against the severest epidemics, those in Africa. But the battle is not yet definitively won.

**Dr. Adrian Gropper** rings down the curtain with a spirited discourse on the essence contemporary health care. He flags the research now proceeding at forced draft speed in Bethesda's National Institutes of Health, and at universities throughout the world. Much of the research is aimed at building Precision Medicine. Dr. Gropper, a Harvard MD and a scholar in engineering as well, sets out a schema of the micro and the macro approaches to the holy grail of P.M. — the design of a unique remedy for the unique patient.

Invitations have gone out as well for **Rep. Tony Cárdenas** of California and for the Congressional delegates of the main U.S. Territories: the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

**Dialogue on Diversity** is a non-profit organization targeting a diverse audience of entrepreneurial and professional women, and men, and all with an interest in public policy, through an annual cycle of programs on social and economic issues and as part of the public discourse that aims at the good society in our own age.

Registration can be made for the June 26<sup>th</sup> Symposium at [www.dialogueondiversity.org](http://www.dialogueondiversity.org)