

## **Biography of Speakers**

### **Indian Health Care in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Case Study in Disparities**

**Monday, May 9, 2005**

#### **Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., F.A.C.P.**

Georges C. Benjamin, M.D., F.A.C.P., is well known in the world of public health as a leader, practitioner and administrator. Dr. Benjamin has been the executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the nation's oldest and largest organization of public health professionals, since December 2002. He came to that post from his position as secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he played a key role developing Maryland's bioterrorism plan. Dr. Benjamin became secretary of the Maryland health department in April 1999, following four years as its deputy secretary for public health services. Dr. Benjamin, of Gaithersburg, Md., is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He is board-certified in internal medicine and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. An established administrator, author and orator, Dr. Benjamin started his medical career in 1981 in Tacoma, Wash., where he managed a 72,000-patient visit ambulatory care service as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic at the Madigan Army Medical Center. A few years later, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as chief of emergency medicine at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He later managed a \$7 million budget and 175 employees as chairman of the department of community health and ambulatory care at the District of Columbia General Hospital. He directed one of the busiest ambulance services in the nation as interim director of the Emergency Ambulatory Bureau of the District of Columbia Fire Department and worked as a health policy consultant. Dr. Benjamin also served as acting health commissioner for the District of Columbia. Prior to joining APHA, he was the chief executive of the state of Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, a cabinet level agency with a \$5 billion budget. At APHA, Dr. Benjamin serves as the executive editor of the monthly publication, *The Nation's Health*. *The Nation's Health* is the official newspaper of the APHA. Dr. Benjamin is a member of several committees, including the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services secretary's advisory committee on public health preparedness and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director's advisory committee. He also serves on the boards of Research America, Partnership for Prevention and Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science.

#### **Michael E. Bird, M.S.W., M.P.H.**

Michael E. Bird, M.S.W., M.P.H., (Santo Domingo- San Juan Pueblo) is Executive Director of the National Native American AIDS Prevention Center. For 21 years, Mr. Bird was with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to his leaving the IHS, Mr. Bird was Associate Director of the Office of Preventive Health Programs for the Albuquerque Area Office as well as Director of Preventive Health Programs for the Santa Fe Service Unit. In this position, he was responsible for mental health and substance abuse services as well as health education, nutrition, HIV, and medical social work services.

Mr. Bird has been a member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) for over 20 years. He served as the first American Indian Chair of the APHA as well as President in 1999 to 2000. He is past president of the New Mexico Public Health Association and was a fellow in the U.S. Public Health Service Primary Care Policy Fellowship. In 2003, Mr. Bird received the Congressional Healthcare Hero Award from the Congressional Black/Native American/Hispanic/Asian/Pacific Caucuses. Mr. Bird earned his master's of social work degree from the University of Utah and his master's in public health from the University of California at Berkeley.

## **Terrence L. Bracy**

Terrence L. Bracy is the chief executive officer of Bracy Tucker Brown, a highly respected consultancy firm in the nation's capitol with a far-reaching clientele that includes Fortune 500 companies, major U.S. cities, Native American tribes, Asian and European concerns, and the U.S. government. Before coming to Washington, D.C., Mr. Bracy was news editor at the NBC affiliate in Tucson, Arizona. He also taught courses in American government at The University of Arizona. In Washington, D.C., Mr. Bracy was a legislative assistant to Congressman Udall from 1966-1976. In this position he played an important role in the passage of a host of reform measures, including the Alaska Native Claims Act, the Campaign Reform Acts of 1971 and 1974, as well as many lesser-known bills dealing with parks and wilderness, clean energy technologies, and governmental reorganization. He played a key role in all of Rep. Udall's campaigns, including his race for the presidency in 1976. In January of 1977, President Carter appointed Mr. Bracy to the post of assistant secretary of transportation. In that capacity, he acted as the U.S. Department of Transportation's liaison to congress, the White House, governors and mayors, and the press. In addition, he directed the Carter administration's highly regarded initiative on new automobile technology. Mr. Bracy has been a guest lecturer at the Brookings Institution, Harvard University, the University of Missouri, and St. Louis University, where he received his undergraduate degree in 1964. He has a Master of Arts degree in government from The University of Arizona. He has written articles on public affairs issues for many periodicals, including *The New York Times*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and *The Washington Post*. Mr. Bracy was appointed by President Clinton to the board of trustees and subsequently elected the first chair.

## **Marsha Lillie-Blanton, Dr. P.H.**

Marsha Lillie-Blanton is a vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation where she directs the Foundation's policy research on access to care for vulnerable populations. She also holds an adjunct faculty position in the Department of Health Policy and Management of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research and policy interests are in the areas of substance abuse, racial/ethnic minority health, and HIV/AIDS.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Dr. Lillie-Blanton served as Associate Director of Health Services Quality and Public Health Issues of the U.S. General Accounting Office. Dr. Lillie-Blanton has over 15 years of work experience in health policy research and management positions. She has authored and co-authored numerous articles, book chapters, and reports on health care access and financing issues for vulnerable populations.

Dr. Lillie-Blanton serves on the *American Journal of Public Health* editorial board, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Changes in Health Care Financing and Organization (HCFO) Initiative advisory committee, and the D.C. Department of Health Medicaid Medical Care

Advisory Committee. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance. Dr. Lillie-Blanton received a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master's and doctorate degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

### **Paul Moorehead, J.D.**

Paul G. Moorehead is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP. A member of the Indian Tribal Governments Practice Group, Mr. Moorehead focuses his practice on federal policies and programs that impact American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, including self-governance, housing, community development, health, education, natural resources, and energy. Prior to joining Gardner Carton & Douglas, Mr. Moorehead was Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the United States Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1997-2005. In this capacity, his responsibilities included legislation and oversight of federal programs designed by and for American Indians and Alaska Natives. During his tenure, more Indian legislation was enacted into law than at any comparable time period in history. These laws address healthcare, education, housing, community and commercial development, self-governance, protection of tribal religions and cultures, veterans' affairs, cultural and intellectual property, natural resource claims and claim settlement, and a host of other issues. Before his service with the Senate, Mr. Moorehead was government affairs director of the National Congress of American Indians, the largest, oldest, and most representative Indian tribal advocacy organization in the nation. In that position, Mr. Moorehead guided NCAI in its advocacy on Capitol Hill and in the courts where he helped articulate positions on gaming, child welfare, federal recognition, appropriations and numerous other issues. Mr. Moorehead has spoken to many national, regional and local groups on a variety of Indian-related topics, especially tribal governance and economic development initiatives.

### **Leo J. Nolan III, M. Ed.**

Leo J. Nolan III, an enrolled member of the St. Regis (Akwesasne) Mohawk Tribe of New York, began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS) in 1986 as Chief of the Program Evaluation Branch at IHS Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland. In 1989, he was selected as Director of the Division of Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis. In September 1995, he was appointed as the Acting Associate Director for the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Legislation, which became a unit within the Office of Public Health as a result of the reorganization of Headquarters in 1997. In 1998, he served as the Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Public Health, where he managed a staff that coordinated planning and operations research, health program evaluation, health services research, and policy analysis. His staff also developed and monitored federal regulations affecting IHS programs, analyzed existing and proposed legislation that affected the Agency, and carried out legal liaison responsibilities with the Office of General Counsel. In 1999, Mr. Nolan accepted his appointment as Senior Policy Analyst for External Affairs. He assists the Director and executive staff with the collaboration and implementation of Indian health initiatives with organizations external to the IHS. As a member of the Office of the Director, his efforts will focus on external and intergovernmental affairs. After receiving his bachelor's degree in education from Syracuse University, Mr. Nolan served as Assistant to the Dean of Arts and Sciences at the State University of New York-Oswego where he directed academic training programs for teachers of Indian students. He earned a master's degree in educational administration from Pennsylvania State University and went on to complete the course work for a Ph.D. in education. In 1977, he was selected as an Education Policy Fellow, Institute for Educational Leadership, at George Washington University, and worked at the Office of Indian Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. He then joined the

Department of the Interior in 1978 as an education specialist in the U.S. Office of Education and served in that same capacity in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs. In 1994, he was selected to serve a six-month interagency detail on special assignment to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to work on health care reform. Mr. Nolan was raised in New York on the Onondaga Nation Reservation, the capital of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy. He resides in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area with his wife, Penny, and one son. He also has four adult children.

## **Yvette Roubideaux, M.D., M.P.H.**

Dr. Yvette Roubideaux is an Assistant Professor in the College of Public Health and College of Medicine at the University of Arizona. Her work includes teaching and Research on Indian health issues, with a focus on the quality of diabetes care for American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian health policy. She is a consultant for the Indian Health Service Diabetes Program on research and evaluation projects, and is currently Faculty in the University of Colorado Native Elder Resource Center Native Investigator Program. Dr. Roubideaux previously worked in the Indian Health Service as a Medical Officer and Clinical Director on the San Carlos Indian Reservation and in the Gila River Indian Community. She works on a number of national committees related to diabetes, including the National Diabetes Program (NDEP) Steering Committee, the NDEP American Indian Subcommittee (Chair), and the American Diabetes Association Awakening the Spirit Native American Team. She was also the President of the Association of American Indian Physicians for 1999-2000 and was appointed to the Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Minority Health in 2000. She is co-editor of the APHA book entitled "Promises to Keep: Public Health Policy for American Indians and Alaska Natives in the 21st Century." Dr. Roubideaux's work also involves recruiting American Indian and Alaska Native students into health professional and research careers. She is the Director of the University of Arizona/Intertribal Council of Arizona Indians Into Medicine Program and Director of the Training Program of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona/University of Arizona American Indian Research Center for Health. Dr. Roubideaux is one of the founders and co-chairs of the Native Research Network, Inc., and recently received the *2004 Indian Physician of the Year Award* from the Association of American Indian Physicians. She also received the *2002 Outstanding American Indian Faculty Award* at the University of Arizona. Dr. Roubideaux received her M.D. from Harvard Medical School and her M.P.H. from Harvard School of Public Health. She completed the Primary Care Internal Medicine Residency Program at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts and was Board Certified in Internal Medicine. She completed the Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship in Minority Health Policy in 1997.

## **Joanne Silberner**

Joanne Silberner is a health policy correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR). She covers medicine, health reform, and changes in the health care marketplace. Silberner has been with NPR since 1992. Prior to that, she spent five years covering consumer health and medical research at *U.S. News & World Report*. In addition she has worked at *Science News* magazine, *Science Digest*, and has freelanced for various publications. She has been published in *The Washington Post*, *Health*, *USA Today*, *American Health*, *Practical Horseman*, *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and others. She was a fellow for a year at the Harvard School of Public Health, and from 1997-1998, she had a Kaiser Family Foundation media fellowship. During that fellowship she chronicled the closing of a state mental hospital. Silberner also had a fellowship to study the survivors of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Silberner has won awards for her work

from the Society of Professional Journalists, the New York State Mental Health Association, the March of Dimes, Easter Seals, the American Heart Association, and others. Her work has also earned her a Unity Award and a Clarion Award. A graduate of Johns Hopkins University, Silberner holds her B.A. in biology. She has a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She currently resides in Washington, D.C.

### **Tim Westmoreland, J.D.**

Tim Westmoreland is from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. He went to college at Duke and law school at Yale. He spent the first 15 years of his career (1979-1995) working for the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House, under the chairmanship of Congressman Henry Waxman. In that job, he staffed hearings and legislation on public health, reproductive health, biomedical research, biomedical ethics, and health regulation. From 1995-1999, he was a senior policy fellow at the Georgetown Law Center, teaching in the clinical program on federal legislation. During that same period, he served as a senior advisor on HIV/AIDS to the Kaiser Family Foundation, as a counsel to the Koop-Kessler Advisory Committee on Tobacco Policy and Public Health, and as a lobbyist for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. From 1999 until January 2001, he was the Director of the Medicaid program at HCFA. During that time, he worked on such issues as TANF delink, enrollment simplification, Medicaid managed care patients' rights, Olmstead/ADA rights in Medicaid, and aggregated upper payment limits. He now has a joint appointment at Georgetown University, as a visiting professor of law and a research professor of public policy. In that capacity, he teaches about federal budget policy and about legislation and statutory interpretation. He is the recipient of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award in Health Policy Research.

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