The 2011 CBC Fall Health Braintrust
The Politics of Race and Health Equity

Friday, September 23, 2011
Room 202A
Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC

8:30 am – 9:00 am Welcome Remarks and Greetings
Congresswoman Donna Christensen, other Members of Congress, Reverend Deidre Walton, President, National Black Nurses Association, and Dr. Cedric Bright, President of the National Medical Association, will welcome and greet everyone to the 2011 Fall CBC Health Braintrust.

9:00 am – 10:00 am Introductory Session: The Politics of Race: Reframing the Health Equity Dialogue
During this introductory session, panelists will deliver presentations that address various topics – such as social and racial inequities, and the law – as determinants of health and drivers of health disparities. Together, they will stress that the health of African Americans are more like a developing – rather than a developed – nation. Through their presentations, they will explain how disparities in health are due to racial inequities that exist in every aspect of American society, including disparities in wealth, housing, education, food, employment, and health care access. Finally, they will explore how and why health equity cannot be achieved without achieving racial equity, and achieving racial equity is not possible without anti-discrimination laws, equitable public health laws and just policies for the 21st century. A Q&A session will follow. Panelists will include:

Dr. Kathy Sanders-Phillips, Professor, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine, Howard University

Scott Burris, Temple University Beasley School of Law, and Director of the National Program Office of the Public Health Law Research Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Dr. Vernellia R. Randall, Professor of Law, University of Dayton

10:00 am – 10:15 am Special Presentation I: Surmounting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Musculoskeletal Disorders by Dr. Said Ibrahim, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Said Ibrahim will deliver a special presentation to raise awareness about racial and ethnic disparities in musculoskeletal disorders and in the available care and treatment for those with musculoskeletal disorders, as well as how the access expansion and quality assurance measures
in the Affordable Care Act will play a greater role in helping to reduce these disparities. A Q&A session will follow.

10:15 am – 11:30 pm  
**Session II: A Closer Look at the Social Causes and Social Distribution of Health Inequities: Why Your Zip Code Matters More Than Your Genetic Code**

During this session, national experts will highlight two critically important issues that are directly related to health equity, but seldom an integral part of the discussion. The session will open with an overview presentation by Dr. Brian Smedley, the Director of the Health Policy Institute at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Dr. Smedley also will serve as the session moderator and the panelists will include:

**Dr. Rolf Pendall**, Director, Metropolitan Housing & Communities Policy Center, The Urban Institute will highlight 30+ year-old trends in neighborhoods with concentrated poverty, the insidious impact of poverty on the exacerbation of all social inequities – including health – and the disproportionately high percentages of racial and ethnic minority populations who live in high-poverty neighborhoods.

**Dr. Thom LaVeist**, Professor and Director, Center for Health Disparities Solutions at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy, and **Dr. Darrell Gaskin**, Associate Professor of Health Economics at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Deputy Director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, together will co-lead a presentation on the relationship between residential segregation and the health inequities that exist between various racial and ethnic groups. Additionally, Drs. LaVeist and Gaskin will explore how and why despite modest decreases in residential segregation across the nation, there is a direct correlation between higher degrees of residential segregation and higher levels of health inequities.

Following the presentations, there will be a 2-minute video, which will feature Dr. Freda Lewis-Hall, Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer, about the importance and value of increasing racial and ethnic diversity in clinical trials.

11:30 am to 12:30 pm  
**Session III: From Awareness to Testing to Treatment: A Promising New Care Continuum**

This session will focus not only on the disproportionate impact of viral hepatitis on racial and ethnic minority communities, but also on the exciting advancements that have been made in screening and effective treatment. A Q&A session will follow. Panelists will include:

**Dr. Howard Koh** (invited) will focus on the new National Action Plan on Viral Hepatitis and how the Affordable Care Act, as well as the National Strategy to Eliminate Health Disparities, has and will likely improve the health, health care and thus wellness of individuals with viral hepatitis.

**Tony Zezzo**, Executive Vice President, OraSure, will highlight the importance of viral hepatitis screening and the value of public private partnerships in making the new action plan, and other efforts to address viral hepatitis, a success.

**Dr. John Hogan**, Unity Health Care Inc., will provide an overview of viral hepatitis, the social distribution of viral hepatitis, the differences between Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C, as well as the current trends, treatment, and care options for people with the disease and conditions associated with Hepatitis C.

**Dr. Camilla Graham**, Vice President for Global Medical Affairs, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. will raise awareness about who is at risk for viral hepatitis and address stigmas associated with the disease. Additionally, Dr. Graham will explain how the provisions in the Affordable Care Act – particularly those that expand access to screening, treatment and care -- will improve the health, health care and wellness of individuals living with viral hepatitis.

**Dr. Gary Puckrein**, President and CEO, National Minority Quality Forum, will describe an exciting new resource that advocates, health care planners and executives, health care researchers and providers, and policymakers across the nation can use to improve their surveillance of, and development of strategies and policies to better address, viral hepatitis.
12:30 pm – 2:00 pm  The 2011 Fall CBC Health Braintrust Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
The 2011 Fall CBC Health Braintrust Luncheon will open with brief greetings from **David Nichols**, Senior Director of Federal Affairs at EMD Serono, followed by a special presentation by **Dr. John Ruffin**, Director of the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes on Health (NIH). Dr. Ruffin will discuss the efforts that are underway at the NIMHD and at NIH to improve the coordination and planning, and maximize the positive impact of all health disparity elimination and health equity efforts. Following Dr. Ruffin’s remarks, **Laurie Kaye Abraham**, the award-winning investigative journalist and author of *Mama Might Be Better Off Dead: The Failure of Health Care in Urban America*, will discuss her work around researching and addressing the social determinants of health, the changes she has seen – especially following the Affordable Care Act – and the challenges that remain. Following the special presentations, the 2011 CBC Health Braintrust Leadership Awards award ceremony will follow and recipients of the following awards will be honored:

- The 2011 CBC Health Braintrust Congressional Leadership Award
- The 2011 CBC Health Braintrust Congressional Staff Leadership Awards
- The 2011 CBC Health Braintrust Leadership Awards in Advocacy
- The 2011 CBC Health Braintrust Leadership in Journalism Award

At the end of the Awards Luncheon, **Dr. Carlos Williams** and **Dr. Anita Jackson** will deliver a brief presentation to announce the *Minority Global Health Education Forum* – a new initiative committed to developing international education, training and research partnerships specifically between Minority Institutions and academics throughout the African diaspora.

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm  Session IV: Taking Advantage of the New; Making Improvements to the Old: PPACA’s Opportunities and Challenges To Improve Care, Lower Costs and Reduce Health Disparities
During this session, national experts will focus on various provisions in the Affordable Care Act – such as accountable care organizations (ACOs) – that seek to reduce costs and improve health care quality and health outcomes. Additionally, the panelists will provide valuable information about the role that these measures can play in efforts to achieve health equity. Additionally, the panelists will share their perspective on, as well as highlight the benefits and challenges associated with ACOs. A Q&A session will follow.

Panelists will include:

1) **Richard Baron**, Director, Seamless Care Models, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation at Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
2) **Jill Rubin Hummel**, Vice President, Payment Innovation, WellPoint, Inc.
3) **Dr. Rhonda Johnson**, Medical Director, Health Equity and Quality Services, Highmark
4) **Dr. Leonard Weather**, Immediate Past President, National Medical Association
5) **Michael Rashid**, President and CEO, Amerihealth Mercy Health Plan
6) **Dr. Ernie Bonner**, Medical and Legal Consultant, MDLaw33

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  Session V: Moving Health Equity Efforts Upstream: An Update from Congressional Staff and Partners on the TriCaucus Health Disparity Elimination Effort.
During this session, senior congressional health staff and key health equity partners will highlight the key provisions and objectives in the *Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2011*. A Q&A session will follow. Panelists will include:

**Jirair Ratevosian**, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee
**Debbie Jessup**, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard
**Britt Weinstock**, Health Policy Director, Office of Congresswoman Donna Christensen
**Paulo Pontemayor**, Policy Analyst, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
**Michael G. Knight**, National President, Student National Medical Association
**Jay Stiener**, Policy Analyst, National Council of Urban Indian Health

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm  Closing Remarks and Final Q&A Session