



Presidential Inaugural Unity Ball

THE WILLARD INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL

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Mary Woolley
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*In progress

In celebration of the historic election of President-Elect Barack Obama, the Inaugural Unity Ball will be hosted by the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine (IAMMM)), in collaboration with the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Salute Committee, Embassy of Kenya, Obama Unity Network,, members of the Diplomatic Corps and a number of other partner organizations. The Unity Ball will be held at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel on January 20, 2009 at 8 p.m., two days after the 18th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Celebration held at the Willard on January 18, 2009.

About IAMMM – Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine

The IAMMM was founded six years ago to work toward eliminating health disparities among minority populations and to promote culturally sensitive public health and clinical care delivery systems to every American.

As a non-profit, non-governmental organization with broad minority interests and deep connections within the African American community, IAMMM has already successfully completed a multitude of major health prevention projects, including:

- community-based projects to increase the awareness in underserved persons of health promotion and available disease prevention measures available to them;
- professional education courses in Los Angeles, Seattle and Princeton on the delivery of improved culturally-sensitive care;
- a project aimed at the reduction of juvenile obesity and diabetes in minority children, recently funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, wherein IAMMM will train and follow the progress of community workers;
- a major planning meeting of over 80 national and international experts on public health and clinical health care, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to prepare for the first annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Conference on Health as Social Equity, to be held at the time of the official dedication of the National Martin Luther King Memorial in Washington, D.C. in 2010;
- Health summits and Town Hall Meetings in collaboration with national health and community based- organizations in major urban centers, including Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Washington, DC, Atlanta focused on physician/patient communication and health and wellness initiatives;
- and the initiation of an effort to raise public awareness about the importance of increasing research efforts in the area of disparities reduction, and to focus attention on the evaluation of ongoing research into which strategies work to reduce the burden of disease due to disparities. This latter effort has connected IAMMM to HHS and especially to the National Institute of Health.

Thus, the near- and mid-term future of the IAMMM will see a burgeoning of its ability to educate the public at large, including state and local government officials, about progress in reducing health disparities, while also supporting community-based efforts to reduce the disease burden of disparities, and promoting and advocating for more research in this area.



IAMMM intends to build on its collaboration with the government, with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation, and with the Martin Luther King International Salute Committee to make its own planned Health as Social Equity Conference a major annual national and international conference beginning with the 2010 event, thus presenting an annual public scorecard for progress.

The Institute has attracted dozens of scholars and policy experts to serve as advisors to its Board in guiding its major inter-relating objectives: public education; community-based efforts; health disparities research advocacy; and evaluative conferences marking progress and lack thereof. It has a proven record of achievement in attracting large grants from major health foundations, corporate foundations and the federal government. It is therefore ideally positioned as a credible multi-cultural and multi-racial organization to help our society address both its domestic health and global health challenges.

Madeline Y. Lawson, the IAMMM President/CEO has been associated with the MLK International Salute Committee from its inception and has led the annual MLK breakfast program development for the past 18 years. She served as a Loaned Executive to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, managing the Commission offices in Washington DC, and served under Dr. Louis Sullivan when he was the Secretary of HHS.

Roger Bulger, M.D. is the current Chair of the Board of IAMMM. Previously he spent 17 years as the President of the Association of Academic Health Centers in Washington DC; the President of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; the Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts Medical Center; and the Executive Officer of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Recently deceased Honorable Paul G. Rogers, former Congressman from Florida, known as “Mr. Health,” was a driving force in and great supporter of IAMMM.

IAMMM’s many board members, friends, supporters and consultants include:

- **Louis Sullivan, M.D.** – Former Secretary of Health and Human Services and Former President of Morehouse School of Medicine
- **David Satcher, M.D.** – Former Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary of Health
- **Jo Ivey Boufford, M.D.** – Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and current President of the New York Academy of Medicine
- **Jim Smith** – President, American International Health Alliance
- **Nelle Temple Brown, Ph.D.** – External Relations Officer of the World Health Organization
- **Dennis F. Hightower** – Former President, Walt Disney Television and Entertainment and Professor, Harvard Business School
- **Richard Allen Williams, M.D.** – Founder, Association of Black Cardiologists
- **Henry Simmons, M.D.** – Former Deputy Director of the FDA and Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Health, and has been President and CEO of the National Coalition on Health Care for the past 20 years.
- **Mary Woolley** – President of Research America



- **John Howe, M.D.** – President of Project Hope
- **Arthur L. Herbst, M.D.** – Former Chair of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Chicago
- **Polly Bednash, R.N.** – President of the Association of American Medical Colleges of Nursing
- **Albert Reece, M.D./Ph.D.** – Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean of Medicine at University of Maryland at Baltimore
- **Patricia Kelly, M.D.** – President of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in Los Angeles
- **Hon. Donna M. Christenson** – U.S. Congresswoman, U.S. Virgin Islands
- **Hon. Diane E. Watson** – U.S. Congresswoman, California
- **Hon. Louis W. Stokes** – Former U.S. Congressman, Ohio
- **Senator Tom Coburn** – U.S. Senator, Oklahoma
- **Senator Bill Frist** – Former U.S. Senator, Tennessee
- **Senator Edward Brooke** – Former U.S. Senator, Massachusetts
- **Roy Wilson, M.D.** – President of the University of Colorado at Denver and Vice President of Health Affairs
- **Richard Valachovic D.D.S.** – President of the American Dental Education Association
- **David Baines, M.D.** – Head of the Alaska Family Practice Residency Program
- **Augustus White, M.D.** – Professor of Surgery, Harvard University
- **Ray Greenberg, M.D.** – President of the Medical University of South Carolina
- **Ross Anthony, Ph.D.** – Head of Division of Health at Rand Health
- **Henry Lucas, D.D.S.** – Vice Chair of the Board, Drew University
- **T.K. Li, M.D.** – Former Director of National Institute for Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse
- **Michael Hash** – Former Deputy Policy Consultant and Former Deputy Director of CMS
- **Ronny Lancaster** – Executive Vice President, Assurant
- **16 Presidents of Academic Health Centers** from various states throughout the U.S.