In Pursuit of Equity in Health

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2012 | 11A.M. | RALPH D. ABERNATHY AUDITORIUM

FEATURED SPEAKER:

The Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.

“The American Journey to Health Equity”
The purpose of the Baines-Woodruff Endowed Lectureship in Health Disparities is to highlight efforts to improve health equity. Through discussions of issues that limit equity in healthcare, focused solutions can be sought.

Inequalities in health have been documented for a number of populations in the United States. A health disparity has been defined as “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, mental health, cognitive, sensory, or physical disability, sexual orientation, geography, or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.”

* http://healthypeople.gov/

Ruth E. Baines, PT, Ph.D., FASAHP is a veteran educator who has been committed to the development of health professionals. As Assistant Chancellor of Health Sciences for the State University of New York (SUNY) Central Administration for 15 years, her responsibilities included health science clinical and academic policy, planning and evaluation for most of the 64 SUNY colleges and universities. Prior to SUNY Central, Dr. Baines was Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Allied Health Resources, School of Allied Health at SUNY at Stony Brook, NY. Her university teaching career began in the New York University Physical Therapy program. This followed her years as a practicing physical therapist in public health, acute care and rehabilitation settings. Dr. Baines is a Fellow of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, an honorary member in the Epsilon Tau Sigma and Alpha Eta Honor Societies, and recipient of the Spelman College Apple and Alumni Achievement Awards. Dr. Baines served as the lead consultant during the creation of the College of Health Sciences at Alabama State University and describes her involvement in the development of the College as the most rewarding aspect of her entire career. Dr. Baines earned a B.A. degree in education from Spelman College, a certificate in physical therapy from the University of Buffalo, an M.A. degree in education from New York University, and a Ph.D. in curriculum design and evaluation from SUNY at Albany.
Lynda D. Woodruff, PT, Ph.D., FAAPT has always been a champion for justice and for available and appropriate healthcare for all. As a child, she integrated the segregated Lynchburg, Virginia School System, an experience that ignited her passion to become a champion of equal opportunities for all. She became the fourth African American to be licensed in physical therapy by the Virginia State Board of Medicine. In 1974, she once again made history as the first African American to join the faculty in the Division of Physical Therapy at the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She moved to Atlanta in 1978 to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy at Georgia State University, where she founded and directed the award-winning Program for Minority Student Recruitment and Retention. Throughout her tenure in Georgia, she has continued her clinical practice as senior physical therapist with the Dekalb Physical Therapy Associates. In July, 1991, Dr. Woodruff served as the founding chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at the North Georgia College in Dahlonega, Ga. Dr. Woodruff has served as a consultant at Alabama State University since 1995. She received her B.A. degree in psychology and M.S. degree in physical therapy from Case Western Reserve University, the first post-baccalaureate physical therapy program in the nation. Her Ph.D. was awarded in 1984 by the College of Education at Georgia State University.

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Dr. Steven Chesbro, Chair
Dr. Bernadette Williams-York
Dr. John Garland
Brenda Dawson
Catrina Waters
Regina Adams
Haley Cumbie, Publications
Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.

Louis W. Sullivan, M.D., is chairman of the board of the National Health Museum in Atlanta, whose goal is to improve the health of Americans by enhancing health literacy and advancing healthy behaviors. He also is chairman of the Washington, D.C.-based Sullivan Alliance to Transform America’s Health Professions. He was the founding dean and first president of Morehouse School of Medicine and is now President Emeritus. He served as chair of the President’s Commission on Historically Black Colleges and Universities from 2002-2009, and was co-chair of the President's Commission on HIV and AIDS from 2001-2006.

With the exception of his tenure as secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) from 1989 to 1993, Dr. Sullivan was president of Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) for more than two decades. On July 1, 2002, he retired and was appointed president emeritus. He continues to support the school, including its national fundraising activities.

Dr. Sullivan became the founding dean and director of the Medical Education Program at Morehouse College in 1975. The program became The School of Medicine at Morehouse College in 1978, admitting its first 24 students to a two-year program in the basic medical sciences. In 1981, the school received provisional accreditation of its four-year curriculum leading to the M.D. degree, became independent from Morehouse College and was re-named Morehouse School of Medicine, with Dr. Sullivan as dean and president. In 1983, (MSM) became a member of the Atlanta University Center (AUC). MSM was fully accredited as a four-year medical school in April 1985 and awarded its first 16 M.D. degrees in May of that year.

Dr. Sullivan left MSM in 1989 to accept an appointment by President George H.W. Bush to serve as secretary of HHS. In this cabinet position, Dr. Sullivan managed the federal agency responsible for the major health, welfare, food and drug safety, medical research and income security programs serving the American people.

His efforts to improve the health and health behavior of Americans included (1) the introduction of a new and improved FDA food label; (2) the release of Healthy People 2000, a guide for improved health promotion/disease prevention activities; (3) education of the public about the health dangers from tobacco use; (4) leading the successful efforts to prevent the introduction of “Uptown,” a non-filtered, mentholated cigarette; (5) inauguration of a $100 million minority male health and injury prevention initiative; and (6) implementation of greater gender and ethnic diversity in senior positions of HHS, including the appointment of the first female director of the National Institutes of Health, the first female (and first Hispanic) Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service, the first African-American Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, and the first African-American Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration. In January 1993, he returned to MSM and resumed the office of president.

A native of Atlanta, Dr. Sullivan graduated magna cum laude from Morehouse College in 1954, and earned his medical degree, cum laude, from Boston University School of Medicine in 1958. He is certified in internal medicine and hematology, holds a mastership from the American College of Physicians and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha academic honor societies.

Dr. Sullivan was instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School from 1963-64, and assistant professor of medicine at Seton Hall College of Medicine from 1964-66. In 1966, he became co-director of hematology at Boston University Medical Center and, a year later, founded the Boston University Hematology Service at Boston City Hospital. Dr. Sullivan remained at Boston University until 1975, holding positions as assistant professor of medicine, associate professor of medicine and professor of medicine.

A member of numerous medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the National Medical Association, Dr. Sullivan is the founding president of the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS).

In 1985, Dr. Sullivan was one of the founders of Medical Education for South African Blacks (MESAB). From 1994-2007, he served as chairman of the organization, which raised scholarship funds in the United States and South Africa for more than 10,000 black health professions students, who are now physicians, nurses, dentists and other health professionals in South Africa.

Dr. Sullivan is the recipient of more than 55 honorary degrees, including an honorary doctor of medicine degree from the University of Pretoria in South Africa.
Welcome and Introductions

Steven Chesbro, DPT, Ed.D.
Dean, College of Health Sciences
Executive Director, Center to Advance Rehabilitative and Education
Professor of Physical Therapy

William H. Harris, Ph.D.
President, Alabama State University

Alfred Smith, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Alabama State University

Introduction of the Speaker

Bernadette Williams-York, PT, DSc
Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences
Chair, Department of Physical Therapy
Professor of Physical Therapy

Lectureship Address

The Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.
Former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
President Emeritus, Morehouse School of Medicine
Chairman, The Sullivan Alliance

Closing Remarks

Steven Chesbro, DPT, Ed.D.

Reception to follow in the lobby
Established in 1867 as the Lincoln Normal School by nine former slaves, Alabama State University has the unique distinction of being the oldest public Historically Black College or University in the United States. ASU also ranks as one of the nation’s leading producers of African-American teachers.

The College of Health Sciences is housed in the 80,000-square-foot John L. Buskey Health Sciences Center and is home to six healthcare degree programs. Completed in 2001, this building includes state-of-the art classrooms and laboratories, and an auditorium that seats 209 individuals. The programs of the College include: Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Health Information Management, Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Rehabilitation Services with a concentration in addiction studies, Certificate in Maternal and Child Health, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT), Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics (MSPO), Master of Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC), and Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) at the entry and transitional levels.

The Center to Advance Rehabilitative Health and Education (CARE) is located in the College of Health Sciences. The Center works to address the rehabilitative health needs of all individuals, with a special focus on African Americans and other minority populations across five key domains: clinical services, community-based services, educational services, policy reform, and research.
The Center to Advance Rehabilitative Health and Education (CARE) serves as an umbrella program, under which many of the works in the College of Health Sciences are attributed or housed. Additionally, collaborative works with other colleges and institutions may be affiliated with the Center.

The works of the Center address rehabilitative health and education needs of individuals and communities at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Healthy People 2020 (www.healthypeople.gov/), a 10-year national campaign of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has the primary goal of “Improving access to comprehensive, quality health care services.” The four major topic areas are coverage, services, timeliness and workforce.

Key objectives of Healthy People address all domains of health including improving access to care, eliminating barriers that create health disparities, increasing the number of underrepresented minority healthcare providers, and improving data collection on outcomes of various health initiatives.

CARE works to address the rehabilitative health needs of all individuals, with a special focus on African Americans and other minority populations, across five key domains:

- **clinical services**
- **community-based services**
- **educational services**
- **policy reform**
- **research**
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