

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season to you, our alumni and our friends!

As we celebrate the New Year, we look back with pride at our 2009 accomplishments.

Much has changed since last year. Our nation has a new president and healthcare reform is on the horizon. Indeed, President Obama has said, he wants to be the last president to work on healthcare reform. While the legislation moving through Congress could make significant progress in extending healthcare coverage to many of our nation's uninsured, it is uncertain whether the structure of healthcare delivery will be fundamentally improved. Given our nation's physician shortage, NMF asks **"who will provide the care?"** The federal stimulus and healthcare reform legislation do not adequately address the critical need for the human capital required to deliver quality healthcare for all people. Without major investment in tomorrow's physicians, advances in healthcare coverage will not be sustainable.

In 1946 NMF's founders argued that increasing the number of minorities in the health professions would have a direct and measurable impact on the health of the diverse communities of this nation. That focus is as imperative today as it was more than 63 years ago.

Changes in healthcare are eminent but some things remain the same: medical school is increasingly expensive, minority medical students graduate with huge debts and NMF remains the only nonprofit solely dedicated to supporting them. More is needed.

NMF must be a vital part of the systemic changes needed to improve healthcare in our nation. Over the last year, we have made strides in collaborating with other organizations, notably the Association of American Medical Colleges, the Association for Clinicians for the Underserved and the GE Foundation. We are grateful to them for partnering with us to advance worthy goals in healthcare and are proud of our Alumni and Board who have supported these efforts.

History attests to the success of our alumni who have gone on to careers in community and academic medicine, science, health policy, government and nonprofit organizations. We received 50% more applicants than in 2008 and were able to fund over 60% of qualified applicants. Many more are eligible for and deserving of support – with your commitment NMF can increase the number and amount of scholarships. **Your annual gift provides important support for the communities NMF serves. Please put NMF on your gift list and make a lasting contribution that celebrates better health for all.**

Thank you!



NMF ALUMNI NEWS!

NMF celebrates the following appointments and wishes its alumni all the best in their new positions

Regina M. Benjamin, MD, US Surgeon General

A. Eugene Washington, MD, MSC, Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor of Health Sciences, UCLA

Anne C. Beal, MD, MPH, President, Aetna Foundation

Cheryl Whitaker, MD, MPH, FACP, Senior Program Officer, The Chicago Community Trust

NMF SALUTES FORMER SCHOLAR AND US SURGEON GENERAL: DR. REGINA M. BENJAMIN

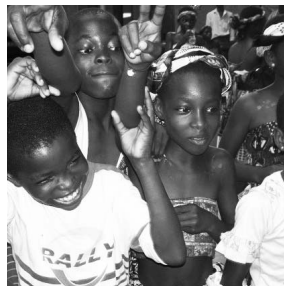
NMF actively maintains and supports its network of alumni who form the largest single group of individuals caring for underserved US populations. While NMF is proud of all its alumni, there are some who stand out as distinguished healthcare leaders. Regina Benjamin is one of those leaders. Dr. Benjamin received an NMF scholarship in the early eighties. On October 29, 2009, she was confirmed as the US Surgeon General. President Obama selected Dr. Benjamin because she is **"a relentless promoter of prevention and wellness programs" who "represents what's best about health care in America."**

Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA, is founder and CEO of the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Bayou La Batre, Alabama. When Katrina devastated the area and her clinic, Dr. Benjamin exhibited extraordinary resolve and commitment to service. She maintained operations in the region, made house calls and did not charge patients who could not pay.

Dr. Benjamin's compassion is matched by competence and accomplishment. She is the immediate past-chair of the US Federation of State Medical Boards, and previously served as associate dean for Rural Health at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. In 2002, she became president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, making her the first African American woman to be president of a state medical society in the US. Dr. Benjamin

holds a BS in Chemistry from Xavier University, New Orleans. She was in the second class at Morehouse School of Medicine and received her MD degree from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, as well as an MBA from Tulane University. She completed her residency in family medicine at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. Dr. Benjamin received the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights in 1998, and was elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees in 1995, making her the first physician under age 40 and the first African-American woman to be elected. She is also a recent recipient of the MacArthur "Genius Award".

Dr. Benjamin has a record of outstanding academic and professional achievement that is coupled with an unflinching commitment to increased access to quality healthcare for underserved communities. **As the great healthcare debate rages on, we are glad that Dr. Benjamin is a voice on the national stage. NMF salutes this outstanding former scholar!**



GHANA, WEST AFRICA



GE/NMF MEDICAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Through its international programming, NMF looks for ways to enhance capacity in Africa while at the same time filling a human capital need – addressing the shortage of doctors and researchers – here in the US. NMF is able to provide critical medical services and support to underserved African communities while also cultivating doctors and investigators that are both medically astute and culturally sensitive.

Since 2005, the General Electric Foundation has partnered with NMF on a Medical Scholars Program that provides scholarship support to historically underrepresented minority medical students as they engage in clinical work in underserved communities in Ghana, West Africa. Through this program, NMF addresses healthcare needs in Ghana while encouraging US Scholars into careers that promote primary care and wellness; commitment to underserved communities; and leadership development.

Twelve scholars completed the 2009 program in Ghana. This year, program leaders met with John Atta Mills, President of Ghana to brief him on the GE/NMF Medical Scholars Program and discuss with him the status of healthcare in Ghana. This high-profile meeting is evidence of the impact of this program. In 2010, NMF will conduct the program in Ghana once again and will also select qualified US minority medical students to conduct clinical rotations in Uganda at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. **NMF is grateful to the GE Foundation and its Developing Health Globally initiative for a partnership that allows NMF to have significant impact abroad while supporting deserving scholars from here at home.**

NMF ANNUAL AWARDS GALAS

NMF hosted Awards Galas this year in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago.



SAN FRANCISCO

Honorary Chairperson

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Honorary Host Committee *

Ernest A. Bates, MD; Lonnie R. Bristow, MD, MACP; Sandra R. Hernandez, MD; Cornelius L. Hopper, MD; J. Mario Molina, MD; Mark D. Smith, MD, MBA; A. Eugene Washington, MD

* all members of the Honorary Host Committee are former NMF Scholars

Honorees

Lifetime Achievement Award **Frank E. Stagers, Sr., MD**, Co-Founder Ethnic Health Institute; *Humanitarian Award* **Eliseo Perez-Stable, MD**, Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco; *Distinguished Service Award* **Jane Garcia**, Chief Executive Officer, La Clinica de la Raza; *Distinguished Alumni Award* **N. Antony Coles, MD**, President and CEO, Onyx Pharmaceuticals; *Distinguished Alumni Founders Award* **Robert C. Scott, MD**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair, AIDS Project of the East Bay

CHICAGO

Honorary Host Committee

Martin Castro; Art Norman; Ian Smith, MD; Triste N. Lieteau Smith, MD, JD; Cheryl Whitaker, MD, MPH, FACP; Eric Whitaker, MD

Honorees

Distinguished Service Award **Carmen Velasquez**, Executive Director, Alivio Medical Center; *Distinguished Alumni Award* **William A. McDade, MD, PhD**, Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, Pritzker School of Medicine; *Humanitarian Award* **State Farm Insurance**, for creation of the 50 Million Pound Challenge

WELCOME NEW NMF BOARD MEMBERS!

NMF is pleased to announce the election of two new members to its Board of Directors:

As a Managing Partner of Impact Strategies, LLC, **Candace Bond McKeever** provides full service multi-media consulting and production services specializing in strategic marketing, live event production and entertainment business development initiatives. She develops entertainment driven initiatives that connect with consumer lifestyles for clients such as Starbucks Entertainment, US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the NAACP.

Arthur P. Burson, Jr. is Vice-President of Global Engineering Services for Merck & Co., Inc. where he leads Merck's Global Engineering Organization through project development, planning, execution and program management of physical assets. Mr. Burson manages a portfolio of projects in excess of \$1 billion. He is Vice Chair elect of the Board of Directors of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering and is an Advisory Board Member of the Executive Board of the Engineering and Construction Contracting Association.

IN MEMORIAM



In October we received the tragic news that **Dr. Bob Scott**, physician, international AIDS activist and former NMF scholar passed away. He was to be honored with the NMF Distinguished Alumni Founders' Award at the San Francisco Awards Gala just a few weeks later. Instead, we paid tribute to his extraordinary service and his unflinching dedication to HIV/AIDS patients both at home and in Zimbabwe. With a spirit of gratitude for all his contributions and for his dedication to NMF, all scholarship donations from the San Francisco Gala were dedicated to the Bob Scott Memorial Scholarship Fund. We invite you to make a contribution to this fund in honor of the irreplaceable "Dr. Bob."

We were tremendously touched and grateful to learn that Dr. Scott left a lasting legacy to NMF through a bequest in his will. You can follow in his generous footsteps. A bequest is a provision in your will naming NMF as recipient of a portion of your estate. Bequests may be designated for unrestricted use or for a specific program or scholarship. **A bequest is an excellent way to support NMF and ensure that your generosity will be felt by deserving medical students for generations to come.**

In early 2010, we will be launching the NMF Alumni & Friends network. Please visit our website, www.nmfonline.org, for updates. In the meantime, become a fan of NMF on Facebook!



5 Hanover Square, Ste. 200 New York, NY 10004

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!