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Health Equity Updates

September, 2011

"Evidence to Action to Achieve Health Equity"

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DIABETES IN THE NEWS

Global Rates of Obesity Doubled in 30 Years

By The Associated Press
Published: August 25, 2011

The world is becoming a heavier place, especially in the West. Obesity rates worldwide have doubled in the last three decades, even as blood pressure and cholesterol levels have dropped, according to three new studies being published Friday in The Lancet, a British medical journal. Researchers said they were concerned about how much worse the obesity problem could get.

People in the Pacific Islands, like American Samoa, are the heaviest, one of the studies found. In developed countries, Americans are the fattest and Japanese are the slimmest.

"Being obese is no longer just a Western problem," said Majid Ezzati, a professor of public health at Imperial College London and an author of one of the studies. ([read more](#)).

Read the Lancet Article [here](#)

How Much, How Long Person is
Overweight May Decide Diabetes Risk

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By Jeannine Stein, Los Angeles Times / For the Booster Shots blog
September 6, 2011, 10:56 a.m

Being obese might up the chance of developing Type 2 diabetes, but the true risk factors may lie in how much overweight someone is and how long they've been that way.

Much like figuring how numbers of cigarettes smoked and years of smoking relate to lung cancer risk, researchers set out to see how degree and length of obesity factored into the risk of getting Type 2 diabetes. They looked at data on 8,157 teens and young adults who were 14 to 21 years old at the start of a national study. Participants self-reported their height and weight and diabetes condition from 1981 to 2006. ([more](#))

HEALTH EQUITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Institutes of Health - Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) on the Diversity in Biomedical Research Working Group

Mission and Charge

Achieving diversity in the biomedical research workforce is critical to the full realization of our national research goals and is in the best interest of our country. Despite numerous efforts over many years to develop the biomedical science workforce pipeline, encompassing efforts from K thru 12 education to preserving academic tenure, for underrepresented minorities, the results remain suboptimal. In response to the unacceptable status quo and given the mission driven priorities of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Director of the NIH has charged The Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) to form a special Diversity in Biomedical Research Working Group (DBRWG). Its charge will focus on five key transition points in the pipeline: (i) entry into graduate degree programs; (ii) the transition from graduate degree to post-doctoral fellowship; (iii) the appointment from a post-doctoral position to the first independent scientific position; (iv) the award of the first independent research grant from NIH or equivalent in industry; and (v) award of tenure in an academic position or equivalent in an industrial setting. The Committee will provide concrete recommendations to the NIH Director on ways to improve the retention of underrepresented minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons from disadvantaged backgrounds through these critical periods. The DBRWG's analysis will include both the NIH intramural research community and the NIH extramural research community.

The DBRWG is charged with producing interim recommendations by December 2011 and final recommendations by June 2012. In recognition of related tasks within the NIH campus, the DBRWG is expected to collaborate and coordinate with the ACD Biomedical Workforce Working Group, the NIH Diversity Task Force, and the NIH Women in Biomedical Research Careers Working Group. ([read more](#))

Repeating the Call for Equity in Health Care RWJF President Speaks at Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Equity Summit in Washington, D.C.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) President and CEO Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, M.D., M.B.A., today called on health care leaders to be tenacious in supporting efforts to identify and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care. Addressing more than 200 national and international experts at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Equity Summit in Washington, D.C., Lavizzo-Mourey relayed personal anecdotes of her family's relationship with the Civil Rights leader and the abiding impression a one-time meeting with him as a young girl made on her. She said current health care leaders must respond to King's nearly 50-year-old call for social justice and racial equality in order to produce laudable, lasting results for U.S. health and health care.

"Two generations ago Dr. King issued a stinging indictment of the inequalities of the health of Americans. He said, 'Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and the most inhumane.' He was spot-on then-and it's still spot on today," said Lavizzo-Mourey. "America cannot reconcile the differences that divide us without also reconciling the inequality and injustice that's embedded so deeply in the health and health care of our people."

Lavizzo-Mourey cited examples of just two RWJF-supported programs that are providing needed resources and connections to help improve equity within communities and called on others to commit to similar efforts. Today's summit was sponsored by the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural & Minority Medicine as part of a week-long series of events leading up to the unveiling of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the national mall in Washington, DC., on August 28.

- [Read the speech.](#)
- [Watch a video on a citywide campaign in Nashville to improve access to healthy food.](#)
- [Watch a video on a program in Baltimore that's helping low-income patients make the connections the health system overlooks.](#)

National Groups Unite to Target Health Disparities

American Hospital Association leads an effort to increase data collection, improve diversity in medical leadership and encourage cultural competency training at hospitals and medical schools.

Five major health care organizations are banding together in a nationwide call for action to address racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

The effort comes as the nation faces the dual challenge of moving forward with the health system reform law and an increasingly diverse population. Racial and ethnic minorities represent a third of the U.S. population and are projected to make up the majority of the population by 2042.

[\(read more\)](#)

National Institutes of Health-Commissioned Study Identifies Gaps in NIH Funding Success Rates for Black Researchers

Black applicants from 2000-2006 were 10 percentage points less likely than white applicants to be awarded research project grants from the National Institutes of Health after controlling for factors that influence the likelihood of a grant award, according to an NIH-commissioned study in the journal *Science*. In an accompanying commentary, NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., and Principal Deputy Director Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., call the findings unacceptable and commit to immediate action by the NIH.

"NIH commissioned this study because we want to learn more about the challenges facing the scientific community and address them head on. The results of this study are disturbing and disheartening, and we are committed to taking action," said Dr. Collins. "The strength of the U.S. scientific enterprise depends upon our ability to recruit and retain the brightest minds, regardless of race or ethnicity. This study shows that we still have a long way to go. It is imperative that NIH and its partners in the biomedical research community take decisive steps to identify causes and implement remedies. NIH is already moving forward with a framework for action." ([read more](#))

American Psychological Association's Office of Socioeconomic Status Seeks Behavioral and Social Scientists for a Service Opportunity through the Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities (SESRC) Program

Administered through the APA Public Interest Directorate, Office on Socioeconomic Status (OSES), The Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities (SESRC) Program is a national initiative to build the capacity of community cancer-serving organizations to address health disparities in cancer through the adaptation and utilization of evidence-based cancer prevention and control efforts for socioeconomically disadvantaged populations.

SESRC maintains that irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, or sexual orientation, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities are disproportionately affected by cancer and have lower survival rates than their more socioeconomically affluent counterparts. In an effort to address cancer health disparities and to assist in efforts to meet the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2020 goal of eliminating cancer health disparities, in 2008 APA entered into a five year cooperative agreement with the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Cancer Prevention and Control (CDC-DCPC) to implement the Socioeconomic Status Related Cancer Disparities Program (SESRC). ([learn more about SESRC](#))

Strategic Plan to Reduce Health Information Technology Disparities: Request for Comment

Working to ensure all Americans benefit from health IT is one of the principles guiding the development and execution of the federal health IT strategy. The Federal Health IT Strategic Plan that was released on March 25, 2011, states that they will strive to:

Support health information technology (health IT) benefits for all. All Americans should have equal access to quality health care. This includes the benefits conferred by health IT: The government will endeavor to assure that underserved and at-risk individuals enjoy these benefits to the same extent as all other citizens. ([read more](#)).

New North Carolina American Indian Health Board Website Launched

The North Carolina American Indian Health Board, newly formed by the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs in 2009, is focused on promoting quality health care and healthy lifestyles within American Indian families and communities in North Carolina through research, education and advocacy. click [here](#) to see the new website.

NCCAIHB Logo



The North Carolina American Indian Health Board Receives \$165,000 Kate B. Reynolds Grant

The NC American Indian Health Board (NCAIHB) has received a \$165,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The grant will allow the NCAIHB to further its development with the hiring of its first Executive Director.

NCCAIHB Logo



NCAIHB was formed in 2009 as a result of a recommendation from the North Carolina American Indian Health Task Force jointly convened in 2004 by the NC Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. The Task Force brought together representatives from all American Indian tribes and select organizations from across NC, and was co-chaired by then NC DHHS Secretary Carmen Hooker-Odom and NC Commission of Indian Affairs Chair Paul Brooks. Greg Richardson, Executive Director for the NC Commission of Indian Affairs states, "This is a real tipping point for our American Indian people in NC. This starts the process to bring our health concerns to a higher level of attention through a vehicle utilized by many other regions to address Indian health needs." ([more](#))

MACHE FACULTY/STAFF NEWS

Dr. Ronny Bell Appointed

Dr. Ronny Bell, Co-Director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, has been appointed to serve on the Regional Health Equity

Bell Photo



Council for Region IV Office of Minority Health and Human Services. Council members will serve as leaders and catalysts to strengthen health equity and enhance collaboration between stakeholders, align initiatives and programs, and leverage assets to more effectively accomplish health disparity reduction goals. The Council will include individuals from the public, non-profit, and private sectors who are knowledgeable about and possess expertise regarding the social determinants of health. Council members represent communities impacted by health disparities, state and local government agencies, tribes, healthcare providers and systems, health plans, businesses, academic and research institutions, foundations, and other organizations.

AFFILIATE NEWS

Dr. Amy McMichael Quoted in Parenting.com Article

[Dr. Amy McMichael](#), dermatology, is quoted in an article on how pregnancy changes your body.



What's going on: Hair grows in cycles, and under normal circumstances each strand is either growing, resting, or falling out. Thanks to the hormonal shifts of pregnancy, though, more follicles are locked in the growing and resting phases, and fewer are in the falling-out phase, explains Amy McMichael, M.D., an assistant professor of dermatology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine, in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. For many women, the result is a luxurious mane. For others, their 'do simply feels flat and heavy. "My hair is completely unmanageable," laments Jean Dykstra of Brooklyn, New York. "It's so thick and there's just way too much of it." (read article [here](#)).

Dr. William Ntim Wins Award and Appointment

William Ntim



Dr. William Ntim, cardiologist at Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte, N.C. has been named Physician of the Year and was recently elected as Overseas Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in London, England.

Dr. Ntim is an affiliate of the Maya Angelou for Health Equity.

(read more about Dr. Ntim [here](#))

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Impact Champion - Judy Marie Willis

Judy Marie Willis has for over two decades used words to inform, inspire and heal. An accomplished writer, editor, publicist and alternative health journalist, she has witnessed the transformative tool affirmative words and focused thought offers in her work as a lecturer and parent life coach. Ms. Willis believes that thoughts can become things that either manifests our greatest fears or our grandest desires.



A former broadcast management executive and radio producer, Ms. Willis founded Tell the Truth Communications (T3C), a pr firm specializing in New Thought promotions, in 1990. Her company uses organic and affirmative wording to create living documents that stimulate spiritual and intellectual awareness. She has had articles, essays and columns published in newspapers, magazines, anthologies and periodicals both in the U.S. and abroad.

In 2000, Ms. Willis launched the health and wellness program "Black Women's Wholistic Alliance" and "Journaling to Joy" an after-school program which uses the written word to transform (middle and high school) girls' body imagery. By deconstructing the words and images used in videos and the media and examining their personal storylines, program participants are able to construct new ways of looking at and loving themselves just as they are. Ms. Willis understands that positive change begins when we approve of and fully accept ourselves without judgment or shame. ([read more](#))

MACHE Sponsors Piney Grove Church Event

Piney Grove Church



In preparation for the start of a new school year, several churches have provided opportunities for families to not only obtain much needed school supplies but to also obtain information about health related issues and other resources in the community. The Outreach Ministry of Piney Grove Baptist Church held their annual Health Fair and Back to School Give Away event on Saturday, August 13, 2011 from 10 am to 2 pm at PGBC Family Life Center. Staff from the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity, Montez Lane, was on hand to share information about Brenner Fit 5-4-3-2-1-0 with a focus on 0 = zero sugar in drinks display to demonstrate the amount of sugar in some common drinks. The event was well attended with approximately 200-300 people present to get motivated by Nigel Alston, in shape by Sharon Cunningham of Ufit2, obtain blood pressure screening by TSI team from Wake Forest Baptist Health.

Upcoming Events

Brenner Walk and Bike Race - Fighting Childhood Obesity

Saturday, September 10, 2011
Walk begins at 9:00am
Pro-bike race begins at 11:00am
read complete details [here](#))

8th Annual Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education Conference

Winston Salem State University
September 10, 2011
8:00am-2:00pm
(read details [here](#))

Conference for American Indian Women of Proud Nations

September 15-16, 2011
Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley
Raleigh, NC
(full details [here](#))

AAMC 2011 Minority Faculty Career Development Seminar

September 16-19, 2011
Four Seasons Hotel
Philadelphia, PA

**American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE) Call for Proposals
2012 National Conference on Blacks in Higher Education**

Theme: Health Communities through Access, Education, Research and Collaboration
Proposal Deadline: 11:59 pm September 19, 2011
Click [here](#) for complete details.

**Fourth Annual AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in
Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved**

September 18-21, 2011
Grand Hyatt Washington Washington, DC

Presentation by Harriet A. Washington

Sponsored by The Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Health Disparities

Thursday, September 22, 2011
Dillard Auditorium
Winston-Salem State University
Time: 5:30-8:00 pm
RSVP by 09/12
to asstchan@wssu.edu

**Annual Statewide Prayer Vigil for the Elimination of Health, Education and Economic
Disparities**

September 22, 2011
7:30 pm
various location - click [here](#)

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

Health Braintrust
"The Politics of Race and Health Equity"
Friday, September 23, 2011
Room 202A
Washington Convention Center
Washington, DC
Click [here](#) for complete details

Healing Communities: Conversations Toward Shalom

People of Faith Working for Health and Wholeness
September 30, 2011
8:30-3:00pm
Click [here](#)
for details.

Research Ethics: Re-examining Key Concerns

November 10 & 11, 2011
Benson University Center
Room 401, 4th floor
Wake Forest University
Presented by the Center for Bioethics, Health and Safety
(see [brochure](#))

Taking the Life Course Perspective to Promote Preconception Health and Health Care: Towards the Promise for Equity in Birth Outcomes

Forsyth Medical Center Conference Center
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
([see details](#))

Book Corner

[Doing Race](#) - Hazel Rose Markus (Editor, Stanford University), Paula M. L. Moya (Editor, Stanford University)

A collection of new essays by an interdisciplinary team of authors that gives a comprehensive introduction to race and ethnicity.

Doing Race focuses on race and ethnicity in everyday life: what they are, how they work, and why they matter. Going to school and work, renting an apartment or buying a house, watching television, voting, listening to music, reading books and newspapers, attending religious services, and going to the doctor are all everyday activities that are influenced by assumptions about who counts, whom to trust, whom to care about, whom to include, and why. Race and ethnicity are powerful precisely because they organize modern society and play a large role in fueling violence around the globe.

We hope you have enjoyed this month's Health Equity Updates. Please e-mail with any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Bell



Dr. Ronny Bell



Dr. Bettina Beech

Co-Director

Co-Director

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