



## Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. Newsletter

~ January, 2009 ~

ABC Vision: *Cardiovascular Disease is No Longer a Leading Cause of Death.*



### From the Desk of the **ABC** President

Happy New Year!

I hope that this letter finds you and your family happy, healthy, and enjoying the New Year. It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. As you know, 2008 was quite an eventful year for the ABC. It was a year full of changes and transitions. Many familiar faces have left, while others have returned to assist in our programs. Despite the many changes, the organization continues to excel in conducting clinical and CME programs.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Walter M. Booker, Sr. Memorial Symposium took place in November, 2008 prior to the AHA Meetings in New Orleans. Drs. Paul Douglass and Kevin Thomas organized a tremendous program with a first class faculty. The CME Committee was extraordinarily pleased with the excellent feedback received from the one hundred seventy plus conference attendees. Drs. Ola Akinboboye and Judith Mitchell are in the final stages of planning the Annual Scientific Meetings, which will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2009, in Orlando, Florida, prior to the ACC Meetings.

Our community programs continue to thrive under the direction of Dr. Icilma Fergus, who chairs the committee. In September, over one hundred and fifty volunteers from around the country came to our headquarters in Atlanta to receive training as Community Health Advocates (CHA). Upon returning to their communities, they were given the task of sharing this knowledge with their peers. The *Spirit of the Heart* programs were successfully held in Chicago, Washington DC, Jackson, and Harlem. As a result of the program held in Harlem, a task force was created by ABC leaders and State Senator Bill Perkins, to address health care disparities in New York. We are in the midst of planning a larger number of *Spirit of the Heart* programs for 2009.

Just like many other businesses and organizations, the financial stability of the ABC has been the major point of emphasis for the Board of Directors. As previously stated, we are committed to sell the ABC headquarters building, to substantially reduce our overhead expenses and hopefully provide a strong financial base to build upon the future. We are currently in negotiations with a local government entity for the sale of the building and a portion of the surrounding property. We are anticipating a formal offer in the very near future. If the terms are acceptable, we anticipate executing the deal once approved by the Board of Directors. Once this is completed, we will be able to focus all of our attention on developing ABC2.0.

Despite the current challenges, I am very pleased with the nature of our discussions with our industry partners. We are in the process of developing new and exciting community and CME programs in conjunction with support from several of the companies. One of our more exciting initiatives involves us partnering with Medscape to develop an online portal dedicated to issues surrounding healthcare disparities. Several industry partners have expressed interest in developing content for the portal this year.

In light of the changes and transitions that we experienced in 2008, the ABC remains strong and proud. We are focused on fulfilling our mission - to eliminate healthcare disparities in the African-American community. This year, we will dedicate ourselves to developing new initiatives that will move us closer to achieving this goal.

In closing, we need to remind ourselves that anything is possible. Just look at our president-elect! The ABC wishes you and your family good health and happiness throughout the year.

Warmest regards,  
*Carlos S. Ince, Jr., MD, ScM*

# Genetic Epidemiology Summer Institute: Washington University

An **all-expense-paid** summer institute will be held **July 25-August 14, 2009** sponsored by the **NHLBI**, at the St. Louis School of Medicine.

This beneficial educational program is being offered to increase diversity (SIPID) in genetic epidemiology and will focus on Cardiovascular and other Heart, Lung, Blood and Sleep Disorders.

The institute will address:

- Establish partnerships between Mentor/ Mentee based on mutual research interests
- Participate in didactic courses, workshops and lectures in genetic epidemiology, bioinformatics, current trends in cardiovascular research, and other heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders, etc.
- Participate in special grant-writing sessions conducted by NHLBI scientific program staff and SIPID faculty
- Develop the skills needed to apply for research funds, promoting a sustainable independent research program for career development

Qualifications for the program include:

Minority group junior faculty and researchers under-represented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and/or with disabilities

For further information and application - [www.biostat.wustl.edu/sipid/](http://www.biostat.wustl.edu/sipid/)

Also you may contact: Linda Schreier at: [Sipid-ge@wubios.wustl.edu](mailto:Sipid-ge@wubios.wustl.edu)

## Welcome New Members

The ABC welcomes our new members who joined the organization between October 1, 2008 to the present. We hope to share a lifelong collaborative relationship with you as avid members striving to ensure the ABC vision, mission and mantra!

Thanks for your support!

## Medtronic Hosts 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Black Cardiologists Educational Symposia

On October 10-12, 2008 in San Francisco, California, Medtronic proudly hosted the Association of Black Cardiologists Cardiovascular Update. There were over 90 members and other invited medical professionals to enjoy this 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive educational event.

The speakers were industry leaders who addressed such topics as: The Evolution of ICD Therapy, VT in Normal Hearts, Advanced Methods in Risk Stratification, Device Recalls and Advisories, Theory and Practice of Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy, Strategies for Overcoming Disparities in Cardiac Care, Economic, Ethical and Legal Issues in Cardiac Device Therapy, Optimal Medical Therapy for CHF, and Echocardiography for CRT Patient Identification & Optimization.

The attendees' enthusiasm encouraged the Program Directors, Electrophysiologist, Kevin F. Kwaku, PhD, MD, FACC and Trevor Greene, MD, FACC to challenge them to constantly seek ways to improve patient care. The attendees included: Cardiologists, Family Practice Physicians, Electrophysiologists, Nurses, and Hospital Quality Improvement Directors. There was overwhelming support of the need to continue collaboration efforts between industry leaders like Medtronic, Family Practitioners, Cardiologists and Electrophysiologists, professional organizations such as ABC, and other community groups to increase awareness and develop effective strategies to combat healthcare disparities and to provide the highest quality care for all patients - reducing health disparities.

The ABC President, Carlos S. Ince, MD, ScM commended Medtronic's work in areas of physician education and reducing health disparities. He noted that the ABC mission and Medtronic's mission were in sync to endure all patients have access to life-saving technology.

The program in 2007 brought about the Ejection Fraction issue. Medtronic now offers a turnkey program to help identify patients at risk. For more information on the EF Program, contact Medtronic Representative Paula Davidovich at (763) 526-2539



## From the Desk of the **ABC** Chief Science Officer -



### ABC Holds Successful 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Walter M. Booker Sr. Memorial Symposium on November 8, 2008

One of the most important projects of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC) is to design and implement continuing medical education efforts specifically related to cardiovascular disease for professionals of various interests and backgrounds. The ABC's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Walter M. Booker Sr. Memorial Symposium was held in New Orleans on November 8, 2008 immediately prior to the American Heart Association's conference sessions. The symposium honors the memory and furthers the work of Dr. Walter Booker, a biologist and pharmacologist, who served for two decades as the Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology of the College of Medicine at Howard University in Washington, DC. At the time of his death in 1988, he had authored over 100 scientific papers, including detailed descriptions of the developing field of cardiovascular pharmacology. His seminal research on the cardiac response to drugs assisted with the development of modern cardiovascular approaches for hypertension and heart disease.

November's symposium was designed by Committee Chairpersons, Paul L. Douglass, MD and Kevin L. Thomas, MD, who worked closely with the Program Committee. In addition to the Co-Chairs, the Program Planning Committee consisted of Drs. Ola O. Akinboboye, Akinyele O. Aluko, Keith C. Ferdinand, Icilma V. Fergus, Carlos S. Ince Jr., William O. Ntim, and Kim A. Williams. The symposium featured up-to-date reviews of current areas of cardiovascular care and research and was held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, where the attendance was excellent. Expert logistical support was rendered by the ABC staff led by Ms. Cassandra McCullough.

During the luncheon break, the ABC distributed its academic and community service awards. Ms. Tynetta Brown was given the Dr. Walter M. Booker Health Promotion Award for her long-term work in the field of cardiovascular risk reduction and prevention. Her extensive body of work includes development of a public health stroke network in the Carolinas, areas that have extraordinary high rates of stroke death. As Executive Director of a tri-state network, Ms. Brown developed policies-in-action for stroke awareness and advocacy, expertly utilized epidemiology and data to answer critical questions, and to develop strategies for prevention and control. In addition to the award given to Ms. Brown, Roderic I. Pettigrew, PhD, MD was awarded the Dr. Herbert W. Nickens Epidemiology Award.

Dr. Pettigrew is the first Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the National Institutes of Health. A long time ABC member, he is a recognized expert in the development and application of bio-imaging techniques to patient care. Dr. Pettigrew has assisted with applications of the principles of engineering and imaging to biological processes, disorders and disease, and has been an advocate of the application of cutting-edge technology to all populations, regardless of race, ethnicity, or social class. In so doing, Dr. Pettigrew reflects the spirit and fulfills the vision of Dr. Herbert W. Nickens, the first Director of the Office of Minority Health at the National Institutes of Health, who prior to his unfortunate sudden death in 1999, helped establish ground-breaking programs that addressed the need for minority physicians and improvement in minority health status.

- Keith Ferdinand, MD, FACC
- Chief Science Officer

### Reflections: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Walter M. Booker, Sr. Memorial Symposium, November, 08, 2008



**ABC 22nd Annual Scientific Sessions**, Orange County Convention Center, (Room W307 A/B) Orlando, FL - March 28, 2009

Further details, as they develop, will be posted on the **ABC** website: [www.abcario.org](http://www.abcario.org)

## ABC Presents Academic and Community Service Awards

During the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dr. Walter M. Booker, Sr. Memorial Symposium November 8, 2008, in New Orleans, the ABC presented two very special awards for excellence.



**Recipient of the  
Dr. Herbert W. Nickens  
Epidemiology Award –  
Roderic I. Pettigrew,  
PhD, MD, FACC**

Dr. Pettigrew is the first Director of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. His outstanding credentials are many, including the fact that he is well known for his pioneering research at Emory University which involves four-dimensional imaging of the heart using MR.

The ABC awarded Dr. Pettigrew the Dr. Herbert W. Nickens Epidemiology Award for his outstanding contribution to epidemiologic research projects that promote the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular diseases.

**Recipient of the  
Dr. Walter M. Booker  
Health Promotion Award  
Ms. Tynetta Brown**



Ms. Brown is the Senior Manager, Ally Development, Cardiovascular with AstraZeneca. She was the first Program Director of Operation Health 27610 – a grant funded partnership shared by an African-American community non-profit organization and a major hospital system that offered cardiovascular health education in a targeted zip code. Her credentials include involvement in key health policy issues, and publication in the *Journal of Healthcare for the Poor and Underserved*.

The ABC awarded Ms. Brown, the Dr. Walter M. Booker Health Promotion Award for innovative and effective programs aimed at improving cardiovascular healthcare in disadvantaged communities.

## NHLBI Sponsors Suny DOWNSTATE Summer Institute

On July 12 – 25, 2009 the NHLBI is sponsoring a Summer Institute Program to Increase Diversity (SIPID) in Cardiovascular Health Disparities Research at Suny DOWNSTATE Medical Center, Brooklyn, New York.

The Institute Directors are Mohamed Boutjdir, PhD, FAHA and Judith Mitchell, MD, FACC, FAHA with Dr. Girardin Jean-Louis as Program Coordinator for this new minority training. They invite you to recruit minority candidates for this summer program. The institute will provide intensive didactic and mentored research training in cardiovascular health disparities.

- The **main goal** of this multidisciplinary research training program is to inspire trainees to conduct research in cardiovascular health disparities employing techniques at the forefront of the field.
- The **desired outcome** is to improve the recruitment and retention of faculty from disabled and underrepresented minority groups in the study of heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders.
- The **program will help** trainees develop skills needed in order to develop independent research interests and apply for independent research grants.

### THE FACULTY AND MENTORS WILL BE:

Clinton Brown, MD; James Gavin, III, MD, PhD; Jason Lazar; MD, Judith LaRosa, PhD, RN; M.A.Q. Siddiqui, PhD; Michael A. Joseph, PhD; MPH, Michael Weber, MD; Ruth Browne, ScD; Samy McFarlane, MD, MPH; Susana Morales, MD; Olugbenga Ogedegbe, MD; Thomas Pearson, MD, MPH, PhD.

This exciting summer program will be held at SUNY DOWNSTATE Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York.

For additional information regarding the Summer Institute, please visit the Suny website at: [www.downstate.edu/SIPID](http://www.downstate.edu/SIPID) or contact: [gjean-louis@downstate.edu](mailto:gjean-louis@downstate.edu) or call: 718-270-2716.



**ABC Members - 2009 membership dues INVOICES were recently mailed.  
A SPECIAL THANKS to those who have already responded!**



## CHA Volunteers-In-Action

A Community Health Advocate Training (**CHAT'08**) program was held in September, 2008 at the ABC headquarters. The trainees were from around the nation. There are many heartwarming accounts of how this training is paying off handsomely for some of the participants' communities due to their diligent efforts, like CHAT volunteer Mrs. Cartwright-Biggs from Houston, Texas.

Mrs. Biggs trained, went home and got involved in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual South Central Houston Community Health Center Health Fair, October 18, 2008**. It was a health fair that targeted her entire community but most especially the African American and Hispanic/Latino populations.

There were **free screenings** for: blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol, vision, dental, hearing, blood typing, and also free immunizations were given.

Mrs. Biggs reported the event was a huge success with door prizes, children's activities, food vendors, flyers and lots of advertisement to draw in the crowds. Since this event, the **ABC** headquarters has provided much requested literature and handouts for three other events Ms. Biggs has participated in, and she has more slated.

She along with Ms. Chelsea Reeves, are both **ABC** Community Health Advocates who recently undertook the training that **AstraZeneca** supported with a grant - providing for the program, speakers, educational materials, travel, hotel and food for over 100 volunteers from around the country. Both of these volunteers are ideal success stories as to what the **ABC** hopes all of our CHAT volunteers will do with their newfound knowledge, their caring hearts and tireless drive to help improve the cardiovascular health of their communities.

Ms. Chelsea Reeves is the Program Director of a Closing the Gap (Dept of Health) cardiovascular grant in Jacksonville Florida at the Johnson Family YMCA. She also attended the September CHA trainings on "With Every Heartbeat is Life" program. This is an exciting program that is in sync with the ABC vision, mission and mantra.

The ABC is most grateful for Mrs. Sherrie Hauser-Simmons, CHA, who simply believes so much in the ABC vision, mission and mantra that she created a family newsletter when her mother passed after a long history of heart disease and stroke. Ms. Simmons called her family into action to support the ABC efforts and she led the way by personally stopping by our headquarters to drop off a \$100.00 donation! The ABC wants to publicly thank Mrs. Simmons for her belief in our organization and for her continued efforts to advocate for her family and community's cardiovascular health.

The ABC has been blessed to have several very loyal volunteers to help perform crucial duties. We would like to thank **Glenda Dixon, Najah Woodby, and Mattie Carter**. We highly commend each of these volunteers for their tireless dedication in helping us to strive toward achieving the ABC mission.

We ask that all of our Community Health Advocates keep us informed as to their community cardiovascular healthcare endeavors. Please Email any details to: [dware@abcario.org](mailto:dware@abcario.org)

## University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine Cardiovascular Center Training Program

If you intend to become a leader in academic medicine or biological research are you aware of the University of Iowa Cardiovascular Center Training Program?



President Elect Barak Obama visited the University of Iowa Cardiovascular Research Lab where he also delivered his first health policy speech. (Photo - property of Univ. of Iowa)

For thirty plus years, The University of Iowa Cardiovascular Research Center has trained basic and clinician scientists who have become academic leaders throughout the nation and the world. The program was the first major interdepartmental and intercollegiate research program at Iowa where Francois M. Abboud, MD, is the founder and internationally acclaimed Center Director.

Per Dr. Mark E. Anderson, **ABC** member and Associate Director of the Cardiovascular Center, "[The] goal is to use the Iowa Cardiovascular Center NIH-sponsored training grant to build diversity at Iowa and to help train the next generation of African American leaders in academic cardiology."

**To take advantage of this spectacular opportunity, the following are the required items that must be submitted:**

- CV
- Contact information
- Brief cover letter

**Send all application items to:**

**Mark E. Anderson, MD, PhD**  
Professor and Director  
Division of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Associate Director  
University of Iowa Cardiovascular Center  
200 Hawkins Drive  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
319-356-2750  
[mark-e-anderson@uiowa.edu](mailto:mark-e-anderson@uiowa.edu)



# Announcements

**DATE -** Saturday, March 28, 2009  
**TIME -** 7:30a-3:00p  
**WHO -** Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.  
**WHAT -** 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS:  
*Changing Paradigms in Major Aspects of Cardiovascular Care*  
**WHERE -** Orange County Convention Center (Room W307 A/B) - Orlando, Florida  
**PROGRAM CO-CHAIRS -**  
Ola O. Akinboboye, MD, MHA, MBA, FACC & Judith E. Mitchell, MD, FACC  
[SEE HOUSING REGISTRATION DETAILS BELOW](#)

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**DATE -** Saturday, March 28, 2009  
**TIME -** 6:30p  
**WHO -** Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.  
**WHAT -** ABC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER MEETING  
**WHERE -** Orlando, Florida (Specific venue TBD)

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**DATE -** March 28 - 31, 2009  
**WHO -** American College of Cardiology  
**WHAT -** ACC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Session  
**WHERE -** Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida

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**DATE -** November 14, 2009  
**WHO -** Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.  
**WHAT -** 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL DR. WALTER M. BOOKER, SR. MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM  
**WHERE -** Orlando, Florida (Details coming soon)

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**DATE -** November 14 - 18, 2009  
**WHO -** American Heart Association  
**WHAT -** AHA SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS  
**WHERE -** Orlando, Florida

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## HOUSING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS: THE DEADLINE FOR HOUSING REGISTRATION IS FEBRUARY 18, 2009

- ✚ Registrations should be completed using the ACC online registration website. The link to access the registration website is: <http://acclogin.acc.org/?mkey=registration>.
- ✚ ABC members should enter the Group Code "ABC 09" in order to receive priority housing in the ABC room block at the Hilton Disney World Resort. The **rate is \$259 a night plus 12.5% sales tax. REGISTER TODAY!**
- ✚ **NOTE:** Each registrant will need to **log onto the registration website using their ACC member number and password.** We recommend that you check the status of your membership status before beginning the registration process in order to receive the proper registration rate. Registration rates can be found at the following link along with descriptions of the registration categories:  
[http://acc09.acc.org/reg\\_hous/Pages/Registrationinformation.aspx](http://acc09.acc.org/reg_hous/Pages/Registrationinformation.aspx)
- ✚ You will note that the hotel is 7 miles from the Orange County Convention Center. **ACC Shuttle Service available.**

~ Calling ALL MEMBERS who have relocated, changed email address and/or phone and fax numbers ~  
In order to update our database and secure that you receive ABC correspondences, PLEASE email your changes to: [dware@abcardio.org](mailto:dware@abcardio.org)