



Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shondrieka N. Lamb
The IJoshua Group, LLC
404.559.6191
snlamb@the1joshuagroup.com
www.the1joshuagroup.com

Metro DC and National Business, Religious, and Political Leaders join the Association of Cardiologists to Address Cardiovascular Health and access to Health Care

Washington, DC (May 29, 2008) – The Association of Black Cardiologists announces its “**Super Weekend 2008 - Washington, DC**” to occur June 20-22, 2008, supported in part by AstraZeneca. Activities for this weekend have been designed to bring together community leaders, health professionals and general public to discuss and address topics of cardiovascular health. Washington, DC will be the third stop for Super Weekend 2008 three-city tour, which looks to include more cities in the future.

This initiative is a community-wide cardiovascular disease prevention and education program that includes a Community Leaders Forum, a health fair, and faith-based educational messages delivered in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The Community Leaders Forum, to convene at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, will serve as the opening to the weekend. The Forum will provide a unique opportunity to educate, empower, and mobilize influential members of the community around the issues of cardiovascular health and access to care. This forum will equip the community leaders with information that will allow them to become better advocates in Washington, DC to improve heart health outcomes.

This event will be hosted by cardiologist Barbara A. Hutchinson, MD, PhD, FACC of Chesapeake Cardiac Care. Speakers for the evening include Minister Julia E. Chaney – Greater Mount Calvary Holy Church; Clarion E. Johnson, MD – Medical Director, Global Medical & Occupational Health, Exxon Mobil Corporation; Patricia C. Lane, President, Northern Virginia Black Nurses Association; and Roquell E. Wyche, MD – Cardiologist, Washington Hospital Center. As a featured guest, Garth N. Graham, MD - Assistant Secretary of the Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services - will provide the charge “A Call to Action: Getting Heart Healthy, Staying Heart Healthy.”

In addition to the forum and collaboration with the Black Women’s Health Imperative, the Association of Black Cardiologists will sponsor a Community Health Screening on Saturday, June 21, 2008, from 9AM - 1PM on the National Mall, nearest Constitution Avenue, NW and 15th Street, NW. The ABC will offer screenings for blood sugar, blood pressure, body mass index, and cholesterol. In addition, the AstraZeneca sponsored Artery Explorer will provide an interactive tour of the inner workings of the circulatory system. This adventure will allow participants to tour arteries affected by atherosclerosis, while educating about the risk factors.

On Sunday, ABC Members will deliver faith-based educational messages at several churches within the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The focus of the message serves as a community call to action for better self-health advocacy. The Association of Black Cardiologists’ goal is not only to educate, but to empower individuals to not only take better charge of their own health, but to empower the community to live healthier productive lives.

These activities are highly important since “heart disease is preventable, and heart healthy practices are important for longevity,” according to Kim A. Williams, MD, Chairman, Board of Directors, Association of Black Cardiologists. The goal of this event is to use education as a catalyst for change.

For further information on this event, please contact the IJoshua Group at 404.559.6191.

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About the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC) is the nation’s leading association dedicated to eliminating disparities in cardiovascular care and outcomes. Since its founding in 1974, the ABC’s achievements have made it an important voice and the foremost advocate for the prevention and reduction of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) in African Americans. In its 33rd year, the ABC continues to promote its primary mission through education, research, health promotion, and health policy advocacy. The 5355 Hunter Road, Atlanta, GA 30349 • Phone (800) 753-9222 or (404) 201-6600 • Fax (404) 201-6601

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camcullough@abcario.org
www.abcario.org

ABC's diverse membership consists of over 600 physicians, scientists, nurses, students and community health advocates. For more information, please call the Association of Black Cardiologists at 1-800-753-9222 or visit www.abcadio.org.

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