

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**PREMIER ORGANIZATION FOR CARDIOLOGISTS OF COLOR SIGNS  
LANDMARK AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. HHS OFFICE OF  
MINORITY HEALTH**

**Government and Association of Black Cardiologists Join to Combat Heart Disease in  
African Americans**

Atlanta, GA, January 30, 2008— The Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC), the preeminent not-for-profit organization dedicated to eliminating disparities in cardiovascular care and outcomes for African Americans and other high-risk populations, signed a memorandum of understanding with the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health to accelerate the translation of cardiovascular research to the African American community, improve the quality of cardiovascular research and care delivery, and develop effective, replicable community-based models for reduction of cardiovascular risk factors. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, Garth Graham, M.D., MPH met with Drs. Gerald DeVaughn, President, B. Wayne Kong, Chief Executive Officer, and Keith Ferdinand, Chief Science Officer of the ABC at the ABC International Library, Research, and Conference Center outside of Atlanta to begin planning how to turn their new relationship into action to positively impact people of color with and at risk for heart disease.

“Cardiovascular diseases (stroke, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, congenital heart defects, hardening of the arteries, and diseases of the circulatory system and heart) are the number one killer of all Americans and afflicts nearly half of all African Americans”, stated Dr. Graham. “Embarking on this new partnership with the Association of Black Cardiologists is an important part of advancing the Office of Minority Health’s mission to improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations.

ABC President Gerald DeVaughn, M.D, FACC, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Drexel University College of Medicine, and President of the Cardiology Medical Associates physician practice group of Philadelphia, PA remarked, “This initiation of a long term partnership with the U.S. HHS Office of Minority Health recognizes thirty years of accomplishment by the ABC in the area of improving the quality of and access to cardiovascular care and our readiness to face the challenges posed by rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and other risks for heart disease and death in communities of color.”

Through its Centers of Excellence in Epidemiology, Continuing Education/Professional Development, and Women’s Health, publications, work in clinical trial investigator and patient recruitment, programs to increase the number of physicians and other professionals of color in

the healthcare workforce, community outreach initiatives, and collaborative relationships with other cardiovascular-focused organizations the Association of Black Cardiologists is committed to reducing the incidence, prevalence, and impact of heart disease so that *Children Know Their Grandparents So They Will Become GREAT Grandparents Themselves*.

*About the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.*

*Founded in 1974, the Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc., is a nonprofit organization with an international membership of nearly 600 health care professionals. The ABC is dedicated to eliminating the disparities related to cardiovascular disease in all people of color. Today, the ABC's public and private partnerships continue to increase our impact in communities across the nation. The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and has successfully recruited investigators and subjects for numerous clinical trials including hypertension, lipids and heart failure.*

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