



Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Harlem, New York (May 6, 2008) – The Association of Black Cardiologists is pleased to announce “**Super Weekend-Harlem 2008**” on May 16-18, 2008 in Harlem, New York. 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 Harlem community.

The Community Leaders Forum, to convene at the New York Academy of Medicine 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 Harlem to improve heart health.

On Sunday, faith-based educational messages will be delivered at several churches, which include Mother Zion AME, Metropolitan Baptist Church and the Church of the Crucifixion. These messages serve as a community call to action for better self-health advocacy.

Also on Sunday, the Association of Black Cardiologists, in collaboration with The American Lung Association, the American Diabetes Association, Harlem Hospital, Metro Plus Health Plan, and New York City Mission Society, will take part in the Asthma Awareness Health Fair. Actress Jill Marie Lawrence, of *Law & Order: SVU* fame, will be the featured celebrity guest on the entertainment stage. This event will take place on May 18, 2008 at the Minisink Townhouse located at 646 Lenox Avenue from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM.

This activity, in particular, is highly important since asthma “is a rampant epidemic largely environmental in nature that disproportionately affects minority children in emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths,” as stated by Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States. “In Harlem many of our young people suffer from breathing disorders such as asthma and sleep apnea. These disorders are contributed to significantly by the rising incidence of Obesity and Diabetes,” according to Dr. Icilma Fergus, Chief of Cardiology, Harlem Hospital, and current Secretary for the Association of Black Cardiologists Board of Directors.

For further information on this event, please contact the 1Joshua Group at 1.877.559.6191.

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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 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.abc cardio.org.

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