



**2018 RESOURCE GUIDE  
FOR ORGANIZATION  
COLLABORATION**

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**Driving Better Cardiovascular Health for Diverse Populations**

Make Well Known Foundation is grateful for unrestricted support from our sponsors to make the NMC Alliance possible.



Want to connect?

Contact Us:

National Minority Cardiovascular (NMC) Alliance

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## Preface

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### NATIONAL MINORITY CARDIOVASCULAR ALLIANCE

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death for all U.S. population groups. The burden of cardiovascular disease in minority communities is substantial and well known, and can be attributed, in part, to a lack of knowledge of and access to prevention services, state-of-the-art treatments, specialty physicians, clinical trials, and other factors such as where people live, that directly impact the amount and quality of health-related services received. In addition, racial and ethnic minority groups are increasing in size in the U.S. population; improvements in public health require that more emphasis be placed in these communities. An opportunity exists to address known health, socioeconomic, cultural, access to care, and health literacy issues.



Collaboration is a key force in addressing some of the nation's most pressing challenges. Whether creating opportunities or promoting health and well-being, cooperation advances the status of populations in greatest need. The National Minority Cardiovascular (NMC) Alliance, an initiative of the [Make Well Known Foundation](#), has launched a collaborative effort focused on minority, underserved communities

with cardiovascular disease. The NMC Alliance focuses on the impact of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in four key populations - Hispanics/Latinos, Blacks, Native Americans, and Asians/Pacific Islanders. The initiative is the first of its kind, since the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) Minority Committee of 16 members, representing the nation's key minority groups, met in 1997 to identify key issues of that time: (a) need for partnerships to share materials regarding improving minority health; (b) development of new initiatives; and (c) recommendations that involve community members at all levels of projects; increase use of technology to broaden

dissemination of health information. Consistent with this early initiative, the NMC Alliance is working to help close the gap in cardiovascular health outcomes by considering interconnected cultural and ethnicity factors when gathering or utilizing data, designing strategies, interventions or other activities to better serve these populations and reduce cardiovascular disease disparities. These efforts will support the existing organizations and external partners focused on minority CVD health.

The NMC Alliance brings together nationally renowned thought-leaders, such as Steering Committee co-chairs Dr. Keith Ferdinand, Dr. Carlos J. Rodriguez, and Dr. Gladys Velarde, to foster collaboration around research or other programs focused on how culture and ethnicity should be considered to reduce cardiovascular disease disparities. The NMC Steering Committee members include patient and provider advocacy organizations, academic/research institutions, and federal government agencies with expertise in African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American health. The individuals who comprise the Steering Committee are experts in cardiovascular health, minority access to care and treatment, and development of tactics and interventions promoting health equity.

Together, the goal is to strengthen the Alliance's constituents through shared purpose, increased capacity, and expanded resources. As an alliance, we seek to partner with stakeholders at all levels and across many sectors to advance understanding of the influence of culture and ethnicity on minority cardiovascular health.

In 2017, the Steering Committee focused on the critical issues for this collaborative effort and set an agenda and priorities for action. It is expected that the ongoing activities and priorities of the NMC Alliance will help shape future leadership in minority health. To maximize the Alliance's opportunities and impact in 2018, we will begin by focusing on:

- Enhanced data availability and information sharing
- Improved access to care and novel therapies
- Increased minority participation in clinical trials

The NMC Alliance will pursue this vision through collaborative solutions in an action plan to address the most urgent cardiovascular disparities. Inherent in this approach are two core beliefs: 1) having leading thinkers and voices from different organizations around the same table can uncover new ideas and ultimately accomplish a more ambitious agenda, and 2) although individual organizations and thought leaders may be focused on specific populations, because of the many shared challenges that exist, we can be stronger coming together than attempting to tackle challenges in silos. Accordingly, the Steering Committee gained consensus on the following 2018 action agenda priority areas to collaboratively leverage member organizations' work:

- Communications/awareness across diverse stakeholder audiences
- Reinforcing key messages (i.e. prevention, early detection)
- Exploring how to better analyze or obtain key data (i.e. minority subgroups data)
- Exploring a documentary concept to educate patients and providers

The NMC Steering Committee also believed in the importance of a monograph laying out information on key organizations involved in and committed to minority cardiovascular health. The monograph will be organized and referenceable in multiple ways, borne of that desire is this inaugural edition of *The Resource Guide for Organization Collaboration*. *The Guide* is intended for diverse stakeholders, that typically may not partner, seeking to share, understand and collaborate across all fields of minority cardiovascular health; working together to meet current health needs and strengthen access to care and novel treatments, clinical trial participation, increase workforce development, and enhance data quality. *The Guide* lists NMC Alliance members alphabetically, by population expertise, and sector. Within the alphabetical section, the individual or organization's mission is expressed, recent cardiovascular-related activities, areas of expertise and areas seeking collaboration.

We encourage broad use of *The Guide* to cultivate new or expanded partnerships and leverage initiatives in cardiovascular health. Examples of collaborative endeavors may include, but are not limited to:

- Knowledge or data sharing or dual data collection to improve and facilitate discovery of lesser known influences relating to access to care and treatment barriers for minorities and/or improved understanding of

CVD prevalence in minority subgroups (i.e. culturally competent materials for patients/providers, surveillance data, etc.)

- Shared manuscript or publication development to contribute to the evidence-base around minority cardiovascular health
- Development of consensus statements across partnering groups or collaborative planning of responses during open comment periods for effecting cardiovascular disease-related policy or treatment guidelines
- Partnerships for programming design at the national, state or local level to remove barriers to prevention and care services for minority and underserved communities (i.e. pathways to and retention in clinical trials; accessible, affordable care and treatment services; media campaigns; patient/provider education programs)
- Multisectoral workforce development programs (i.e. provider training for managing clinical trials; pathway programs for future minority-serving allied health professionals)
- Collective advancement or development of call to action (i.e. prevention measures, early detection activities)
- Cooperative programming supported through secured funding mechanisms (i.e. grants/cooperative agreements)

These are, but a few, examples of the resource guide's utility in fostering collaboration among stakeholder groups. Use this resource guide to identify potential partners for you or your organization and share this resource widely among your constituency to create a broad network of stakeholders working jointly to improve cardiovascular outcomes for unserved populations.

Sources:

Benjamin, E.J., Blaha, M.J., Chiuve, S.E., Cushman, M., Das, S.R., Deo, R., de Ferranti, S.D... & Muntner, P. on behalf of the American Heart Association Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee. (2017). Heart disease and stroke statistics—2017 update: a report from the American Heart Association *Circulation*, 135:e146-e603. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000485.

Rodriguez, C.J., Allison, M., Daviglius, M.L., Isasi, C.R., Keller, C., Leira, E.C., Palaniappan, L. ... & Sims, M. (2014). Status of cardiovascular disease and stroke in Hispanics/Latinos in the United States. *Circulation*, 130, 593-625.



# Why cardiovascular health?

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death and affects over 90 million Americans nationwide and disproportionately affects



**Asians/Pacific Islanders** have one of the highest rates of CVD globally. Many Asian Indians have very high levels of triglyceride and low levels of HDL, as well as a high incidence of diabetes.<sup>1</sup>



**African Americans** have higher CVD, myocardial infarction, and stroke death rates than whites. Larger proportions of African Americans require intensive LDL cholesterol lowering to achieve NCEP-ATP III goals compared to the general population. Yet, this population has been under-represented in cardiovascular clinical trials (i.e. statin trials).<sup>1</sup>



CVD is the leading cause of death for **Hispanics/Latinos**. CVD accounted for 27.3% of Hispanic/Latino male deaths and 33.1% of Hispanic/Latina female deaths in 2000. Among Mexican American adults, 28.8% of men and 26.6% of women have CVD. Hypertension is undiagnosed in as many as 50% of Puerto Rican and Mexican American people.<sup>1</sup>



Heart disease is the leading cause of death among **American Indians and Alaskan Natives**. Stroke is the seventh leading cause of death among American Indians/Alaska Natives. Heart disease and stroke are also major causes of disability and can decrease a person's quality of life.<sup>2</sup>

1. Singh and Deedwania 2006
2. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus/contents2015.htm#019>.



# Membership

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## BY SECTOR

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### Academic and Research Institutions

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#### Montefiore Medical Center

Cardiology Administration | 1825  
Eastchester Road | Bronx, NY 10461



#### Key contact/public or media inquiries:

Ileana L. Pina MD, MPH, Professor of  
Medicine, Cardiologist  
Director of Cardiology- Weiler Campus  
[ilpina@montefiore.org](mailto:ilpina@montefiore.org)  
<http://www.montefiore.org/heart>  
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

**Population expertise:** Blacks/African-  
Americans, Hispanics/Latinos

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and  
treatment, Clinical trials, Research

**Recent activities:** Research and clinical  
trials

**Collaboration interest:** Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications,  
Research

Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart and Vascular Care has become a nationally recognized hub of innovation and clinical excellence in heart and vascular care. Montefiore has maintained a proud tradition of clinical excellence and research leadership in adult and pediatric cardiology and cardiovascular surgery.

Montefiore remains at the center of innovation, winning awards for its groundbreaking achievements and making headlines as it fights the battle to keep its vast community heart-healthy.

## Stanford University School of Medicine

Cardiovascular Medicine | Falk Building CV2C83 | 300 Pasteur Drive | Stanford, CA | 94305-5406  
305-562-0341

Latha Palaniappan, MD, MS

Professor of Medicine, Internist/Epidemiologist

Fatima Rodriguez, MD, MPH

Clinical Instructor, Cardiologist/Epidemiologist



### Key contact/public or media inquiries:

Latha Palaniappan, MD, MS

[lathap@stanford.edu](mailto:lathap@stanford.edu)

<http://med.stanford.edu/cvmedicine.html>

<http://med.stanford.edu/discover.html>

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

**Population expertise:** Hispanics/Latinos

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, Clinical trials, Research

**Recent activities:** Research improving risk prediction among minority populations (mainly Hispanics and Asians) - ongoing

Increasing minority participation in clinical trials - ongoing

**Collaboration interest:** Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications, Research

“Stanford is committed to providing better care for diverse populations. The NMC Alliance will provide a network to collaborate with members around the country to better assess and address health disparities.”

Jointly submitted by Dr. Latha Palaniappan and Dr. Fatima Rodriguez

## Advocacy Organizations

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### Association of American Indian Physicians (AAIP)

1225 Sovereign Row, Suite 103 | Oklahoma City, OK 73108  
Dr. Ron Chair, AAIP President

**For public or media inquiries:**

Margaret Knight, Executive Director  
405- 946-7072 | [mknight@aaip.org](mailto:mknight@aaip.org)  
<https://www.aaip.org/>

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

**Population expertise:** Native Americans

**Key focal areas:** health care access and treatment; clinical trials; research; and general health equity

**Recent activities:** Career pipeline programs for high school and college students throughout the year in different regions of the United States

**Collaboration interests:** Research



A major goal of AAIP is to motivate American Indian and Alaskan Native students to remain in the academic pipeline and to pursue a career in the health professions and/or biomedical research, thereby increasing the number of American Indian and Alaskan Native medical professionals in the workforce.

AAIP strives to improve the overall health of American Indian and Alaskan Native Communities through a variety of programs. AAIP has fostered several programs that directly address widely acknowledged disparities in American Indian and Alaskan Native health.

## Association of Black Cardiologists

122 E. 42nd Street | 18th Floor New  
York, NY 10168  
Felix Sogade, MD, Board Chair



### Key contact:

Cassandra McCullough, MBA,  
CEO/Director  
[cmccullough@abccardio.org](mailto:cmccullough@abccardio.org)

### For public or media inquiries:

Sean Waldron, MS | 800-753-9222  
[info@abccardio.org](mailto:info@abccardio.org)  
[www.abccardio.org](http://www.abccardio.org)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) |  
[YouTube](#)

### Population expertise:

Blacks/African-Americans,  
Hispanics/Latinos

**Key focal areas:** health care access  
and treatment; clinical trials;  
research; and general health equity

**Recent activities:** ABC sponsors (or co-sponsors) continuing medical education programs throughout the year, in conjunction with national conferences and independently. Community programs and training workshops are conducted in select U.S. cities annually from late spring through fall. Increasing minority participation in clinical trials is a major area of interest in support of ABC's mission pillars--education, research and advocacy. ABC routinely advocates on behalf of patients and the profession on an ongoing basis, to include letters of support initiated by ABC or in collaboration with other organizations.

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing

The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc., (ABC) is a nonprofit organization with an international membership of 1,700 health professionals, lay members of the community (Community Health Advocates), corporate members, and institutional members. The ABC is dedicated to eliminating the disparities related to cardiovascular disease in all people of color.

We are firm in our resolve to make exemplary health care accessible and affordable to all, dedicated to lowering the high rate of cardiovascular disease, including stroke, in minority populations and committed to advocacy and diversity. We are guided by ethical principles in all transactions and strive for excellence in our training and skills.

## Mended Hearts

8150 N. Central Expy, Ste M2248 | Dallas, Texas 75206

Donnette Smith, President

### Key contact(s):

Norm Linsky, MA, MPA, Executive Director  
[norm.linsky@mendedhearts.org](mailto:norm.linsky@mendedhearts.org)

Andrea Baer, MS | 724-396-7820

[andrea.baer@mendedhearts.org](mailto:andrea.baer@mendedhearts.org)

Marcia Baker | 214-206-9259

### For public or media inquiries:

Norm Linsky, MA, MPA  
[norm.linsky@mendedhearts.org](mailto:norm.linsky@mendedhearts.org)  
[www.mendedhearts.org](http://www.mendedhearts.org)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



*Mended Hearts' mission is to "inspire hope and improve the quality of life for heart patients and their families through ongoing peer-to-peer support". This aligns closely with that of the NMCAAlliance, thus MH's participation in the Alliance should further that mission. Thank you for your efforts!*

- Norm Linsky, Executive Director

**Population expertise:** Blacks/African-Americans, Asians/Pacific Islanders, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, General health equity

**Recent activities:** Public/patient education through annual national conference, regional meetings, online webinars, and monthly chapter support group meetings (300 chapters); patient advocacy efforts (i.e. federal, state, private payors) encouraging availability of drugs/devices/treatments to patients based upon medical need, physician/patient decisions, and affordability; online communities on topics specific to targeted patient populations and disease states; peer-to-peer support to patients, families & caregivers with heart disease, via telephone support, online support, hospital bedside, and monthly support groups; and special initiatives to provide support and education to specific demographic groups (women, minorities, medically underserved, Spanish language, low income).

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing, Programming, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation

## National Collaborative for Health Equity

1301 Connecticut Avenue NW | Suite 200 |  
Washington, DC, 20036

### Key Contact:

Brian Smedley, PhD, Executive Director

### Media or public inquiries:

(202) 765-2500

[nche@nationalcollaborative.org](mailto:nche@nationalcollaborative.org)

**Population expertise:** African American/Blacks,  
Hispanics/Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders,  
Native American

**Key focal areas:** General health equity

**Recent activities:** *Numerous Ongoing:* Visit  
website for details

**Collaboration interests:** General health equity,  
partnerships



The mission of the National Collaborative for Health Equity is to promote health equity by harnessing evidence, developing leaders, and catalyzing partnerships across the many different sectors that share responsibility for creating a more equitable and just society. Recognizing that action, leadership, inclusion, and collaboration are the basis for driving policy decisions, we strive to connect people most impacted by social and racial injustices and to transform systems and institutions built on the enduring legacy of racism, particularly its less visible but more insidious—structural manifestations. In so doing we improve the health, well-being and life opportunities for communities of color.



## National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP)

1190 Mission Street | #712 | San Francisco, CA 94103

Winston Wong, MD, Board Chair

Ho Luong Tran, MD, MPH, President/Chief Executive Officer

[htran@ncapip.org](mailto:htran@ncapip.org)

### Key contact/public inquiries:

David Lee Hawks | Deputy Director | 202-441-1192

[dhawks@ncapip.org](mailto:dhawks@ncapip.org)

[www.ncapip.org](http://www.ncapip.org)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [YouTube](#)



### Population expertise: Population expertise:

Asians/Pacific Islanders

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, Research, General health equity

**Recent activities:** *Access and treatment quality:* (1) Conducted survey, focus groups, wrote paper on small/solo practice physicians' readiness re: integrating health reforms with policy recommendations on supporting these vital practices. Primary issue: Access to quality (i.e. providers capable of cultural and linguistic competent service) care for majority of underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander patients (majority of minority patients access care with private practice physicians); and (2) Successfully advocated for small/solo doctors who meet a MediCal/Medicare threshold to be officially designated "Essential Community Providers" in the state of California, ensuring placement in health marketplace/qualified health plans; and (3) Completed environmental scan of literature review, strategies document, logic model, and toolkit on implementing the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Healthcare Services (CLAS Standards).

The National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP) is comprised of over 8,000 physician advocates across the U.S., who are a part of a powerful voice standing up for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander patients and communities.

Our affiliates work with NCAPIP and each other to advance optimal health for their patients and their community.

*Research:* (1) Founded and coordinated the AANHPI Diabetes Coalition, pushed forward the recognition of BMI 23 as the appropriate screening risk factor for type 2 diabetes among Asian Americans; and (2) Holds annual conference on research, policy, and advocacy on diabetes among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, bringing lead researchers

advocates, policymakers, community members, and practicing clinicians to devise actionable solutions to research equity, awareness and education, and future research on this subject.

*General equity:* (1) Regularly comments on HHS strategy and policies, coordinates comments and letters from NCAPIP, NMA, NHMA, AAIP, and ABC to HHS and Congressional leaders on matters of healthcare policy, and issues statements on health reform and policies that influence the healthcare system and environment and (2) Works with regulators, foundations, alliances and coalitions, industry members, and physicians organizations on issues of health disparities, inclusive language, translation, and awareness building of AANHPI health issues.

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation

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## National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)

1920 L Street, NW | Suite 725 | Washington, DC  
20036

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP, President, CEO

[erios@nhmamd.org](mailto:erios@nhmamd.org)

Judith Flores, MD, Board Chair

### Key contact or public inquiries:

Raquel Morales | 202-628-5895 |

[nhma@nhmamd.org](mailto:nhma@nhmamd.org)

[www.nhmamd.org](http://www.nhmamd.org)

**Population expertise:** Hispanics/Latinos

**Key focal areas:** General health equity

**Recent activities:** 2017: NHMA cardiovascular disease and Hispanics Summit Series, Austin, Los Angeles, New York;

2018: NHMA Campaign to educate physicians, policy makers and community leaders through speakers, panel discussions and social media based on the NHMA Summits Report

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation



The National Hispanic Medical Association is a non-profit association representing the interests of 50,000 licensed Hispanic physicians in the United States. The vision of the organization is to be the national leader to improve the health of Hispanic populations.

The mission of the organization is to empower Hispanic physicians to lead efforts to improve the health of Hispanic and other underserved populations in collaboration with Hispanic state medical societies, residents, and medical students, and other public and private sector partners.

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## National Minority Quality Forum

1201 15th Street, NW | Suite 340 | Washington,  
DC 20005

Gary Puckrein, PhD, President and Chief Executive  
Officer



### Key contact:

Gary Puckrein, PhD

### Public or media inquiries:

202- 223-7560 | [infodesk@nmqf.org](mailto:infodesk@nmqf.org)  
[www.nmqf.org](http://www.nmqf.org)

**Population expertise:** African American/Blacks,  
Hispanics/Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native  
American

**Key focal areas:** Research, clinical trials, general health equity

**Recent activities:** *Ongoing:* Conducts research and analysis of evidence, guidelines, and measures relating to health and medical-care delivery systems and the management of resources that address U.S. minority-health-care concerns; assists and collaborates with public- and private-sector leaders, providers and other health professionals, physicians, consumers, administrators, community and faith-based organizations, and policy makers at all levels; creates minority-led public/private partnerships to foster cultural competency among health-care providers, to support health education and professional training, and to expand the use of state-of-the-art treatments and technology for minorities; and manages projects based on zip-code-level analysis, working with a comprehensive relational data platform for identifying health status and disparity prevalence.

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation

The Forum houses data on vital statistics and on demographics, environmental information, medical claims, prescription-drug use, clinical laboratory values, health-care access points, and other data elements in one centralized data warehouse. The Forum measures and forecasts health status in small geographic areas, evaluates the impact of specific interventions, monitors changes in health outcomes, and serves as a valuable resource.

## WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

1100 17th Street NW | # 500 | Washington, DC 20036

Mary McGowan, Chief Executive Officer

[mmcgowan@womenheart.org](mailto:mmcgowan@womenheart.org)

202-464-8735



### Key contact(s):

Evan McCabe, RN, Board Chair | 202-728-7199

Barbara Tombros, Board Vice Chair

[barbara.tombros@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.tombros@gmail.com)

### Public or media inquiries:

Evan McCabe, RN

202-728-7199 | [mail@womenheart.org](mailto:mail@womenheart.org)

[www.womenheart.org](http://www.womenheart.org)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

**Population expertise:** Blacks/African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, General health equity

**Recent activities:** We are engaged in advocacy related to women's health and the impact of the proposed changes to ACA, such as National Hospital Alliance Capacity Building in underserved areas; webinars specific to heart disease in Native American Women; established WomenHeart support group specific to Hispanic women in Miami; and other activities related to clinical trial engagement have been executed.

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing, Programming, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, anything specific to women & heart disease

“Too many women of color are unnecessarily impacted by heart disease. Research shows that heart disease is the leading cause of death for all women and those numbers are even higher for minority women. The National Minority Coalition Health Alliance and WomenHeart: The National Coalition of Women with Heart Disease are both committed to reducing those statistics and ensuring that women of color have the tools and resources they need to live heart-healthy lives.”

Barbara Tombros, Vice Chair

## Communication/Engagement Specialists

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### David E. Montgomery, MD, PhD, FACC

Preventive Cardiologist  
Piedmont Heart Institute

275 Collier Rd | Suite 500 | Atlanta, GA 30309

[www.piedmont.org](http://www.piedmont.org)

#### Public inquiries:

[davidmontgomery5@gmail.com](mailto:davidmontgomery5@gmail.com)

<http://davemontgomerymd.com/>

**Population expertise:** African Americans/Blacks

**Key focal areas:** Health communication or information dissemination

**Cardiovascular-related specialty:** General cardiology, Obesity

**Collaboration interest:** Information/data sharing



Dr. Dave's commitment to delivering first-rate heart care is matched by his passion for translating medical and health details into relevant and practical keys everyone can use. He believes that mass media will play a critical role in the transformation of the health landscape in America. "The new health revolution will be televised, he says, and I plan to be there." Dr. Dave has been featured in numerous print and broadcast media outlets including WGN-9 Morning News, CNN, HLN, NBC, ABC, and WebMD.

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## Government

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### National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Clinical Applications and Prevention Branch |  
Division of Cardiovascular Sciences  
6701 Rockledge Drive Room 10218 | Bethesda,  
MD 20892-7936

**Agency type:** Research, training/education

#### Key contact/public or media inquiries:

Nicole Redmond, MD, PhD, MPH, FACP  
301-435-0379 | [nicole.redmond@nih.gov](mailto:nicole.redmond@nih.gov)



Providing global leadership in research, training, and education to prevent and treat heart, lung, blood and sleep disorders.

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, Clinical trials, Research, General health equity

**Collaboration interest:** Information/data sharing, Programming, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications, Grants/cooperative agreements, Research

**Recent activities:** Contact NHLBI's Office of Science Policy, Engagement, Education and Communications office for details via <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/node/80008>

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## U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Office of the Commissioner | Office of Health and  
Constituent Affairs

11093 New Hampshire Ave | Silver Springs, MD  
20993

**Agency type:** Regulatory (i.e. medication, novel  
therapeutics)

### Public or media inquiries:

301-796-8460

[www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov)

**Key focal areas:** Clinical trials, Health  
communication or information dissemination,  
General health equity

**Collaboration interest:** Information/data sharing, Programming, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications, Grants/cooperative agreements

**Recent activities:** Office of Minority Health Minorities and Clinical Trials Campaign



*“As we acknowledge the global responsibility to protect public health, we cannot lose sight of existing health inequities within our borders and our obligation to keep all Americans safe.”*

Helene Clayton-Jeter, OD, FDA Former Director, Cardiovascular and Endocrine Liaison Program

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## Individual Thought Leaders

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### Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA (Steering Committee Co-Chair)

Professor of Medicine,  
Cardiologist  
Tulane Heart and Vascular  
Institute  
Tulane University School of  
Medicine  
1430 Tulane Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70112

*"The United States cannot have a healthy society until we have a health care system that makes available the best evidence-based care, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, appearance, geographic location or socioeconomic status. Until all populations are healthy, our society cannot be healthy. We have an obligation to ensure proper care among diverse populations. Approaching our work with care and concern for each and every patient is the reason why we practice medicine."*

*-Dr. Keith C. Ferdinand, Alliance Co-Chair*

#### Public inquiries:

[kcferrdmd9@gmail.com](mailto:kcferrdmd9@gmail.com)

<https://medicine.tulane.edu/departments/medicine-cardiology-clinical/faculty/keith-c-ferdinand-md>

**Population expertise:** Blacks/African-Americans

**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, Clinical trials, General health equity

**Cardiovascular-related specialty:** General cardiology

**Collaboration interests:** Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications

**Recent activities:** Association of Black Cardiologists Access Initiative; Contact: Cassandra McCullough [cmccullough@abccardio.org](mailto:cmccullough@abccardio.org) , 212-878-5988

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### Carlos Jose Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA (Steering Committee Co-Chair)

Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology, Cardiologist  
Wake Forest School of Medicine  
Medical Center Boulevard | Winston Salem, NC 27157

#### Public or media inquiries:

[crodrigu@wakehealth.edu](mailto:crodrigu@wakehealth.edu)

[www.wakehealth.edu](http://www.wakehealth.edu) and [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org)

**Population expertise:**

Hispanics/Latinos

**Key focal areas:** Health

care access and

treatment, Research,

General health equity

**Cardiovascular-related**

**specialty:** General

cardiology

**Collaboration interests:** Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications

**Recent activities:** NHLBI clinical trial characterizing determinants of change in cardiac structure

and function among Hispanics within the Hispanic Community Health Study/Study of Latinos

(HCHS/SOL); Former Lead Chair, American Heart Association Scientific Advisory on the

Cardiovascular Health of Hispanics in the US; Former Member, American Heart Association

Science Advisory and Coordinating Committee; Contributing Member, Several large national

cohort cardiovascular epidemiologic studies including The Northern Manhattan Study (NOMAS),

The Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults Study (CARDIA), The Multi-Ethnic Study

of Atherosclerosis-Field Center (MESA Classic), Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study – Field

Centers (ARIC), etc.

*"The collaboration, diversity and experience represented by the Make-Well-Known Foundation will enable the organization to identify and respond to the emerging challenges in minority cardiovascular health. The Alliance's partnership with varying entities and across different sectors – including hospitals, clinical cardiology, academia, industry, communications/marketing, social services, patient advocacy, and government – will bring an overarching perspective and voice to the landscape of minority cardiovascular health. I partnered with this Alliance to help make a difference and look forward to doing just that."*

*–Dr. Carlos J. Rodriguez, Alliance Co-Chair*

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**Gladys P. Velarde, MD, FACC (Steering Committee Co-Chair)**

Director, Women's Cardiovascular Health and Cardiovascular Fellowship Training Program,

Cardiologist

University of Florida –

Jacksonville

655 West Eight Street |

Jacksonville, FL 32209

585-967-9146

*"Our continuing mission is to reduce gender and ethnic disparities in Cardiovascular care. Despite the remarkable declines in cardiovascular mortality observed nationally over the last 3 decades, many population subgroups defined by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, educational level, or geography show striking, and often widening, disparities in cardiovascular health. As the landscape of our nation is changing, it is paramount that our efforts to prevent cardiovascular disease include those who are disproportionately affected the most."*

*-Dr. Gladys Velarde, Alliance Co-Chair*

<https://bridge.ufhealth.org/>

[gladys.velarde@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:gladys.velarde@jax.ufl.edu)

**Population expertise:** Blacks/African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos



**Key focal areas:** Health care access and treatment, Research, Health communication or information dissemination

**Cardiovascular-related specialty:** General cardiology, Metabolic disease

**Collaboration interests:** Information/data sharing, Avenues for increased minority clinical trial participation, Publications, Research

**Recent activities:** American College of Cardiology (ACC) Preventive Council and Disparities Chair, American Heart Association (AHA) Council Prevention, Hispanic Health Council Duval Health Jacksonville, Prime of Your Life Program University of Florida, VIDASANA community outreach Jacksonville

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## BY POPULATION EXPERTISE

### African Americans/Blacks

[Association of Black Cardiologists](#)

[Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA](#)

[National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#)

[Mended Hearts](#)

[Montefiore Medical Center](#)

[David E. Montgomery, MD, PhD, FACC](#)

[National Collaborative for Health Equity](#)

[National Minority Quality Forum](#)

[U. S. Food and Drug Administration](#)

[Gladys P. Velarde, MD, FACC](#)

[WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease](#)

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### Asian/Pacific Islanders

[National Collaborative for Health Equity](#)

[National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians](#)

[National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#)

[National Minority Quality Forum](#)

[Mended Hearts](#)

[Stanford University School of Medicine](#)

[U. S. Food and Drug Administration](#)

[WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease](#)

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## **Hispanics/Latinos**

[Association of Black Cardiologists](#)

[Carlos Jose Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA](#)

[Mended Hearts](#)

[Montefiore Medical Center](#)

[National Collaborative for Health Equity](#)

[National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#)

[National Hispanic Medical Association](#)

[National Minority Quality Forum](#)

[Stanford University School of Medicine](#)

[Gladys P. Velarde, MD, FACC](#)

[U. S. Food and Drug Administration](#)

[WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease](#)

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## **Native Americans**

[Association of American Indian Physicians](#)

[Mended Hearts](#)

[Montefiore Medical Center](#)

[National Collaborative for Health Equity](#)

[National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute](#)

[National Minority Quality Forum](#)

[U. S. Food and Drug Administration](#)

[WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease](#)

TABLE: NMC ALLIANCE ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS BY CARDIOVASCULAR EXPERTISE AND COLLABORATION INTEREST AREAS

Organization thought leader	Cardiovascular area(s) of expertise					Collaboration interest area(s)					
	Health care access and treatment	Clinical trials	General health equity	Research	Health communication & data sharing	Information & data sharing	Programming	Increased clinical trial participation	Publications	Grants/cooperative agreements	Research
<a href="#">Association of American Indian Physicians</a>				X	X	X					
<a href="#">Association of Black Cardiologists</a>	X	X			X	X					
<a href="#">Mended Hearts</a>				X	X	X				X	X
<a href="#">National Collaborative for Health Equity</a>					X						
<a href="#">National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians</a>					X	X				X	
<a href="#">National Hispanic Medical Association</a>			X			X		X			
<a href="#">National Minority Quality Form</a>		X	X	X		X		X			
<a href="#">WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease</a>	X		X			X	X	X			

TABLE: NMC ALLIANCE ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS BY CARDIOVASCULAR EXPERTISE AND COLLABORATION INTEREST AREAS

Academic or research organization thought leader	Cardiovascular area(s) of expertise						Collaboration interest area(s)				
	Health care access and treatment	Clinical trials	General health equity	Research	Health communication & information dissemination	Information & data sharing	Programming	Increased clinical trial participation	Publications	Grants/cooperative agreements	Research
<a href="#">Montefiore Medical Center</a>	X	X		X				X	X		X
<a href="#">Stanford University School of Medicine</a>	X	X		X				X	X		X

TABLE: NMC ALLIANCE COMMUNICATION/ENGAGEMENT SPECIALISTS BY KEY FOCAL AREA AND COLLABORATION INTEREST AREAS

Communication/Engagement specialist thought leader	Key focal area					Collaboration interest area(s)					
	Health care access and treatment	Clinical trials	General health equity	Research	Health communication & information dissemination	Information & data sharing	Programming	Increased clinical trial participation	Publications	Grants/cooperative agreements	Research
<a href="#">David E. Montgomery, MD, PhD, FACC</a> Preventive Cardiologist <i>(Specialties: General cardiology/obesity)</i>				X	X	X					

TABLE: NMC ALLIANCE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES BY KEY FOCAL AREA AND COLLABORATION INTEREST AREAS

Government agency	Key focal area					Collaboration interest area(s)					
	Health care access and treatment	Clinical trials	General health equity	Research	Health communication & information dissemination	Information & data sharing	Programming	Increased clinical trial participation	Publications	Grants/cooperative agreements	Research
<a href="#">National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)</a> <i>Agency type:</i> Research, training/education											
<a href="#">U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</a> <i>Agency type:</i> Regulatory (i.e. medication, novel therapeutics)		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	

TABLE: NMC ALLIANCE INDIVIDUAL THOUGHT LEADERS BY KEY FOCAL AREA AND COLLABORATION INTEREST AREAS

Individual thought leader	Key focal area					Collaboration interest area(s)					
	Health care access and treatment	Clinical trials	General health equity	Research	Health communication &	Information & data sharing	Programming	Increased clinical trial participation	Publications	Grants/cooperative agreements	Research
<a href="#">Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA</a> (Steering Committee Co-Chair) Professor of Medicine/Cardiologist Clinical specialty: General cardiology	X	X	X					X	X		
<a href="#">Carlos Jose Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA</a> (Steering Committee Co-Chair) Professor of Medicine/Epidemiologist/Cardiologist Clinical specialty: General cardiology	X		X	X				X	X		
<a href="#">Gladys P. Velarde, MD, FACC</a> (Steering Committee Co-Chair) Director, Women's Cardiovascular Health & Cardiovascular Fellowship Training Program/Cardiologist Clinical specialty: General cardiology, Metabolic disease	X			X	X	X		X	X		X



# NMC Alliance Steering Committee & Advisory Panel

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

<p>(Program Co-Chair) Keith C. Ferdinand, MD, FACC, FAHA Professor of Medicine Tulane Heart and Vascular Institute Tulane University School of Medicine</p>	<p>Ileana Pina, MD, MPH Professor, Department of Medicine and Department of Epidemiology &amp; Population Health Associate Chief, Academic Affairs Montefiore Medical Center</p>
<p>(Program Co-Chair) Carlos Jose Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACC, FAHA Professor of Medicine and Public Health Sciences Interim Director, Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity Department of Epidemiology and Prevention Section of Cardiovascular Medicine Wake Forest School of Medicine</p>	<p>Gary Puckrein, PhD President and Chief Executive Officer, National Minority Health Forum &amp; Executive Director, Alliance of Minority Medical Associations</p>
<p>(Program Co-Chair) Gladys P. Velarde, MD, FACC Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology Medical Director, Cardiovascular Women's Heart Program; Program Director, Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship College of Medicine, University of Florida</p>	<p>Nicole Redmond, MD, PhD, MPH Medical Officer, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences (DCVS) Clinical Applications and Prevention Branch (CAPB) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute</p>
<p>Helene Clayton-Jeter, OD Former Director, Cardiovascular &amp; Endocrine Liaison Program Office of Health &amp; Constituent Affairs Office of External Affairs U.S. Food and Drug Administration</p>	<p>Latha Palaniappan, MD, MS Professor of Medicine Primary Care and Population Health The Stanford University Medical Center</p>
<p>Jason Deen, MD Pediatric Cardiologist, Seattle Children's Hospital Member, Association of American Indian Physicians</p>	<p>Elena Rios, MD, MSPH President and Chief Executive Officer, National Hispanic Medical Association</p>
<p>Patrice Desvigne-Nickens, MD Medical Officer, Heart Failure and Arrhythmias, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute</p>	<p>Fatima Rodriguez, MD, MPH Clinical Instructor, Cardiovascular Medicine Stanford University</p>

<p>Norm Linsky Executive Director, Mended Hearts</p>	<p>Brian Smedley, PhD Co-Founder and Executive Director, National Collaborative for Health Equity</p>
<p>Cassandra McCullough, MBA Chief Executive Officer, Association of Black Cardiologists</p>	<p>Barbara Tombros Board Member, WomenHeart, The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease</p>
<p>David Montgomery, MD, PhD, FACC Cardiologist and Internist, Piedmont Heart Institute and National Health Contributor</p>	<p>Ho Luong Tran, MD, MPH, President and Chief Executive Officer National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians</p>

Siobhan Wescott, MD, MPH  
Assistant Professor of Practice, Department of Public Health North Dakota State University  
Member, Association of American Indian Physicians

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## **Make Well Known Foundation Board Members**

Lionel Phillips, MBA  
*Chairman and President*

Sarah Lincoln, MS  
*Vice President*

Judy Greener, PhD  
*Secretary*

## **National Minority Cardiovascular (NMC) Alliance Staff**

Kristi Fultz-Butts, MPH  
*Director*

## *A few Notes*

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*The Resource Guide for Organization Collaboration with The National Minority Cardiovascular* will be updated semi-annually. This year's guide is our inaugural edition. Your input is welcomed for how to improve its utility. Please send comments to [kristi@makewellknown.org](mailto:kristi@makewellknown.org).

*The Guide* and the work of the NMC Alliance would not be possible without the thought leadership and commitment of our Steering Committee. We are grateful for their expertise, dedication and appreciation for the importance of collaborative work in working to reduce minority cardiovascular health disparities.