Did you know... Infant mortality rates for Blacks are twice as high for non-minorities. Death rates from diabetes and heart disease are higher for Blacks and American Indians. Childhood & Adolescent obesity is most prevalent among Mexican-American males and Black females. Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, & Asian Americans receive poorer quality of care & have worse access to healthcare than non-minorities.

The Angelou Research Center (ARC) was established to address statistics such as these. The ARC staff officially moved into offices in the Nutrition Building/Commons, 2nd floor, in November 2003. The location is advantageous in that we have developed a close working relationship with our colleagues from Academic Computing, with whom we share the space. In addition to our research and community outreach efforts, we have been moving toward establishment of an effective, knowledgeable, & committed team to accomplish the Center's mission. This includes faculty, adjunct faculty, center affiliates, as well as our core research, development, and administrative support teams. The creative synergy and teamwork of these key individuals provide valuable resources as the ARC continues to develop.

The Center has begun several initiatives to benefit both the medical center and the community-at-large. The Angelou Research Center Biannual Lecture Series is moving into its second year (guest lecturers have included Denise L. Johnson, MD Stanford University School of Medicine and Samir K. Ballas, MD, Thomas Jefferson University Medical College. We continue to partner with other Departments and Centers to bring in relevant speakers of national prominence. Planning is underway for the Second Annual National Conference in Fall 2005. Six months ago, a monthly journal club was established to serve as a focal point for discussion of peer-reviewed literature and reports (i.e. Sullivan Report, National Healthcare Disparities Report) related to minority health. Finally, many Center efforts continue to build relationships between the community and the academic medical center.
Minorities now constitute more than 35% of the US population. Minority health and racial & ethnic health disparities are among the most crucial healthcare dilemmas facing our nation today. As we continue to explore the complicated and often interwoven etiologies, several causative themes become apparent. While genetic factors exist, they likely represent a miniscule contribution to health disparities. Behavioral and environmental factors (including the impact of diet, physical activity, risky behaviors and life stressors) have a more significant role. And while our healthcare system is among the most advanced in the world, access to healthcare remains an issue for many minorities. In 2004, the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality noted that "disparities in healthcare quality are pervasive in the US system". The disparities for minorities exist across all quality dimensions including effectiveness of care, patient safety, timeliness and patient-centeredness of care. They also note that 'improvement is possible'.

Maya Angelou is often referred to as 'the conscience of America'. WFU School of Medicine has taken a bold step in the development of the Angelou Research Center, which stands to be a conscience for minority health within our academic medical center and the community. Over the past year and a half, we have worked to develop into a cohesive Center & have been fortunate to have critical support from many within the community and the medical center. This includes the Winston-Salem Urban League, Forsyth County Infant Mortality Task Force, colleagues at WSSU, our Regional Advisory Board & Internal Steering Committee, the WFUSM Offices of Development & Alumni Affairs, Public Relations & Marketing, Minority Programs, Faculty Services and Research and numerous Departments & individuals. We express our gratitude to all who are helping to make the Center mission a reality.

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willingness is not enough; we must do."

-Goethe
Research Update

Hispanic Health Media Project:
La Clinica del Pueblo
Funded in August 2004 by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, this project developed a partnership between WFU School of Medicine, Que Pasa Media, Inc. (the largest Spanish media company in North Carolina) and the NC Hispanic community. The goals are to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors, and to disseminate scientifically-sound, culturally-sensitive health information in 4 specific areas: Adult Health, Child Health, Safety, and Utilization. Also, a comprehensive database of available NC healthcare resources for underserved communities is being developed.

“La Clinica del Pueblo” is a weekly Spanish-language radio program hosted by Dr. Jorge Calles & Eva Gomez, RN, MSN. Guest participants have included representatives from WFUSM faculty, Food & Drug Administration, & Governor’s Highway Safety Program. The show is broadcast on 3 radio stations to ~27 counties in the extended Piedmont-Triad & Triangle areas. A corresponding newspaper column is distributed weekly. The project team includes: PI Kristy Woods, Co-PIs Jorge Calles, Eva Gomez, Ananda Mitra, Doug Easterling, Vanessa Duren-Winfield (Research Associate), and Sarah Fahy (Asst. Project Manager). To date, 30 weekly programs have been completed, & its popularity in the community is soaring.

For the chartbook, researchers are compiling and analyzing current data from a variety of government and private sources. The chartbook will summarize the current state of US minority health status and health disparities. It will include analyses of healthcare access, resource utilization, and healthcare quality for racial minorities, using the parameters of the National Healthcare Quality Report. A unique section will focus on promising practices already implemented to reduce/eliminate minority health disparities. When completed in June, 2006, the user-friendly publication will inform policy makers and legislators regarding minority health disparities, raise public awareness regarding minority health issues, and serve as a valuable tool for future research efforts.

Commonwealth Fund Grant:
In November, 2004, the Angelou Research Center received a prestigious award from the Commonwealth Fund (CWF) to develop a publication called ‘Chartbook on Health Status and Health Care Quality for Minorities in the United States.’ The Commonwealth Fund is a private, NY based foundation that provides funding to support healthcare quality & social science research. This project will be conducted by Kristy Woods, PI; Capri Foy, Co-PI, & Jaimie Hunter, RA. The team collaborating with Douglas McCarthy, Issues Research, Inc. (Durango, CO) and a multidisciplinary panel of healthcare experts from across the country, who serve as the project Advisory Board.

Winston-Salem Chronicle Partnership
Beginning in May, the Angelou Research Center will collaborate with the Winston-Salem Chronicle to produce a weekly health education column. The Chronicle is a highly-respected, African American newspaper with a local weekly distribution of ~10,500. This project aims to enhance health literacy & improve the relationship between community members and their healthcare system/providers. The column, whose formal title will be decided by readers, will have rotating themes & a variety of contributors. Topics will include critical disparity areas identified by the CDC’s Healthy People 2010, and other general healthcare and health utilization issues.

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Associate Professor PHS, Epidemiology

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Assistant Professor, PHS Epidemiology & Internal Medicine, GIM

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Hispanic Patient Educator
Brenner Children’s Hospital

Dr. Granada Stephens Neil
Resident, Family & Community Med.
Development Corner

“An Evening of Healing Through Song” Oprah Winfrey and Maya Angelou hosted an Endowment Kickoff entitled “An Evening of Healing through Song” at St. Peter’s World Outreach in Winston-Salem, NC. The event was held the Friday of the 2004 Thanksgiving Weekend. In addition to supporting the Center endowment, the benefit’s goals were to raise awareness of minority health disparities & showcase the mission of the Angelou Research Center. The concert featured Stellar Award-nominated gospel singer Joshua Nelson. His voice has been compared to that of the late Mahalia Jackson, one of his greatest musical influences. His performance was followed by a VIP reception at Nobles restaurant. The Center is proud to announce the Second Annual “Evening of Healing through Song.” Please mark your calendars for Friday, November 25, 2005.

The Hallelujah Table Dinner
Dr. Angelou and board member Crandall Bowles, Chairman/CEO of Spring Industries, Inc. will host a benefit dinner on behalf of the Angelou Research Center. The dinner will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 at Noble’s restaurant in Charlotte, NC, with one seating at 5:30 pm & one at 8:00 pm. The chefs will prepare a three course meal for Dr. Angelou’s latest book, The Hallelujah Welcome Table. Guests will enjoy dining on these wonderful southern dishes while hearing Dr. Angelou share her culinary experiences.

Support of Local Author
Craig Marberry, author of critically-acclaimed Crowns, will donate percentage of profit from his latest book, Cuttin’ Up: Wit & Wisdom from Black Barber Shops to the Center. Cuttin’ Up debuts in June.

Upcoming Events

The Second Annual Spring Lecture Series will be Friday April 22nd at 2 p.m. in the Kitty Hawk Room at Piedmont Plaza One. The keynote speaker is Dr. Gloria Wilder-Brathwaite, MD, MPH, executive director of the Children’s Health Project of D.C., & director of Mobile Health Programs at the Children’s National Medical Center, Washington, D.C. Her talk is entitled “Economic Segregation in Healthcare: Does Class Matter?” Dr. Wilder-Brathwaite is a graduate of Howard University and Georgetown University School of Medicine and School of Public Health, in Washington D.C. For more information, contact Diane Joyner at 336-713-7600.

The Eleventh Annual SNMA Medical Excellence Banquet will take place on Sat. April 23rd, at the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Winston-Salem. Celebrating the 41st year of the SNMA and the achievements of our 4th year medical students, the keynote speaker for the evening will be Representative Donna M. Christensen, MD. She is the first woman Delegate from the United States Virgin Islands, and the first black female physician to serve in Congress.

The Banquet will be in the Adam’s Mark Ballroom, with an Art Auction co-sponsored by WFUSM-SNMA & Arts for Life from 6-7:00 PM, and dinner from 7-11:00 PM. The Banquet will be $10 for SNMA students, $20 for non-SNMA students, and $30 for all other attendees.

For more information please contact:
Jeannine Mauney, MSII jmauney@wfubmc.edu or LaKrystal Warren, MSII lwarren@wfubmc.edu

Save the Date:
June 1st — “Hallelujah Table Dinner”, Charlotte, NC
September 8th & 9th— 2005 National Conference: Cardiovascular Disease Disparities: Translating Research into Practice, Marriott Winston-Salem, NC
September 16th & 17th—National Advisory Board Meeting, Graylyn International Conference Center, Winston-Salem, NC
November 25th— Second Annual “Evening of Healing Through Song”, Winston-Salem, NC

“When one person cries and a thousand people respond, Hope Lives”
-Dr. Maya Angelou
Vanessa Duren-Winfield, MS, serves a Research Associate and Assistant Director of Research & Evaluation for the Angelou Research Center. She joined the Center in October 2003 having served for 13 years in a variety of positions at the Medical Center. She is married to Bennie Winfield, Sr. and is the mother of two lovely girls, Deborah, age 15 and Lakeshia, age 10. Ms. Duren-Winfield obtained a BS in Business Administration (Cum Laude) and a MS in Adult Education, concentration in Community Education, (Summa Cum Laude), from NC A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. Her areas of interest include cardiovascular disease and diabetes, with special emphasis on health care delivery & addressing disparities in quality of care for minority populations.

Her primary role in the Center is to assist Principal Investigators with the design of research projects and develop them into concrete activities and tasks as a part of the implementation process. She coordinates various aspects of projects including evaluation, intervention & compilation of scientific reports. Specific areas of expertise include grant preparation, clinical trials management, survey development, program assessment, and focus group methodology. She has published numerous peer reviewed papers and presented at both national and international conferences. In addition, She has been actively involved in all Center programs.

Ms. Duren-Winfield is active in her church developing youth outreach programs that impact the community at large. She is a member of, and serves on several State and National boards, including the North Carolina Adult Education Association, Kappa Delta Pi National Education Honor Society and the American Association of University Women. “Vanessa’s expertise, experience, and work ethic have been invaluable to the growth of the Center.” -Kristy Woods

From the Student National Medical Association

The programs of the SNMA are designed to serve the health needs of underserved communities and communities of color. SNMA is dedicated to academic excellence, ensuring that medical education and services are culturally sensitive to the needs of diverse populations, and to increasing the number of underrepresented students of color entering completing medical school.

The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is the nation’s oldest and largest student organization focused on the needs and concerns of minority medical students.

The Wake Forest University School of Medicine SNMA chapter has been particularly active in the Winston-Salem community. The Chapter has formed alliances with prominent organizations in our community such as the Sickle Cell Disease Association of the Piedmont and Carolina Donor Services. Community service activities for this past year include a Voter registration drive, Sickle Cell Trait/Disease screenings, a Christmas party for children with Sickle Cell Disease and their families, glaucoma screenings, and health information tables at an annual health fair.

For more information please visit our website at www wfusm-snma.org

2004-05 WFUSM Officers
Co-Presidents: Jeannine Mauney & LaKrystal Warren
Vice President: Makesha Miggins
Secretary: Holly Tyler
Committee Chairpersons:
Jameel Clark, John EyTina, Natasha Fontaine, Kimberly Holmes, Omotayo Majekodunni, Danielle McDougall-Chukwumah, Jaleema Nanton, Arika Peck, Shani F. Smith, Jennifer Stanislaus, Jerona A. Thomas, Candace Wilson, Bronwyn Young
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Thank you to all those who have helped with this newsletter, via contributions or technical assistance:

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Please contact me with any comments or suggestions you have.

http://www1.wfubmc.edu/minorityhealth/