

## Opening Keynote Speaker



**GARTH N. GRAHAM, MD, MPH**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health

Dr. Garth N. Graham is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health in the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) was created by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 1985 as a result of the Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Black and Minority Health. The office operates under the provisions of the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998. The mission of the OMH is to improve the health of racial and ethnic populations through the development of effective health policies and programs that help to eliminate health disparities. These populations include Blacks/African Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders and Hispanics/Latinos.

As the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, Dr. Graham reports to the Assistant Secretary for Health and works closely with all agencies throughout the Department. The Office of Minority Health develops and coordinates Federal health policy that addresses minority health concerns and ensures that Federal, State and local health programs take into account the needs of disadvantaged, racial and ethnic populations.

Dr. Graham serves as the Executive Director of the HHS Council on Health Disparities. The Council is comprised of senior leadership across the department, which coordinates and tracks progress on disparities related projects undertaken by the department. He was previously appointed a White House Fellow. The White House Fellows program is America's most prestigious program for leadership and public service.

Dr. Graham has significant experience working in minority communities. He founded the Boston Men's Cardiovascular Health Project, a project designed to identify behavioral explanations for decreased adherence to adequate diet and exercise by African American men. Dr. Graham was the Founding Senior Editorial Board Member of the Yale Journal of Health, Law, Policy, and Ethics, served on the Editorial Board of the Yale Journal of Biology and Science, and was a reviewer for the Journal of Health Services Research. He also served on the Public Health Executive Council of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the Board of Directors of Physicians for Human Rights, Chairman of the American Medical Association/MSS National Minority Issues Committee and on the Steering Committee of the Boston Men's Health Coalition. Dr. Graham has taught on the Faculty of the Observed Structured Clinical Exam at Harvard Medical School and has authored scientific articles and presentations on cardiovascular disease, HIV/AIDS, and community medicine and medical education.

Dr. Graham earned an MD from the Yale School of Medicine, where he graduated cum laude. He was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society and named a Yale President Public Service Fellow. He also earned an MPH from the Yale School of Epidemiology and Public Health with a focus in health policy administration. Dr. Graham completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and was also a Clinical Fellow at Harvard Medical School. He has received numerous accolades for his leadership and service in promoting health, including the 2002 American Medical Association Leadership Award, the Partners in Excellence Award and the Miriam Kathleen Dasey Award from Yale Medical School.