Urban Health: Critical Issues on the Nation’s Agenda

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Blackman Auditorium, Ell Hall

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Welcoming Remarks
Stephen R. Zoloth, Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences, Northeastern University

Remarks on the Symposium and Introduction of University President Richard M. Freeland
Hortensia Amaro, Director, Institute on Urban Health Research, Northeastern University

Introduction of the Surgeon General
President Richard M. Freeland

Keynote Address
Partnerships, Prevention, and Preparedness in Urban Health
Dr. Richard H. Carmona, United States Surgeon General

Panel Discussion
Hortensia Amaro, Moderator
John Auerbach, Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission
Jean Flatley McGuire, Director, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Dianne Wilkerson, State Senator, Second Suffolk District, Massachusetts Senate

Closing Remarks
Ahmed T. Abdelal, Provost and Academic Vice President, Northeastern University

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S.
United States Surgeon General
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona was sworn in as the seventeenth surgeon general of the United States Public Health Service on August 5, 2002. Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Carmona dropped out of high school and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967. While enlisted, he received his Army General Equivalency Diploma, joined the Army’s Special Forces—ultimately becoming a combat-decorated Vietnam veteran—and began his career in medicine. After leaving active duty, Dr. Carmona attended Bronx Community College of the City University of New York, where he earned his associate of arts degree. He later attended and graduated from the University of California, San Francisco, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977 and a medical degree in 1979. At the University of California Medical School, Dr. Carmona was awarded the prestigious gold-headed cane as the top graduate. He also earned a Master of Public Health from the University of Arizona in 1998. Dr. Carmona has worked in various positions in the medical field including paramedic, registered nurse, and physician. Dr. Carmona completed a surgical residency at the University of
California, San Francisco, and a National Institutes of Health-sponsored fellowship in trauma, burns, and critical care. Dr. Carmona is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and is also certified in correctional health care and in quality assurance.

Prior to being named surgeon general, Dr. Carmona was the chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System, a professor of surgery, public health, and family and community medicine at the University of Arizona, and the Pima County Sheriff’s Department surgeon and a deputy sheriff. Dr. Carmona has also held progressive positions of responsibility as chief medical officer, hospital chief executive officer, public health officer, and finally chief executive officer of the Pima County health-care system. He has also served as a medical director of police and fire departments and is a fully-qualified peace officer with expertise in special operations and emergency preparedness, including weapons of mass destruction. Dr. Carmona has published extensively and received numerous awards, decorations, and local and national recognition for his achievements. A strong supporter of community service, he has served on community and national boards and provided leadership to many diverse organizations.

**Panelists**

Hortensia Amaro
Distinguished Professor of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology
Director, Institute on Urban Health Research
Northeastern University

Hortensia Amaro is currently Distinguished Professor in the Bouvé College of Health Sciences and director of the Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University. Amaro’s work has focused on improving connections between public health research and practice. Her research has led to more than sixty-five scientific publications on epidemiological and community-based studies of alcohol and drug use among adolescents and adults; on the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS prevention programs; and on substance abuse and mental health treatment issues for women. Amaro recently served as Distinguished Visiting Professor in Women’s Health at Ben Gurion University in Israel. She received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Simmons College in 1994. She is also vice chair of the Board of Directors for the Boston Public Health Commission.

John Auerbach
Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission

John Auerbach has been the executive director of the Boston Public Health Commission since 1998. As the leader of the city’s Health Department, he manages a $125 million budget and 1,250 employees. Among the programs in the department are Emergency Medical Services, Homeless Services, Substance Abuse Treatment, Cancer Prevention and Control, Maternal and Child Health, and Communicable Disease Control. Under his leadership, the commission has developed the nationally recognized Boston Crusade Against Cancer, as well as other newly created programs on elder health, asthma prevention and control, substance abuse services and prevention, mental health, and adolescent, young men’s, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender health. Prior to joining the commission, Auerbach served as director of the HIV/AIDS Bureau and assistant commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health from 1990 to 1998.
Jean Flatley McGuire  
Director, HIV/AIDS Bureau, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Jean McGuire is the director of the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and consults with numerous federal, state, and local HIV and other health policy and service organizations. A graduate of the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University, McGuire holds a doctorate in social welfare and a Master of Public Health from Harvard University. Her background in health includes policy, planning, and service management experience. She directed the development of Medicaid and other residential and outpatient treatment settings for people with mental retardation, mental illness, and substance abuse backgrounds. She also was responsible for the development of a number of critical national health policy coalitions and has facilitated numerous federal policy decision-making processes. Just prior to coming to Massachusetts, McGuire was the executive director of the AIDS Action Council and its National Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Dianne Wilkerson  
State Senator, Second Suffolk District  
Massachusetts Senate

Dianne Wilkerson is currently serving her sixth term in the Massachusetts Senate. As a state senator for Boston, she represents a diverse cross-section of the city’s neighborhoods, including the Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Chinatown, the Fenway, Jamaica Plain, North Dorchester, Roxbury, and the South End. Within the Second Suffolk District, Senator Wilkerson represents not only some of Boston's wealthiest and most powerful citizens, but also the majority of the city's poor and disenfranchised. She graduated from American International College in 1978 with a BS in public administration, and received her JD from Boston College Law School in 1981. Wilkerson, who was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and reared in Springfield, Massachusetts, lives in Roxbury and has two adult sons and three grandchildren.

Institute on Urban Health Research

The mission of the Institute on Urban Health Research at Northeastern University is to promote excellence in interdisciplinary community-based and basic research that leads to strategies that improve health in urban communities. Through its work, the institute seeks a better understanding of the causes of disease, racial and ethnic health disparities, and characteristics of urban environments related to health.

To accomplish this mission, the institute:

- conducts research and expansion of knowledge through sponsored research on chronic health conditions, and tests the efficacy of interventions to improve health problems.
- promotes faculty scholarly leadership and student learning through the Faculty Scholars and Student Fellowship Programs in Urban Health Research.
- disseminates knowledge on urban health through research and policy symposia, scholarly publications, and information for service providers and policy makers.
- enhances connectivity across academic disciplines and with practitioners through collaborative research.
- provides community service through the translation of research into practice.

Founded in 2001, the institute has received $1.4 million for research and training through a combination of government and foundation grants, a President’s Award from Northeastern University President Richard M. Freeland, and support from the Bouvé College of Health Sciences.

The institute represents a combination of fields that facilitates interdisciplinary research. Northeastern University’s historical identity as an urban university, its tradition of strong community collaboration, and its educational mission of practice-based learning and scholarship give the institute a unique advantage.