Awards Dinner Program

WE HAVE THE DATA, NOW WHAT?
A LOOK BACK AT OVER 25 YEARS
Amgen is Proud to Support NMQF

OUR DIFFERENCES LEAD TO BETTER SCIENCE

At Amgen, we believe health is truly equitable when everyone, everywhere has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible. By working to ensure that people from all backgrounds have greater access to available treatment options and diagnostics and the ability to participate in clinical studies, we can help people live a healthier, longer life. To learn more, visit www.amgen.com.

Welcome to the 2024 Annual NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and Spring Health Braintrust Gala.

We are so proud to welcome so many esteemed leaders to this year's summit and gala. We hope you'll remember the conversations we have had during these last two days as they are critical in shaping a healthcare landscape that is inclusive, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all individuals.

This year's summit, themed "We have the data, now what? A look back at over 25 years," marks a celebration of NMQF's indispensable contributions to raising awareness of minority health disparities. Moreover, this year's summit guided us toward an equitable future for both public health and patient care.

Throughout the Summit, we were joined by distinguished experts from every corner of the United States who will enrich our discussions and inspire action. Experts like Dr. Yolanda Lawson, who was recently installed as the 124th President of the National Medical Association and studies on the use of digital innovation to reduce healthcare disparities or Commissioner Rochelle Garza who fights for the civil rights of all Americans.

Tonight, we will honor our 4th class of 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health. Those are the most accomplished millennials and Gen Zers that we have ever seen. We know that they will continue to do great things and move the needle forward on health equity.

And finally, there's our Lifetime Achievement Award winner Dr. Bernard Harris. We all know him as the first Black person to walk in space. But as great as an achievement that is—he has done so much more. From his work as a physician, commitment to STEM education, fighting for health and health equity, and service to every community he interacts with, there is no other current leader that we could honor as we continue to strive for diversity, equity and inclusion in healthcare.

As Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, and CEO of the National Minority Quality Forum, we want to thank you for your participation in this year's forum. As we continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and in health and healthcare policy to reduce health disparities and increase health resources for minority communities, we rely on your knowledge and support to achieve lasting change.

Thank you for attending this year's Annual NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and Spring Health Braintrust.

Sincerely,
Robin L. Kelly, PhD
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust

Gary A. Puckrin, PhD
President & CEO, National Minority Quality Forum
Dinner Agenda
2024 Leadership Awards Dinner

HOST
Gary A. Puckrein, PhD

HONORARY CO-HOST
Cong. Robin L. Kelly, PhD (D-IL)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:
Joa Briggs, Sr. JD, MA
Amazon

INVOCATION
Bishop Dr. James Lee Carter
Pastor
Ark Church

WELCOME AND REMARKS
Gary A. Puckrein, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Minority Quality Forum

Robin L. Kelly, PhD
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust
Member, U.S. House of Representatives (D-IL)

2024 LEADERSHIP AWARDS:
40 UNDER 40 LEADERS IN HEALTH
We want to build on the success of 40 Under 40 to
create programming and events—like mentoring and
career development workshops—that help cultivate the
next generation of healthcare leaders of color. We also
want to provide need-based stipends for young minority
healthcare professionals to attend the NMQF Summit.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:
Bernard Harris, Jr. MD, MBA
Chief Executive Officer,
Managing Partner, Vesalius Ventures
Founder, The Harris Institute/Foundation
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bernard A. Harris, Jr., MD, MBA, FACP  
Chief Executive Officer, Managing Partner Vesalius Ventures  
Founder, The Harris Institute/Foundation

Dr. Harris is currently CEO & Managing Partner of Vesalius Ventures, Inc., a venture capital firm, that invests in early to mid-stage Healthcare technologies and companies. He is responsible for managing a portfolio of private assets of early and mid-stage venture investments and operating companies.

He served as CEO and Executive Director, National Math & Science Initiative and led the organization’s efforts to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement in communities across the country. He has been involved in math and science education for over 25 years through his philanthropy as founder of the Harris Institute & Foundation.

Dr. Harris was at NASA for ten years, where he conducted research in musculoskeletal physiology and clinical investigations of space adaptation and developed in-flight medical devices to extend Astronaut stays in space. A veteran astronaut for over thirty years, he has logged more than 458 hours and traveled over 7.2 million miles in space.

He is a member of the Board of Directors for Raytheon Technologies (NYSE: RTX), MassMutual, and U.S. Physical Therapy (NYSE: USPH). Dr. Harris served as a Board of Director/Trustee for Salient Midstream & MLP Fund and Salient MF Trust, and Baring Fund & BBDC. In addition, he is on the non-profit Board of the Texas Medical Center (currently Chair), Astronaut Scholarship Foundation and the Harris Institute & Foundation.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Houston, a Master of Medical Science from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Houston and a Doctorate of Medicine from Texas Tech University School of Medicine. He completed a Residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, a National Research Council Fellowship in Endocrinology at the NASA Ames Research Center and trained as a Flight Surgeon at the Aerospace School of Medicine, Brooks Air Force Base. He is also a licensed private pilot and certified scuba diver.

Dr. Harris is the recipient of numerous awards, including nine (9) honorary doctorates, (Stony Brook University (SUNY), Morehouse School of Medicine, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Washington & Jefferson College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, University of Hartford, Indiana Institute of Technology, University of Houston and University of the Sciences), NASA Space Flight Medal, NASA Award of Merit, National Space Grant Distinguished Service Award, James Bryant Conant Award, a fellow of the American College of Physicians, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the recipient of the 2000 Horatio Alger Award.

He is the author of “Dream Walker: A Journey of Achievement and Inspiration.”
Vertex creates new possibilities in medicine so people with serious diseases can live better lives.

We work with leading researchers, doctors, public health experts and other collaborators who share our vision for transforming the lives of people with serious diseases, their families and society.

Vertex is a proud supporter of the NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities.

Learn more at vrtx.com

Better Health, Brighter Future

Takeda is a global, R&D-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to discovering and delivering life-transforming treatments and vaccines that have a lasting impact on society.

Since our founding in 1781 in a market stall in Osaka, Japan, our values endure by putting patient needs first, building trust with society, strengthening our reputation, and developing the business - in that order.

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Sanofi is a proud sponsor of the National Minority Quality Forum's 22nd Annual Leadership Summit on Health Disparities.

We are an innovative global healthcare company, driven by one purpose: we chase the miracles of science to improve people’s lives.

We are dedicated to transforming the practice of medicine by working to turn the impossible into the possible. We provide potentially life-changing treatment options and life-saving vaccine protection to millions of people globally, while putting sustainability and social responsibility at the center of our ambitions.

We’re working to drive patient-centered progress in innovation, affordability and access to life saving prescription medicines.

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- Support Groups and Online Chats
- Peer-to-Peer Support
- Caregiver Support
- Patient Financial Assistance Programs
- Nutrition Services
- Clinical Trial Nurse Navigators
We unite science, technology and talent to get ahead of disease together.

GSK

NATIONAL MINORITY QUALITY FORUM HONOREES,
THANK YOU for your leadership and unwavering commitment to strengthening communities and reducing health disparities.

Ahead Together
@gsk.com
Centene Corporation is proud of our partnership with the National Minority Quality Forum

Centene shares NMQF’s long-standing commitment to eliminate health disparities and ensuring that underserved communities receive optimal care.

Centene values NMQF as a partner in transforming the health of the communities we serve, one person at a time.
...Our ultimate aim is to contribute to a healthier world for generations to come.

Scan to learn more

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Working to address health equity

Biogen is a leading global biotechnology company that has pioneered multiple breakthrough innovations. We are advancing a pipeline of potential novel therapies across neurology, neuropsychiatry, specialized immunology and rare diseases and remain acutely focused on our purpose of serving humanity through science while advancing a healthier, more sustainable and equitable world. We believe everyone deserves access to a supportive health ecosystem that enables them to live the healthiest, fullest life possible. That’s one reason why we work fearlessly to promote access and health equity. We are proud to sponsor the 2024 National Minority Quality Forum Leadership Summit.
FOR DECADES, THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY HAS PREYED ON BLACK COMMUNITIES AND KIDS WITH MARKETING FOR MENTHOL CIGARETTES.

ELIMINATING MENTHOL CIGARETTES WILL PROTECT KIDS, ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY, AND SAVE LIVES.

LEARN MORE AT TOBACCOFREEKIDS.ORG/MENTHOL

LILLY SALUTES NMQF for their leadership to advance health equity and bring data to action.
Solving the toughest health challenges can help communities thrive

We aspire to transform the future of health and are committed to creating new standards of care that enhance, restore, and save lives. We are expanding access to our medicines and developing tools and programs so patients can receive optimal care.

As a proud sponsor of the National Minority Quality Forum, we share their mission to advance health equity. Because at the heart of a strong community is good health.

Learn more at jnj.com

Johnson & Johnson

Transforming patients’ lives through science™

We are in the business of breakthroughs—the kind that transform patients’ lives. Dedicated to our mission of discovering, developing and delivering life-saving innovations that help patients prevail over serious diseases, we’ll never give up our search for more hope, for more people, around the world.

Bristol Myers Squibb

We are proud to support the National Minority Quality Forum.

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We want to build on the success of 40 Under 40 to create programming and events—like mentoring and career development workshops—that help cultivate the next generation of healthcare leaders of color. We also want to provide need-based stipends for young minority healthcare professionals to attend the NMQF Summit.
“Here at the NMQF, we are truly excited about this next class of honorees and recognizing them at our annual leadership summit,” stated NMQF President & CEO Dr. Gery Puckrin. “The winners are doing amazing things that both better and diversify the healthcare marketplace. They serve as positive role models for our next generation of leaders in minority health.”
It will take all of us working together to address the stigmas and disparities that fuel the HIV epidemic. By working hand in hand with the community, we are working to break down the barriers that stand in the way of people feeling accepted, seeking the care they need, and being their true selves.

Together we are helping correct common misperceptions and silencing the stigmas around HIV. We are spreading the word through local community events and educational programs such as Health2You and Stop the Virus.

Together we are lifting each other up until HIV is no more.

Gilead is a proud sponsor of NMQSF’s Leadership Summit on Health Disparities

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The National Minority Quality Forum is committed to advancing the ability of the American healthcare system to deliver the highest quality, evidence-based healthcare to all patients, their families, and communities. The ability of the American research, financing, and delivery system to create precision therapies that recognize variability in disease presentation and therapeutic responses, and that are readily available and affordable must be a cornerstone of this reformed system.
Thank you!

Our Vision

To achieve a just and fair health system that ensures equitable access to optimal care.

As the nation’s largest minority healthcare research, education, and advocacy organization, the National Minority Quality Forum is leading the charge for health equity. From data to action, we are working to reduce patient risk and ensure access to optimal care, especially for those who are most vulnerable.