Annual Report
July 2006 – July 2007
IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that we present The Disparities Solutions Center’s second Annual Report. The Disparities Solutions Center, through its balance of service and scholarship, aspires to be the catalyst that brings practical strategies to eliminate disparities directly to key health care stakeholders – including health plans, hospitals, provider organizations, cities and states, foundations, and industry leaders. It also seeks to answer key policy and practice-relevant questions that can pave the way for action to eliminate disparities. We think we’re making progress towards achieving these goals.

Over the course of our second year we are pleased to report many significant accomplishments. These include:

• Continuing to build a diverse, talented team of staff and associates
• Providing leadership to MGH projects focused on identifying and addressing disparities, especially in diabetes and colorectal cancer screening
• Conducting our first Disparities Leadership Program, targeting leaders from hospitals, health plans, and community health centers from around the country
• Developing partnerships to address disparities across the country, including in Puerto Rico and New Orleans
• Leading several web seminars on prominent, timely technical issues and research findings
• Welcoming our first Aetna Disparities Fellow, as well as several medical students for summer research activities

We also continue to play a role in the media, with quotes from the Disparities Solutions Center staff in several newspapers (Boston Globe) and trade newsletters (American Medical News), as well as on several television programs. There is no doubt that we are thrilled with our progress to date, and are proud to say that we continue to add to our seed funding graciously provided to us by Partners HealthCare and Massachusetts General Hospital.

This is, however, no time to rest on our early successes. There is plenty more work to be done. Our dedicated team understands the importance of our efforts, as we know lives hang in the balance. We remain optimistic that we are building a one-of-a-kind center that will make a significant impact on the way health care is delivered in this country. Ultimately, given the issues we will address, we expect that our work will not only improve the care for minority patients, but for all citizens of Boston, the state of Massachusetts, and the United States.

Thank you for your support and interest in our work.

Joseph R. Betancourt, MD, MPH
Director, The Disparities Solutions Center
I. MISSION
The Disparities Solutions Center is dedicated to the development and implementation of strategies that advance policy and practice to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care. The Disparities Solutions Center will achieve this mission by:

• Serving as a change agent by developing new research and translating innovative research findings into policy and practice
• Developing and evaluating customized policy and practice solutions for health care providers, insurers, educators, community organizations, and other stakeholders
• Providing education and leadership training to expand the community of skilled individuals dedicated to eliminating health care disparities

II. ABOUT THE CENTER
The Disparities Solutions Center is the first to be based in a hospital, which supports its practical focus on moving the issue of disparities in health care beyond research and into the arenas of policy and practice. The center will serve as a national, regional, and local resource for hospitals, physician practices, community health centers, medical schools, other health professions schools, health plans and insurers, consumer organizations, state and local governments, foundations, and other key health care stakeholders.

The Disparities Solutions Center has received an initial funding commitment from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Partners HealthCare. Housed within the MGH Institute for Health Policy, the center is affiliated with Harvard Medical School’s Department of Medicine and the MGH Division of General Medicine.

III. MOTIVATION
The creation of The Disparities Solutions Center follows and builds upon a commitment by MGH to eliminate health care disparities. MGH first established a systemwide Committee on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in 2003 to focus internal attention on the challenge of disparities, improve the collection of race/ethnicity data, and implement quality improvement programs to reduce disparities. The center has been established in response to the national and local calls to action to address disparities in health care.

NATIONAL. In March 2002, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released the landmark report Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Care. The IOM report revealed striking disparities in the quality of health care services delivered to minority and white patients. As a result, the IOM urged the development of interventions and educational efforts to eliminate disparities.

BOSTON. Following a two-year process involving health experts, community leaders, and city residents, on June 23, 2005 Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino launched a citywide project aimed at eliminating disparities in health care. The Mayor’s recommendations include concrete action steps for hospitals and other health care organizations.
THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT
The Disparities Solutions Center is preparing two manuscripts that address current issues in the field of cultural competence, quality and racial/ethnic disparities in health care. Providing robust evidence from the medical literature, foundation reports, and other sources; these papers will be targeted toward influencing policy, practice, and end-users in the health care community. To facilitate the transition from publication to public action, the center will also develop a dissemination plan for the findings, reaching out to a wide audience of key health care decision makers.

REGIONAL: BOSTON AND MASSACHUSETTS
BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
The Boston Public Health Commission’s grant program provided funding to hospitals and community health centers for implementing data collection on race, ethnicity, language, and education using a consistent tool. The Disparities Solutions Center provided training, consulting, and technical assistance, including the development and tailoring of a tool kit specific to grantees’ data collection needs, conducting a train-the-trainer session for registrars, and helping grantees identify clinical measures that will best achieve the goal of eliminating disparities in health care.

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS
The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation program “Closing the Gap on Racial and Ethnic Health Care Disparities” aims to enhance access and improve the quality of care provided to racial/ethnic minority populations that are affected by disparities. The Disparities Solutions Center is working with grantees by teaching and leading the development of a shared evaluation framework using the Results Based Accountability Framework. The center is also providing technical assistance with evaluation to grantees during their 3-year grant period.

LOCAL: MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL/ PARTNERS HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
DISPARITIES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
To address the need for leaders with expertise in addressing racial/ethnic disparities in health care, the DSC created The Disparities Leadership Program (DLP). The DLP is a yearlong executive education program designed for leaders from hospitals, health plans, and other health care organizations—such as executive leaders, medical directors, directors of quality, and directors of community benefits or multicultural affairs offices—who wish to implement practical strategies to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care, particularly through quality improvement. Goals of the DLP include:
• The creation of a cadre of leaders in health care equipped with a) in-depth knowledge of the field of disparities, including root causes and research to date; b) state-of-the-art quality improvement strategies for identifying and addressing disparities; and c) the leadership skills to implement these strategies and help transform their organizations.
• Helping individuals from organizations—who may be at the beginning stages or in the middle of developing or implementing an action plan or project to address disparities—to further advance or improve their work in a customized, tailored fashion.

RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES: KEEPING CURRENT WEB SEMINAR SERIES
The Disparities Solutions Center is committed to disseminating the latest information on disparities interventions, findings from important disparities research and health policy updates regarding disparities reduction efforts. In order to disseminate this information to the broadest possible audience in a stimulating and interactive manner, the DSC will host several web seminars each year. These calls feature informative presentations from experts in the field, context, perspectives, and opinions from key health care stakeholders; and opportunity for discussion from all participants.

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL CROSS-CULTURAL CARE COMMITTEE
Drs. Alexander Green and Joseph Betancourt co-chair the Cross-Cultural Care Committee at Harvard Medical School and DSC staff members provide support for the activities of the committee. The committee coordinates efforts to further integrate issues of culture, and how culture impacts health and health care, into the HMS curriculum and faculty development.

MGH COMMITTEE ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES
Faculty and staff from The Disparities Solutions Center provide staffing and technical support to the Committee. In addition, Dr. Joseph Betancourt co-chairs the committee with Joan Quinlan of the MGH Community Benefits Office.

DISPARITIES DASHBOARD
Under the auspices of the Massachusetts General Hospital Committee on Racial and Ethnic Disparities, the Disparities Solutions Center developed and disseminated the hospital’s first report card on racial and ethnic disparities in care in December 2006. The Dashboard provides an overview of the diversity of the hospital’s patients and how they are distributed among hospital services, data regarding interpreter services, clinical quality measures for both inpatient and outpatient services by race/ethnicity, and patient experiences of care for different racial and ethnic groups. Work for the second iteration of the Dashboard is now underway in collaboration with Elizabeth Mart, MD, MPH, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Gregg Meyer, MD, MSc, Senior Vice President for Quality and Safety, Sarah Lenz, Senior Project Specialist of the Clinical Care Management Unit, and Amy Guliano, MPH, Team Leader for Data Analysis and Reporting, among others in a working group focused on this issue.

CHELSEA DIABETES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM*
The Chelsea Diabetes Disparities Program is a quality improvement and disparities reduction intervention targeting poorly controlled diabetic patients at MGH’s Chelsea HealthCare Center. The Disparities Solutions Center is actively involved in the design of this program based on a culturally competent disease management model involving both individual coaching and group visits. The center will conduct the evaluation study to assess improvements in glucose control, patients’ potential barriers to achieving control of their diabetes, and reductions in disparities between Latino and non-Latino white patients. Over two hundred patients are currently active on the evaluation study and initial analysis has shown over 900 individual coaching sessions completed and an average drop in HbA1c levels of 1.4 for patients who had entered the program with uncontrolled diabetes. In addition, qualitative interviews with patients to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the program are now underway. Initial funding provided by MGH.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS (Continued)
The Disparities Solutions Center launched its permanent website in December of 2006. The website, located at www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions.org, contains information about the team at The Disparities Solutions Center, its background and mission, current projects and lines of work, and several interactive resources for the public. Since its launch, the website has experienced over 18,000 visits. The site also provides a forum for communication between the public and the faculty and staff of the DSC using feedback forums and enabling interested parties to add themselves to a distribution list for email newsletters produced by center staff. This list now totals nearly 2,500 members.

**WEB SEMINAR – GETTING IT RIGHT: NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF RACE AND ETHNICITY DATA**

The second in a web seminar series on the use of data collection to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities, “Getting it Right: Navigating the Complexities of Race/Ethnicity Data” was hosted by The Disparities Solutions Center on October 31st of 2006. Panelists included:

- Sara Rosenbaum, JD, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services
- Romana Hasnain-Wynia, PhD, Health Research and Educational Trust/AHA
- Allen Fremont, MD, PhD, RAND Corporation
- Lisa Latts, MD, MBA, WebPoint, Inc.

Panelists focused on the issues of moving forward with data collection and the obstacles, barriers and complexities that may be encountered. 183 people from 157 organizations attended this event. Examples of organizations represented included CMS, The American Medical Association, Humana, and New York University. An archive of the seminar is available on the DSC website at www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions/web.html.

**WEB SEMINAR – KEEPING CURRENT WEB SEMINAR – QUALITY AND DISPARITIES IN HEALTH PLANS: IS THERE A LINK?**

As part of a web seminar series funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Disparities Solutions Center hosted a web seminar entitled “Getting Started: Building a Foundation to Address Disparities through Data Collection” on October 16th, 2006. A panel of experts, included:

- Romana Hasnain-Wynia, PhD, Health Research and Educational Trust/AHA
- Carmella Bocchino, RN, MBA, America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
- Rohit Bhalla, MD, MPH, Montefiore Medical Center
- Maisha Cobb, PhD, Aetna, Inc.

Panelists presented information and answered questions about the practical aspects of data collection and then engaged the audience in a question and answer period. This event was attended by 132 people from 112 organizations. Examples of organizations represented included Harvard Medical School, HRSA, Sinai-Grace Hospital, and Highmark. An archive of the seminar is available on The Disparities Solutions Center website at www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions/web.html.
KEY ACTIVITIES (continued)

KEEPING CURRENT WEB SEMINAR – THE NASI REPORT ON MEDICARE AND DISPARITIES: WHAT CAN CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS) DO?
The Disparities Solutions Center hosted this free, interactive web conference on December 5th, 2006. During the call, Paul Van de Water and Bruce Vladeck discussed the findings and recommendations of the National Academy of Social Insurance Report “Strengthening Medicare’s Role in Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities.” A period for questions and discussion followed the presentation. The event was attended by approximately 50 people and can be accessed at www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions/web.html.

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE/DISPARITIES SOLUTIONS CENTER STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING
In an effort to explore new mainland-island partnerships, and tap into a broad set of expertise on health disparities, on April 12th, 2007 the DSC participated in a Collaborative Planning Meeting with the administration and faculty of the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, and Merck, Inc. who generously provided an unrestricted educational grant to support this effort. Meeting participants provided information about their respective organizations and initiatives, as well as brainstormed about potential areas for collaboration. As a result, participants identified and began to understand a wide range of potential strategies and projects that may be effective in improving quality, addressing disparities, and increasing health service research expertise.

HOLD YOUR BREATH – FILM SCREENING
On May 2nd, 2007, The Disparities Solutions Center, in partnership with Active Voice, Harvard Medical School and the HMS Cross Cultural Care Committee, hosted a screening of the medical documentary “Hold Your Breath” at Harvard Medical School. The film follows the life and death of Mohammad Kochi, who fled his native Afghanistan to start a new life with his family in California, poignantly illuminating the complexity of cross-cultural communication, religion and contemporary medicine in America through Mr. Kochi’s battle with cancer. Following the film screening, The Disparities Solutions Center presented a panel discussion and facilitated a question and answer session. Nearly 125 people attended the screening, including medical students, interpreters, physicians, social workers, community representatives and medical school faculty.

THE DISPARITIES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2007-2008 OPENING MEETING
The Disparities Solutions Center hosted the opening meeting of The Disparities Leadership Program (DLP) on May 29th and 30th in Cambridge, MA. The DLP is a yearlong executive education program designed for leaders from hospitals, health plans and other health care organizations who wish to implement practical strategies to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health care, particularly through quality improvement. This event was jointly sponsored by the National Committee on Quality Assurance, co-sponsored by Joint Commission Resources (an affiliate of the Joint Commission) and partially funded through an unrestricted educational grant from Merck & Co, Inc. Twenty-four participants and one observer from 14 organizations attended, including four health plans, six hospitals, and four community organizations. The meeting was composed of eight speaker panels and four break-out group sessions. Organizations represented included:

- Health New England, Springfield, MA
- Presbyterian Health Plan, Albuquerque, NM
- Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, CA
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Boston, MA
- Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center, Chicago, IL
- Saint Luke’s Health System, Kansas City, MO
- Boston Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA
- Tufts-New England Medical Center and Floating Hospital for Children, Boston, MA
- Baylor Health Care System, Dallas, TX
- Great Brook Valley Health Center, Worcester, MA
- Harbor Health Services, Inc., Dorchester, MA
- Access Community Health Network, Chicago, IL
- Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness, Louisville, KY

WEB SEMINAR - HOSPITALS, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE: A DISCUSSION OF THE JOINT COMMISSION’S SURVEY OF CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICES
On June 29, 2007, The Disparities Solutions Center kicked off a year-long web seminar series funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. These 90-minute, interactive, web-based seminars are free and open to the public. The inaugural seminar, entitled “Hospitals, Language, and Culture: A Discussion of the Joint Commission’s Survey of Culturally Competent Practices,” discussed a three-year, cross-sectional qualitative study, funded by the California Endowment exploring how 60 hospitals across the country have adapted their systems to provide health care to culturally and linguistically diverse patient populations. Panelists included:

- Paul Schyve, MD, Senior Vice President, Joint Commission.
- Amy Wilson-Stronks MPP, CPHQ, Project Director in the Division of Standards and Survey Methods and the Principal Investigator for the study Hospitals, Language, and Culture: A Snapshot of the Nation, Joint Commission.
- Gordon Alexander, MD, President, University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview.

339 participants viewed the web seminar, which is archived at www.massgeneral.org/disparitiessolutions/web.html.
The Disparities Solutions Center was founded with a $3 million grant from Massachusetts General Hospital and Partners HealthCare. In addition, the center has been awarded the following grants and contracts:

### YEAR 1
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: $511,250
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation: $55,639
- The State of Delaware: $45,830
- The California Endowment: $28,854
- Boston Public Health Commission: $25,000
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: $15,000
- Harvard Medical School: $15,000
- Total: $696,573

### YEAR 2
- Jane’s Trust: $125,000
- National Committee for Quality Assurance: $15,498
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation: $25,334
- HMS Academy Center for Teaching and Learning: $10,000
- Merck: $50,000
- Patient Donation: $40,000
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: $499,644
- Aetna Foundation: $100,000
- Total: $865,476

The following proposals, either recently submitted or in preparation for submission, are currently pending:

**UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**
The Disparities Solutions Center is exploring a relationship with the University of Puerto Rico Medical School’s Center of Excellence in Health Disparities. Under the leadership of their new Dean, former Professor of Rehabilitative Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Spaulding Hospital, Dr. Walter Frontera, the DSC is identifying ways in which it can provide educational and technical assistance to their broad portfolio of disparities projects.

**ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER OF NEW ORLEANS, LA**
The Disparities Solutions Center is currently building a relationship with the St. Thomas Community Health Center, a non-profit, independent health center that provides care and support to the uninsured and poor people of New Orleans post-Katrina. In an effort to expand and improve the services they provide to a community in need given the absence of safety net facilities, St. Thomas has recently sought assistance from a team from Massachusetts General Hospital, led by the Disparities Solutions Center, to address the following three areas critical to their success: disparities, cross-cultural care, and mental health. Specifically, they sought consultation around assuring that their system of health care delivery was equitable and culturally sensitive. To address these, Dr. Joseph R. Betancourt is seeking a developing a planning grant proposal that will address ways to collaborate with our partners in New Orleans to develop a clear plan of action and assistance.

**DISPARITIES SOLUTIONS CENTER FILM SERIES**
The Disparities Solutions Center, in partnership with the MGH Multicultural Affairs Office, will host a film series in 2008. The ultimate goal of the series is to raise the quality of medical care, through the improvement of communication during the medical encounter with particular regard to cultural competence issues. Over the course of the year, three films will be shown at various locations throughout the city of Boston, including MGH and the Longwood Medical Area. Each film will be followed by a panel discussion, a question and answer period, and, where possible, participants will also be invited to engage in small group discussions and given tools that correlate to the material in the film for use in their subsequent professional and academic work. This series will be evaluated using health services research practices in order to determine to what extent and in what ways the information presented is utilized by audience members following the screening.
ELIZABETH DONAHUE, BA – PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
Ms. Donahue joined MGH after completing a Bachelor of Arts with dual concentrations in history and communications at Boston College. As an undergraduate research assistant, Ms. Donahue worked on projects that studied the effects of interpersonal control tactics on mental health outcomes and nonverbal communication behaviors in conversations about physical and mental health. She has completed internships in grant and public policy research with the Office of Congressman Barney Frank and in public relations with WCVB-TV. Ms. Donahue has also been involved in several volunteer programs, most recently with Amor Ministries in Tijuana, Mexico.

MARIA-PAMELA JANAIRO, BA – PROGRAM ASSOCIATE
Ms. Janairo completed her undergraduate work at Brown University, obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethnic Studies with a focus in Race in Medicine and Public Health. While at Brown, Ms. Janairo researched the effectiveness of cultural competency education in medical school curricula. In addition, she served as a research assistant to establish a community health worker resource center within an underserved population in Providence. She was also awarded the Peter Rizzo Cyprus Research Fellowship and has volunteered for various international organizations, in particular, in the Philippines.

WANDA VEGA – PROGRAM ASSISTANT
Ms. Vega recently completed four years with the Clinical Care Management Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital, which provides the infrastructure necessary for MGH to analyze and improve the quality and efficiency of its clinical services. She transferred to the Clinical Care Management Unit from the Center for Integration of Medicine & Innovative Technology’s (CIMIT), where she coordinated The Forum, a vital tool used to create collaborations for patient benefit. Prior to working at MGH, Ms. Vega completed ten years of government service with the Environmental Protection Agency.
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In order to respond to national and local calls to action to address disparities in health care, it is essential for the DSC to build a strong network of experts and researchers to broaden its skill set and talents. As a result, the DSC has developed an Associates Program, following the principles of partnership and collaboration.

The DSC Associates are a diverse group of health care professionals – including health policy experts, health service researchers, among others – who are committed to developing concrete, practical solutions to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities. The Associates work with the DSC Senior Staff on projects that build on their joint expertise, and serve to meet the needs of the field.

DSC Associates benefit from:
• Access to new funding opportunities
• Access to center expertise for project collaboration
• 2-year renewable appointments

DSC Associates responsibilities include:
• Attending one strategic planning meeting per year with DSC Faculty and other Associates
• Attending major DSC sponsored events
• Promoting the DSC and the Associates Program when opportunities arise
• Initiation of at least one collaborative project with DSC during 2-year tenure

To enter the Program, potential Associates must be recommended by a DSC faculty member and:
• Must have a demonstrated interest in eliminating disparities through research, quality improvement, leadership, or other efforts that can build on the DSC’s efforts
• Must have either MD, RN, PhD or similar degree (note: extensive experience will be taken into consideration in place of degree)

2006-2008 DSC ASSOCIATES

ALEXY ARAUZ-BOUDREAU, MD, MPH - AETNA/DISPARITIES SOLUTIONS CENTER (DSC) HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES FELLOW
Dr. Kimbrough-Sugick recently completed an MPH program in Health Management and Policy at Harvard School of Public Health. Before obtaining her MPH, she spent two years at Henry Ford Health Systems, where she practiced as a primary care physician. She has lectured for faith-based collaboratives designed to empower racial and ethnic minorities through health education, as well as community service activities that focus on mentoring disadvantaged children and introducing them to the health care profession. She attended Wayne State University School of Medicine and completed her medical training in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

ARETHA DELIGHT DAVIS, JD -- SUMMER INTERN
Aretha is a second year student at Harvard Medical School. Prior to medical school, Aretha represented corporate entities in connection with federal criminal investigations and prosecutions as a litigation associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP. She also spent two years as a Philadelphia Bar Foundation Fellow at the Pennsylvania Health Law Project engaged in both direct and executive-level advocacy on behalf of Medicaid recipients. Prior to law school, Aretha worked with health policy officials and primary care practitioners in the development of prenatal nutritional guidelines in Guyana, South America, as a Stride-Rite Post Grad Fellow. Aretha received her Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College and her law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

JOSE FIGEUROA, BS -- STUDENT RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAM (SRTP) INTERN
Jose Figueroa graduated in 2005 from the University of Houston, obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. As an undergraduate, Jose was involved in numerous research projects at UH, Baylor College of Medicine, and the Yale School of Medicine studying behavior and circadian rhythms, nicotine addiction, and cardiovascular immunology. After graduating, Jose went on to complete a Post-Baccalaureate at the Yale University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. He then entered Harvard Medical School and is currently transitioning into his second year in the fall. This summer through the MGH Summer Research Training Program (SRTP), Jose is working under the mentorship of Dr. Alexander Green and Dr. Joseph Betancourt at the Disparities Solutions Center helping perform a qualitative evaluation of the MGH Chelsea Diabetes Management Program.

DISPARITIES SOLUTIONS CENTER FUTURE HIRES

The center is in the process of screening and interviewing applications for a Master’s-level Project Coordinator position. This position will be responsible for coordinating and evaluating a wide variety of projects related to reducing racial and ethnic disparities. In addition, the center plans to hire a college student seeking a part-time position to help with research, providing support staff at meetings and other tasks.

DSC ASSOCIATES PROGRAM
ANGELLEEN PETERS-LEWIS, RN, PHD
Gastroenterology Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital
Areas of Interest: Racial and ethnic disparities in colorectal cancer screening

ANDREA E. REID, MD, MPH
Program Director, Gastroenterology Training Program, Massachusetts General Hospital
Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Areas of Interest: Clinical outcomes and therapies of Hepatitis C and minority access to liver transplantation

VALERIE E. STONE, MD
Director, Primary Care Residency Program, Massachusetts General Hospital
Director, Women’s HIV/AIDS Program, Massachusetts General Hospital
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Areas of Interest: Racial and ethnic disparities in HIV/AIDS

NHI-HA TRINH, MD, MPH
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School
Graduate Assistant, Massachusetts General Hospital and Geriatric Psychiatry Fellow, McLean Hospital
Areas of Interest: Mental Health Disparities for Depression in Minority Patients, Geriatric and Community Psychiatry

JOEL S. WEISSMAN, PHD
Associate Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Senior Scientist, Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital
Areas of Interest: Racial and ethnic disparities and access to care for the uninsured, delays in treatment, preventable hospitalizations, quality and patient safety, health care financing including uncompensated care, drug policy, and academic-industry relationships in biomedical research

WINFRED W. WILLIAMS, MD
Director, Multicultural Affairs Office, Massachusetts General Hospital
Areas of Interest: Hypertension, end-stage renal disease, liver transplantation and racial and ethnic disparities in renal transplantation

ALBERT YEUNG, MD, SCD
Director of Primary Care Studies at the MGH Depression Clinical and Research Program
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
Areas of Interest: Integrating primary care and mental health services to improve treatment of depression, mental health issues of under-served populations, and using complementary and alternative treatment for mood disorders

ERIC G. CAMPBELL, PHD
Senior Scientist, Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital
Assistant Professor, MGH Department of Medicine & Harvard Medical School
Areas of Interest: Science policy, academic-industry relations

LINDA A. CLAYTON, MD, MPH
Associate Medical Director, Division of Medical Assistance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Public Health Practice, Harvard School of Public Health
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Areas of Interest: Health policy and concerns impacting African American and other disadvantaged minorities in the United States health system

NAKELA COOK, MD, MPH
Research and Clinical Fellow in Cardiology, Massachusetts General Hospital
Areas of Interest: Differences in the incidence, progression, and outcomes of cardiovascular disease among members of different races and between genders

TIMOTHY G. FERRIS, MD, MPH, MPhIL, MPH
Medical Director, Massachusetts General Physicians Organization
Senior Scientist, Institute for Health Policy, Massachusetts General Hospital
Assistant Professor, Medicine and Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School
Areas of Interest: Measurement and improvement of health care quality for adults and children, effects of the organization and financing of care on the costs and quality of care, risk adjustment of quality measures, and disparities in health care

KATHERINE L. FLAHERTY, SCD
Director, Health Access and Community Partnerships, Community Benefit Programs, Partners HealthCare System
Areas of Interest: Access to health services for low-income and uninsured populations, program development, management and evaluation, and public policy development and analyses in areas such as maternal and child health and disease management

LENNY LOPEZ, MD, MPH, MDIV
Instructor, Harvard Medical School
Associate Physician, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Research and Clinical Fellow in General Internal Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
Areas of Interest: Racial and ethnic disparities in health care, cardiovascular health in minority populations, graduate medical education, quality and patient safety.

SANJA PECAC-LUM, MD, PHD, DMD
Department of Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
Areas of Interest: Improving colorectal cancer screening rates by lowering barriers in low income and non-English speaking populations

DSC ASSOCIATES PROGRAM (Continued)
Lenny Lopez, Sanja Percac-Lima, Nhi-Ha Trinh and Albert Yeung accepted invitations to join The Disparities Solutions Center as Associates over the past year, bringing the total participation in the program to 17 nurses, physicians, and researchers. The DSC Associates also had their inaugural annual meeting on November 17, 2006. This meeting allowed the faculty and staff of the DSC to formally welcome the Associates and discuss much of the work being done by the center. In addition, Associates were able to provide feedback on several key questions presented by center faculty and discuss opportunities for collaboration. The second annual meeting is now being planned for November of 2007.

In terms of involvement in other DSC activities, four Associates participated, as panel speakers or moderators, in our inaugural meeting of The Disparities Leadership Program, a program designed by the DSC to address the need for leaders with expertise in addressing racial/ethnic disparities in health care. These Associates were able to share their experiences and advice with health care leaders from across the country in a two-day meeting. Four Associates are also involved in disease management programs in partnership with the Disparities Solutions Center, encompassing the disease areas of diabetes, colorectal cancer and mental health. Finally, an Associate of the Center is currently contributing to a potential collaboration between The Disparities Solutions Center and the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine, including attendance at a strategic planning meeting in April of 2007.
THE DISPARITIES SOLUTIONS CENTER
at MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Dedicated to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health care

Massachusetts General Hospital
Partners HealthCare
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