



Dr. Thomas LaVeist
2013 Award Recipient

3rd ANNUAL SHIRLEY NATHAN-PULLIAM HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE SERIES

Presented by

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities
University of Maryland School of Public Health
Center for Health Equity**

Maryland's Eastern Shore Health Equity Summit

**“Health Reform to Health Equity on
Maryland's Eastern Shore”**

October 11, 2013

Dr. Thomas A. LaVeist, is the William C. and Nancy F. Richardson Professor in Health Policy and Director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, his doctorate degree in medical sociology from the University of Michigan and post-doctoral fellowship in public health at the Michigan School of Public Health.

Dr. LaVeist has published more than 100 articles in scientific journals including Health Affairs, Journal of General Internal Medicine, American Journal of Public Health, American Journal of Epidemiology, American Journal of Sociology, Milbank Quarterly, Medical Care, Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Ethnicity and Disease, Health Services Research, and Social Science

& Medicine. He is a highly sought after lecturer at leading universities, corporations, professional conferences and workshops. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Center for Disease Control, Department of Defense, Commonwealth Fund, Sage Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research.

Dr. LaVeist has provided consultation services for numerous federal agencies and healthcare organizations on minority health and cultural competency issues and racial disparities in health. His dissertation on racial disparities in infant mortality was awarded the 1989 Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award by the American Sociological Association. He is the recipient of the “Innovation Award” from the National Institutes of Health, and the “Knowledge Award” from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health.

In addition to his scholarly writing, Dr. LaVeist has written articles for Newsweek Magazine, Black Enterprise Magazine, and the Baltimore Sun. The second edition of his edited volume, *Race, Ethnicity and Health: A Public Health Reader* (Jossey-Bass Publishers) was published fall 2012. His textbook, *Minority Populations and Health: An Introduction to Race, Ethnicity and Health in the United States*, (Jossey-Bass) was published in 2005. He is also the author of *The DayStar Guide to Colleges for African American Students* (Stanly Kapkin/Simon and Schuster), and co-author of “8 Steps to Help Black Families Pay for College (Princeton Review/Random House). His most recent book project, *Legacy of the Crossing: Life, Death, and Triumph among Descendants of the World's Largest Forced Migration* is planned for publication in 2014



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Dr. J. Nadine Gracia
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Dr. J. Nadine Gracia is the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and the Director of the Office of Minority Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Office of Minority Health is dedicated to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority populations through the development of health policies and programs that will help eliminate health disparities. Under Dr. Gracia's leadership, the Office of Minority Health oversees the implementation of the HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities and the National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities.

A pediatrician with epidemiology training, Dr. Gracia previously served as Chief Medical Officer for the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health. There, she

provided policy and programmatic leadership for a portfolio that included child and adolescent health, climate change, disaster preparedness, environmental health, global health, Haiti recovery, and the White House Council on Women and Girls. She led the development of the HHS 2012 Environmental Justice Strategy.

Dr. Gracia is a former White House Fellow, serving at HHS in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and the Office of the Secretary. She also served as a policy advisor in the Office of the First Lady, assisting in the development of the *Let's Move!* initiative to solve childhood obesity.

An honors graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Gracia received her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh and holds a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed postgraduate training at

Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, where she was Chief Pediatrics Resident. She served as a clinical instructor and general pediatrics research fellow at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, conducting research on community risk factors for violence. Dr. Gracia is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

A first-generation Haitian-American, Dr. Gracia is an advocate for minority and underserved populations and lectures nationwide on health disparities and health equity. She has been named one of The Griot's 100 History Makers in the Making and one of Washington's Powerful Women by BET. Dr. Gracia is a National President Emeritus of the Student National Medical Association and a past Postgraduate Physician Trustee of the National Medical Association.



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