



Robert Pestronk, Executive Director, National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)

As Executive Director for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in Washington, D.C. since November 2008, Robert M. (Bobby) Pestronk represents our nation's local health departments and their staff who protect and promote health, prevent disease, and seek to establish the social foundations for wellness in nearly every community across the United States. Mr. Pestronk received the M.P.H. from the University of Michigan School of Public

Health with concentrations in human nutrition and health planning and administration. He received the A.B. in politics from Princeton University.

Prior to his position at NACCHO, he served as Health Officer in Genesee County, Michigan for 22 years where, among other accomplishments, he was recognized for: establishing the 26,000 member Genesee Health Plan, some of Michigan's earliest public and work place tobacco control regulations, and Genesee County's Public Health week conference; introducing a culture of efficacy, efficiency, accountability and quality improvement within his Department; reducing infant mortality rates and the racial disparity among those rates; increasing foundation and federal funding for the Department's work; involving local residents and his Board in three five-year cycles of successful Departmental strategic planning; and, creating productive relationships with university and community-based organizations. His Health Department was fully accredited by the State of Michigan.

Mr. Pestronk is a member of the Board of Directors for the Ruth Mott Foundation. He is a past Board member of NARSAD, the Mental Health Research Association, the Michigan Health Officers Association (of which he is a past President) and of the Michigan Association for Local Public Health. He is a Primary Care Policy Fellow through the United States Department of Health and Human Services and trained as a Scholar through the Public Health Leadership Institute. He is Past President of the Primary Care Fellowship Society and Past President of the Public Health Leadership Society Council. He was a member of the Institute of Medicine Public Health Roundtable and of the National Advisory Committee for Turning Point: Collaborating for a New Century of Public Health. He was the first President of the Public Health Law Association. He served on the Board of the Greater Flint Health Coalition, the Rotary Club of Flint (Michigan), Priority Children, and Temple Bethel.

The University of Michigan School of Public Health honored him as a Distinguished Alumnus and he was the first recipient of the John H Romani Award from the Department of Health Management and Policy at the School of Public Health. The American Lung Association, Genesee Valley, has honored him as Professional of the Year and subsequently as Health Advocate of the Year.

Bobby's published work includes articles in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice, the Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, the Journal of the American Public Health Association, Health Education and Behavior, Public Health Reports, and the Journal of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. Chapters in books include those published by the American Public Health Association and Oxford University Press.

## Noreen M. Clark, Ph.D.

**Noreen M. Clark, Ph.D.** is the Myron E. Wegman Distinguished University Professor; Professor of Health Behavior & Health Education; Professor of Pediatrics; and Director of the Center for Managing Chronic Disease at the University of Michigan. From 1995-2005 she served as Dean of Public Health and Marshall H. Becker Professor of Public Health at the University of Michigan. She is interested in systems, policies and programs that promote health, prevent illness, and enable individuals and communities to manage disease. Dr. Clark has served in numerous leadership positions. She currently serves as the National Program Director for the *Alliance to Reduce Disparities in Diabetes*. She served as the Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation *Allies Against Asthma* National Program. She is Director of Evaluation for the *Food and Community* initiative of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, *Safety-Net Enhancement Initiative* of the Kresge Foundation, and *Merck Childhood Asthma Network Care Coordination Initiative*. She has been a member of the Advisory Council of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She has been president of the Society for Public Health Education and chair of the Public Health Education Section of the American Public Health Association. She has served as chair of the Behavioral Science Section of the American Thoracic Society, as a member of the Pulmonary Diseases Advisory Committee for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and as a member of the Institute's Advisory Committee on Prevention, Education, and Control. She has served on the CDC's Task Force on Community Preventive Services. She serves on the Expert Panel of the Department of Health and Human Services Multiple Chronic Conditions Framework task force. She recently served as Vice Chair of the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care and Education.

She was a member of the Advisory Group on Asthma, and the Lung Diseases Care and Education Committee of the NIH. She has served on both the Board and Council of the ALA. She is the former editor of Health Education and Behavior and Associate Editor of Annual Reviews of Public Health. Among other honors, she is the recipient of the Distinguished Fellow Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Society for Public Health Education; the Derryberry Award for outstanding contribution to health education in behavioral science given by the American Public Health Association (APHA); the Health Education Research Award conferred by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for leadership and research contributions; the Distinguished Career Award in Health Education and Promotion given by the APHA; the Behavioral Science Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Thoracic Society; and the Healthtrac Education Prize. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Clark directs the Center for Managing Chronic Disease, a unique research and demonstration effort that involves a network of researchers and interventionists worldwide who study the social, behavioral, clinical, and community aspects of disease management. The Center's aim is to build the capacity for effective chronic disease prevention and management. The focus of this work is people at risk as well as those who can help them—family, clinicians, communities, and systems.

Dr. Clark's research specialty is management of chronic disease, and she has conducted many large-scale studies and program evaluations. She is attempting to identify the elements of self-regulation, and uses management of chronic illnesses as a model for examining constructs. Her studies of disease management have contributed to the research literature and the field of practice by demonstrating that educational interventions for patients and providers can decrease asthma and heart related hospitalizations and medical emergencies. Her work has resulted in an archetype educational program for health care facilities and communities distributed by the NIH and used nationally and internationally. A program that adapted the model for use in public schools is being disseminated by the ALA and has to date reached over a million school children. Other model programs for management of asthma and heart disease by patients, clinicians, and communities, including PACE (Physician Asthma Care Education), are used worldwide. New models, for example, related to diabetes, obesity, and epilepsy are currently being studied by Dr. Clark and her research team.

Dr. Clark has extensive international experience. Her work, for example, has included testing of interventions designed to improve health status, quality of life, and collaborative activity among rural people in Kenya and in the Philippines, and urban dwellers in Beijing, China. In addition, she has been a consultant for a wide range of international organizations including the Ethiopian Women's Welfare Association, the Ministry of Education in Nepal, the Asia Foundation in Pakistan, the Directorate of Health in Portugal, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Synergos Institute, the Community Health Authority of Madrid, and the Beijing Heart, Lung and Vessel Institute, among others. She serves on the board of directors of World Education Inc., Family Care International and the Synergos Institute. Dr. Clark served on the Overseas Development Council, and on the board of the Aaron Diamond Foundation. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Biosketch for Diabetes Alliance:**

Dr. Belinda Nelson is a Research Investigator at the University of Michigan, Center for Managing Chronic Disease (CMCD). She has worked closely with the director, Dr. Noreen Clark on several asthma management interventions and projects over the past 10 years. As part of her work with the CMCD (which is the National Program Office for the Alliance to Reduce Disparities in Diabetes), Dr. Nelson currently serves as the community liaison. She provides technical assistance and general support for the five community-based projects of the Alliance: Camden, New Jersey; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Fort Washakie, Wyoming; and Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. Nelson's background is in Social Work and Psychology, and she has worked with diverse patients and community groups. Her current research interests include chronic disease, coping, and health behaviors among aging women, with a special focus on economically disadvantaged women. Currently she is an advisor and senior intervention counselor for the Women of Color with Asthma project, a program designed by the Center specifically for African American women with asthma. She is also collaborating with other colleagues in the CMCD to study the role of peer support for diabetes self-management among older African American women. Dr. Nelson's interests have continuously focused on the health and well-being of economically disadvantaged groups and communities as profiled in Jet and Essence magazines.