

July 17, 2012

The W. Montague Cobb/Health Institute has recently established a community of Scholars as a part of the implementation of the 2011-2013 Strategic Plan. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Cobb Institute, We would like to invite you to be a member of the **inaugural class of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute Senior Fellows** who will become the foundation of the community of scholars that the Institute strives to create. The Cobb Senior Fellows will be comprised of those who have distinguished themselves broadly in addressing Healthcare Disparities mainly through work in research, but also through clinical care, and/or mentoring.

The Fellowship is being developed in the spirit of and with the sense of vision and urgency of William Montague Cobb, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D. who was concerned about disparities of any type that were preventable and unreasonable. We subscribe to the belief that just as ethnically based health disparities are multifactorial in their causes, solutions must utilize dynamic leaders such as yourself who have addressed the issue in a variety of ways.

The purposes of the Senior Fellows of the Cobb Institute include the following:

1. Honor a prestigious group of senior leaders and scholars with outstanding career achievement and broad interests in health disparities.
2. Form a Community of Scholars that will support the implementation of the Cobb Institute mission, vision and goals including new initiatives in health disparities research and intervention.
3. Serve as members of the editorial board for a new journal of ethnic health Disparities to be launched by the Cobb Institute later this year.
4. As a group, act as mentors for mid-career level and early career research specialists, this will include work in addressing the paucity of African American scholars who are funded researches by federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Health.

It is our vision that there will be three categories of Fellows in the Cobb Institute. The Senior Fellows will be selected first, followed by Active Fellows and Associates who will look to the fellows as mentors and as role models.

**Cobb Institute Distinguished Fellows--Nominees
Inaugural Class 2012
July 17, 2012**

Dr. Joseph Betancourt
Dr. Carolyn Britton
Dr. W. Michael Byrd
Dr. Donna Christensen
Dr. Linda Clayton
Dr. James Gavin
Dr. George Hill
Dr. Rodney Hood
Dr. Camera Jones
Dr. Edith Irby Jones
Dr. Lovell Jones
Dr. Cato Laurencin
Dr. Thomas LaVeist
Dr. Robert Like
Dr. Edith Mitchell
Dr. Roderic Pettigrew
Dr. Vivian Pinn
Dr. Griffin Rodgers
Dr. John Ruffin
Dr. David Satcher
Dr. Brian Smedley
Dr. Louis Sullivan
Dr. Augustus White
Dr. Richard Allen Williams
Dr. Gail Wyatt