

Introduction

For over two decades, the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc. (AMHPS) has sponsored the Annual Symposium on Career Opportunities in the Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions. The 24th Annual Biomedical Symposium on Career Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions was held in Birmingham, Alabama at the Sheraton Hotel, from April 16th-17th and was hosted by Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health of Tuskegee, Alabama; and was attended by approximately 300 students from around the country.

These young people represent the Scientists and Health Professionals of the future. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm exhibited by these young people and hope they benefited from interacting with some of the country's most accomplished minority scientists and health professionals.

I'd like to acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors. It is with their support that we are able to continue to provide the high caliber Annual Symposia that our attendees and exhibitors have come to expect. Many leaders in medicine, research, health services and government come together to assist us in advocating on behalf of future health professionals and scientists.

Thank you,

Thomas Adams
Director of Programs & Operations, AMHPS

Celebrating 24 years of excellence: The Annual Symposium on Career Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences & Health Professions

The 24th Annual Symposium on Career Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences was held in Birmingham, Alabama. Tuskegee University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health, served as the host institution for the event. At this year's event, there were 299 minority high school juniors and seniors, and undergraduate students in attendance.

Students were provided an opportunity to interact with professionals from a wide spectrum of biomedical science and health professions fields. This interaction was achieved through educational workshops, interactive sessions, exhibits/career fairs and poster presentations. The following provides an overview of the activities in which students participated at the 24th Annual Symposium.

Through various workshops, the Symposium was able to disseminate information on career opportunities in pharmaceutical sciences, veterinary medicine, public health and medicine, as well as career pathways into the biomedical sciences and health professions.

Additionally, workshops offered information on undergraduate and graduate school preparation. Workshop presenters, made up of research and teaching faculty at AMHPS member schools in addition to renowned minority scientists, were an integral part of the Symposium.

The Symposium featured approximately thirty-five (35) concurrent workshops, each pertaining to a different constellation of biomedical science and health professions careers. The goal of these workshops was to encourage students to continue on a track focused on a science career. Speakers in these sessions were established professionals at their respective institutes, agencies, institutions and corporations.

Workshop sessions included:

- Career Opportunities in Medicine, Science, and Health
- Choosing a Career in Public Health
- What is a Physician Assistant?
- Growing Into a Forensic Scientist
- Careers in Veterinary Medicine
- Becoming A Scientist: Considerations for the Minority Student in Choosing a Career in Science
- Exploring Allied Health Careers that Address Health Care Disparities in Communities of Color

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS) Mission & History

AMHPS has a three-fold mission that includes:

1. Improving the health status of African-Americans and other minorities
2. Growing the representation of qualified African-Americans and other minorities in the health professions.
3. Strengthening our institutions and programs as well as other programs throughout the nation, this in turn will improve the role of minorities in the provision of health care.

The Association of Minority Health Professions Schools (AMHPS) was established in 1976 by Dr. Louis Sullivan, President Emeritus of the Morehouse School of Medicine, Dr. Walter Bowie, then Dean of the Tuskegee Institute School of Veterinary Medicine, Anthony Rachal, the Executive Vice President of Xavier University of Louisiana, College of Pharmacy, and the late Dr. Charles Walker, then Dean of College of Pharmacy at Florida A&M University. The Association was formed to provide a means by which the need for a national minority health agenda could be effectively addressed.

Today, AMHPS includes 12 historically black medical, dental, pharmacy and veterinary schools. The members include two schools of dentistry, four schools of medicine, five schools of pharmacy and one school of veterinary medicine. To learn more about AMHPS institutions please visit <http://www.minorityhealth.org/members.php>

Our 12 colleges and universities have educated and trained 50 percent of all African American physicians, 50 percent of all African American dentists, 50 percent of all African American pharmacists and 80 percent of all African American veterinarians in the United States. We have also educated 10 percent of all African Americans with doctorates in the biomedical sciences and related disciplines in the United States.

Without our schools there would be a greater under representation of African-American medical and health professionals in the United States. AMHPS continues to have a significant impact in training the nation's best and brightest biomedical scientists and health professionals of color.

Exhibitors at the 24th Annual Symposium

Michigan State University

Hampton University -School of Pharmacy*

UAG School of Medicine

American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (ASBMB)

National Library of Medicine

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Schools of Public Health Application Services (SOPHAS)

FAMU – College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences*

Tuskegee University -College of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing and Allied Health*

Texas Southern University - College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences*

Southern Research Institute

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.

Charles R. Drew -College of Medicine*

Howard University - College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Sciences*

American Academy of Physician Assistants

Meharry Medical College*

Drug Enforcement Administration

* AMHPS Member Institution

Sponsors Special Recognition

The Annual Symposium is a major project and would be impossible to hold were it not for the generous support received from our sponsors.

It is with that in mind that AMHPS would like to give special recognition to the following sponsors.

Platinum (\$75,000 and above)

- **UnitedHealth Foundation**
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
Office of the Director (OD), National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

Gold (\$50,000 – 74,999)

- **The United States Department of Health and Human Services**
The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- **Food and Drug Administration**

Bronze (\$1,500 - \$24,999)

American Academy of Physician Assistants
Baxter International
Blue Cross/ Blue Shield Association
California Healthcare Foundation
CVS/pharmacy
Genentech
Greater Birmingham Convention and Visitor Bureau
McDonalds' of Alabama
Nth Dimensions Education Solutions, Inc.
Pfizer, Inc.
The Slavitt Family
The United States Food and Drug Administration
WellPoint Foundation and Social Responsibility

Survey Says!!!!!!

Since 1985 over 12,000 students have participated in the Association of Minority Health Professions Schools, Inc.'s (AMHPS) Annual Symposium on Career Opportunities in Biomedical Sciences and Health Professions. AMHPS recently conducted a Symposium impact report covering years 2000-2004. Sixty-one percent (61%) of Symposia alumni surveyed stated the Biomedical Symposium influenced their choice of college major. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the Symposia alumni surveyed stated the Biomedical Symposium influenced their professional career choice. Thirty-two percent (32%) of the alumni surveyed indicated they were employed in a medical field and 7% stated they were employed in the field of biomedical sciences. These statistics are compared to the 10% of minorities in the medical field and the 2.6% of minorities in the biomedical science field. As a result of these findings, AMHPS is extremely encouraged about the efficacy of the Symposium.

We want to add to our data by continuing to assess the impact of our Annual Symposium and other student development programs. Please complete the AMHPS Student Develop Survey at <http://www.minorityhealth.org/survey.php>. AMHPS is interested in knowing about your academic choices and career paths since participating in the Symposium and/or other AMHPS' student development programs. In part, the information you provide will help us assess the value of the student development programs offered at AMHPS and help us determine our overall impact. This information will also assist AMHPS in obtaining continued funding for this event and ensure that future students receive an opportunity to participate in the Symposium. Your responses will remain completely confidential therefore you can be as honest as you wish.

We thank you in advance for participating in the AMHPS Student Development survey.

AMHPS Meets Facebook



AMHPS is now on Facebook! We want to stay connected with you. Become a Fan of AMHPS and stay up-to-date on AMHPS programs, announcements, newsletters, and events. You'll also be able to keep us current on all of your accomplishments. As you progress through your educational and professional journey, AMHPS wants to be there every step of the way providing encouragement, information and resources.

Please join AMHPS on [Facebook here](#).

2010 Scholarship and Poster Competition Winners

Scholarships

In the quest to expand the involvement of minorities in the health professions, AMHPS offers 3 scholarships a year to assist outstanding students in pursuing their education. AMHPS also hosts a poster competition for both High School and College students where students present their research to fellow students and have it critiqued by the AMHPS Research Advisory Committee.

Annually, the Symposium provides an opportunity for students to receive scholarships. The Robert N. Black, Sr. Scholarship Award was established in 2000 by his son, Dr. Keith Black, Director of Neurosurgery of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. The Robert N. Black, Sr. scholarship is awarded to one high school and one undergraduate student who demonstrate a commitment to their studies and exhibit social cultural awareness of their community. The winners of the 24th Annual Biomedical Symposium Robert N. Black Scholarships were Jasmine Roberts and Glory Okwori.

The Carol B. Lewis Scholarship was established in 2003 on behalf of the late Executive Director of the Minority Health Professions Foundation. The scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student attending an AMHPS member institution, the Annual Symposium, and who has exhibited a commitment to community service and a commitment to the health professions. The Carol B. Lewis Scholarship was not awarded at the 24th Annual Symposium.

The Margie and Reed Tuckson Scholarship was established in 2009 by Dr. and Mrs. Tuckson. The scholarship will be awarded annually to one male and one female student enrolled in one of the AMHPS medical schools. The scholarship winners are selected based upon their desire and capacity to address health disparities in the African American community. The winners of the 24th Annual Symposium Margie and Reed Tuckson Scholarship were Chrystina Jeter and Orville Newton-Ray Bignall II, students enrolled at Charles Drew University and Meharry Medical College, respectively.

Poster Presentations

Students actively involved in research projects throughout the year were given the opportunity to orally present their research projects to the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the AMHPS; these mentored projects were in conjunction with on-going research. Seven students submitted abstracts for poster presentations; of those, four students were selected to participate in the 2010 Poster Presentation competition. Based on their poster presentations, students competed for awards for 1st and 2nd place; the following students were awarded prizes for their participation in the competition:

- High School Category
 1. Jasmine Roberts, Paul R. Wharton High School, Florida, The Efficacy Of Gene Cell Therapy Using CD11b+ Monocytes Transfected With Protease As A Treatment For Alzheimer's Disease
 2. Maria Alatorre, Arsenal Technical High School, Indiana, Chemogene Therapy For Colon Cancer
- Undergraduate Category
 1. Amber Johnson, Alabama State University, Alabama, Examining Self-Concept of High Ability Children with Autism
 2. Jessica Thomas, Alabama State University, Alabama, *In Vivo* Identification of Proneurogenic Pharmacologic Agents for Treatment of Schizophrenia

Facts About The 24th Annual Symposium

Race/Ethnicity

Of the 299 students who participated in this year's conference, students' self-described their race and ethnicity as follows:

76%	African American
3%	American Indian/Alaska Native
3%	Asian American/Pacific Islander
1%	Caucasian
13%	Hispanic American/Latino
4%	Multi-racial

Gender

65% (194) of participants were female and 35% (105) were male.

Educational Level

For educational levels, 71% (212) were in high school, while 29% (87) were in college.

GPA

Mean GPA: 3.77 on 4.0 scale

Geographic Distribution

For the most part, participants of the Symposium were recruited from states where AMHPS member institutions are located. These states included Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.