



*Twenty-Ninth Annual*

# MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE

**THEME:** *"The Impact of Poverty, Culture, and Environment on Minority Health"*

FEATURING THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WILLIAM T. SMALL, JR.,  
KEYNOTE LECTURE BY

NANCY KRIEGER, M.S., PH.D.

FEBRUARY 29, 2008

**The William and Ida Friday  
Continuing Education Center**  
Chapel Hill, NC



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

**Sponsored by**

UNC School of Public Health  
Minority Student Caucus  
School of Public Health Student Government Board  
Minority Health Project  
North Carolina Institute for Public Health

**MSC**  
MINORITY STUDENT CAUCUS

For more information visit:  
<http://www.minority.unc.edu/sph/minconf/2008>



# MINORITY HEALTH CONFERENCE HISTORY & OVERVIEW

**The Annual Minority Health Conference** was launched by the Minority Student Caucus in 1977 and has been conducted nearly every year since then. Since its inception, the Minority Health Conference at UNC has provided the region with a forum for scholarly exchange of ideas related to the health of minority populations. This primarily student-produced and student-executed conference provides an opportunity to highlight health issues of concern to people of color and attract students interested in minority health to the School. The conference will feature speakers and presenters who are devoted to understanding and addressing continuing disparities in the burden of illness and death experienced by minority populations. We expect this year's conference to be equally successful and to give a diverse audience broader understanding of how culture, environment, and poverty impact communities of color.

## Session TOPICS

### Environmental Inequities

The state of our environment is as important to our overall health and well being as a proper diet and exercise. Recent research shows that minorities are more likely than whites to live in areas with high pollution, limited access to safe water or poor sanitation. This exacerbates existing racial and socioeconomic inequalities.

### Patient-provider Communication and Health

There is a long history of unequal treatment, misunderstanding, and misinformation that affect minorities' relationships with their health care providers and the health care system as a whole. This often unconscious bias affects patient-provider communication, and ultimately affects a patient's treatment. Improving the patient doctor relationship has the ability to increase compliance with medical treatment and recommendations and ultimately bolster health outcomes.

### Preparation and Recovery in the Wake of Natural Disasters

The devastation that follows natural disasters is not limited to the fierce winds and heavy rains that impact a region, but also includes our preparedness and ability to respond to disaster. The response to such a crisis highlights the difficulties that members of socially vulnerable populations must overcome. The devastating effects as a result were widespread, affecting not just individuals but the economy and environment as well. Lessons learned from these events can help prevent similar catastrophes from happening in the future.

### Mass Media and Minority Health

Mass media and popular entertainment are increasingly used to convey health information and can shape public perceptions and health practices. These communication channels are well-positioned to be valuable resources in helping eliminate health disparities if health messages and materials are culturally appropriate for the populations they serve. This session will focus on media resources and outlets to promote healthy lifestyles and help eliminate health disparities among minority communities.

### Empowerment and Health

Empowerment strategies and participatory approaches are increasingly used as public health paradigms for reducing health disparities. This session will explore the processes by which empowerment is generated among communities and its effectiveness as a strategy to reduce health disparities and improve minority health.

### Immigrant Health

North Carolina has the fastest growing Latino population in the country. According to the US Census, the Latino population in North Carolina has grown 394%, from 76,726 in 1990 to 378,963 in 2000. Latinos now make up 7% of the North Carolina population. Language and cultural division create a myriad of unique health issues for this population. This session will focus on how we can better monitor Latino health while recognizing the varied cultural diversity that falls under the umbrella term "Latino."

### Healthcare Access

With healthcare near the top of all 2008 Presidential candidates' agendas, the political landscape seems ripe with opportunity to increase access to health insurance for uninsured and underinsured Americans. Issues range from the battle over expansion of the popular State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to the explosion of retail medicine. In the light of the upcoming election, this session will highlight what health advocates can do to create and sustain the political will for meaningful healthcare reform.

### Community Determinants of Health

Racial residential segregation can lead to unequal access to the health promoting resources. Neighborhood factors such as infrastructure, business, and health care resources can have a profound affect on health. Research has shown a strong relationship between physical activity and the availability of streetlights, sidewalks, parks, etc. Access to fresh foods, such as fruits and vegetables, relative to fast food restaurants affects nutrition status of residents. This session will focus on how policy changes which create environmental and community level changes which can improve the health of its residents.



### School-based Health Programs

Schools have become a popular venue for health promotion. School-based interventions have focused on all aspects of health ranging from drug use prevention to fruit and vegetable consumption. Schools can provide a point of access to even the poorest and least privileged families. Because of their educational role, schools are in a unique position to promote health. Availability of health foods and other goods and services within schools can provide students and families with important resources. This session will focus on the role of schools in improving minority health.

### Cancer Disparities

Racial disparities exist on all levels of the cancer prevention-treatment spectrum. Debate exists over which factors are most responsible for differences in rates of cancer incidence and mortality across races. Cancer screening and early detection have the potential to save lives, but there is poor compliance with screening guidelines. Cultural and medical barriers contribute to lower rates among minorities. Differences in use and recommendation of cancer treatment options also contribute to unequal rates of survival. This session will explore why higher mortality rates persist even in the presence of equal access and equal care.



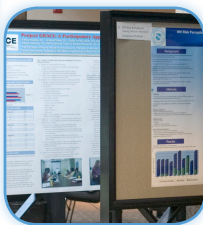
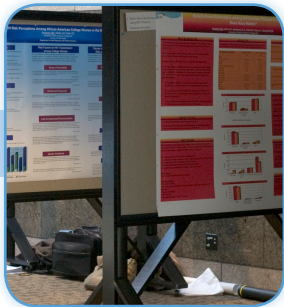


## Keynote SPEAKER

**Topic: The science and epidemiology of racism & health in the United States: an ecosocial perspective.**

**Dr. Nancy Krieger's** work focuses on social inequalities in health. She is a social epidemiologist, with a background in biochemistry, philosophy of science, history of public health, and involvement as an activist in issues involving social justice, science, and health. Her work involves: a) etiologic studies of social inequalities of health, b) methods for improving monitoring of social inequalities of health, and c) development of theoretical frameworks to guide work on understanding and addressing social determinants of health.

The keynote address will be broadcast by satellite and Internet at 2:00-3:30pm EST on February 29, 2008 for those not able to attend the conference.



## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS!

The Minority Student Caucus at the University of North Carolina School of Public Health invites you to submit abstracts for the poster presentations during the Minority Health Conference. All abstracts must be received by **January 11, 2008**.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT ONLINE BY VISITING:  
**<http://minority.unc.edu/sph/minconf/2008/abstracts/>**

Presenters will be notified of acceptance by January 25, 2008. All presenters are expected to register for the Conference. If you have any questions, please contact Kristal Raymond at [raymon@email.unc.edu](mailto:raymon@email.unc.edu).

## Registration INFORMATION

|   | Before 02/08/08* | After 02/08/08 |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| All Students and Senior Citizens (60+)  | \$15.00          | \$25.00        |
| UNC (all 16 campuses) faculty and staff | \$50.00          | \$60.00        |
| Community Members                       | \$50.00          | \$60.00        |
| Working professionals                   | \$65.00          | \$75.00        |

\*Registration includes lunch if fee is paid before 02/08/2008 or until full.

### General Information

- Registration fees are due prior to the conference.
- Make checks payable to NCIPH.
- Participants who do not pre-register and pay by 02/08/08 may purchase lunch at nearby restaurants.

### Cancellations/Refunds

- Full refunds will be issued to individual who cancel by 02/15/08
- Substitutions from the same agency are allowed at any time with prior notification to the registrar 919-966-4032.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS\*



### Courtyard Chapel Hill

100 Marriott Way  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517 USA  
Phone: 1-919-883-0700  
<http://www.marriott.com/>



### Hampton Inn Chapel Hill

6121 Farrington Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517 USA  
Phone: 919-403-8700  
<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com>



### Holiday Inn Express Chapel Hill

6119 Farrington Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517 USA  
Phone: 919-489-7555  
<http://www.ihotelsgroup.com>



### Sheraton Hotel Chapel Hill

One Europa Drive  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 USA  
Phone: 919-968-4900  
<http://www.sheratonchapelhill.com>

\* Ask for the University Rate

*Twenty-Ninth Annual*  
**MINORITY HEALTH  
C O N F E R E N C E**

Name

PID or Birthdate

Agency

Day Phone

Evening Phone

Job Title / Position

E-mail Address

Business Address

City

State

ZIP

SEE INSIDE FOR REGISTRATION FEES

☐ I have enclosed a check or purchase order (payable to NCIPH)

☐ Please bill my

☐ Visa

☐ Master Card

Account Number

Expiration Date

Name as it appears on card

**CHOOSE ONE OF FOUR WAYS TO REGISTER**

**Fax:** 919.966.5692

**Phone:** 919.966.4032

**Online:** [www.minority.unc.edu](http://www.minority.unc.edu)

**Mail:** Registrar

Office of Continuing Education

UNC Campus Box 8165

Chapel Hill, NC 27599-8165

If you have special needs for  
learning aids, and/or facility  
accessibility information,  
please call us at  
919.966.4032

**I LEARNED ABOUT THIS  
PROGRAM BY:**

☐ Postcard

☐ Web site

☐ E-mail

☐ Other

Please Specify:



**UNC**  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

*Address Service Requested*

NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL  
CB #8165  
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-8165

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 177  
Chapel Hill, NC