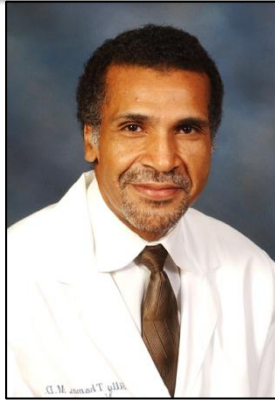


“Honorary Biomedical Sciences & Health Information Lecture Series”



THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKFORCE DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY IN IMPROVING HEALTH

A Distinguished Lecture

By

Dr. Billy Thomas

*Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Professor of Pediatrics
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205, USA*

Objectives of the Presentation

- Provide the participants with a historical perspective of the health care system as it relates to barriers/problems within the system that have resulted in the uneven distribution of equitable quality care and multiple health disparities.
- Define diversity, inclusion and cultural competency as interdependent entities along with their independent role and combined effects on both individual and population health and health care.
- Examine the benefits of increasing the diversity of the research workforce:
 - *The acceleration of advances in medical and public health research*
 - *Closing the health disparities gap*
- Provide some action steps or recommendations that will move us towards a culturally competent health care system and workforce that will be able to provide equitable quality care for a diverse population.