

Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities appoints Community Leaders for Indiana Health Study Outreach Efforts

INDIANAPOLIS, IN, July 14, 2009 - Central Indiana has high rates of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer. The Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities is taking action to combat these health issues by sponsoring the Indiana Health Study.

The Indiana Health Study will enable researchers to learn more about the chronic diseases affecting Hoosiers and may lead to new treatments that make our community healthier. Community awareness and support are essential to the success of the Indiana Health Study. To this end, the Fairbanks Institute established a Community Outreach and Engagement Committee to serve as a channel for the flow of information between the Fairbanks Institute and the community.

“We are pleased to have a diverse group of recognized community leaders serving on our Community Outreach and Engagement Committee,” stated Dr. Virginia Caine, Director of the Marion County Health Department, Fairbanks Institute Board Member and Chair of the Committee. “Their support will help us involve the entire Indianapolis community, particularly ethnic minority groups that have been historically underrepresented in community-based research studies.”

Sixteen community leaders from Central Indiana have joined this Committee. Their involvement has the potential to enhance the recruitment, retention and satisfaction of participants in the Indiana Health Study, maximizing the Study’s scientific value and the benefits to the Central Indiana community.

“By helping to ensure that the Indiana Health Study includes a diverse group of participants, the Committee will enable researchers to study how ethnic differences, lifestyle and environmental factors contribute to health and disease,” said Dr. Cynthia Helphingstine, President and CEO of the Fairbanks Institute. “Research made possible by the Indiana Health Study is the first step in developing treatments tailored to the unique needs of our community and achieving the goal of personalized medicine, which is, delivery of the right drug, at the right dose, to the right person at the right time.”

The members of the Fairbanks Institute Community Outreach and Engagement Committee are:

- Virginia Caine MD, *Director, Marion County Department of Health, Chair*
- Rev. Thomas Brown, *Sr. Pastor, Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church*
- Marco Dominguez, *President and CEO, IndyVision TV*
- Billie K. Dragoo, *President and CEO, RepuCare*
- Duane Etienne, *President Emeritus, CICOA Aging & In-Home Services*
- Johnny Flynn PhD, *Asst. Professor of Religious Studies, IUPUI*
- Elizabeth Jackson RN, *Board Member, Asian Services of Indiana*
- Raymond O. Pierce Jr., MD, *Medical Director, Martin University*

- Anne-Marie Predovich Taylor MPA, *Executive Director, Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center*
- Vinnie Rao, *Vice President, Briyo Inc.*
- Joyce Rogers, *Vice President, Development, Ivy Tech Community College*
- Kathy Russell RN, DNS, *Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Nursing*
- Carolin Requiz Smith, *Director of International & Latino Affairs, City of Indianapolis*
- Robert Smith, *President of Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company*
- Booker Thomas, *President and CEO, HealthNet Community Health Center*
- Rev. Stanley Abell, *Pastor of Offsite Ministry, The Garden, St. Luke's United Methodist Church*

The Indiana Health Study is currently enrolling participants with coronary artery disease (CAD), as well as participants without this disease at clinics located throughout Central Indiana. The Indiana Health Study is focused on chronic diseases of aging common in the Indiana population and will be starting a study in diabetes later this year.

About the Fairbanks Institute for Healthy Communities

The Fairbanks Institute is a not-for-profit organization formed in 2006 with a \$500,000 gift from the Guidant Foundation and a \$10 million gift from the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation in collaboration with BioCrossroads, the Indiana University School of Medicine, Regenstrief Institute and other Indianapolis community health leaders. The Fairbanks Institute is sponsoring the Indiana Health Study, a prospective, longitudinal study of the population of Indianapolis and other Indiana communities, to create its powerful new research platform that will be made available to academic and commercial researchers for studies intended to advance the Fairbanks Institute's mission of improving community health for generations to come. For more information, please visit www.fairbanksinstitute.org or www.indianahealthstudy.org or contact Crystal Dotson-Roberts at cdotson-roberts@fairbanksinstitute.org or (317) 238-2457. We will be participating in the 2009 INShape Black and Minority Health Fair at the Indiana Black Expo. Please come see us at the Convention Center booth #407 July 16th – July 19th.