

Homer G. Phillips and the Legacy of Public Hospitals in St. Louis

In 1905 Dr. John Green, President of the St. Louis Medical Society, with a keen understanding of the plight of public hospitals in other cities issued this charge to St. Louis physicians on the eve of opening a new City Hospital:

“Will it vouchsafe to the pauper a medical care equivalent to that which his pecuniarily more fortunate fellow citizens receive? Will it fulfill to the utmost its function of providing instruction in practical medicine to the undergraduate student? And will our hospital be thoroughly in accord with the spirit of medical enlightenment?”

*Presidential Report, St. Louis Medical Review
January 14, 1905*

A succession of public hospitals failed in that charge -- City Hospital No. 1 (Max C. Starkloff), City Hospital No. 2, and St. Louis County Hospital, despite their professed missions, opened as segregated facilities. Only under duress, and toward the twilight of their existence, did they admit and treat irrespective of race, creed or color. There is one bright exception, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital. It opened its doors as a truly “public” facility in 1937, still shrouded in intrigue after the mysterious assassination of its main advocate and benefactor, attorney Homer Gilliam Phillips. At a time in American society when people of color were restricted from most medical training programs, the Homer G. Phillips Hospital became the premier training ground for African American medical professionals – many of whom remained to deliver high quality health care in the St. Louis area and who later assumed prestigious positions throughout the nation. The successes of its subsequent years of operation (as well as the complex issues surrounding its closure) became legendary in the annals of public hospitals. It closed its doors on August 17, 1979, followed by St. Louis City No. 1 in 1985, St. Louis County Hospital in 1987, and St. Louis Regional Hospital in 1997. While we cannot now walk the halls of Homer G. Phillips Hospital, we can learn much from its history, presented by the very people who strived diligently to provide culturally sensitive care to the patients who so deeply trusted and loved them and their hospital. This lecture series is named in honor of the historic Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis.

The Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture Series

“Homer G. Phillips Hospital: One Man’s Long Road Home”



Guest Speaker:

Guest Speaker: Mark Clanton, M.D., M.P.H.

Chief Medical Officer

American Cancer Society , High Plains Division

Honoring The Breakfast Club, Inc.

Thursday, October 18, 2012

Washington University School of Medicine

Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC)

320 South Euclid Avenue

Saint Louis, Missouri 63110

6:00 p.m.
Cocktails
Atrium

6:30 p.m.
Dinner
Great Rooms

7:30 p.m.
Lecture
Auditorium

Program

Welcome **Will Ross, M.D., M.P.H.**
Associate Dean for Diversity
Office of Diversity Programs

Introduction of..... **Larry Shapiro M.D.**
Mark Clanton M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Dean

**“Homer G. Phillips Hospital:
One Man’s Long Road Home”** **Mark Clanton, M.D., M.P.H.**
Chief Medical Officer
American Cancer Society,
High Plains Division

Presentation..... **Will Ross, M.D., M.P.H.**
Associate Dean for Diversity
Office of Diversity Programs

Acceptance of Award **Sherrill Jackson, M.H.S.A., R.N.**
The Breakfast Club, Inc.

Questions..... **Audience**

Speaker: Mark Clanton, M.D., M.P.H.



Dr. Mark Clanton is the chief medical officer of the High Plains Division of the American Cancer Society and he is the former deputy director of the United States National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, the first African American in that position, where he managed a portfolio of \$1billion. As the senior-most executive for the NCI, he was responsible for divisions and offices that included cancer prevention, cancer control, and health disparities research. He oversaw strategic international cancer control initiatives with the International Union against Cancer in Geneva, Switzerland and the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon, France. As part of Dr. Clanton's international leadership responsibilities he directed the publication of

the first NCI International Portfolio: Addressing the Global Challenge of Cancer. Prior to federal service he practiced medicine in Texas for more than a decade and served as the chief medical officer of a three million life Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas and the vice president of a one million member drug card program.

In 2007 Dr. Clanton was appointed to the Program of Action for Cancer Therapy's Strategic Advisory Board by Mohamed El Baradei, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He has served as Head of the United States Delegation to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organization's Governing Council. Dr. Clanton is currently a voting member of the Food and Drug Administration, Tobacco Products Scientific Committee, and a member of the Washington University in St. Louis National Council for the Institute of Public Health, where he advises the Institute on future research and strategic initiatives. Dr. Clanton is member of the external advisory boards of the Siteman Cancer Center, the University of Kansas Cancer center and he is the chairman of the University of Hawaii Cancer Center external advisory board. In 2011 Dr. Clanton was named to the Washington University in St. Louis, Transdisciplinary Research in Energetics and Cancer Center (TREC) external advisory board. The TREC grants represent a 45 million dollar, multi-site consortium whose purpose is to understand the causes of obesity and its relationship to cancer.

Dr. Clanton received his undergraduate degree from Howard University, his medical degree from Tulane University Medical School and his master of public health from the Harvard School of Public health. He completed his training in Pediatrics at the Baylor Pediatrics program in Houston. Dr. Clanton is immediate past president of the Harvard School of Public Health Alumni Council and he currently serves on the board of directors of the Harvard Alumni Association. Dr. Clanton has received numerous honors, including the Secretary of Health and Human Service Distinguished Service Award, the St. George Medal Cancer Control Award by the National Cancer Society, and the National Institute of Health directors Award of Merit. Dr. Clanton, who resides in Austin Texas with his wife and three sons, is deeply connected to the St. Louis community through his father, Dr. Lemuel Clanton, who completed his surgical residence at the Homer G. Phillips Hospital. The legacy of Homer G. Phillips lives on through the remarkable accomplishments of Dr. Mark Clanton and the passing of and enduring philosophy, culture and insight from father to son.

Honoree: The Breakfast Club, Inc.



Sherrill Jackson is President and Founder of The Breakfast Club, Inc. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992 she had to adjust to a mastectomy, chemotherapy, and early menopause. During the breast cancer journey Sherrill received lot of support from her family members and close friends. As a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and supervisor of a radiology department, she knew a lot about breast cancer, but never thought she would

ever develop it. She and two friends that had been recently diagnosed with breast cancer shared information and experiences. She attended a meeting of a breast cancer support group, but realized there was a need for a special kind of support in her community. She recalls, like many women, it took several years to publicly admit to being a breast cancer survivor. At the time there were six women in her church who were survivors, including one young lady recently diagnosed. In an effort to help the young woman through her diagnosis and treatments, The Breakfast Club, Inc. was formed in 1997. Now an independent 501(c) 3 organization the Breakfast Club provides education, awareness, resources, and support concerning breast health, breast cancer and breast cancer prevention and screening. Under Sherrill's leadership, it has grown to be a vital part of the community, serving primarily African American uninsured and underinsured, low-income women residing in North St. Louis City and North St. Louis County. It is a widely-sought out support groups listed under the Siteman Cancer Center Referral site and has received twelve years of funding from the Komen St. Louis Affiliate. The Breakfast Club provides women a broad range of services and resources such as Faith on the Move, which partners with the Siteman Cancer Center and the BJC mammography van to provide free mammograms to women who have no insurance or who are underinsured; The Breast Health Buddy Program, which offers one-on-one support and services to women who have just received a diagnosis of breast cancer; Breast Health Outside of the Box, which offers services to women who are not in the mainstream of society, but who may be in correctional centers, to inform women about breast health; The Bra and Breast From Program provides bras and breast forms to women who have no insurance or who are underinsured.; Breast Health Buddy Program offers one on one support and services to women who have just received a diagnosis of breast cancer. The buddy will help alleviate the patient's fears, be a shoulder to cry on, can accompany the patient to treatments and assist the patient in finding resources and support. Since 1997 The Breakfast Club has provided breast health education to 12, 900 peoples, and support services to 560 survivors, distributed over 1600 bras and 750 breast prosthesis and made mammograms accessible to 3000 women in local churches. We are proud of our accomplishments over the last 15 years and look forward to even greater accomplishments in the future. None of this would be possible without the hard work of the Breakfast Club Board members, Project Director, buddies, Faith on the Move Coordinator, Breakfast Club Brothers and Spiritual Advisory Team.