

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. Starkdoff), 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.

 **Washington**
University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The Homer G. Phillips Public Health Lecture Series

"Improving Public Health through Academic Medicine-Community Partnerships"



Guest Speaker:

Michael V. Drake, MD

Chancellor, University of California - Irvine

Honoring

Dolores Gunn, MD

Director St. Louis County Department of Health
and

Pamela Rice Walker, MPA

CPHA, Interim Director St. Louis City Department of Health

Friday, October 18, 2013

Washington University School of Medicine
Eric P. Newman Education Center (EPNEC)

320 South Euclid Avenue
Saint Louis, Missouri 63110

5:30 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

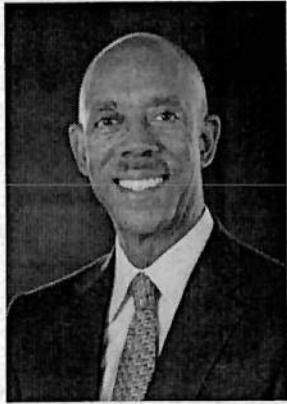
**Introduction of
Chancellor Michael V. Drake, M.D.** **Larry Shapiro M.D.**
Executive Vice Chancellor
and Dean for Medical Affairs

**“Improving Public Health through
Academic Medicine-Community
Partnerships”** **Michael V. Drake, M.D.**
Chancellor
University of California - Irvine

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

Questions..... **Audience**

Speaker: Michael V. Drake, M.D.



Michael V. Drake, M.D., was appointed the fifth chancellor of the University of California, Irvine in July 2005. Since his appointment, Chancellor Drake has led the launch of new programs in public health and nursing science, which are already providing highly trained healthcare professionals to meet the critical needs of the community. Prior to Chancellor Drake's arrival at UC Irvine, he served for five years as vice president for health affairs for the University of California system, overseeing academic program policy at UC's 15 health sciences schools, located on seven campuses. He directed the special research programs in tobacco, breast cancer, and HIV/AIDS; co-chaired the California/Mexico Health Initiative; and launched the PRIME (PRogram In Medical Education) initiative to train physicians to care for underserved populations statewide.

Before that, he spent more than two decades on the faculty of the UC San Francisco School of Medicine, ultimately becoming the Steven P. Shearing Professor of Ophthalmology and senior associate dean. He has served as an administrative leader, physician-scientist, and teacher, conducting clinical research on glaucoma and maintaining an active referral practice. He has written scores of scholarly articles and chapters, and his fifth textbook was published in 2009.

As UC vice president for health affairs, Drake led the effort to create a dual degree program to train physicians specifically to meet health care needs of California's underserved populations. A national leader in enhancing workforce diversity, he was a member of the Institute of Medicine committee that produced the landmark 2004 report "In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce." In the 1980s, as a UCSF faculty member, he brought about a more focused review to the admissions of disadvantaged and minority candidates. In 1996 Drake co-authored a paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, "The Role of Black and Hispanic Physicians in Providing Health Care for Underserved Populations." The study established that physicians from underserved populations tend to serve people from those populations. He developed and chaired for 10 years a committee on recruitment and retention, during a decade in which student diversity increased in the medical school.

Chancellor Drake has received numerous honors and awards for teaching, public service, and research, including the Burbridge Award for Public Service, the Asbury Award (clinical science), the UCSF School of Medicine Clinical Teaching Award, the S.J. Kimura Teaching Award, and the UCSF School of Medicine Alumnus of the Year Award. In addition, he received the Association of American Medical Colleges' Herbert W. Nickens Award and the California Wellness Foundation's Champion of Diversity Award for outstanding contributions to promoting social justice in medical education and health care. Most recently, he was awarded the inaugural Binational Health Pioneer Award at the 18th International HIV/AIDS Conference. He has served as trustee and first African American president of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and as chair of the board of trustees of the Association of Academic Health Centers. He is a fellow of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. He is an alumnus of Stanford University (A.B.) and UC San Francisco (M.D.). Chancellor Drake and his wife, Brenda, live in Irvine. They have two grown sons.

Honoree: Dolores J. Gunn, M.D.



Dolores J. Gunn, M.D. has been the director of the Saint Louis County Department of Health since December of 2004. Divided into eight divisions, the department has a budget of more than \$57 million and is responsible for programs as diverse as animal control, solid waste management, vector control, air and noise pollution, dairy testing, restaurant inspections, emergency preparedness, communicable disease control, and health education. In addition, the Department of Health operates three public health centers that provide primary healthcare services to the residents of Saint Louis County. Key accomplishments of the Saint Louis County Department of Health under Gunn's supervision include successfully managing several communicable disease outbreaks or threats of an outbreak including E. coli, pertussis, shigella, HIV, the 2009 H1N1 virus; constructing a new, state-of-the-art Animal Care and Control Center and a new, silver LEED certified Public Health Campus; and overseeing the implementation of the county's first comprehensive clean indoor air legislation to protect people from secondhand smoke. Prior to her current position as director of the Department of Health, Gunn was a physician at the Institute for Research and Education in Family Medicine, and a physician at People's Health Center – both in St. Louis, Missouri. She received her doctorate of medicine from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan (1996).

Honoree: Pamela Rice Walker, M.P.A., C.P.H.A.



Pamela Rice Walker has been Director of Health for the City of St. Louis Department of Health since February 1, 2007. She has thirty years experience in public health and natural resource management and a BS and Masters of Public Administration from the University of Missouri in Columbia. She is a Certified Public Health Administrator. Ms. Walker has helped develop and implement programs that reduced the rate of TB and increased the rate of vaccines for children, reduced exposure to lead and implemented clean up of hazardous waste sites. She has managed programs in the areas of bioterrorism, communicable disease prevention, STDs, HIV, food safety, hazardous materials risk assessment, community health assessment and epidemiology.

Prior to this assignment she was Chief of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Prevention and Bioterrorism Preparedness for the City of St. Louis Department of Health. Prior to her employment by the City she was employed by the State Department of Health and Senior Services. During her tenure there, she served in various positions including Director of the Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism, the Director of the Division of Communicable Disease Prevention and Environmental Public Health, and the Director of Policy Development and Community Relations.