

ISHIB SPOKESPERSONS: CONTACT INFORMATION AND BIOSKETCHES

CHARLES L. CURRY, MD, FACC

ISHIB President
Howard University
College of Medicine
Washington, DC
Contact: 202 865 6791 or kcandle@aol.com

JANICE G. DOUGLAS, MD

ISHIB Vice President
Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: 216 368 4744 or jgd3@po.cwru.edu

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SHAWNA D. NESBITT, MD, MS

ISHIB Secretary-Treasurer
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas
Contact: 214 648 2103 or Shawna.Nesbitt@UTSouthwestern.edu

JOHN M. FLACK, MD, MPH

Immediate Past President
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Detroit, Michigan
Contact: 313 966 0635 or jflack@med.wayne.edu

KENNETH A. JAMERSON, MD

University of Michigan Medical Center
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Contact: 734 998 7991 or jamerson@umich.edu

JAMES W. REED, MD, MACP, FACE

Lifetime Honorary Trustee
Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia
Contact: 404 756 5788 or jreed@msm.edu

ELIJAH SAUNDERS, MD, FACC, FACP

Lifetime Honorary Trustee
University of Maryland, School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland
Contact: 410 328 4366 or esaunder@medicine.umaryland.edu

JACKSON T. WRIGHT, JR., MD, PhD, FACP

Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
Cleveland, Ohio
Contact: 216 844 5174 or jxw20@cwru.edu



CHARLES L. CURRY, MD, FACC

ISHIB President
Howard University
College of Medicine
Washington, DC

Contact: 202 865 6791 or kcandlc@aol.com

Dr. Charles L. Curry, a John B. Johnson professor of medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, Howard University College of Medicine, is a prolific writer, respected medical researcher, gifted teacher and a compassionate physician. He is nationally and internationally recognized for developing innovative approaches to diagnosing and managing heart and vascular disease. He is a leader in both professional and community organizations.

Dr. Curry received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, magna cum laude, from Johnson C. Smith University in 1955 and in 1959, a medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine. He continued his medical training with an internship at the K.B. Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Winston-Salem, North Carolina and subsequently became the first African American to complete a residency in medicine at Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina, 1953-1955. Dr. Curry held several appointments in North Carolina hospitals, including: chief, medical service at Lincoln Hospital, 1967-1968; cardiology fellowship in the department of medicine at Duke University Medical Center, 1968-1969; and a research associate in medicine at Duke University Medical Center, 1969-1970.

Dr. Curry served his country in 1962-1963 as a captain in the United States Army (Medical Corps), Fort Bragg, North Carolina and South Vietnam. In 1970, he began his medical tenure with Howard University, first as an assistant professor, later as an associate professor from 1971-1973. He received his present departmental appointment of professor in 1973. He served as director of Howard's Center for Hypertension Control and is presently chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Diseases, a position he has held since 1973.

A fellow of the American College of Cardiologists and certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and its subspecialty board, cardiovascular diseases, Dr. Curry has lectured throughout the United States and abroad. At a ten-day seminar in Budapest, Hungary, 1974, he was invited to fellowship in the International Society of Cardiovascular Epidemiology. His presentations cover a wide spectrum of topics related to hypertension and other cardiovascular diseases. His articles appear in major professional journals; he has made numerous scientific presentations nationwide and has co-authored two books.



JANICE G. DOUGLAS, MD
ISHIB Vice President
Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
Cleveland, Ohio

Contact: 216 368 4744 or jgd3@po.cwru.edu

Dr. Douglas is a graduate of Fisk University of Meharry Medical College. She began her formal training in biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health Endocrinology Training Fellowship at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where she also served as an instructor in the Department of Medicine. She continued her research training in Bethesda, Maryland as a senior staff fellow in the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Section on Hormonal Regulation.

She is currently a professor of medicine and professor of physiology and biophysics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland. She is also the director of the Hypertension Division and vice chairman for Academic Affairs for the Department of Medicine. Dr. Douglas served as the co-chair of ISHIB's 15th International Interdisciplinary Conference on Hypertension and Related Risk Factors Among Ethnic Populations. In addition, Dr. Douglas is past-president of the Association for Academic Minority Physicians, Inc. (AAMP).

Dr. Douglas is internationally renowned as a physician scientist and conducts studies on cellular and molecular mechanisms of blood pressure regulation with a focus on the rennin angiotensin system and racial/ethnic diversity in the pathophysiology of essential hypertension. She has received in excess of \$20 million throughout her research career to support these important research endeavors. She has published in, or served on editorial boards for numerous prestigious medical journals including Journal of Clinical Investigation, American Journal of Physiology, Circulation, Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine, Ethnicity & Disease, and the Endocrine Society.

Dr. Douglas has been elected to membership in organizations for physician scientists, including the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Association for American Physician's Fellow of the High Blood Pressure Council of the American Heart Association, the Association for Academic Minority Physicians, the Central Society for Clinical Research, and the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. She also serves on the board of directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and ISHIB.

Dr. Douglas has advised numerous policy and review committees for the National Institutes of Health and other organizations, which include: the Advisory Council for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institutes, NIH; VA Merit Review Board for Cardiovascular Studies; and the Cardiovascular Renal Study Section (NIH). Most recently, she has held positions with the Board of Scientific Counselors for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, NIH and the American Heart Association Research Committee. She has also taken leadership roles in the American Heart Association, the Kidney Foundation, and the Diabetes Association of Greater Cleveland.

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SHAWNA D. NESBITT, MD, MS

ISHIB Secretary-Treasurer
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Dallas, Texas

Contact: 214 648 2103 or Shawna.Nesbitt@UTSouthwestern.edu

Shawna D. (Smith) Nesbitt, M.D. is the newest member of the UT Southwestern Medical Center's Division of Hypertension where she serves as the Medical Director of the Parkland Hypertension Clinic. Her research interests include clinical trials and epidemiology of hypertension and cardiovascular risk. Her area of research is hypertension in African Americans, insulin resistance, and Hyperlipidemia. Dr. Nesbitt is the National Coordinator for the TROPHY Study (Trial of Prevention Hypertension). The study is a 4-year trial which includes over 71 sites and more than 800 patients. She is funded by the National Institutes of Health to study the relationship of oxidative stress and genetics in the development of hypertension. She is also Chairperson of the ISHIB "Children Are Our Messengers" Initiative.



JOHN M. FLACK, MD, MPH

Immediate Past President
Wayne State University
School of Medicine
Detroit, Michigan

Contact: 313 966 0635 or jflack@med.wayne.edu

Dr. Flack, MD, MPH, currently serves as professor and associate chairman for Academic Affairs in the Department of Internal Medicine, and the director of the Cardiovascular Epidemiology and Clinical Applications Program (CECA), and program director of the Academic Hospital Program (Internal Medicine Hospital Training Practice Support Program) in the Department of Internal Medicine at Wayne State University (WSU). Dr. Flack also holds an appointment in the Department of Community Medicine at WSU. He is the former vice president of the medical staff at Vencor Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. Before joining the faculty at WSU, Dr. Flack served as associate professor of surgery, Medicine and Public Health Sciences at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina where he also served as associate director of the Hypertension Center and head of the Clinic Hypertension Division. His research interest includes clinical trial design, implementation, and monitoring hypertension in African Americans. He has served as the principal investigator of the Data Coordination Center for the Calcium Antagonist in Blacks (CAB) and ATIME clinical trials.

Dr. Flack received a bachelor of science in chemistry from Langston University in 1978 and spent the ensuing 10 years at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma where he attended medical school (1978-1982) and completed an internal medicine residency (1982-1985) and chief medical residency (1985-1986). He was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society while a medical student.

Dr. Flack completed a National Institutes of Health fellowship in Cardiovascular Epidemiology and obtained an MPH in epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health (1988-1990). After serving as an assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health (1990-1992), he served as Section Chief of General and Preventive Medicine (1992-1994) until he moved to his position at Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

The author of more than 103 peer-reviewed manuscripts and book chapters, Dr. Flack was selected as one of the "Best Doctors in America" in 1998 by Woodward/White, Inc. He also received the Distinguished Research Award in 1993 from the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB). He serves on several national advisory boards, including the ISHIB board where he began his term as vice-president in January 1998. He is a manuscript reviewer for several prominent medical journals including the ABC Digest of Urban Cardiology, American Geriatric Society, Behavioral Medicine, Ethnicity & Disease, Hypertension, JAMA, Lab & Clinical Medicine and Preventive Medicine. Dr. Flack is also a special consultant to the FDA advisory committee on metabolic and endocrinologic drug products. Dr. Flack was the recipient of the 1998 Daniel J. Savage Distinguished Research Award from the Association of Black Cardiologists. In addition, he is a member of the Health Care Quality Effectiveness Research study section at the Agency for Health Care Policy Research.



KENNETH A. JAMERSON, MD
University of Michigan Medical Center
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Contact: 734 998 7991 or jamerson@umich.edu

Kenneth A. Jamerson, MD a native of Detroit and prominent figure in national and international healthcare, is an associate professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan Medical School. He is currently the medical director for the Program for Multicultural Health at the University of Michigan Health Systems and has served as the associate director for the University Research

Support Organization.

A member of numerous professional societies, Dr. Jamerson is also a member of several editorial boards including Hypertension Management, Ethnic Perspectives on Health and Behavior, and Ethnicity & Disease. He currently serves as advisor to national and international clinical trials that examine the impact of hypertension control on diabetes, heart failure, and chronic pain. Dr. Jamerson is coordinator for 237 clinical centers in the United States participating in an international study with more than 15,000 subjects to determine the best drug for treating hypertension in high-risk individuals. He has participated in several historic clinical trials that have provided new insights on improved prevention and treatment approaches for hypertension among ethnic minority populations. In a historic trial sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Jamerson and others found that a drug, which blocks a hormone produced by the kidney, decreases the likelihood of developing renal failure. For African Americans who have an 18-fold excess risk of developing renal failure, this finding is critical to treatment options. In another historic investigation, Dr. Jamerson, with investigators from the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, involved hundreds of African Americans who participated in lifestyle modification interventions. This first-of-its-kind study resulted in participants' long-term loss of weight, decrease in blood pressure, and lowered cholesterol levels, with the benefits persisting for nearly a year after the initial intervention.

Dr. Jamerson is the recipient of the ISHIB Distinguished Researcher Award and, in 1999, Dr. Jamerson served as the co-chairperson for the ISHIB's scientific sessions for the 14th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on Hypertension and Related Cardiovascular Risk Factors Among Ethnic Populations held in Toronto, Ontario.



JAMES W. REED, MD, MACP, FACE

Lifetime Honorary Trustee
Morehouse School of Medicine
Atlanta, Georgia

Contact: 404 756 5788 or jreed@msm.edu

Since 1985, Dr. Reed has been a professor of medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia. In June 1992, he was elected president of ISHIB, after serving as the Society's vice president and founding member since 1987.

Dr. Reed earned his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine and completed a residency program at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, Ohio and a residency program in Internal Medicine at Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington. He completed a post-doctoral research fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism from the University of California Medical Center – San Francisco. He is board-certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine (1979), with a subspecialty certification in endocrinology and metabolism, (1975).

Dr. Reed has earned many awards and honors including the Meritorious Service Medal (US Army); Legion of Merit (US Army); "A" Professional Designation in Internal Medicine (SGO, US Army); the Clinical Faculty Recognition Achievement Award, 1987 from Morehouse School of Medicine; Distinguished Alumnus Awards from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, 1989.

In addition to serving as president of ISHIB, Dr. Reed serves or has served as a member of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program Working Group on Hypertension in Diabetes; the African American Lipid and Cardiovascular Disease Council; the Joint National Committee on Detection, Evaluation and Treatment of High Blood Pressure – Parent Committee; Chairman, Subcommittee IV, Special Population and Ethnic Groups; and the National High Blood Pressure Education Coordinating Committee.

Dr. Reed has authored and presented more than 40 articles, papers, and book chapters related to internal medicine, endocrinology, and metabolism. He is author of the book, *A Black Man's Guide to Good Health*, now in its second edition.



ELIJAH SAUNDERS, MD, FACC, FACP

Lifetime Honorary Trustee
University of Maryland, School of Medicine
Baltimore, Maryland

Contact: 410 328 4366 or esaunder@medicine.umaryland.edu

Dr. Elijah Saunders is professor of medicine, head of the Division of Hypertension and (former) clinical director of the Hypertension and Vascular Biology Center at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland. He also serves as clinical associate professor of medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee. He is vice-president for Graduate Medical Education and Affiliations at the University of Maryland.

Dr. Saunders received his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and his bachelor of science degree from Morgan State College. He completed both his residency and a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore.

Dr Saunders has received the American Heart Association (AHA) Award of Merit, Louis B. Russell Award (highest award for contribution to cardiovascular minority health), and the Presidential Award from the Maryland Affiliate. He is a member of the AHA Council on Clinical Cardiology and the Council on High Blood Pressure Research. He has served on all levels of both the national and local AHA. He has also served on numerous panels, study groups, site visit groups and committees including the Advisory Council of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health. He has been an active researcher in the field of hypertension and cardiovascular disease, especially as these problems affect African Americans.

Dr. Saunders is a founding member, past chairman of the board and past president of the Association of Black Cardiologists; immediate past president, current chairman of the board, and founder of both the International Society of Hypertension in Blacks (ISHIB) and the (former) Urban Cardiology Research Center, Inc., (Baltimore, MD). He is the co-founder of Heart House of the American College of Cardiology; a charter member of the American Society of Hypertension; past president of the Maryland High Blood Pressure Coordinating Council; former commissioner of the Maryland High Blood Pressure Commission; and chairman, Maryland Advisory Council on High Blood Pressure and related Cardiovascular Risk Factors.

A fellow of the American College of Cardiology, American College of Physicians and the American College of Angiology, Dr. Saunders has lectured extensively on hypertension and its concomitant diseases, especially as it affects populations such as Blacks and the elderly. He is co-author of the medical textbook, Hypertension in Black: Epidemiology, Pathophysiology and Treatment, and a book for the public on high blood pressure. He is chief editor of the textbook, Cardiovascular Diseases in Black. He has appeared on numerous radio, television, and video productions and has also written extensively for numerous medical journals, textbooks, and consumer magazines on the diagnosis, treatment, and control of hypertension, particularly in Black populations.

During 1996-1997, Dr. Saunders was on sabbatical leave from the University of Maryland, conducting research in England on dietary salt, salt sensitivity and hypertension in an African-Caribbean population. In May 1998, Dr. Saunders was awarded an honorary doctor of science degree from his undergraduate alma mater, Morgan State University. In May 1999, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Medical University of South Carolina.



JACKSON T. WRIGHT, JR., MD, PhD, FACP

Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
Cleveland, Ohio

Contact: 216 844 5174 or jxw20@cwru.edu

Jackson T. Wright, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP is professor of medicine, Division of Hypertension at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and director of the Clinical Hypertension Program at CWRU/University Hospitals of Cleveland. In addition, he is chief of the Hypertension Section at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center.

Dr. Wright grew up in Pittsburgh, Penn., received his bachelor of arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, and became the first Black to earn both an MD and PhD (Pharmacology) from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. His housestaff training in Internal Medicine was performed at the University of Michigan. In addition to being board-certified in Internal Medicine, he was one of the first in the country to receive subspecialty board certification in Clinical Pharmacology. Prior to moving to CWRU in 1990, he served on the faculty in Clinical Pharmacology for 10 years at the Medical College of Virginia.

An experienced clinical investigator, Dr. Wright's primary research interest is in the clinical pharmacology of antihypertensive and cholesterol-lowering agents, especially in minority populations. Among his many professional affiliations in addition to ISHIB, he is fellow of the American College of Physicians, the Council for High Blood Pressure Research of the American Heart Association, and the Association of Black Cardiologists.

He has published extensively (more than 130 articles, book chapters, and abstracts) and served on many national and international advisory panels. Among these he currently serves on the National High Blood Education Program Coordinating Committee, the NIH advisory panel responsible for coordinating high blood pressure control efforts in the US. He is also vice chair of the Steering Committee for the NIH-sponsored AASK Trial, on which he also chaired the Design Subcommittee, and is principal investigator for the CWRU Clinical Center. This trial in 1,100 patients is currently evaluating the best treatment to prevent the most common cause of kidney failure in the Black community. In addition, he was selected to chair the Executive Committee and serve as vice chair of the Steering Committee for the largest-ever-conducted study of the treatment of high blood pressure and cholesterol, the ALLHAT study. This NIH-sponsored 7-year trial has recruited 42,448 participants, including more than 15,100 African American at 623 sites in the United States, Canada, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. ALLHAT is also the largest interventional trial ever conducted in African Americans. Dr. Wright has been a member of ISHIB since its founding.