

# **Kimberlydawn Wisdom, M.D., M.S.**

Michigan's First Surgeon General

In February 2003, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm took an important first step toward revitalizing public health in Michigan by appointing Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, as Michigan's—and the nation's—first state-level Surgeon General to address Michigan's less than desirable health status.

When Governor Granholm appointed Dr. Wisdom, she asked that Dr. Wisdom serve as an unbiased, non-partisan, evidence-based, best practices advocate for the health of our citizens. In addition, Dr. Wisdom was charged with rebuilding the public health system, developing public health policy, and building collaborative partnerships. Dr. Wisdom has been leading Michigan's public health promotion and disease prevention efforts.

Since she was first appointed, Dr. Wisdom has had the opportunity and privilege to travel the state as part of her "Surgeon General Rounds." She has met with thousands of Michigan citizens, health providers, voluntary associations, policy leaders, scientists and researchers, and elected officials. Over 200 presentations/interviews have been conducted across the state - Upper Peninsula, Benton Harbor, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Detroit, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Flint, Saginaw, Traverse City, Cadillac, Westphalia, Ann Arbor, and others.

She was a guest on ABC Nightline, and in 2004, Dr. Wisdom presented at several national events, including the Congressional Black Caucus 34th Annual Legislative Conference (invited by Congresswoman Kilpatrick), National Urban League 2004 Conference, Sixth Annual International Fatherhood Conference, National Conference of State Legislators Annual Meeting, and National Governors Association Center for Best Practices Designing Healthy Communities conference.

Dr. Wisdom has specifically focused on physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits, childhood lead poisoning, tobacco use, infant mortality, unintended pregnancy, coordinated school health, HIV/AIDS, health disparities, and economic and social implications of not engaging in prevention activities. Other topics have included: oral health, mental health, West Nile Virus, SARS, violence and injury prevention.

Prior to Dr. Wisdom's appointment as Surgeon General, she served as the Founder and Director for the Institute on Multicultural Health at Henry Ford Health System (HFHS). She was also the Director of the Resource Center for Minority Aging Research Community Liaison Core funded by the National Institute on Aging. Dr. Wisdom has been a board-certified Emergency Medicine Physician at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, and an Assistant Professor of Medical Education at the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Wisdom received her Masters Degree in Clinical Research Design and Statistical Analysis from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. In 2002, she was appointed by Secretary Tommy Thompson, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Diabetes Translation Advisory Committee.

Dr. Wisdom has experience in developing, implementing and evaluating innovative, culturally-relevant diabetes self-management interventions in managed care as well as in community (faith-based organization) settings. She was the founder and director of a community-based health screening initiative entitled “AIMHI” African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Screening clinics were conducted throughout the Detroit Metropolitan area for diabetes, hypertension, and stroke risk assessment and eye disease. These interventions were designed to improve short and long-term health outcomes for African American patients with Type 2 diabetes mellitus and those at risk for the disease. Dr. Wisdom has been awarded a grant through the Office of Minority Health to expand the “AIMHI” program by establishing two neighborhood screening/health education clinics. These sites provide chronic disease health screening services in addition to diabetes and hypertension self-management classes, fitness training, nutrition instruction, and continuous diabetes support group sessions. A social worker was also assigned to assist with follow-up care and access to primary healthcare so that each client will have an established “healthcare home”.

Dr. Wisdom has complimented the patient interventions by examining health care providers’ attitudes toward patient self-management interventions. She is using experience and knowledge gained from the patient and provider studies to design interventions that will modify the methods of health care delivery in managed care settings.

She has presented her diabetes research and service-related work at regional and national meetings and had several publications in Diabetes Care. The most noteworthy were “Comparison of Laboratory Test Frequency and Test Results between African Americans and Caucasians with Diabetes: Opportunity for Improvement” and “Exploring and Expanding the Research Agenda for Diabetes in Managed Care: A Report of A CDC-Managed Care Workshop.” Regionally, Dr. Wisdom was co-chair of the Michigan Department of Community Health Diabetes Policy Advisory Council. She was a leader in establishing the Detroit Chapter of the American Diabetes Association. Nationally, she was the physician leader for the American Diabetes Association Continuing Education Program for pharmacists and was on the Diabetes Education Faculty for Bristol-Myers Squibb. Dr. Wisdom served on a National American Diabetes Association National Task Force to Revise the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management. In May 2000, she co-authored a publication in Diabetes Care entitled, “National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education. She also served as a reviewer for Diabetes Care and Annals of Emergency Medicine. She has also co-authored a chapter on diabetes in the premier text, Emergency Medicine, A Comprehensive Study Guide.

Dr. Wisdom was quoted on the front page of the Detroit News and her program was mentioned in the New York Times regarding her work with African Americans and was recognized by the Michigan Affiliate of the American Diabetes Association (ADA) for her role in establishing the Detroit Chapter. She also received the Michigan ADA “Outstanding Service Award” for outstanding service to the people of Michigan in the fight against diabetes. In 1998, the Detroit City Council recognized her contribution in the area of diabetes interventions in African Americans and awarded Dr. Wisdom a “Testimonial Resolution”. In 1999, the Wayne County Commission awarded a “Testimonial Resolution to the African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIM HI)”. Also in 1999, she co-produced a videotape depicting the impact of racism on health care. In 2001, Dr. Wisdom received the “Bridge Builder” Award from New

Calvary Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan. In 2002, Crain's Detroit Business magazine bestowed its Healthcare Heroes Award to Dr. Wisdom for her work focusing on the urban healthcare crisis in the African American community.