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Dear Friends.

On behalf of the Black Caucus of Health Workers (BCHW) and the Society for the Analysis of African-American Public Health Issues (SAAPHI), welcome to our pre-conference meeting. We hope that you find this event informative, thought-provoking, and use this event to network and form new, active collaborations across public health disciplines.

BCHW and SAAPHI are among the oldest national public health organizations that comprise of researchers, physicians and health advocates dedicated to improving the overall health of African Americans. Our organizations promote the utilization of scientific information on African Americans in program development and policy decision-making. In the United States racial and ethnic disparities are evident in almost all measures of health and the root causes of these inequities are complex. Hence, the elimination of these health disparities will require collaboration between science, practice, and policy. For over four decades, BCHW and SAAPHI members have examined these issues.

The theme of this year's 2011 pre-conference meeting is: "BCHW and SAAPHI: Working Together to Translate Research into Practice". The morning session will focus on public health issues that affect African-American and American-Indian communities. Theories and frameworks will be presented that view these communities of Color in the context of their environment in which social behavior, cultural, historical, political, and economic forces influence health and disease. The mid-morning and afternoon panel presentations will provide information and practical examples of community-based organizations working to reduce disparities and improve health outcomes of African-American communities in the local DC area. The goal of both sessions is to provide a forum for rich dialogue, discussion and solutions.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation for the support and inspiration of a legacy member of BCHW and founder of SAAPHI, Dr. William C. Jenkins, along with other senior members of both organizations. We would also like the diligent service of the pre-conference planning committee and scientific symposium committee. Finally we would like to thank you for participating in this year's event. Your continued participation and support as well as suggestions have made this event a success.

Sincerely,

Selena Smith, MPA

BCHW President, 2010-2012

Rebecca E. Hasson, Ph.D.

SAAPHI President, 2010-2012