

Enhanced Adherence Strategic Initiative (EASi)

Cultivated as an outgrowth from FDA involvement with the Million Hearts Campaign, the EASi Board* was created to address medication adherence which evolved as a topic of interest towards reducing stroke and heart attack. Following a Grand Rounds at the FDA concerning medication adherence in October 2014, the newly established EASi Board convened its first meeting in January 2015. Overall, our mission was to serve as a Think Tank focused on:

- √ **Identifying key issues inimical to medication adherence and racial/ethnic disparities**
- √ **Discovering key strategies that may effectively attenuate these issues**
- √ **Engaging in at least one action item designed to produce a tangible outcome based on these identified strategies**

Consequently, the EASi Board became aligned with and continues to function under the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention (National Forum) based on a Memorandum of Understanding between the FDA, led by the Office of Health and Constituent Affairs, and the National Forum pursuant to section 1701-1704 and 399Y of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. §§300u-300u-3 and 280h-2 and executed in March 2015. These statutes mandate support of activities and programs that incorporate appropriate health education into our society and is authorized to encourage others to support programs in health promotion and health education; to make health information available to others who should be informed; to provide consultation and otherwise support the design and conduct of research concerning health promotion; to secure cooperation of others in activities designed to encourage health maintaining behaviors; and to collaborate with others (national and community based organizations).

Notably, the EASi Board executed its mission culminating in a state-of-art publication in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* and a review article published in the *Journal of Clinical Hypertension*.

Ferdinand KC, Senatore F, Clayton-Jeter H, Cryer DR, Lewin J, Nasser SA, Fiuzat M, Califf R. Improving medication adherence in cardiometabolic disease: Practical and regulatory implications. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. 2017 Jan 31;69(4):437-51.

Ferdinand KC, Yadav K, Nasser SA, Clayton-Jeter H, Lewin J, Cryer DR, Senatore F. Disparities in Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease in African Americans: The Critical Role of Medication Adherence. *Journal of Clinical Hypertension*. 2017 Oct;19(10): 1015-1024.

Demonstrating our commitment to remediate racial/ethnic health disparities, every member of the EASi Board are members of the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC). The EASi Board is continuing its work with the National Forum and collaborating with the ABC to fulfill our collective objective to reduce stroke and heart disease and alleviate racial/ethnic disparities.

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