



The Association of Black Cardiologists A Commitment to Black Maternal Heart Health

Overview

The Association of Black Cardiologists, Inc. (ABC) was founded on the premise to address the disproportionate burden of cardiovascular disease and inequities in cardiovascular care for African Americans (AA). As such, ABC leadership has made a commitment to prime initiatives centered around underrepresented minorities. With the maternal health crisis disproportionately affecting AA women, ABC is proud to be the cardiovascular society at the forefront in addressing the disparate AA maternal morbidity and mortality crisis.

ABC's Path to Tackling the Maternal Health Crisis

In the year 2000, Bristol Myers Squibb donated \$2 million to the ABC to establish the Center for Excellence in Women's Health to address women's health and the Center for Epidemiology to expose and address disparities. Since that time, registries were developed to build data and statistics from real-world experience from the providers at the front line. As a culmination of their efforts, the *ABC Cardiovascular Implementation Study (CVIS): A Research Registry Integrating Social Determinant to Support Care for Underserved Patients* was published in 2019. The study demonstrated how infrastructures collaborate in various models, with an emphasis upon incorporating patient engagement during practice and day-to-day care. The key to impacting the maternal crisis is incorporating quality, education and outreach, and gathering data in a repository to answer relevant issues for these women.

Over the past year, the ABC became one of the stakeholder organizations within the Black Maternal Health Caucus (BMHC) where it has supported the legislative proposals in the Omnibus and has used its various platforms to advocate for congressional support.

More recently, on June 13, 2020, ABC convened 'A Working Agenda for Black Mothers: Black Maternal Heart Health Roundtable'. This was the result of ABC's newest advocacy efforts and the first step in launching a collaborative task force to tackle this issue along with the implementation of a national campaign. With great intent, this endeavor brought together a diverse group of expert leaders from different areas, including state agencies, faith-based communities, industry, maternal health specialists, other health care specialties, as well as media and partner organizations. The discussions on June 13th focused on reducing Black maternal mortality through advocacy, education, research, and collaborative efforts focused on meaningful initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the intent to identify current barriers at the community, patient and clinician level.

We as an organization understand that solving the Black maternal mortality crisis will take unwavering purpose, passion, and commitment, and we are proud to be a part of that work.