



Spring 2015
News and Upcoming Events
www.healthequityinitiative.org

Become a Member!

Take action today and become a HEI member! In addition to the free resources available to everyone, HEI membership - whether for individuals or organizations - will give you immediate access to great [member benefits](#) as well as opportunities to connect with community leaders and professionals from multiple sectors and disciplines, which will help your work in support of health equity.



Here are **three good reasons** why you should become a member today:

- 1) Gain access to special rates on great resources and educational opportunities by HEI and its partners
- 2) Build your network and get professional or community support as you work on advancing health equity in your professions and communities
- 3) Become a health equity champion and contribute to building a social movement for health equity

Don't wait! [Join](#) the fastest growing social movement for health equity!

Congratulations to HEI's Founder, Renata Schiavo!

HEI's very own **Dr. Renata Schiavo**, the organization's Founding President, was recognized as one of 300 Women Leaders in Global Health by an initiative of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. [Click here](#) to learn more.



300 WOMEN LEADERS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

In addition to her role at Health Equity Initiative, Dr. Schiavo is Senior Lecturer at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Communication in Healthcare: Strategies, Media, and Engagement in Global Health*; and Founder and Principal, Strategic Communication Resources, a global expert consultancy focusing on fostering behavioral, social, and organizational results via social innovation and system-changing strategies that she established in 2004.

Health Equity Initiative also salutes all great women leaders who made the list, and recognizes those among them who are based in NY/NJ: **Dr. Mary Bassett, Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, Ms. Marine Boussoniere, Ms. Helen Clark, Ms. Chelsea Clinton, Ms. Sharon D'Agostino, Ms. Susannah Fox, and Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey.** Congratulations to all!

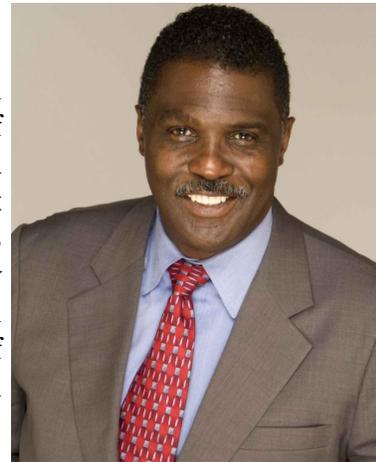
In Our Members' Own Words...

(Comments are posted in alphabetical order by the member's first name)

Glenn Ellis, CHCE Strategies for Well-Being, LLC, Philadelphia, PA

Why did you join HEI?

In the global and national context of increasingly social and economic divides, health equity is an area, not only of my chosen work, but, the central theme to advance and insure social justice in healthcare and medicine. To be part of a larger, concerted effort, such as HEI, and address these concerns was an opportunity to enhance my knowledge and my ability to contribute to this wonderful organization. HEI is a vehicle that offers the resources of training, education, and networking, which gives me an increased ability to become more effective.



How does your work or area of interest help or may help advance health equity?

The primary focus of my work is centered on advancing "cultural humility". Through improving community level health literacy, raising ethical and equity dilemmas in clinical setting, and contributing to the national discourse on health equity in the media, I am extremely optimistic that the gaps in care and wellness will be narrowed through better more informed consumers and patients, and improved consciousness and sensitivity from their providers. Through my work in the broadcast and print media, service as an IRB member, and lectures and seminars across the spectrum of the community, I provide vital information to the stakeholders that leads to improved health literacy and cultural competence.

Kathryn Beck, RD, MPH Nutrition Technical Support Fellow, Partners in Health, Global Health Corps, Kigali, Rwanda

Why did you join HEI?

I had the pleasure of having Dr. Renata Schiavo as a



professor at the Hunter College School of Public Health for an Introduction to Global Health course she was teaching in 2011. Her passion and devotion to health equity as a career was evident and inspiring to me. As a student of public health, I was eager to learn more about the issues related to health equity. While working towards finishing my Master of Public Health degree, I went in search of internship opportunities to gain practical experience, particularly in the area of health equity. I immediately thought of Dr. Schiavo and her organization, HEI. After exploring HEI's website and discussing with Dr. Schiavo, I knew that the organization's mission and goals matched my own. I was eager to become a part of the HEI community and help to promote health equity.



How does your work or area of interest help or may help advance health equity?

I currently work as a Dietitian and will soon be starting a fellowship with Global Health Corps (GHC) working for their partner organization Partners in Health (PIH) in Rwanda. Both GHC and PIH hold values very similar to HEI's. These organizations are focused on promoting health as a human right and advancing health equity in the work that they do. In particular, during my year as a Fellow, I will be assisting on efforts related to preventing malnutrition through community programs and initiatives in a rural area of Rwanda where high rates of malnutrition still exist.

**Mannat Sharma
Intern, Ward Circle Strategies, Washington, DC**

Why did you join HEI?

As a recently graduated health sciences student, I am always interested in opportunities to learn more about health systems and innovation. I think Health Equity Initiative is an organization that truly understands the importance of health equity in the advancement and improvement of health for all members of society. After joining HEI as an intern, I became more involved with the project committees and was able to learn a lot from the resources provided by the organization, as well as from the work of other members. I particularly liked the informative and interactive online workshops. I think joining HEI as a young professional is a great opportunity to make meaningful social change.



How does your work or area of interest help or may help advance health equity?

I am currently interning at Ward Circle Strategies, a boutique consulting firm that works on strategic communication, marketing, and policy implementation for nonprofits,

private sector and government. The project I currently work on is for the Military Health System, which provides health care to active duty and retired U.S. Military personnel and their dependents. I think it is important that all members of society, including veterans are able to access appropriate and timely health care services. As a HEI member, I also work to advance health equity by supporting the activities of the organization and promoting its initiatives to community members and partners. I look forward to being involved with the organization's new initiatives as it continues to grow and improve.

Most recently, I have started a blog series called [The Healthy Buzz](#), where I interview individuals in the healthcare space and profile impactful organizations. I have selected HEI as my first organization to spotlight.

Pamela D. Straker, Ph.D.
**Director of Operations, Brooklyn Health Disparities Center (BHDC),
SUNY Downstate Medical Center, New York, NY**

Why did you join HEI?

I joined HEI to help further health equity as well as the organization's strong commitment to underserved communities. My training as a psychologist, my work experiences in multiple community based settings, and my participation on many committees, boards, and other decision making entities, informs my belief that the communities we serve must be engaged in solving the dilemmas that define health inequity.



How does your work or area of interest help or may help advance health equity?

In my role as the Director of Operations for the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center, I work to ensure that the Center's focus on engaging communities and on training the next generation of healthcare professionals is supported through integration of the work of the Center's Cores and membership. As well, I work to increase the Center's partnerships in achieving impact for those who are underserved. The degree to which BHDC joins others in advancing health equity extends the degree to which positive change can be envisioned and attained.

Save the Date!

Monthly HEI Members and Team Call!

Participate in our next monthly call for HEI members and team on **Tuesday, June 16** from **1:00 to 2:00 pm (EST)**.



Spring Social Event!

Join us on **Monday, June 1** from **5:30-8:00 pm** at the [Blue Mountain Gallery](#), 530 W 25th St #403, New York, NY (between 10th and 11th avenue). The artist that will be exhibiting at that time is [Geraldo Perez](#). RSVP by clicking [here](#). We hope to see you there!

Global Health Networking Event for Graduate Students and Young Professionals!

In partnership with Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Public Health Association of NYC (PHANYC), the NYU Global Institute of Public Health, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai, HEI is planning a Global Health Networking Event for this Fall! Senior or mid-career representatives from prominent global health organizations will come together in an informal setting to discuss their career and experience with graduate students who seek to pursue a career in global health. Of course, health equity will also be discussed by many of them as a global issue! Thank you to colleagues at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and PHANYC for initiating the event as well as their partnership! The event will take place on **Saturday, October 17, 2015** in Manhattan from **10 am - 1 pm**. Save the date! More details to come!

Online Workshops and Publications

Online Workshops

HEI's interactive online workshops are specifically designed to meet the needs of staff board members of a variety of U.S. and international organizations as well as community leaders and grassroots organizations.



[Visit our website](#) for access to **registration for upcoming live workshops** as well as **recorded workshops!**

Remember: [Members](#) receive up to 50% discount on HEI online workshops!

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Remember: In addition, members receive 20% discount on annual subscriptions to six leading peer-reviewed publications by [Maney Publishing](#), which address different topics of interest as they apply to the work of our multisectoral and multidisciplinary community. To learn more, [click here](#).



Members' News!

New HEI board members!

Please join us on congratulating HEI members **Dr. Upal Basu Roy**, **Ms. Lenore Cooney**, and **Mr. Carmelo Cruz Reyes** for being elected by our membership to the 2015-2016 **board of directors** of Health Equity Initiative. We are certain that their experience, work, and commitment to advancing health equity will greatly contribute to furthering our mission! For bios and other information, please visit [HEI team page](#).



Other Member News and Events

- **Erica Sandoval, LMSW** received the Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patients Network Community Service Award 2015.
- **Dr. Everold Hosein**, HEI Advisory Council member, is conducting a WHO-NYU summer institute this July at New York University on Integrated Marketing Communication for Behavioral Impact in Health and Social Development (IMC/COMBI). [Click here](#) for details.
- **Gustavo Cruz, DMD, MPH**, Health Equity Initiative's Senior Advisor and Chair, HEI Advisory Council, was named to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC).
- **Upal Basu Roy, PhD, MS, MPH** recently became the Director of Science Communication and Programs at Lungevity.

We Want to Feature Our Members' News!

Are you a HEI member? If yes, please let us know about your recent news (e.g., new positions, publications, presentations, media appearances, or others), so we can consider them for inclusion in our upcoming newsletters! Please submit your news for our August/September Newsletter by completing this [Google form!](#)



Meet Our Member Committee Chairs!

HEI Member Committees are a great place to start networking. As we continue to build the multisectoral and multidisciplinary organization you have asked for, HEI needs your help to make sure this continues to be YOUR organization. As a member-driven organization, you take ownership of direction and focus through the member committees and influence our organizational priorities! Your passion, commitment, and cumulative multisectoral and multidisciplinary experience is what makes HEI different. All committees are composed of volunteer members who agree to nurture and ignite conversation and engagement on health equity and work to develop activities and resources for all members and our broader community on one specific area. Click [here](#) to learn more about HEI member committees and get involved!

In the meantime, meet our talented and passionate member committee chairs!

HEI co-Chair Health Policy Committee

Friso van Reseema, MPH

Director Care Management at Emmi Solutions

Area of Work: Health, Wellness and Fitness

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

HEI co-Chair Health Policy Committee

Manik Bhat, Chief Executive Officer at Healthify

Area of Work: Hospital and Health Care

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

HEI co-Chair Ad-Hoc Program Committee

Upal Basu Roy, PhD, MS, MPH, Director of Science Communication and Programs at Lungevity

Area of Work: Philanthropy

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

HEI co-Chair Ad-Hoc Program Committee

Carmelo Cruz Reyes, MPH, Senior Contract Manager at HIV Care Services, Public Health Solutions

Area of Work: Health, Wellness and Fitness

HEI Chair Membership Committee

Carmelo Cruz Reyes, MPH, Senior Contract Manager at HIV Care Services, Public Health Solutions

Area of Work: Health, Wellness and Fitness

HEI Interim Chair Communications Committee

Jane Tabone, MBA, MPH

Area of Work: Health, Wellness and Fitness

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

To learn more about all of our member committees, [click here](#).

Resources

Recent Publications by HEI Team and Members

[Click here](#) to read more and if you are a member, tell us about your recent publications by filling out the [online form](#).

Films about Health Equity and Social, Economic and Environmental Determinants of Health

Step Up Step Down

A short documentary by the Health Equity Institute of San Francisco State University that explores the need for revitalizing the dilapidated conditions of the public housing in San Francisco. The substandard housing, especially over an extended period of time, is thought to increase the risk of chronic diseases, injury, poor nutrition, and poor mental health. [Click here to view](#).

The Raising of America

A documentary series and public engagement campaign by California Newsreel that explores how a strong start for all of our kids can lead to a healthier, stronger and more equitable America. **Health Equity Initiative** is a [campaign partner](#) on this project. [Click here](#) for more information.

Male Champions for Health

A short video by UNICEF that emphasizes the importance of social support by male champions and others in disease prevention as well as toward improved maternal and child health outcomes. [Click here](#) to view.

Shopping for birthdays or just for yourself?

Support HEI's efforts to bridge silos and build ONE community for health equity! Give a gift that gives back to Health Equity Initiative at no extra cost to you by shopping on Amazon via Fundinco or Amazon Smiles!

- **Shop on Amazon via [Fundinco](#) - 3% of your purchase**



amount will be donated to Health Equity Initiative

- **Shop on Amazon via [Amazon Smiles](#)** - 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchase will be donated to Health Equity Initiative

For other opportunities to support Health Equity Initiative's work, visit our [donate](#) page!

Join HEI Member List-Serv!

HEI recently launched a List-serv for updates and discussion regarding HEI's member activities! This group will give members and volunteers a chance to share relevant health equity-related resources regarding their work and organizations to receive information on Health Equity Initiative's member activities and committees. Don't miss out and join by [clicking here!](#)



Become a Partner!

Sponsoring Health Equity Initiative is an opportunity for your organization to expand its range! Our community is diverse and committed to working across sectors. We reach 10,000 people via our mailing list and social media. Basic sponsorship benefits include free organizational membership, your logo on our website and newsletter, three complementary individual memberships to donate to your partners and clients, and the opportunity to offer an online or in-person workshop. We customize sponsorship opportunities to meet the needs of our partners.



Click [here](#) to learn more and become a partner today!

Bridging Silos, Building ONE
Community for Health Equity!
www.healthequityinitiative.org



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