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BSCP

**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE
 CAREERS PROGRAM**

Keynote Speaker

Paul Farmer, MD, PhD

LISTING THE TITLES AND DEGREES of medical anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer, MD, PhD (Kolokotronis University Professor, Harvard University; chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; chief of the Division of Global Health Equity, Brigham and Women's Hospital; cofounder, Partners In Health (PIH); and U.N. Deputy Special Envoy for Haiti, under Special Envoy Bill Clinton), only scratches the surface of his career. Attendees at the Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference in March will have the opportunity to learn about Dr. Farmer's vision for global health equity and his efforts to realize it — beyond mere words on a page — when he delivers the lunchtime keynote address on Saturday, March 31.

Dr. Farmer began his lifelong commitment to Haiti in 1983, while a student working with dispossessed farmers in Haiti's Central Plateau. In 1987, he helped found PIH, an international non-profit organization that provides direct health care services and engages in research and advocacy activities on behalf of those who are sick and living in poverty. In 20 years, PIH's project in Haiti has grown from a one-building clinic in the village of Cange to 12 sites throughout the country. The

organization also works in 12 additional countries around the globe.

In the United States and abroad, Dr. Farmer and his colleagues have pioneered novel, community-based treatment strategies for the delivery of high-quality health care in resource-poor settings. Specifically, he and PIH have shown that treatment of HIV/AIDS, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, cancer and other non-communicable diseases can realize excellent clinical outcomes in such settings; they've also demonstrated that such treatment programs can be integrated with efforts to strengthen public sector health systems.

Dr. Farmer has written extensively about health and human rights, and about the role of social inequalities in the distribution and outcome of infectious diseases. In his most recent book, *Haiti After the Earthquake*, Dr. Farmer recounts his experience tending to those injured in the disaster, and examines the social, historical and political factors that made Haiti so vulnerable to the earthquake's aftermath. He is also the subject of Tracy Kidder's book, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World*.

Dr. Farmer, who earned his BA from Duke University, MD from Harvard Medical School, and PhD in anthropology from



PAUL FARMER, MD, PHD

Harvard University, has received, among other awards, a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Award, the Carter Award for Humanitarian Contributions to the Health of Humankind from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, the Salk Institute Medal for Health and Humanity, the Margaret Mead Award from the American Anthropological Association,

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2012 Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

THE 11TH BIENNIAL BIOMEDICAL Science Careers Student Conference for underrepresented minority postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; post-baccalaureates; college and community college students; and high school seniors and juniors will take place on Friday, March 30, and Saturday, March 31, 2012, at The Westin Hotel Copley Place in Boston. In addition to the traditional panels and keynote speakers, the conference always features sessions that are specifically targeted toward postdoctoral fellows and medical and graduate students.

Keynote speaker Kenneth C. Frazier, president and CEO of Merck & Co., Inc., will open the Saturday morning session. Frazier joined Merck as vice president, general counsel and secretary of the Astra Merck Group in 1992 and has held several senior management positions since that time. Previously, he was a partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath in Philadelphia. He sits on the boards of ExxonMobil Corporation, Pennsylvania State University and Cornerstone Christian Academy in

Philadelphia. He's also a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, the Council of the American Law Institute and the American Bar Association. Frazier graduated from Pennsylvania State University and received his JD from Harvard Law School.

Other keynote speakers will be Eve J. Higginbotham, MD, visiting scholar in health equity, Association of American Medical Colleges; and Paul Farmer, MD, PhD, Kolokotronis University Professor at Harvard University; chair, Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School; professor of Global Health and Population at Harvard School of Public Health and chief of the Division of Global Health Equity at Brigham and Women's Hospital (see related story, page 1).

Friday night's sessions, specifically for postdocs and graduate and medical students, are "Options after Graduate School: An Interactive Discussion for Postdocs and Graduate Students" and "Approaching Residency Selection and Interviews Workshop

for Medical Students." Options for Saturday include "Residency Training and Beyond for Medical and Graduate Students" and "Fellowship and Postdoctoral Training for Postdocs and Medical, Dental and Graduate Students." Practical sessions for all levels include "Transitioning from the University to the Workplace for Postdocs, Graduate, College and Community College Students," "Finding the Right People to Build Your Career," and "Other Health Care Opportunities." For the first time, there will be a special session, "Skills and Strategies for Success: Special Session for Postdoctoral Fellows," that directly addresses the challenges facing postdocs as they begin their careers. This new session will be held late Saturday afternoon.

Networking will continue to be the focus for attendees. Each participant must complete a four-page application — due by February 1 — and will be matched with a mentor based on their responses. To request an application, please send your preferred postal address to Lise D. Kaye at lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu. ■

FARMER

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the American Medical Association's Outstanding International Physician (Nathan Davis) Award and, with his PIH colleagues, the Hilton Humanitarian Prize.

Since the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, PIH has focused its efforts in Haiti on the construction of a new teaching hospital in Mirebalais, 30 miles north of Port-au-Prince. With 320 beds and the capacity to serve approximately 500 outpatients per day, Mirebalais National Teaching Hospital will provide high-quality, comprehensive clinical services to communities that

currently have very limited access to them. The new hospital will also strengthen Haiti's long-term human resource capacity in the health sector by offering residency, training and accreditation. "For some of us, this hospital is the culmination of a dream dating back a quarter century, and underlines our commitment to the country and people of Haiti, which is stronger than ever after the earthquake," Dr. Farmer said. PIH and the Haitian Ministry of Health and Population expect that the hospital, scheduled to open in early 2012, will help train the country's next generation of doctors and nurses. ■

Where Are They Now?

Natalie Etienne, RN

EVEN AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT in Brockton, Massachusetts, Natalie Etienne, RN, knew she was interested in a medical career. So her father, a teacher in the Boston Public Schools, told her about the Biomedical Science Careers Program. It was a program he recommended to his students, so why wouldn't he give the same advice to his own children? That began a relationship that would last from Etienne's junior year of high school through her undergraduate years at Tufts University, where she was premed and an economics major.

By the time Etienne graduated from Tufts, she had won a BSCP Hope Scholarship and, through connections developed at various BSCP events, secured internships at Biogen Idec for three consecutive summers. During that time, Etienne also realized that she was more interested in becoming a nurse than a doctor. So she worked as an emergency room technician and did post-graduate work before enrolling in Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. She graduated in 2008.

Currently a nurse in the neurosurgical intensive care unit at Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, Etienne has gained a world of experience — literally. Thanks to Johns Hopkins' internship program, she was able to complete a nursing internship at Mount Sinai and spend three months as an intern in the oncology and intensive care units at Tawam Hospital in Dubai. It was an eye-opening and rewarding experience. "I was so fascinated. In one day in one hospital [there], you come into contact with 20 different people from 20 different cultures," she says. "The nurses, too. There were eight different cultures on a shift."

Etienne went straight to Mount Sinai after graduation. She began in the cardiac unit but transferred to neurosurgical intensive care after a year because, she explains,

"I wanted a greater challenge." Her job is intense, with 12½-hour shifts three to four days each week.

But that hasn't stopped Etienne from continuing to seek out continuing education. In July 2011, she became certified as a holistic health care coach, which she feels is important for preventive care. Etienne explains that a lot of her job involves post-surgical patient education. She draws on what she learned in her holistic health training in this capacity. "I am a helping hand, someone who helps people be accountable for their health. With more information, people feel empowered. They can help themselves."

She also finds time for extensive volunteer work. In January 2011 Etienne, a Haitian-American, traveled with a group of nurses to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, following the earthquake there, to work in the General Hospital with the Haitian American Nurses Association of New York (H.A.N.A.) and Partners in Health (see related story, page 1). She also goes to Pardieu, Haiti, every summer, where she runs a clinic with her uncle, an anesthesiologist. Her family runs a missions project in Pardieu where, before the earthquake, they built an elementary school and a church.

Since moving away from the Boston area, it has been harder for Etienne to return for BSCP events, though she has attended Evenings of Hope and would like to become more involved when her schedule allows. "I love BSCP," she says. "I believe that the mentorship and continuous encouragement that I received through Carl Reid, PhD, the scientist who hired me at Biogen [and a former BSCP student], and the career workshops and conferences helped shape me into who I am today." ■



NATALIE ETIENNE, RN

SAVE THE DATES

Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference

Friday, March 30, and
Saturday, March 31, 2012

The Westin Hotel Copley Place

Audience: Postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; college and community college students; post-baccalaureates; high school seniors and juniors.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

February 1, 2012

For more information and to register, contact Lise D. Kaye at (617) 432-0552 or lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu.

New England Science Symposium

Sunday, April 1, 2012
Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at
Harvard Medical School

Audience: Postdoctoral fellows; medical, dental and graduate students; college and community college students; and post-baccalaureates

For more information and to register, go to www.NewEnglandScienceSymposium.org.

Evening of Hope

Wednesday, April 25, 2012
The Westin Hotel Copley Place

Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner and Awards Ceremony: 7:00 p.m.

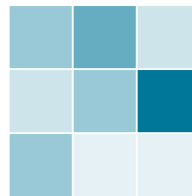
Reminder

Please remember to update your contact information and post your resume at www.bscp.org. Click on "Update/Submit Your Information," then enter your information under "Current and Former BSCP Participants."

For more information, contact Lise D. Kaye at (617) 432-0552 or lise_kaye@hms.harvard.edu.

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Resources

Women's Health Research Network

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH RESEARCH Network (www.wocrn.nih.gov) is a new resource established by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and its Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers to support "all scientists interested in raising the voice and visibility of women of color in biomedical and behavioral research."

According to the group, there are specific career challenges that women of color in

the biomedical sciences have to deal with, including recruitment, retention, promotion and mentoring. The Women of Color Research Network (WOCRN) is one way the NIH hopes to address these issues, opening doors to new collaborations and career development opportunities, and providing new ways for those interested in diversity to connect.

The website lists job openings, and includes research resources, discussion

groups, networking opportunities and a registry where participants can identify themselves, their expertise and interests, and can seek out a mentor, a mentee or both. It provides a platform and source of information for those interested in supporting women of color in biomedical and behavioral research. ■