



National Medical Association Annual Convention Report
August 3-8, 2024
New York, New York

In addition to being an event sponsor for the National Medical Association Annual (NMA) Conference held in New York City from August 3-7, 2024, Grady Health System offered six insightful presentations and hosted an exhibit hall booth to recruit physician leaders.

The National Medical Association's Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly is acclaimed as the nation's primary forum on medical science and African American health. Each year, African American physicians and other health professionals from across the country convene to participate in scholarly exchange, exploring medical advances, discussing health policy priorities, and sharing experiences to broaden networking opportunities. Through NMA's 26 scientific specialty sections, the convention attracts the broadest spectrum of African American physicians, academicians, and scientists in the United States.

This year's theme, "The Quest for Health Care Transformation," explored three core pillars essential to transforming health care:

1. **Black Women's Health Agenda:** This pillar concerns actionable change, ensuring that Black women's health is prioritized, protected, and promoted at all levels of health care delivery and policy-making.
2. **Digital Innovation:** Advancing health equity through digital health solutions, this pillar emphasizes the importance of accessibility and transparency in ensuring that technology benefits all, particularly in reducing health disparities.
3. **Health Care Workforce:** This pillar supports our health care professionals, offering initiatives on physician viability, addressing racism within the profession, and fostering a supportive environment for Black physicians and residents to preserve and increase a diverse workforce.

The Office of Health Equity within the Grady Health System initiated the development of Grady's presentations and supervised its exhibit hall participation.

- Health Equity Access Coordinators (HEACs) presented on their robust body of work over the past two years. Their four sessions provided insight into the successes, challenges, and lessons learned in completing 21,000 calls with Grady Health System patients. Their presentations addressed two prevailing topics: *Women's Health and Community Health* and *Preventive Medicine*.

- As part of the Health Equity presentation, Glenn Hilburn, Vice President of Chief Applications and Informatics at Grady Health System, presented on how electronic health records and digital technology can increase access to health care and decrease health disparities.
- Leslie Marshburn and Dhana Blissett presented *Comprehensive Food as Medicine* about that program at Grady Health System. Marshburn and Blissett expounded on the extensive initiatives within the program, including a food pharmacy, cooking classes, and food distribution. Supported by their research, their presentation illustrated the significant health outcomes for the patients the program serves.

Grady Health System had a significant presence at this year's national convention. By its participation, Grady was able to:

- Increase its brand awareness,
- Recruit quality physicians,
- Show how effective structuring of Health Equity can have a significant impact on patients and the community at large, and
- Disseminate best practice information to a national audience.

The following featured sessions were presented by 19 Grady Health System attendees at the convention.

Women's Health Section

So, Black Women Physicians, What Does Thriving Look Like Since DEI Is Out?

Presenter: Dr. Yolanda Wimberly, SVP and Chief Health Equity Officer

Health Equity Access Coordinators: A Creative Approach to Health Equity

Presenters: Dr. Yolanda Wimberly, Ms. Taylor Dixon, and Ms. Brianna Jones

Community Health and Preventive Medicine Section

Rosalyn Payne Epps Symposium

Food as Medicine

Presenters: Dhana Blissett, MS, RD, LD, Program Manager, Food as Medicine, and Leslie Marshburn, Vice President, Strategy and Population Health

Vernal G. Cave Symposium

Building a Health Equity Office: Grady Health System's Journey to Action and Impact

Presenters: Dr. Yolanda Wimberly, SVP and Chief Health Equity Officer and Health Equity Access Coordinators: Emmett Taliaferro, Alicela Pacheco-Caballero, Brianna Jones, Taylor Dixon, Lindsey Glenn, Jayden Rainey, and Dasha Broadnax

Vernal G. Cave Symposium

Technology and Health Equity: Bridging the Gap for Better Health Outcomes

Presenter: Glenn Hilburn, RN, MBC, CHCIO, Vice President, Chief of Applications and Informatics

Panel Discussion on the Teen Experience and Leadership Program

Panelists: Health Equity Access Coordinators for Grady's TELP program:

Amond Cowans, Marlon Patterson Jr., Princess Barge, Alaina Cooper, Amelia Wilson, and Michelle Franks

Grady Health System Exhibit and Recruitment Booth

Booth staff: Dr. Nitasha Burney-Fleming, Chief of Community Medicine, and Phenicia Taylor, Human Resource Consultant