

For Immediate Release

RCMI International Health Disparities Symposium Names James EK Hildreth as Greenwood Award Recipient



SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO – August 8, 2012 – The 13th RCMI Biennial International Symposium on Health Disparities selection committee announces Dr James EK Hildreth as the sixth Frederick C Greenwood Award recipient. The Greenwood Award recognizes individuals whose scientific contributions and meritorious service directly impact disadvantaged and underserved ethnic minority populations. As an integral participant in the RCMI community, Dr James Hildreth has consistently excelled in academic, executive, and administrative achievements that impact recent scientific advances aimed at eliminating health disparities. Dr Hildreth's achievements contribute to elevating research and training programs. He is acknowledged as a master teacher and provides mentoring and support for secondary, undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students while sharing his remarkable mind with students in the laboratory and student research on a number of university campuses.

On receiving the award, Dr Hildreth stated "I am indeed privileged to be the recipient of the 2012 Frederick C Greenwood Award and am honored for the opportunity to present a lecture during the 13th RCMI International Symposium." Dr Emma Fernandez, 2012 Symposium Chair said, "The 2012 RCMI Symposium is pleased to acknowledge Dr Hildreth's contribution to the RCMI program and his commitment to improving the health of disadvantaged and underserved ethnic minority populations. James Hildreth is a mentor, a role model, and a friend to the research community." Dr Fernandez stated further, "The local hosts for the Symposium are honored that this recognition of Dr Hildreth takes place in Puerto Rico as we celebrate the 13th RCMI International Symposium on Health Disparities."

Dr Hildreth has co-authored more than 150 journal articles, textbook chapters and abstracts. He served as Meharry Medical College RCMI program director; Chair, RCMI External Advisory Committee-Morehouse School of Medicine and Morgan State University; and planning committee for RCMI 12th Biennial International Symposium on Health Disparities (2010). Dr Hildreth also served as Chief of the Division of Research, National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (now NIMHD), and

participated in NIAID, NIDR, American Cancer Society, National Science Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and US Department of Veteran Affairs study sections.

While researching the molecular nature of HIV since 1987, Dr Hildreth has successfully shifted prevailing theories and proved viral mechanisms that were unpopular among his colleagues. His vision of the virus, what he calls the Trojan exosome hypothesis, is a critical component in the fight to end AIDS. According to Dr Valerie Montgomery Rice, Dean, Morehouse School of Medicine, who as Dean at Meharry Medical College recruited Dr Hildreth to serve as MMC's Director of the Center for AIDS Health Disparities, "Dr Hildreth's knowledge, skill and determination will prove the crucial biomedical advances that must occur before we can claim AIDSvictory; namely an inconspicuous prophylactic and a vaccine both preventive and therapeutic."

Born in Camden, Arkansas, Dr Hildreth graduated magna cum laude in chemistry from Harvard University and was selected as the first African American Rhodes Scholar from Arkansas. Studying the biology of cytotoxic T cells, Dr Hildreth completed his PhD in Immunology at Oxford University in England. Dr Hildreth completed the medical doctor degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed a fellowship in pharmacology. Dr Hildreth is a member of the Institute of Medicine, has trained 19 PhDs and is the recipient of numerous awards. He is internationally recognized for his work and is the inventor of 13 patents based on his research. A primary focus of his current research is the development of a vaginal microbicide to block HIV transmission in women. He is a leader in the effort to engage church and faith leaders in the fight against AIDS. Dr Hildreth received an NIH Director's Pioneer Award, given each year to a few select scientists of exceptional creativity who use pioneering approaches to major biomedical or behavioral research challenges. Dr Hildreth is currently Dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine.

For more information about the **13th RCMI International Symposium on Health Disparities** visit www.rcmibiennial.org or call 404.559.6191.

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About the 13th RCMI International Symposium on Health Disparities
This special event is hosted by the RCMI Programs at [Ponce School of Medicine](#), [Universidad Central del Caribe](#), and [University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus](#) and funded by Grant Number 8U13 MD007596 from the [National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities \(NIMHD\)](#), [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#), [Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\)](#).