

**Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

Hiran Ratnayake

(302) 327-3327

[hkratnayake@christianacare.org](mailto:hkratnayake@christianacare.org)

## **Christiana Care Health System's Value Institute Focuses on the Elimination of Health Care Disparities in Spring Symposium**

(NEWARK, Del. – May 19, 2015) [Christiana Care Health System](#) will host the Value Institute Spring Symposium, “Eliminating Health Care Disparities,” from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Tuesday, May 19 at the John H. Ammon Medical Education Center at Christiana Hospital.

The symposium brings together national experts to identify and execute solutions to eliminate health care disparities. Income, education level, sex, race, ethnicity, employment status, and sexual orientation are all related to health and health outcomes for a number of Americans, according to a recent report on health disparities by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The symposium's featured speakers are Lisa Cooper, M.D., MPH, and Giselle Corbie-Smith, M.D., MSc.

Cooper is an internationally recognized expert on the effectiveness of patient-centered interventions for improving health outcomes and overcoming racial and ethnic disparities in healthcare. Her landmark studies in this area earned her a fellowship and \$500,000 “genius grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, an honor bestowed upon researchers who demonstrate exceptional creativity and – based on a track record of significant accomplishment – promise for important future advances.

Cooper serves as the James F. Fries Professor of Medicine and core faculty member of the Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology and Clinical Research at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Corbie-Smith is nationally recognized for her scholarly work on the practical and ethical issues regarding engaging communities of color in research to address racial and ethnic health disparities. Corbie-Smith serves as a Kenan Distinguished Professor for the Department of Social Medicine at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and directs the program on Health Disparities at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Also speaking at the symposium will be staff from Christiana Care's Helen F. Graham Cancer Center & Research Institute, who will discuss Delaware's successful efforts, focused in part on

outreach targeting high-risk, underserved populations, to eliminate disparities in colon cancer between African Americans and whites.

Christiana Care's Value Institute was established in 2011 to embed population-based research expertise in an independent academic health system, creating a unique institution that conducts real-world research on today's most pressing health care issues through collaborations among researchers, patients, health care providers and policymakers.

Identifying and eliminating barriers to health care access and the health care disparities they create is critical to engaging underserved communities and achieving the Value Institute's Triple Aim of improving patient experience and patient outcomes while lowering costs. Race, ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status and geographic location are among the host of factors that can contribute to health care disparities and prevent patients from engaging with medical providers and accessing quality health care.

For more information on the Value Institute, visit [www.christianacare.org/valueinstitute](http://www.christianacare.org/valueinstitute).

### **About Christiana Care Health System**

Christiana Care Health System is one of the country's largest health care systems, ranking as the 22nd leading hospital in the nation and 12th on the East Coast in terms of admissions. The health system includes The Christiana Care Medical Group, a network of primary care physicians, medical and surgical specialists as well as home health care, preventive medicine, rehabilitation services and patient/family advisors for core health care services. A not-for-profit teaching hospital affiliated with Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Christiana Care is recognized as a regional center for excellence in cardiology, cancer and women's health services. Christiana Care has an extensive range of outpatient services, and through Christiana Care Quality Partners, Christiana Care works closely with its medical staff to achieve better health, better access to care and lower cost. Christiana Care is home to Delaware's only Level I trauma center, the highest capability center and the only one of its kind between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Christiana Care also features a Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the only delivering hospital in Delaware that offers the highest level of non-surgical care to the most critically ill newborns. Christiana Care includes two hospitals with 1,100 patient beds.

For more information about Christiana Care, visit [www.christianacare.org/howweare](http://www.christianacare.org/howweare).

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