



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CARDIOLOGISTS, INC.

The Association of Black Cardiologists was founded in 1974 by Dr. Richard Allen Williams and 17 other visionaries referred to as founding members. ABC represents the first organized effort by cardiovascular specialists to establish a forum for addressing the disproportionate burden of CVD and special needs in the Black community.

“To promote the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including stroke, in Blacks and other minorities and to achieve health equity for all through the elimination of disparities” is ABC’s mission and serves as the guiding principle for ABC programs and activities, including:

- **Sponsoring education as a platform for exchange of ideas and information**
 - ***Spirit of the Heart***, ABC’s signature community outreach program is a primary example of the organization’s efforts to promote positive behavioral and lifestyle changes and to increase knowledge about cardiovascular disease. This program touches hundreds of communities across the country and has reached over 40 million people through live programming and media platforms.
 - ***CHAT (Community Health Advocacy Training)***, this program is designed for Community Health Advocates to increase awareness, knowledge and skills for preventing and controlling risk factors for CVD, and to prepare advocates to build coalitions to improve cardiovascular health at local and state levels. The curriculum is based on the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute’s “*With Every Heartbeat is Life,*” and supported by other topical subjects.
 - **Provider Education**, For nearly four decades, the ABC has sponsored annual conferences and regional symposia, web-based and other enduring programs for health care providers. The ABC is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians. ABC’s CME Program is designated “Accreditation with Commendation,” the highest status awarded by the ACCME.
- **Addressing the lack of sufficient minority participation in clinical trials by sponsoring and promoting cardiovascular research**
 - ABC members are encouraged to participate in research as investigators and especially in research leadership roles. Landmark trials such as A-HeFT, ARIES, Candesartan, ALLHAT and PLATINUM Diversity were led by ABC members--Drs. Anne Taylor, Keith Ferdinand, Kenneth Jamerson, Jackson Wright and Wayne Batchelor, respectively.
 - ABC encourages young clinical and scientific investigators to pursue careers in cardiovascular research and offers Young Investigator Awards as funding permits.
 - The ABC Clinical Trials Network (ABC CTN) provides investigators from multiple specialties with unparalleled access to clinical studies of interest while offering industry “one-stop” access to multiple investigators that ascribe to the same standard of clinical trial conduct. Comprised of investigators from a variety of therapeutic areas, the ABC CTN was developed to serve as a central “wheel hub” of sorts to identify and vet clinical trial opportunities, match investigators to trials of interest, and provide some of the infrastructure support that we have heard physicians say they would find to be beneficial.

- **Celebrating our heroes by documenting and recognizing the accomplishments of individuals/institutions and their contributions to medicine, science and health promotion**
 - *Pioneering African Americans in the Conquest of Heart Disease* [annual calendar no longer available in print]
 - Dr. Daniel D. Savage Memorial Science Award
 - Dr. Walter M. Booker Health Promotion Award
 - Dr. Jay Brown Best Abstract Award
 - Diversity in Cardiology
 - Member of the Year
 - Named Lectures
 - Dr. Richard Allen Williams Founders Lecture
 - Dr. Elijah Saunders Memorial Lecture
- **Diversifying the workforce in response to changing demographics**
 - For well over three decades, ABC has maintained its commitment to promote the continuing education of underrepresented minorities in the field of Cardiology. Despite advances, cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of mortality and morbidity, and the question remains whether our nation is training enough cardiovascular specialists to accomplish the ambitious goals to care for the growing burden of CVD, especially among aging and minority populations. **ABC sponsors the following scholarships and awards and the level of support is based on the availability of funding.**
 - Dr. Richard Allen Williams Scholarships for Black Medical Students
 - General Cardiology Fellowships
 - ABC-Meharry-Vanderbilt
 - ABC-Morehouse School of Medicine
 - 4th Year Fellowship in Interventional Cardiology
 - 4th Year Fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology
 - ABC-Aetna Foundation Disparities Research Fellowship
 - **Cardiologists-In-Training (CIT) Program** was created to address the unique needs of minority physicians pursuing careers in Cardiovascular Medicine. This prized program serves as a support system for cardiology fellows, residents and medical students, and tracks their academic progress and social adjustments at training institutions around the country. The ABC provides travel grants and special programming for African American and other minority physicians active in the CIT Program to attend ABC conferences held in conjunction with the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association Scientific Sessions. A cardiology fellow has a standing position on the board of directors to represent the interests of CITs.
 - **Mentorship for Youth**, ABC's newest program is in the developmental stages and was introduced to connect youths with role models (health professionals in the ABC and externally) to help them make informed choices about school, work and career goals, especially in the health sciences.
- **Giving a voice to those denied access to care because of race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, etc.**
 - To fulfill its Advocacy mission, the ABC remains committed to advocating on behalf of its members and patients at local, state and national levels.

How Does ABC Accomplish Its Objectives?

The ABC is governed by a Board of Directors elected from and by the membership and managed by a professional staff at the national offices in New York, NY.

ABC also relies on its **Membership** coalition of over 1,700 volunteers. Membership is open to all individuals or groups with an interest in eradicating heart disease, including cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, internists, general and family practitioners, scientists, nurses and other allied personnel; institutions, corporations; and community health advocates. At the center of the organization are the more than 1,000 community health advocates who serve as local support group leaders, community educators, media spokespersons and general support volunteers. The ABC empowers these individuals to be effective in addressing the health concerns in places they live, work, learn and worship by offering training and resource materials.