

***Reducing Cancer Health Disparities in African American and communities of color:
the role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities***

Lucia Santacruz, PhD

There are pervasive cancer health disparities in African American and communities of color. Students at Minority Serving Institutions such as Historically Black Colleges and Universities are uniquely positioned to raise awareness and empower communities of color to become active players in diminishing these disparities. Our students can bring awareness of the risk factors associated with increased cancer incidence, the importance of regular cancer screenings and most importantly, serve as a bridge connecting communities of color with biomedical researchers working new cancer treatments. They can help their communities transcend the historical wrongs at the center of the distrust in biomedical research and empower them to be agents of change in the war on cancer.

The audience will realize they do not need to be scientists or physicians to decrease cancer health disparities and have a vital role in developing effective cancer interventions for all.