• **Humberto Brown** is Director of Health Disparity Initiatives and New Constituency Development for the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health (AAIUH). He directs the AAIUH’s seminar series on health disparities and is a member of the research team for AAIUH’s National Cancer Institute-funded research study, Prostate Cancer Control with Community Barbers. He conducts focus groups with and trains African American and Caribbean barbers on a variety of issues to support them as prostate health advocates in their shops.

• **Ruth Browne, ScD** is Chief Executive Officer of the Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health. A leader in the development and implementation of community health empowerment programs, Dr. Browne bridges the gap that exists between medical institutions and individuals in under-served urban communities. Determined to encourage people to lead their own efforts to be healthy, Dr. Browne creates model behavioral health intervention programs for culturally diverse communities in non-traditional settings.

• **Amarilys Cortijo, MD** has practiced family medicine in New York City for more than twenty years, many of these in a leadership role. Before joining the Institute for Family Health in 2001, she served for ten years as President and Medical Director of the Brooklyn Medical Group, a large multi-specialty group practice.

• **Cecilia Gaston, MPA** is the Executive Director of the Violence Intervention Program (VIP), a nationally recognized Latina organization dedicated to ending violence in the lives of women. Founded in 1984, VIP was the first community based, bilingual/bicultural domestic violence program established in New York State. To this day, VIP continues to stand at the forefront of the fight to end domestic violence in Latino communities serving thousands of women since its inception.

• **Chandak Ghosh, MD** is a board-certified ophthalmologist and Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. Dr. Ghosh is currently with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). As Medical Consultant for Federal Policy, his work led to the development of HRSA’s National Performance Review Protocol, utilized to improve all Federal health grantees, including hospitals, universities, and community health centers.

• **Rosa Gil, ScD** is the Founder, President and CEO of Comunilife, Inc., a not-for-profit health and human services agency, founded in 1989, that assists New Yorkers in need, including persons living with HIV/AIDS and/or mental illness. Comunilife helps them achieve self-sufficiency and a better life in the community through safe and affordable housing, behavioral health and social services.

• **Theodore (Ted) Hickman** is a Community Health Worker and Patient Navigator with the Men’s Health Initiative; a venture of the Center for Healthful Behavior Change at the New York University School of Medicine. It is a collaborative strategy to battle the two leading causes of death among Black men over 50: colorectal cancer and hypertension. The Men’s Health Initiative consists of two community-based research studies: Mister B and FAITH-CRC. Both MISTER-B and FAITH-CRC are projects working to assess community-based approaches to treating hypertension and colorectal cancer.

• **Balavenkatesh Kanna, MD, MPH** is the Director of Research of HHC Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center and the lead for a community stakeholder group called Lincoln Center for Collaborative Community Research. Dr. Kanna has been involved in several studies with the Department of Health in chronic disease management at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center (MMHC) as well as its affiliated community health centers. Dr. Kanna has also developed a successful model for integrating research training into a residency program.

• **Sue Kaplan, JD**, is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Population Health and a Research Scientist at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. The focus of her work
is on disparities in health outcomes for vulnerable populations in urban areas. Within the Department of Population Health, Professor Kaplan serves as the Director of the Medical Center’s Community Service Plan.

- **Perry Pong, MD** is Chief Medical Officer for Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC) and an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at the NYU. Since September 2009, he has assumed the post of Chief Medical Officer. He is committed to the CBWCHC’s efforts to reducing health disparities affecting Asian Americans and oversees its multiple efforts in primary care, health advocacy, education and health promotion. Dr. Pong continues to see patients and is active in several Hepatitis B clinical trials at CBWCHC.

- **Joseph Ravenell, MD, MS** is Assistant Professor of Population Health and Medicine at NYU School of Medicine. He is a core member of the Center for Healthful Behavior Change, a board-certified internist and hypertension specialist with a strong track record of NIH funding to improve cardiovascular disease in diverse populations. He is Principle Investigator (PI) or co-PI of 3 community-based randomized trials: 1) a National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute grant to test community-based strategies to improve blood pressure control and colon cancer screening in 24 black churches in Harlem; 2) a National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities project to improve blood pressure control and cancer screening in black barbershops; and 3) a CDC-funded grant to test the comparative effectiveness of two interventions to increase blood pressure control among black men in New York City.