

(Bethesda, MD-August 1, 2009)

Dr. Duane J. Taylor M.D. (Bethesda, MD) along with Dr. Lisa Perry-Gilkes (Atlanta, Ga.) had a grant proposal accepted by the Board of Governors of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS). The proposal was submitted representing the Otolaryngology Section of the National Medical Association and the grant was one of three given to promote and educate both practitioners and the public about the specialty of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery. The grant approved included disseminating information to African American high school, college and medical students about the specialty and the spectrum of Ear, Nose and Throat disorders and treatment. The first segment of the project submitted was completed in June when Dr. Taylor was involved with the **NAAYI (National African American Youth Initiative) Health and Policy Development Scholars Program** held in Washington D.C. where he had an opportunity to talk to highly motivated high school students from across the United States and U.S. Virgin Islands who are interested in health careers. Also in attendance were second year medical students from Howard University who served as professional counselors for the high school students during the 10 day program.

This program was developed by the Auxiliary to the National Medical Association (ANMA) and they have worked with the following institutions from the public sector to fund and develop this program: Howard University College of Medicine (HUCM), Howard, University Medical Alumni Association (HUMAA), The National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHHD), National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), Office of Minority Health (OMH), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and other health agencies. A primary purpose of the program is to expose youth participants to scientific research and the health public policy and decision-making process. As a result of this exposure, African-American youth gain insight and understanding of the role and impact of the federal government in the development of health policy. The last evening of the program is spent talking in small groups to African American physicians and health care professionals from a cross section of areas.

Dr. Duane Taylor is the Chair of the Diversity Committee of the AAO-HNS and is in private practice in Bethesda, Maryland.