

NAACP

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Martin Luther King jr.

H.R. 1318

Rep Herrera Beutler (R-WA) introduced the bill “Preventing Maternal Deaths Act of 2017” in March to attempt to reduce the shocking rate of maternal death in our country. We are at the bottom of all of the developed nations (but ahead of Libya) in the death rate for pregnant or post-partum mothers. The rate of death for African-American mothers is four times the rate of white mothers. Our elected leaders need to support this important legislation. Contact Senator Bluntest d on at: (202) 224-5721.Senator McCaskill at (202) 224-6154.Representative Billy Long at (202) 225-6536.

Health Outcomes in the US

Despite having one of the highest costs of Healthcare in the world, the US lags in the World Health Organization’s ranking of world health systems. The US ranks 37th, behind Costa Rica.

Meet Dr. Justin Clark

Where are you from Dr. Clark?:

I was born and raised in Jacksonville Florida and went to undergraduate school at Florida State.

When did you know you wanted to be a doctor?:

During a mission trip to Guyana (with an organization called Health Education Reform Guyana, HERG) I saw the great needs for medical providers. That trip was when I was a sophomore in college.

Tell us about yourself:

I have been married 5 years, we have no children but we do have a dog. Family is mostly in Florida and I have two sisters and one brother. I went to medical school at Meharry medical college in Nashville TN. Meharry is a historically black college. I did my residency in Gainesville Fl and currently work in North Springfield. North Springfield is considered a medically underserved area of town but it is quite different than my residency in Gainesville. In Gainesville the population that I worked with was 55-60% black. In Springfield the percentage of black patients that I work with is 3-4%.

What problems and challenges do you face?

As a family practice doctor I see a variety of health problems and people with multiple co-morbidities (sicknesses). These people can be very complicated to take care of. It has been rare but I have had people use racially offensive terms if they do not agree with a treatment plan.

How do you see yourself in 10 years?

Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon

The women of the NAACP will host a luncheon to raise awareness and money for research on October 7, 2017 at the Doling Park Community Center from 11 am to 2 pm. There will be contests for best hat, best cake and best decorated table. For details contact Shawn Calhoun (417) 848-8986.

Missouri Foundation for Health addresses Infant Mortality Rate

The death rate for infants born in the Bootheel is higher than countries including Romania and Libya. Factors include poor prenatal and postnatal care, low birthweight, access to care and environmental factors. **BOOTHEEL BABIES and FAMILIES** is partnering with MHF to increase awareness, access and education.

I want to be the best family practice doctor in the area. I would like to be more active in the political/policy realm of medicine.

What advice do you have for our political leaders?

We need more mental health professionals, medications need to be affordable and we need more people to care for the community.

