Giving a Voice to Asthma Disparities through Education and Awareness: Summit Introduction

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• Podcaster – the Dynamic Doc
• Top Physician Under 40 - NMA
Why are we here?

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Consultant and Medical Advisor for Allergy & Asthma Network
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Asthma disparities and Summit objectives

- Increase awareness and give a voice to asthma disparities
- Share best practices
- Discuss the importance of asthma education
- Discuss importance of access to care
National Medical Association

- Collective voice for physicians of African descent
- Represents over 50k physicians of African descent and their patients
- We combat health disparities
- Promote improved health of and be a voice for underserved populations
Why is health equity important

- Health disparity = lack of health equity
  - Affects every aspect of society
  - Affects social determinants of health
  - “nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes” CDC
Why asthma?

- Large disease burden
- 26 million Americans lives with asthma
- #1 cause of missed school days
- Asthma and health equity
  - Affects African Americans more, esp. underserved areas. Prevalence is increasing
  - Asthma prevalence is indirectly proportional to income
    - As income ↓ asthma prevalence ↑
Asthma in African Americans

- 30% more likely to have asthma
- 3x more likely to have an ED visit associated with asthma
- 3x more likely to succumb to a death due to asthma
- The kids
  - 7x more likely to have an asthma death than their non-Hispanic white counterparts
Back to Health equity

Asthma stats alone demonstrate the need for equity

Esp. in children - the children are our future
Representation and prioritizing good health outcomes

- Representation matters
  - Physicians looking like the community they serve
  - Less than 5% of allergists in the US are black
  - JAMA - the presence of a black physician in a particular country improves many aspects of a community’s health
    - Adherence to treatment
    - More likely to get preventative care
    - Decreased mortality of the black patients
What can be done

- Increase awareness and education of asthma and allergic disease and their impact
  - Partnerships - AAN, NMA, EPA
  - Patient education - i.e. Trusted Messengers program

- Increase awareness of health disparities (esp. in asthma) and be a voice for health equity (National Medical Association, AAN, etc)

- Legislation (Allergy and Asthma Day on Capitol Hill)
  - Helps allergy practitioners better help patients and their community

- Gathering of the alike minds
  - Asthma Summit
  - National AAI conferences
Our Journey Today

- Facts/stats
- Asthma programs
- Patient education tools and programs
- Stories
- Asthma care and guideline updates
- Asthma for the culture
- The Environment and all its factors
Let’s get this Summit Started!