

Volume 1, Issue 13

December 2003



## Patient-Physician Partnership to Improve High Blood Pressure Adherence

## Patient-Physician Partnership Study

Thank you!!! 47 physicians have completed their baseline videotapes and questionnaires! The response from the physicians has been great!

If you are randomized to receive the communication skills program, please complete your CD-ROM and workbook within the agreed upon one-week time period. If you have any problems with the program, please call Shivonne at (410) 522-6500 ext 253 or Yasmeen at (410) 522-6500 ext 257 right away.

**YOUR COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM IS CRITICAL TO THE STUDY TIMELINE REQUIRED BY NIH. We cannot recruit your patients until you complete your part of the study.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF HAVE DONE TO HELP THUS FAR.**

Publication

### Patient-Physician Relationships and Racial Disparities in the Quality of Health Care

The authors used data from The Commonwealth Fund's 2001 Health Care Quality Survey to explore the role of patient-physician relationships in understanding disparities in the quality of healthcare. Patient reports of the quality of patient-physician communication, physicians' cultural sensitivity, and patient-physician racial concordance were analyzed in 1,037 African-American, 1,153 Hispanic, 621 Asian, and 3,488 white respondents.

Racial and ethnic differences in ratings of patient-physician communication were found. These differences were largely accounted for by racial/ethnic differences in patients' health literacy and in their perceptions of physicians' cultural sensitivity.

Satisfaction with and use of health services were higher for Blacks and Whites than for Hispanics and Asians. Racial differences in the quality of patient-physician communication helped explain disparities in satisfaction but not in health services use.

The authors concluded that efforts to improve cross-cultural patient physician interactions should be aimed at increasing patients' health literacy and physicians' cultural sensitivity and interpersonal skills.

Patient-Physician Relationships and Racial Disparities in the Quality of Health Care. Saha, S., Arbelaez, J.J., Cooper, L.A. American Journal of Public Health, Oct 2003 Vol 93 No 10, pp 1713-1719.

### Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact us:

**Principal Investigator: Lisa Cooper, MD, MPH**

**Phone: 410-614-3659 Fax: 410-614-0588**

**Email: [lisa.cooper@jhmi.edu](mailto:lisa.cooper@jhmi.edu)**