Mobilizing Against Threats to Community Health: Protecting Underserved Populations from New and Emerging Infectious Diseases
Presenter: Saundra Glover, University of South Carolina
Co-Presenter: Lee Pearson, University of South Carolina
Session: Oral
Date/Time: Tuesday April 24; 11-12PM

The University of South Carolina's Arnold School of Public Health and the USC Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities are engaged with key community partners in a unique new effort to *Mobilize Against Threats to Community Health*. This initiative aims to protect the public's health now and in the future by preparing for new and emerging infectious diseases. The MATCH project is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to address the collaboration/coordination issues that hinder effective preparation and planning for the threat of animal-to-human transmission of disease—particularly among underserved populations and disenfranchised communities. The purpose of the MATCH project is to enhance community involvement in preparing for and responding to new and emerging infectious diseases that represent threats to community health. Within this project, the specific areas of emphasis to be addressed by USC will be health disparities and health communication, focusing on issues of differential preparedness and response. A specific intent of this project will be to develop and implement a public health leadership training initiative for community stakeholders designed to build capacity in mobilizing against threats to community health**.** To ensure a broad national reach and appropriate community-level emersion, USC is working with the network of 1890 Institutions—particularly the extension services—as partners in fostering community engagement. The involvement of extension directors and, more specifically, their assistants and agents will serve to cultivate the next generation of public health leaders while also supporting the multi-state engagement that is fundamental to the overall 1890 network.

Presentation Objectives
This session will provide an overview of strategies for engaging community stakeholders in addressing the convergence of animal and human health.

This session will address the needs of disenfranchised communities relevant to preparing for the threat of new and emerging infectious diseases.

This session will highlight the benefit of collaborative partnerships in planning for the prevention, detection, response to and control of new and emerging infectious diseases.

Biography:
Dr. Saundra Glover is the Director of the Institute for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities, a center of the Office of Research and Health Sciences at the University of South Carolina. This effort links USC with South Carolina's six historically black colleges and universities to develop new minority researchers. Dr. Glover is also the Associate Director of the S.C. Rural Health Research Center, an initiative dedicated to building ongoing cooperative research partnerships with government, health services delivery and academic organizations as well as the rural community in improving the health of Rural Americans. She is the Director of the EXPORT Center for Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities in Cancer and HIV, with the specific aims of promoting participation in health disparities groups in biomedical and behavioral research prevention and intervention activities, community-based activities and translational research activities centered on minority populations. Dr. Glover also serves as Principal Investigator on Project EXPORT (Excellence in Partnerships, Community Outreach, Research and Training), the W.K. Kellogg African American Public Health Fellowship and Development Program, and serves as Co-Principal Investigator on The MATCH Project, a joint collaborative with the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health which addresses the convergence of animal health and public health, in conjunction with the American Public Health Association and the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine.