Dr. Howard K. Koh serves as the 14th Assistant Secretary for Health for the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Dr. Koh oversees 12 core public health offices, including the Office of the Surgeon General and the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, 10 Regional Health Offices across the nation, and 10 Presidential and Secretarial advisory committees. The Office of Assistant Secretary for Health implements an array of interdisciplinary programs relating to disease prevention, health promotion, the reduction of health disparities, women’s and minority health, adolescent health, HIV/AIDS and chronic infectious diseases, vaccine programs, fitness, sports and nutrition, bioethics, population affairs, blood supply, research integrity and human research protections. As the Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Koh is dedicated to the mission of creating better public health systems for prevention and care so that all people can reach their highest attainable standard of health. Dr. Koh previously served as the Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health and Associate Dean for Public Health Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has published more than 250 articles in the medical and public health literature. Dr. Koh graduated from Yale College and the Yale University School of Medicine. He has earned board certification in four medical fields – internal medicine, hematology, medical oncology, and dermatology – as well as a Master of Public Health degree from Boston University. Dr. Koh has earned numerous awards and honors for interdisciplinary accomplishments in medicine and public health, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award for National Service, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Cancer Society, and the Drs. Jack E. White/LaSalle D. Leffall Cancer Prevention Award from the American Association for Cancer Research and the Intercultural Cancer Council.

Edward L. Martinez is an executive health care consultant with over 30 years of experience focusing on organizations serving racially, ethnically, culturally and linguistically diverse populations. He was Assistant Vice President with America’s Essential Hospitals in Washington, DC, where he assisted member organizations in accessing resources for improving operations and responding to the health care needs of underserved populations. Previously, he was Associate Director for Programs with the American International Health Alliance, a US Agency for International Development–supported organization that managed partnerships between US health care systems and those in countries of the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America. In addition, Mr. Martinez served for over 25 years with the County of Los Angeles, where he managed one of the largest public hospitals in the United States as Executive Director of the Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center. In 2011, Mr. Martinez was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Hospital Association Institute for Diversity in Health Management and served as 2013 Board Chair. Mr. Martinez has been a member of numerous national advisory groups addressing issues of health care quality, cultural and linguistic competence, and disparities, including the US Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Minority Health. He has a BA Degree in Philosophy from St. John’s College in California and an MS Degree in Political Science/Public Administration from California State University at Los Angeles. Mr. Martinez also completed Public Hospitals/Pew Fellowships in Health Care Policy and Management at New York University and in Washington, DC.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON AWARD: Booker T. Washington started National Negro Health Week (NNHW) in 1915. From 1921 to 1953, NNHW was a program supported by the Public Health Service. National Minority Health Month is a descendant of NNHW. The Booker T. Washington Award recognizes an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of wellness in emerging populations.