



## **CONSULATE GENERAL OF BELIZE**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 16, 2008**

Representatives from the Consulate of Belize, California and non-profit organizations in the Los Angeles area were in attendance at a two-day Medical Seminar sponsored by the California Legislative Black Caucus Foundation. The Health Seminar was a part of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, which took place May 6-10, 2008. Events for the yearly conference were held in both Sacramento and Los Angeles.

Experts in their respective fields presented on Diabetic Eye Care, Breast Cancer Awareness and Cardio Vascular Care. On the first day of the seminar, Dr. Steven Schwartz of the Jules Stein Eye Institute spoke on the black community's high risk for diabetes and consequent preventable eye diseases associated with diabetic patients. He pointed out the importance of access to a qualified physician to monitor eye care. Dr. Willie Gaffney presented on the importance of self examination and physician care for prevention and early detection of breast cancer. On the second day, Dr. Juma A. Bharadia concluded the seminar with his presentation on Cardio Vascular Care. He directed attendees to diligently work on exercising, healthy eating and avoiding sodium for a healthy heart.

All three presenters touched on the high frequency of occurrence of all three diseases within the black community. Gaining access to health care to monitor ones health before the onset of such diseases was strongly recommended for minority groups. To compliment this aspect, Marla Murphy of the American Cancer Society briefly spoke on legislative advocacy and what individuals can do to accomplish meaningful legislative changes.

The Belizean community was well represented at this informative seminar. Consul General, Roland Yorke hopes to provide access to future seminars of all types to members of the community. The Belize Consulate recognizes that our community must have access to relevant information and take action in a timely manner.

More information about the diseases can be found at the links below:

<http://americandiabetesassociation.org/>

<http://americancancersociety.org/>

<http://www.americanheart.org/>