



**National
Medical
Association**

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**NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SELECTS INTERNATIONAL HEALTH LEADER,
MOHAMMAD AKHTER M.D., M.P.H. AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Washington, DC, May 1, 2007... Mohammad Akhter, M.D., M.P.H. has been named the new Executive Director of the National Medical Association (NMA), effective May 1, 2007.

A renowned leader in international and public health, Dr. Akhter was Executive Director of the American Public Health Association from 1997-2002. He most recently served at Howard University's College of Medicine as Professor of Community Health and Chairman of the President's Advisory Council on Public Health. He was also Senior Associate Dean for Public and International Health at Howard University College of Medicine. Dr. Akhter served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction), the largest alliance of U.S. based international development and humanitarian non-governmental organizations.

Dr. Albert W. Morris, Jr., President of the National Medical Association and former Board Chair, noted extreme confidence in Dr. Akhter and said he looks forward to working with the new executive director. "The National Medical Association will benefit significantly from Dr. Akhter's outstanding domestic and global healthcare experience." "Dr. Akhter brings extraordinary leadership and managerial skills to the National Medical Association," said Carolyn Barley Britton, M.D., M.S., Chair, NMA Board of Trustees.

A native of Pakistan, Dr. Akhter received his medical degree from King Edwards Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan in 1967. He received a masters in public health from Johns Hopkins University in 1973. He is board certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (1976). Dr. Akhter is the principal author of numerous published articles, many of which appeared in professional medical journals. He has also contributed frequently to the print and news media on issues of public interest.

Dr. Akhter was Commissioner of Public Health for the District of Columbia from 1991-1994. He subsequently served as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and as a member of the United States delegation to the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization.

Dr. Akhter's academic appointments include working for several years as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Global Health at George Washington University's School of Public Health, and as a Clinical Professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine. He was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Public Health and Hospital Administration, College of Community Medicine in Lahore, Pakistan.

Dr. Michael LeNoir, who led the search committee for the House of Delegates of the National Medical Association said, "Dr. Akhter is the right person, at this time to assist our organization in enhancing its

reputation as a major medical organization representing the African American Physicians and the patients we serve.”

Upon news of his appointment, Dr. Akhter said that he was honored and excited to join the National Medical Association as executive director." The National Medical Association has a remarkable legacy of service," he said. "My goal is to build upon that legacy and maximize the phenomenal potential of the NMA in every way possible. I look forward to working with the NMA leadership, local affiliates and our members on important issues such as disaster preparedness, ensuring access to care, and the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities."

Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association is the nation's oldest and largest medical association representing the interests of more than 30,000 African-American physicians and their patients. The NMA has repeatedly advocated for policies that would assure equitable and quality health care for all people.

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