

MULTICULTURAL HEALTH INSTITUTE



Lisa Merritt, M.D.

"MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE"

Born and raised in New York, Dr. Merritt completed high school in 3 years while simultaneously beginning pre-medical studies at Nassau Community College. A Regent's Scholar and National Merit Finalist, she obtained her medical degree from Howard University after completing undergraduate studies at Georgetown University with honors. A lifelong interest in community develop work was sparked by her experiences serving with Operation Crossroads Africa's health team in West Africa the summer before medical school. A member of the national board of the Student National Medical Association, she was awarded the Malcom X award for dedication to community service upon graduation from Howard University.

She underwent training in family and community medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, and then completed her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. While in training, she helped create the Resident Physician's council of the AAPMR, and the NMA. She is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation as well as Pain Management.

In 1989, Dr. Merritt established private practice in Sacramento,

California. There she became president of the Capitol Medical Society and Vice President of the Golden State Medical Association, the California branch of the National Medical Association. A member of the statewide Multicultural Task Force, she also served as adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of California, Davis, teaching medical students and residents. She was recognized by both the community of Sacramento and the GSMA for outstanding commitment and service in the development of community programs, and health policy related to multicultural health issues.

She relocated to Atlanta 2000 and became involved in research in complementary medicine, including the ongoing NIH Trial to Assess Chelation Therapy, as well as serving as a consultant in the REACH collaborative, being recognized for her work with the Sisters Action Team. She successfully completed the longitudinal faculty development program at Morehouse School of Medicine, becoming Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor in 2003. Due to family health needs, she relocated to Sarasota to support her mother, a 25 year Sarasota resident, where she became immediately involved in community development activities there.

Dr. Merritt has researched and authored numerous articles in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation, as well as complementary medicine. She has lectured nationally and internationally on rehabilitation and multicultural health issues. She is the founder and executive director of the non-profit Multicultural Health Institute. Certified by the National Multicultural Institute in 1995, she has researched, published and taught extensively in the field of multicultural health. She is a certified mediator and bilingual in English and Spanish.