

Barbara J. Hatcher, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., FAAN 1945 -

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." -Nelson Mandela

Barbara J. Hatcher, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., FAAN, is internationally recognized for her work as a senior public health policy maker, regulator and researcher. A voice for the "voiceless", she is a social entrepreneur committed to social justice, human rights, health equity and global health diplomacy. She has inspired and led change in impoverished communities despite economic, political and social barriers both in the U.S. and abroad. Her advocacy has led civic and community leaders to recognize the unique influential role of nursing in reducing health disparities around the globe.

In 2008 she was named a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and also received the Trailblazer Award from the National Black Nurses' Association in recognition of her achievements.

Dr. Hatcher was born July 5, 1945 in Waterbury, Connecticut; where she graduated from Driggs School and Crosby High School. She received her nursing degree from the University of Connecticut School of Nursing, which offered her a world-class nursing education that continues to shape her career. She also holds a Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Dr. Hatcher credits her immediate family for instilling in her a commitment to learning and for inspiring her to excel educationally and professionally. An avid reader since childhood, she attributes her career choice to the Cherry Ames nursing series and her inspiration to strive for the highest level of success to W. E. B. DuBois' *The Philadelphia Negro* and other sociological works. She also recognizes the support of many others in the Waterbury community who took seriously the fact that "it takes a village to raise a child". Of special note is her pediatrician, Dr. J. Harold Root, Sr., who advised her to pursue a collegiate nursing program.

Dr. Hatcher began her career as a charge nurse at Waterbury Hospital. She has since held key positions in public health and has served on numerous public and nonprofit boards. She has directed or co-directed several key federal and foundation grants and procured more than 65 million dollars to support innovative infant mortality reduction efforts and community-based research in the District of Columbia.

Dr. Hatcher achieved many firsts as a nurse and African American. Since 1995, she has been responsible for domestic and internal public health programs and issues at the American Public Health Association. She has also served as director of the Center for Learning and Global Public Health and as the secretary general of the World Federation of Public Health Associations.

As the APHA's first chief science officer, she is responsible for ensuring scientific excellence throughout the organization, serving as the primary advisor to the executive director on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international public health and establishing partnerships and collaborations



worldwide to improve public health associations. She will also establish and manage APHA's Office of Science, Technology and Innovations.

Dr. Hatcher has published extensively. She was editor-in-chief of the peer-reviewed *Journal of Chi Eta Phi Nursing Sorority* and serves on the editorial board of *MEDICC Review*. She was the lead author of a highly acclaimed commissioned white paper, *Wisdom at Work: the Importance of the Older and Experienced Nurse in the Workplace*.

A member of the District of Columbia Army National Guard for close to 15 years, Dr. Hatcher was chief nurse of both the 115th Combat Support Hospital and the Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

She has served as president of the District of Columbia Nurses' Association and chair of the District of Columbia Board of Nursing.

While Dr. Hatcher's eclectic career has been centered in Washington, D.C. and taken her around the world, she is still proud to be the girl from Waterbury.

Her current goal is to found a global leadership institute for women of color.