KENNETH OLDEN LECTURE SERIES



This lecture hosted annually by the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) highlights a scholar and/or advocate in Environmental Health Sciences that has or is currently conducting research and/or advocating for advances that will help to decrease health disparities in rural and other marginalized communities. This lecture series highlights faculty, policy makers, and community leaders that are trail blazers in this field like the distinguished scholar for which it is named.

From 1991-2005, Dr. Olden was Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was the first African American to become Director of one of the NIH Institutes. In 2005, Ken resigned as Director so he could devote full time to his research and position as Chief of the Metastasis Group in the Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis at the NIEHS.

He also held the position of Yerby Visiting Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health for the academic year 2006-2007, and was Founding Dean of the School of Public Health at the City University of New York from 2008-2012. From 2012-2016, Ken served as Director of the National Center for Environmental Assessment in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Gwen W. Collman, PhD

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Gwen Collman, Director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training at the National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) will give the 2nd annual Kenneth Olden Lecture as a part of the One Health Symposium. Dr. Collman in herrole at NIEHS directs scientific activities across the field of environmental health sciences including basic sciences (i.e., DNA repair, epigenetics, environmental genomics), organ-specific toxicology (i.e., reproductive, neurotoxicology, respiratory), public health related programs (i.e., environmental epidemiology, environmental public health), and training and career development. She also oversees the implementation of the Superfund Research Program and the Worker Education and Training Program.

Prior to her current role, Collman served in program development and management, beginning in 1992 as a member, then as Chief of the Susceptibility and Population Health Branch. During this time, she directed research on the role of genetic and environmental factors on the development of human disease, from animal models of genetic susceptibility to population studies focusing on etiology and intervention. She was responsible for building the NIEHS grant portfolio in environmental and molecular epidemiology, and developed several complex multidisciplinary research programs. These include the NIEHS Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Centers Program, the NIEHS/EPA Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention, and the Genes, Environment and Health Initiative. Also, under her guidance, a team created a vision for the Partnerships for Environmental Public Health programs for the next decade.

Dr. Collman is the recipient of numerous NIEHS Merit Awards, two NIH Director's Awards, and the HHS Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Dr. Collman received a Ph.D. in Environmental Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina School of Public Health where she was awarded the 2009 H.A. Tyroler Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Collman's commitment to excellence in the field of public health as well as providing opportunities for your researchers to receive training in the field of environmental health research exemplifies our theme for this year's symposium "One Community, One Medicine, One Health"