DEDICATION

This issue of the *Journal of Black Psychology* is dedicated to Kermit B. Nash, George C. Phillips, Clarice Reid, and Charles F. Whitten for their important professional work, scholarship, and advocacy on behalf of children, adults, and families affected by sickle cell disease (SCD). We recognize their stellar accomplishments and celebrate their devotion to the cause of SCD. Through their advocacy, they have created a high standard by which to judge the adequacy of medical and psychosocial services. Each honoree exemplifies how scientific advances can be used as a guide in achieving technically competent and humane care. Moreover, each has been a tireless advocate and visionary. In different ways, these individuals have argued persuasively regarding the importance of addressing the psychosocial and sociocultural context in the assessment and management of SCD.

KERMIT B. NASH (1930-1998)

After serving as the director of the Department of Social Work at the University of Washington, holding positions at the Yale University Medical School, and holding various social work positions in New York State, Kermit B. Nash went to North Carolina to teach and do research in the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research interests included social work practice and management in health care settings and psychosocial aspects of chronic genetic diseases, especially sickle cell anemia. Nash also served as the principal investigator of the Psychosocial Research Division at the Duke University Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. He conducted research on self-help group participation for adults coping with the disease and investigated the impact of multiple psychosocial resources on children and adolescents with sickle cell. In addition, Nash investigated factors affecting the school adaptation of children with SCD. He published numerous book chapters and journal articles about ethnicity, race, and the health care delivery system for individuals with sickle cell anemia, presented the stresses and strengths of Black families coping with this chronic illness, wrote on counseling and empowering families in which

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sickle cell exists, and explored ways of educating social workers in health-related fields to meet the needs of diverse populations.

Nash also served on the editorial boards of the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, *Journal of Social Work*, *Journal of Health and Social Policy*, and *Black Caucus* (the journal of the National Association of Black Social Workers). In addition, he served on the board of the National Sickle Cell Disease Association. In 1992, Nash received the Hyman J. Weiner Award from the North Carolina Society for Hospital Social Work Directors for his professional contributions. He also was given a certificate of appreciation by the Martin Luther King, Jr. University/Community Planning Corporation. Nash's professional contributions to the field of SCD are numerous and form much of our current knowledge of the psychosocial aspects of the illness. His contributions as an author, a professor, and a consultant will not be forgotten, nor will the joy he brought into the lives of the individuals who were fortunate enough to have known him.

GEORGE C. PHILLIPS (1954-1994)

George C. Phillips, Jr., was born in Alexander City, Alabama. In 1975, he received his B.S. in engineering from Northwestern University. Three years later, he completed his medical degree at the Duke University School of Medicine. He served as an assistant professor of hematology-oncology at Duke, as deputy director of the Duke-UNC Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, and as director of the adult clinic at the Duke University Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. On July 1, 1994 (the day before his death), he became associate dean of the medical school.

Throughout his career as a physician, Phillips was interested in the management of SCD and the thalassemias. Working on topics as diverse as nutrition in sickle cell anemia, the effects of hydroxyurea in hemoglobin production in patients with sickle cell anemia, the observation of pain behaviors in individuals with SCD, and health care use and activity of sickle cell patients, he coauthored articles published in journals such as the *American Journal of Hematology*, *Blood*, *Clinical Journal of Pain*, and *New England Journal of Medicine*. Phillips also presented his research on SCD at professional conferences all over the country.

During his relatively short but highly productive career, Phillips contributed greatly to our knowledge of SCD. His scholarly research brought him numerous honors including the Robert Wood Johnson Minority Medical Faculty Development Award and an award from the Alpha Omega Alpha chapter of the Duke University Medical Center. He successfully competed for

numerous grants and contracts from Duke and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He belonged to the American Society of Hematology, the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the North Carolina Medical Society, and the New York Academy of Science. Dedicated to the successful recruitment and retention of minority faculty members, Phillips not only committed himself to his patients, students, and other researchers with whom he worked directly but also revealed his commitment to the diversity of the academy as a whole.

Phillips's standing as a scholar and an academic did not compromise his dedication to service. He is widely noted for the great care and concern he showed in his role as a practitioner. He was well regarded as a clinician and widely loved by the adults he served in the SCD clinic at Duke. He expanded the range of psychosocial treatments available to persons with the disease. For example, he helped to initiate men's groups and advanced our thinking about how adults with SCD could assume responsibility in the self-management of their pain. In a memorial newsletter honoring Phillips's life created by the Duke-UNC Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, one woman reflected on her relationship with Phillips as his patient: "He took the time to explain his observations and opinions in detail," the woman wrote. "It was important to him to know more than just what hurt and how badly it hurt; he wanted to know why it hurt." Phillips was committed to exploring alternative therapies and nontraditional ways of treating patients and often spoke of a residential treatment approach for young adults coping with SCD. Although he passed away before seeing his ideas come to fruition, his colleges are working toward creating Bridges Pointe, a residential facility in North Carolina where individuals coping with SCD will have access to case management, drug counseling, and vocational training. Clearly, Phillips not only contributed to our knowledge of and care for sickle cell patients but also motivated others to continue his work.

CLARICE REID

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Clarice Reid has artfully balanced a career as a researcher, a practitioner, a professor, and an expert in the field of SCD research. After obtaining her B.S. from Talladega College, a degree in medical technology from Meharry Medical College, and a medical degree from the University of Cincinnati, Reid practiced as a pediatrician in Ohio. Involved in the teaching and clinical training of students at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, she later went on to become director of pediatrics at the Jewish Hospital. She moved with her family to Washington,

D.C., to pursue positions at the Office of Economic Opportunity. Later, she took a position as deputy director of the Health Services and Resources Administration's Sickle Cell Disease Program.

Her work and dedication to the field of SCD earned Reid a dual position as national coordinator of the National Sickle Cell Disease Program and chief of the Sickle Cell Disease Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Reid was responsible for planning, directing, and evaluating research on the etiology, pathophysiology, prevention, and treatment of various hematologic diseases. She also was charged with the responsibility of setting organizational goals, identifying needs and opportunities in research, managing financial resources, supervising personnel, and monitoring research findings in the fields of SCD and related hemoglobinopathies.

Reid has demonstrated a long-standing interest in children's health and minority health issues and has been honored for her achievements. She has been honored by *Black Enterprise* Magazine, has won an NIH Merit Award, and has won a Founder's Award of Distinction for Science and Research from the Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation. She has participated in meetings of the International Symposium on Sickle Cell Disease in Ghana and Nigeria, and she has made numerous presentations throughout the country on issues such as bone marrow transplants for SCD and issues affecting women in medicine.

In addition, Reid has been a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at the Howard University College of Medicine for nearly two decades. Her scholarly activity has included publications on hemoglobinopathies in children, prenatal diagnosis, and the management of SCD in journals such as the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* and *Journal of Pediatrics*. Reid has achieved an enviable integration of roles as a researcher, a scholar, a professor, a practitioner, and an administrator with a family life. She continues to serve as a model for professional women, and her contributions have proven what a wide impact one individual can have on all aspects of caring for individuals with SCD.

CHARLES F. WHITTEN

Charles F. Whitten earned a B.S. degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.D. degree from Meharry College. He completed his internship at Harlem Hospital and his postgraduate training in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Buffalo. He completed fellowships in pediatric hematology at the Children's Hospital of Buffalo and the Children's Hospital of Michigan. He joined the Wayne State

University School of Medicine in 1957 and rose to the rank of professor of pediatrics by 1970. Prior to his semiretirement in 1992, he was the associate dean for curricular affairs for 16 years. He currently is the associate dean for special programs and distinguished professor of pediatrics emeritus.

During the early 1970s, Whitten became concerned that services for individuals with sickle cell anemia and their families were not comprehensive and did not take advantage of scientific advances, particularly with respect to genetics and disease management. Addressing these deficiencies has been a principal motivator for his longtime commitment to the field. Accordingly, his contributions have been focused on involvement in federal and state policy formation; organization of conferences and workshops; and preparation of educational materials for patients, families, health professionals, and laypersons. All of this involved a major commitment to fund-raising, at which he became enormously successful. For example, he raised funds to underwrite the cost of children with SCD in several cities to attend residential summer camps for 1 week where they would be "mainstreamed" with children who did not have chronic illness.

Whitten also has been a community activist. In 1971, he founded and served as president of the Sickle Cell Detection of Information Program in Detroit, Michigan, which provides education, testing, counseling, disease education, tutoring, career development, and social work services. It is the only community-based organization that conducts a statewide nonmedical sickle cell program. It owns its headquarters, has a full-time staff of 22, and has an annual operating budget of approximately $1 million primarily from annual grants from the Michigan Department of Public Health and the United Way. His organizing efforts also reach out to the national level. He was a cofounder of the National Association of Sickle Cell Disease (now the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America) in 1972 and served as its president for 18 years. During that period, he led the growth of the organization from 13 to 80 community organizations. Under his leadership, the organization played a major role in the resolution of social, legal, and ethical issues related to the first national program to screen individuals to detect carriers of a genetic disease. In 1973, Whitten organized Wayne State University's Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center and served as its director until 1992. This was one of the 15 (then 10) comprehensive centers supported by the NIH. During that period, the NIH awarded the center more than $17 million, making it the recipient of the largest grant support in the history of Wayne State University at that time. His simultaneous concern about service and accountability was reflected in his insistence that patients' needs be objectively assessed and that the quality of service be evaluated. He created a system for the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of patients and their care. The psychosocial database that he

helped to create has been the basis of several empirical studies, two of which are included in this special issue.

Whitten has authored more than 45 journal articles and 7 book chapters. One of the sickle cell-related publications has been considered to be a classic in that it was the first to deal with the title topic (Whitten & Fischoff, 1974). In 1988, Whitten brought together scientists, clinicians, and health care providers in a setting where the state of the art in the major areas could be presented and discussed. With financial support from the New York Academy of Sciences and the NIH and National Association for Sickle Cell Disease, he developed and cochaired the a 3-day national conference titled "The State of the Art," the proceedings for which have been published by the New York Academy of Sciences. He developed an audiovisual kit to educate physicians on the difference between sickle cell trait and sickle cell anemia, which had been identified as a major problem. During the early 1970s, individuals with sickle cell trait failed to receive adequate counseling because of the lack of trained personnel. This problem prompted him to develop a model format for sickle cell trait counseling and a 3-day training program for sickle cell trait counselors that has been widely adopted throughout the United States and the Caribbean. He developed five detailed "how to" manuals, for example, *How to Develop a Community Sickle Cell Organization*. He played a major role in conceptualizing and writing the manuals. Because effective parenting of children with a chronic illness frequently requires more than the usual parenting skills, Whitten obtained funding ($28,000) from the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities to develop a 50-minute videotape titled *How to Help Your Child Develop a Foundation for Successful Adulthood*. Mothers usually are the parents who bring the children in for medical care and, therefore, are educated and counseled. Fathers and other family members play a role in managing the children; hence, they need to be knowledgeable. To meet this need, Whitten led the development of a "Home Study Kit" for families. It contains a variety of learning tools and feature audiovisual presentations for the nonreader. A survey of teachers of children with sickle cell anemia and their parents that he conducted revealed a number of knowledge and behavior issues that required addressing. This resulted in the authorship of a booklet titled *How Parents and Teachers Can Work Together to Achieve School Success for Children With Sickle Cell Anemia*.

A common thread running though the work of our honorees is a focus on the psychosocial aspects of SCD. In underscoring the double challenges of being African American and a person with SCD, they have established a foundation on which the work presented in this special issue could build. We are greatly indebted to them as pioneers who raised for us many questions to

explore about how social and cultural dimensions interact with biomedical aspects of SCD to shape the lives of those with the disease. Their accomplishments make this a well-deserved honor. Importantly, recognition of their work and contributions to SCD is as much for us as it is for them. In honoring them, we remind ourselves how important and necessary identity, loyalty, dedication, and compassion are to African American progress. In this respect, they are models for all of us to emulate.

—Oscar A. Barbarin
—Marcelle Christian
University of Michigan

REFERENCE

Whitten, C. F., & Fischhoff, J. (1974). Psychosocial effects of sickle cell disease. *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *133*, 681.