

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin

PERSON

Benjamin, Georges

**Alternative Names:** Dr. Georges C. Benjamin;

**Life Dates:** September 28, 1952-

**Place of Birth:** Chicago, Illinois, USA

**Residence:** Gaithersburg, MD

**Work:** Washington, D.C.

**Occupations:** Healthcare Executive

## Biographical Note

Healthcare executive Georges C. Benjamin was born on September 28, 1952 in Chicago, Illinois to Tessie and George Benjamin. After graduating from Lindblom Technical High School in 1970, Benjamin received his B.S. degree in biology from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1973. He went on to receive his M.D. degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1978, and complete his internal medicine residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in 1981.

In 1981, Benjamin joined Madigan Army Medical Center as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic in the department of emergency medicine; and, in 1983, he was reassigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center as chief of emergency medicine. From 1987 to 1990, Benjamin served as chair of the department of community health and ambulatory care at the District of Columbia General Hospital. From 1990 to 1991, he served as acting commissioner of the District of Columbia Department of Health; and, in this role, he also served as interim director of the District of Columbia Fire Department's Emergency Ambulance Bureau. From 1991 to 1994 he practiced emergency medicine and worked as a health policy consultant. He returned to the Emergency Ambulance Bureau from 1994 to 1995, serving again as interim director. In 1995, he was appointed deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; and, four years later, he was promoted to secretary of the department. In 2002, Benjamin stepped down as secretary to join the American Public Health Association (APHA) as executive director. In this position, he also served as publisher of the nonprofit's monthly publication, *The Nation's Health*, the association's official newspaper, and the *American Journal of Public Health*. Benjamin authored more than 100 scientific articles and book chapters, as well as the book *The Quest for Health Reform: A Satirical History*, a

history of health care reform shown through political cartoons.

In 2001, Benjamin served as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health. In 2016, former President Obama appointed Benjamin to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council. He was a Master of the American College of Physicians, a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a fellow emeritus of the American College of Emergency Physicians, an honorary fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

In 1998, Benjamin received the Noble J. Swearingen Award for Excellence in Public Health Administrative Management from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. He was named one of the Top 25 Minority Executives in Health Care by Modern Healthcare Magazine in 2008, 2014, and 2016. In 2017, Benjamin received the Hidden Figures of Public Health Award from Black Caucus of Health Workers of the APHA and the Meritorious Achievement Award from the National Medical Association. He also received an honorary Doctor of Science from Meharry Medical School.

Benjamin and his wife, Yvette Benjamin, have two daughters: Stephanie and Kali.

Dr. Georges C. Benjamin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on September 24, 2019.

## Related Entries

**Illinois Institute of Technology** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.S.**

**University of Illinois College of Medicine** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.D.**

**Perkins Bass Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Juliette G. Lowe Upper Grade Center** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Lindblom Math & Science Academy High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Brooke Army Medical Center** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Residency**

**American Public Health Association** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2002 to ?]

**Executive Director**

**Madigan Army Medical Center** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1981 to 1983]

**Chief, Acute Illness Clinic**

**Walter Reed Army Medical Center** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1983 to 1987]

**Chief, Emergency Medicine**

**District of Columbia General Hospital** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1987 to 1990]

**Chair, Department of Community Health and Ambulatory Care**

**District of Columbia Department of Health** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1990 to 1991]

**Acting Commissioner**

**District of Columbia Fire Department, Emergency Ambulance Bureau** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1990 to 1991]

**Interim Director**

**Holy Cross Hospital** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Doctor, Emergency Medicine**

**District of Columbia Fire Department, Emergency Ambulance Bureau** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1994 to 1995]

**Interim Director**

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1995 to 1999]

**Deputy Secretary**

**Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1999 to 2002]

**Secretary**

**Self Employed** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1991 to 1995]

**Health Policy Consultant**

**United States Army Medical Corps** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1978 to 1987]

**Member**

**United States Army Medical Service Corps** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1974 to 1978]

**Health Professions Scholar**

**City University of New York, School of Public Health at Hunter College** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2011 to 2011]

**Adjunct Professor**

**The George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2004 to ?]

**Professional Lecturer**

**Georgetown University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1988 to 2005]

**Clinical Instructor, Emergency Medicine**

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1987]

**Assistant Professor, Medicine; Assistant Professor, Military Medicine**

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1990 to 1995]

**Assistant Professor, Medicine; Assistant Professor, Military Medicine**

**University of Maryland College of Medicine** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1996 to 2008]

**Clinical Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery**

**Howard University** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1988 to 1989]

**Assistant Professor, Medicine**

**National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1995]

**Instructor, Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician**

**American Heart Association** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 198501 to 198704]

**National Faculty, Advanced Cardiac Life Support/Basic Life Support, U.S.  
Army Medical Corps**

**American Heart Association** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1984 to 1993]

**Affiliate Faculty, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Metro ACLS**

**American Heart Association** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1989 to 1994]

**Instructor, Pediatric Advanced Life Support**

**American Heart Association** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1983 to 1994]

**Instructor, Advanced Cardiac Life Support**

**American College of Surgeons** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 1982 to 1997]

**Instructor, Advance Trauma Life Support**

**ecoAmerica** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2017 to ?]

**Board of Directors**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2016 to ?]

**Advisory Council, National Infrastructure**

**National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1994 to ?]

**Member**

**State of Maryland** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to 2015]

**Health Exchange Board**

**United States Department of Health and Human Services** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2011 to 2014]

**Member, National Biodefense Science Board**

**United States Department of Health and Human Services** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2001 to 2005]

**Advisory Committee, Public Health Preparedness**

**U.S. Federal Leadership in Health & Medicine** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2008 to 2009]

**Commissioner**

**Reagan-Udall Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2007 to ?]

**Treasurer**

**Morehouse College School of Medicine** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2013 to ?]

**Overseer, Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center for Health Disparities**

**Congressional Black Caucus Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2004 to 2004]

**Advisor**

**University of Maryland Medical System Corporation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2008 to 2017]

**Board of Directors**

**Truth Initiative** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2014 to ?]

**Board Member**

**Public Health Accreditation Board** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2007 to 2009]

**Board of Incorporators**

**Campaign for Public Health Foundation** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2006 to 2013]

**Board of Directors**

**Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to ?]

**Board Member**

**American Red Cross** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2005 to 2010]

**Advisory Council, First Aid Safety**

**Howard University Public Health Program** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2006 to 2008]

**Advisory Committee**

**Medicine & Public Health Initiative** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2006 to 2008]

**Board of Directors**

**Morehouse College School of Medicine** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to 2009]

**Advisory Committee, Public Health Master's Program**

**Nemours Foundation** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to 2006]

**Advisory Board, Public Health**

**Southeast University** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to 2005]

**Advisory Committee, Health Administration Program**

**Consumers Union** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2004 to 2004]

**Advisory Board**

**Mother's Against Drunk Driving** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2003 to 2008]

**National Board of Advisors**

**Partnership for Prevention** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2003 to 2015]

**Board of Directors**

**Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics** [MEMBEROF]

[from 2003 to 2007]

## **Advisory Board**

**American Public Health Association** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2002 to ?]

## **Secretary**

**World Federation of Public Health Associations** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2002 to 2015]

## **Board Member**

**Center for Disease Control** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1999 to 2002]

## **Consultant, National Center for Environmental Health**

**Association of State and Territorial Health Officials** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1991 to 2002]

## **Member**

**National Medical Association** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1988 to 1995]

## **Member**

**American College of Emergency Physicians** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1987 to 1996]

## **Member**

**Physicians for a Violence Free Society** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1993 to 1995]

## **Board of Directors**

**U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2003 to 2015]

## **Advisor**

**Maryland Charity Champaign** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2001 to 2001]

## **Co-Chairman**

**Center for the Advancement of Health Professions Education, University of**

**Maryland Baltimore** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2001 to 2005]

## **Advisory Board**

**Center for Law and the Public's Health, Georgetown University/Johns Hopkins**

**University** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2000 to 2008]

## **Affiliated Expert**

**State Children's Environmental Health and Protection** [MEMBEROf]

[from 2000 to 2000]

## **Advisory Council**

**Commission on the Crisis in Nursing** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1999 to 2002]

## **Chairman**

**Women's Health Promotion Council** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1999 to 2002]

## **Co-Chairman**

**Maryland Health Care Foundation** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1999 to 2002]

## **Board of Trustees**

**University of Maryland Baltimore County Institute for Racial and Ethnic Studies**  
[MEMBEROf]  
[from 1997 to 2003]

## **Advisory Board**

**Mid-Atlantic Health Leadership Institute** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1996 to 2002]

## **Co-Founder & Advisory Board Member**

**Maryland State Council on Cancer Control** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1995 to 1997]

## **Member**

**Maryland State Advisory Council on Individuals with Disabilities** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1996 to 1997]

## **Member**

**State of Maryland** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1995 to 2002]

## **Post Mortem Examiners Commission**

**Medico Chirurgical Society of the District of Columbia** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1989 to 1994]

## **Board of Governors**

**Hospital for Sick Children** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1993 to 1995]

## **Board of Directors**

**D.C. Commission of Public Health Disability and Injury Prevention Program**  
[MEMBEROf]  
[from 1993 to 1996]

## **Advisory Board**

**American College of Emergency Physicians** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1992 to 1996]



**Liaison Representative, Emergency Nurses Association**

**Whitman Walker Clinic Inc.** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to 1994]

**Board of Directors**

**American Cancer Society** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1991 to 1995]

**Board of Trustees, District of Columbia Chapter**

**District of Columbia Emergency Medical Services Committee** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1990 to 1991]

**Member**

**District of Columbia State Health Coordinating Council** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1990 to 1991]

**Member**

**District of Columbia Board of Medicine** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1990 to 1991]

**Secretary**

**Gramercy Development Corporation** [MEMBEROF]

[from 1988 to 1990]

**Vice President, Medical Affairs**