

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Benjamin, Georges
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin,
Dates:	September 24, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:59:34).
Abstract:	Healthcare executive Georges Benjamin (1952-) served as executive director of the American Public Health Association. He previously served as secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Benjamin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 24, 2019, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_104
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

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.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 24, 2019, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Healthcare executive Georges Benjamin (1952-) served as executive director of the American Public Health Association. He previously served as secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Benjamin, Georges

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Benjamin, Georges--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Healthcare Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, September 24, 2019. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_001, TRT: 1:29:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_002, TRT: 2:29:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_003, TRT: 3:31:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_004, TRT: 4:30:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_005, TRT: 5:31:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_006, TRT: 6:28:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_007, TRT: 7:30:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Georges C. Benjamin, Section A2019_104_001_008, TRT: 8:28:45 ?