“When it Comes to Your Health, Does Your Zip Code Matter More Than Your Genetic Code?”

When Forbes magazine listed the top ten healthcare quotes for 2013, the number one quote was attributed to Dr. Iton: “When it comes to health, your zip code matters more than your genetic code.” This talk will address some of the compelling evidence behind that quote, and explore the strength of the relationship between life expectancy and neighborhood. Using death certificates, GIS mapping, and other simple data analyses, a profile of life expectancy by neighborhood in seven different regions will be presented. You will learn about the implications for U.S. health spending and population health management, and be introduced to a model for understanding the social determinants of health. This thought-provoking presentation promises to be fascinating!

Anthony B. Iton, MD, JD, MPH

Dr. Iton is Senior Vice President of Healthy Communities at The California Endowment. His primary focus is on the Foundation’s 10-year initiative, “Building Healthy Communities: California Living 2.0,” which aims to create communities where children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Iton held various prestigious positions while practicing medicine, such as Director and County Health Officer for the Alameda County Public Health Department, and the City of Stamford, Connecticut’s Director of Health and Human Services and School Medical Advisor. He earned his BS in Neurophysiology at McGill University, his JD at the University of California, Berkeley’s School of Law, and his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

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