



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY'S HEALTH *Dr. Wilma Wooten Receives Black History Month "Local Heroes Award"*

For her contributions to the health of San Diego County residents, County of San Diego Public Health Officer Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., has received a 2009 Black History Month Local Heroes Award.

"This is a great honor, and I see it as a validation of the work that we do in the County Health and Human Services Agency," said Dr. Wooten, the County's Public Health Officer since 2007. "Public Health Services employees are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of our residents."

Dr. Wooten was presented with the award at a special ceremony on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at the KPBS Copley Telecommunications Center. The award is given to individuals who promote public and social services, the arts, business, and community activism.

Dr. Wooten joined the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency in March 2001 as Deputy Public Health Officer. She is board certified in Family Medicine and has a Master's degree in public health. She earned both of her professional degrees from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and completed her residency training at Georgetown/Providence Hospital Family Practice Residency Program in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Wooten moved to San Diego in 1989 to complete a joint University of California, San Diego/San Diego State University Preventive Medicine Residency in Sports Medicine. From 1990 to 2001, she practiced medicine as a faculty member in the UCSD Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, and remains a UCSD volunteer Associate Clinical Professor and Adjunct Professor at SDSU, Graduate School of Public Health.

Women's health is of special interest to Dr. Wooten, including risk factors and prevalence of cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis in African-American women.

Dr. Wooten is active in the National Medical Association at the local, regional, and national levels. Through this affiliation she has participated in volunteer medical missions to Africa and the Caribbean. KPBS has honored local heroes during Black History Month Local Heroes awards for the past 11 years.

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