

September 30, 2016

Tracie Strength, Office of the Chief of Staff
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road NE.
Mailstop D14
Atlanta, GA 30329

Re: Nomination of Dr. Abdulrahman M. El-Sayed for Membership to the Advisory Committee to the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Health Disparities Subcommittee

Dear Ms. Strength:

On behalf of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), I write to nominate Dr. Abdulrahman M. El-Sayed, the Executive Director and Health Officer for the Detroit Health Department, to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Disparities Subcommittee (ACD, CDC-HDS). NACCHO is comprised of over 2,800 local health departments across the United States. Local health departments work every day to ensure the safety of the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe.

Dr. El-Sayed was appointed to lead the Detroit Health Department in August 2015. In this role, he directs the Department's work on innovative public health policy, programs, and partnerships that address the social determinants of health for Detroit's more than 680,000 residents. Over the past year, Dr. El-Sayed has guided the transition of nearly all programs and services back to the health department after they had been contracted out during the city's financial crisis. Each day this is creating a reinvigorated public health system to better serve Detroit residents.

Prior to his appointment at the Health Department, Dr. El-Sayed was an Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. During this time, his research focused on health disparities, universal primary prevention, and systems science. He is the lead editor of a forthcoming textbook *Systems Science & Population* (Oxford University Press). He directed Columbia's Global Research Analytics for Population Health team and the Columbia University Systems Science Program.



Dr. El-Sayed received his medical degree from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons as a Soros Fellow, a Doctorate of Philosophy in Public Health from University of Oxford's Oriel College/Nuffield Department of Population Health as a Rhodes Scholar, and a Bachelor's of Science in biology and political science at the University of Michigan. He was a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Epidemiology at Columbia University and served for many years as an associate editor of The 2x2project – Health Beyond the Headlines.

Dr. El-Sayed served as Communications Committee Chair for the Society for Epidemiologic Research and was Chair of their Epidemiologic Methods Application e-Conference from 2011-2013. He is also a board member of the University of Michigan's Detroit Urban Research Center, the Southeastern Michigan Health Administration, and the Michigan Association of Local Public Health.

Local health departments are a key partner to CDC, and they are essential to the work of the Health Disparities Subcommittee. Dr. El-Sayed's extensive knowledge and leadership in public health, as well as his daily experience as a practitioner working in a city rife with racial and economic disparities, make him a uniquely qualified candidate to be a member of this subcommittee. His combination of research and medical expertise, dedication to public service, and commitment to helping underserved communities will make him a truly valuable member of the Advisory Committee to the Director, Health Disparities Subcommittee.

Thank you for your consideration of Dr. El-Sayed's nomination. He is aware of the nomination. If you have any questions, please contact me at LHasbrouck@naccho.org or at 202-783-5550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Hasbrouck', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH
Executive Director