

JOHN EL ROY ARRADONDO

Matriculated 1963

GRADUATED HARVARD MEDICAL CLASS OF 1968

Autobiography

JOHN ARRADONDO HAS a distinguished, nationally recognized career in medical education, health services, and community service.

He demonstrated the feasibility of the community-based, behaviorally oriented training of family physicians. A Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, he is a Past President of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, the academic arm of family medicine in the United States. He is a past Chair of the Family Practice Section of the National Medical Association (NMA), President of the R. F. Boyd Medical Society (Nashville Affiliate of NMA), and President of the Volunteer State Medical Association (Tennessee affiliate of the NMA). He has published and speaks on a variety of topics including health promotion and disease prevention, care of the aged, managed care, and the epidemics of our time: violence and injury, HIV, substance abuse, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and stroke. He founded Meharry's Department of Family Medicine and trained its first 50 family practitioners, who continue to make their mark on the nation's health system. Having served as department chair, Provost for External Affairs, Dean of the School of Medicine, and Vice President for Health Services, Dr. Arradondo is currently Professor of Family and Community Medicine in the School of Medicine at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Arradondo has a long-standing interest in understanding 'health outcomes' and the factors that determine our health status. He has served as health officer at the federal and local levels. He demonstrated the utility of improving community health through the use of coalitions and public-private partnerships. He has led in using these techniques to improve the nutritional status and quality of life for the aged as well as to decrease the incidence of pregnancy among teenagers. In Houston he pioneered programs and procedures to prevent tuberculosis, HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and vaccine preventable diseases (flu, measles, mumps and more). These programs are now used widely and are advocated by private and federal funding agencies. He is a Past President of the US Conference of Local Health Officials (now the National Association of City and County Health Officials) and is a longtime consultant to many health agencies and corpo-



John El Roy Arradondo. (Photo in Aesculapiad, 1968. Courtesy of the Office of Alumni Affairs, Harvard Medical School.)

rations. He served on the council that accredits public health training in the United States and Canada. He speaks often on issues of policy, profits, and equity in the health system.

Dr. Arradondo has a life history of serving his community through work in the church, civic organizations, voters' councils, voluntary health organizations, and civil rights organizations. He has initiated and secured the passage of laws (for education, civil rights, business development, or health) in each of the five states and in each of the cities in which he has lived. He has served as a director or speaker for the National Kidney Foundation, the American Heart Association, the NAACP National Health Committee, the Intercultural Cancer Council, and the American Cancer Society. He serves as a founding member of the National Dialog on Cancer, now C-Change.



Born in Milfay, Oklahoma, Dr. Arradondo grew up in southwest Oklahoma and has graduated with honors at every level of training. He completed his undergraduate education at Oklahoma City University. He received his Doctor of Medicine (MD) and his Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees from Harvard University. In between these two degrees, he completed his residency training at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis. He has received many local, state, and national awards for both his professional endeavors and his community service. While in Medical School, Dr. Arradondo contributed significantly to four activities that affected the School's training of African-American and other underrepresented minority learners: 1—the recruitment of African-American students (exceeding 10 percent of the class) to matriculate in the fall of 1969. This effort was led by Edgar Milford, HMS '71, and altered the prior stereotype that few African-Americans were "qualified" to matriculate at the School; 2—the development of the School's involvement in the science education of African-American high school students in the Boston area. This effort was led by Noel Solomons, HMS '70;

3—the involvement of the School in attracting African-American trainees at the Residency and Fellowship level, an activity that led to the formation of the Central Recruitment Council of Boston. Noel Solomons, HMS '70, led this effort; and, finally, 4—the establishment of the Harvard Health Careers Summer Program. John Arradondo took the student lead for this activity. He selected the first class of 55 students and served as the first Manager of the program in the Summer of 1969. This program was designed to increase the visibility of disadvantaged students seeking entry into the health professions. It became a prototype for other schools and lasted for a quarter century.