

Imani Clinic

at Oak Park Sacramento



Healing Begins with Faith

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About Imani: How the Clinic Came to Be

Imani Clinic was the brainchild of UC Davis medical students in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), an organization dedicated to improving outcomes—medical, academic, and social—among members of the African American community. Ten years of planning, research, and negotiations were initiated because students became concerned about the staggering and persistent morbidity and mortality from hypertension, heart disease, cancer, and inadequate prenatal care among African Americans. SNMA redoubled its efforts in light of the apparent demise of Health Care Reform, and the serious threat to universal access to health care posed by Proposition 187.

The clinic opened on October 22, 1994, in the heart of the Oak Park neighborhood in South Sacramento. This site was selected because of the ethnic diversity of the community—recent census data indicates that 57 percent of the population are members of minority groups and 80 percent of this community can be classified as working poor or unemployed. Most of these people have no health insurance. "Imani" is the Swahili word for "faith," and symbolizes the trust we hope to foster within our community that the health care system will address their medical needs and social realities.

How the Clinic Operates

Imani Clinic is open every Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, and we generally see 10-15 patients—usually more than half are Spanish speaking. Unlike the other student-run clinics at the UC Davis School of Medicine, we run as a "weekend extension" of the Sacramento County primary care facility.

The clinic is staffed by UC Davis undergraduates who do intake (checking height, weight and vital signs), lab work and create patient charts, and by medical students who see patients under the supervision of 1-2 preceptor physicians. Clinic affairs are managed by the undergraduate board which works under the supervision of 3-4 medical student co-directors.

What are Imani's Goals?

>>To provide preventive and episodic primary healthcare to an underserved community without regard to address (or lack of one), national/ethnic origin, immigration status, language, religion, or ability to pay.

>>To expose medical students early in their training to the complexities of providing community-based care to a diverse population in which social, economic, and medical issues are intimately intertwined.

>>To provide undergraduate students interested in a career in the health professions with the opportunity to experience first-hand healthcare delivery in a community-based setting.

>>To foster early and lasting relationships between students, healthcare professionals, and the community.

Want to learn more? Want to know how to become involved?

Please visit our website, www.imaniclinic.com, to get more information about Imani Clinic, its community role in Oak Park, and how to become a volunteer.

Feel free to contact our medical student co-directors at imanidirectors@ucdavis.edu should you have any questions.



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