David Malebranche, MD, MPH '01, Appointed to Presidential HIV/AIDS Advisory Panel

Dr. David Malebranche, a graduate from the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, is one of seven recent appointments to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA), a group that offers program and policy recommendations to President Bush on AIDS-related issues.

Dr. Malebranche is an assistant professor at the Division of General Medicine at Emory University's School of Medicine where he conducts research on black male sexuality and health, particularly among black men who have sex with men. According to Dr. Malebranche, "Black MSM—men who have sex with men—bear a disproportionate burden of HIV. For me, it's very important to ensure key issues affecting this group are not swept under the rug." He noted that health issues affecting heterosexual black males are often neglected as well.

Of his nomination, Dr. Malebranche commented, "It is an honor and a privilege to be nominated as a member of PACHA. I look forward to voicing the experiences of my patients and research participants at this level, and to have the opportunity to impact national health policy."

Said Richard Parker, PhD, professor and Chair of the Department of Sociomedical Sciences, "David is one of the smartest, most thoughtful students I have taught. He is a true role model whose insight around the fundamental social causes of HIV/AIDS will shed some much needed light on the country's HIV/AIDS policy."