Dr. Harrison C. Spencer, the President and CEO of the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH), passed away on Wednesday, August 10. His loss will be deeply felt across the country and the world.

Dr. Spencer was an extraordinary individual whose career was characterized by exceptional leadership in both medicine and public health. He always sought to advance his knowledge. His academic degrees include:

- a bachelor's degree from Haverford College
- an MD degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley
- Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

Dr. Spencer was a global public health practitioner. His career activities included:

- Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Leadership roles at the University of Nairobi Medical School (Nairobi, Kenya), the World Health Organization (Geneva, Switzerland), and at the CDC where he was the Chief of Parasitic Diseases
• In academia, Dr. Spencer served as Dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana and then as Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, United Kingdom.

In 2000, Dr. Spencer became the President and CEO of the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). In 2010, the ASPH, under Dr. Spencer’s leadership, became the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH).

Dr. Spencer joined forces with leaders and organizations across the country through his service on different boards, committees, and professional societies. Yet, he remained focused on students, recruiting them into public health careers through individual and group discussions and actions. He knew what engaged and focused public health action could accomplish and he was committed to enhancing the future for all through such actions.

We at the SUNY Downstate School of Public Health are forever grateful for his guidance and support as we transitioned from a Master of Public Health Program to a School of Public Health. In subsequent years he became an inspiring colleague always available to assist us and to do so with sensitivity and understanding. We are very grateful for his leadership and example.