The first annual Diversity Conference kicks off the SSA Centennial celebration with an examination of the many ways in which social workers and the social work profession are enhancing peoples’ lives and promoting the principles of social justice worldwide. Particular emphasis will be on the impact of social work on public health, economic development, and human rights both domestically and internationally. Panelists and attendees will be challenged to create and consider innovative solutions to global problems from a social work perspective.
Keynote Speaker

Joia Mukherjee trained in Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics at the Massachusetts General Hospital and has an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School where she teaches medical students, residents and fellows in the fields of infectious disease, global health and health disparities. Since 2000, Dr. Mukherjee has served as the Medical Director of Partners In Health, an international medical charity with clinical programs in Haiti, Rwanda, Lesotho, Malawi, Peru, Mexico, Russia, and inner-city Boston. In this capacity she is involved in programmatic and clinical work to provide health care and reduce health disparities by developing public sector, community based programs with local colleagues in those countries. Additionally, Dr. Mukherjee consults for the World Health Organization on the treatment of HIV and MDR-TB in developing countries and is a member of the Executive Board of Health Action AIDS, a campaign conducted with Physicians for Human Rights to engage the US health professional community in the international advocacy and education effort to stop the global AIDS pandemic.

Symposium Program

9:30 A.M.  Registration and continental breakfast

10:00 A.M.  Welcoming Remarks
            Paul Brown, A.M. Candidate
            Tianna Cervantez, A.M. Candidate
            School of Social Service Administration
            Jeanne C. Marsh
            Dean and George Herbert Jones Professor
            School of Social Service Administration

10:30 A.M.  Human Rights Panel
            Moderators: Meghan Overmyer and Eugene Robinson
            Panelists:
            • Simone Koehlinger, Director
              Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health
              City of Chicago Department of Health
            • Mary Meg McCarthy, Executive Director
              National Immigrant Justice Center, Heartland Alliance
            • Mary Shuttleworth, Director
              Youth for Human Rights International

11:15 A.M.  Public Health Panel
            Moderators: Geneva Dodson and Ingrid Mejia
            Panelists:
            • Jessica Darrow, Ph.D. Candidate
              School of Social Service Administration
            • Sarah Gehlert, Helen Ross Professor
              School of Social Service Administration
            • Harold Pollack, Associate Professor
              School of Social Service Administration
            • Tulio Rodriguez, Assistant Professor and Medical Director
              Loyola University Health System

12:00 P.M.  Lunch and Keynote Presentation
            Joia Mukherjee, Medical Director
            Partners in Health

1:30 P.M.  Individuals & Families Panel
            Moderator: Willie Carl “C. J.” Harmon, Jr.
            Panelists:
            • Wallace E. Goode, Jr., Director
              University Community Service Center
            • Julia Henly, Associate Professor
              School of Social Service Administration
            • Terri Johnson, Vice President, Public Policy and Advocacy
              Jane Addams Hull House

2:15 P.M.  Economic Development Panel
            Moderator: Paul Brown
            Panelists:
            • Joel Bookman, Director
              Programs for the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Chicago
            • Laura Lane, Executive Director
              Woodlawn Preservation and Investment Corporation (WPIC)
            • William Sites, Associate Professor
              School of Social Service Administration

3:00 P.M. -  Closing Remarks

3:15 P.M.  Reception