



**Robert E. Tranquada, MD**, long-time member of the USC faculty, and dean of the USC Keck School of Medicine from 1986 to 1991, passed away on December 4, 2022. He was a diabetes researcher turned public health advocate who was instrumental in increasing access to health care for underserved communities across Los Angeles County. He was a beloved and respected member of MAC for 50 years.

Early in his long career at USC, Dr. Tranquada led the creation of the Department of Community Medicine. As associate dean of the Keck School, he was the architect of consolidating various departments into the L.A. Department of Health Services and played a key role in developing the health administration program at USC. As dean, he negotiated a new master agreement with the County for the provision of care at L.A. County + USC Medical Center, adopted a new faculty governance model that empowered the medical faculty, and significantly increased enrollment of underrepresented students. He also led the creation of a new private teaching hospital — Keck Hospital of USC. As a nationally recognized leader, he chaired the American Association of Medical College’s Council of Deans.

His experience launching and becoming the first director of the South Central Multipurpose Health Services Center in 1965 (now the Watts Healthcare Corporation), led to a 40-year career in public health. He was an effective advocate for increasing the number of women and people of color in medicine, serving as a long-time member of the board of National Medical Fellowships, a member of the founding board of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, and a member of Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital board.

In 1967, as associate dean of the medical school, Dr. Tranquada was appointed medical director of Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center. After five years as medical director, he became regional director of the Central Health Services Region of the L.A. County Department of Health Services. He headed the Los Angeles County Taskforce on Access to Healthcare in the wake of the 1992 civil unrest following the Watts riots, which led to the creation of Community Health Councils, the non-profit organization that works to promote health and wellness in under-resourced communities. He was also a founding board member and chair of L.A. Care, today the country’s largest publicly operated health plan.

After stepping down as dean in 1991, he joined the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and served as chair of USC’s health administration program until he retired in 1997.

Dr. Tranquada was a member of the National Academy of Medicine of the National Academy of Science, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In addition to his career in public health, Dr. Tranquada played a leadership role in higher education, philanthropy and other areas. He was chair of the Pomona College Board of Trustees, chair of the board of the Claremont University Consortium, and served on the boards of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, the Good Hope Medical Foundation, the Huntington Medical Research Institutes, and the Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences, among others.