

LA REVUE

The Official Student Newsletter for Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine
Department of Health Policy and Management. By Students, For Everyone!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



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Medical Mistrust in the Black Community:

How We as Public Health Professionals Can
Increase Trust

By: Kobe Walker

Mistrust in medicine stems from centuries of mistreatment and unethical practices that still have impacts today. The myth that African people did not experience pain like their white counterparts was widely spread, and experimented, in the 1800s [5]. The Tuskegee experiments were supposed to study the impacts on syphilis, but participants were not given medical treatment even though penicillin was available nine years into the study [1]. HeLa cells are still being used today to advance medicine forward, but they were obtained and used without the consent of Henrietta Lacks [6].

Some might say that these events occurred long ago and that the impacts are not felt today, but this isn't true. Studies have found that to this day there are racial disparities in pain management and

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Medical Mistrust in the Black Community: How We as Public Health Professionals Can Increase Trust

By: Kobe Walker

treatment [3]. The Tuskegee study ended in 1972 with the last participant dying just 18 years ago and the children of participants still receive medical care today [1]. HeLa cells were even used to help create the COVID vaccine just two years ago [2]. The impacts of racism and unethical treatment is still prevalent today and continues to impact how racial minorities navigate the healthcare system.

There is a mistrust of the health care system today because of this. Trust is defined as the “belief that someone or something is reliable, good, honest, effective, etc.” [4]. Trust was taken away from the health care system because the system did not display any of these attributes for centuries. The system that is supposed to improve the health of those trusting it did the exact opposite for so long. In my opinion, the system is expecting a lot of trust out of a community that was wronged for centuries, especially when many of the atrocities are just now being addressed in the last few decades. The onus of righting these wrongs is not on the Black community; it’s on the healthcare system as a whole. The system must reflect on what it has done to this community and move forward by assuring that these atrocities never occur again. This isn’t something that can happen quickly.

Regaining trust won’t happen over a short period of time and changing an entire system is a strenuous process, but on an individual level we have the ability to make changes that will impact the experiences that those around us have in the healthcare system. From a policy perspective, we have the ability to impact future policies through truthful displays of data and equitable policy writing. Managerial-wise, we can make sure those working in the departments we are overlooking are educated in cultural competency and are providing effective care to patients. As a group, all of us policy and management students can make sure that we are improving patient care and the patient experience in our future careers, which on a smaller level can make the health care system in America more reliable.

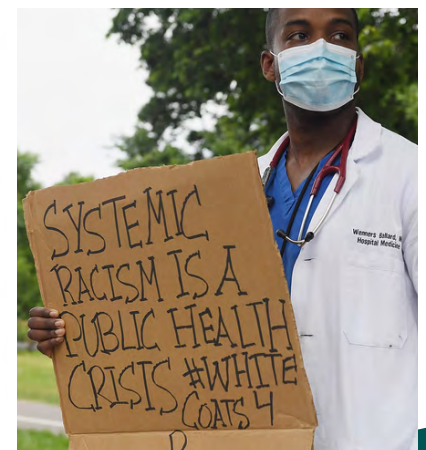
[1] <https://www.cdc.gov/tuskegee/timeline.htm> [2] <https://sitn.hms.harvard.edu/flash/2020/vessels-for-collective-progress-the-use-of-hela-cells-in-covid-19-research/>
[3] https://spcl.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/Mathur_etal2014.pdf [4] <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/trust> [5] <https://www.pnas.org/content/113/16/4296#T1> [6] <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/henriettalacks/>



Image of Henrietta Lacks



Newspaper article after Tuskegee experiment exposed



Doctor protesting during COVID-19 pandemic

Henrietta Lacks: The Use of HeLa Cells and the Lacks Family

By: Rowan Poehler

Henrietta Lacks' story has become more well-known over the past 12 years since the famous book (and previous recommendation in this newsletter) *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot was published in 2010. This past October, the Lacks' estate sued Thermo Fisher Scientific claiming unjust enrichment and nonconsensual use of [*Henrietta's cells*](#).

Thermo Fisher is a massive bio-technology company that reported \$9.33 billion in revenue from its third quarter 2021 alone. You can buy Henrietta's cells, known as HeLa cells, on the Thermo Fisher website for over [*\\$2,000 a unit*](#). The Lacks' family currently receives no financial compensation from Thermo Fisher or the hundreds of other companies that sell or use the HeLa cells.

In the lawsuit, the Lacks' family wants Thermo Fisher to disclose how much money they have made from selling HeLa cells and for the company to be prevented from using or selling the cells without the Lacks' family permission. Members of the Lacks family

have said they are grateful for the good HeLa cells have given the world, such as the polio vaccine and in vitro fertilization, but they also want recognition for Henrietta's contribution to the advancement of medicine and for the scientific community to acknowledge the injustices that took place.

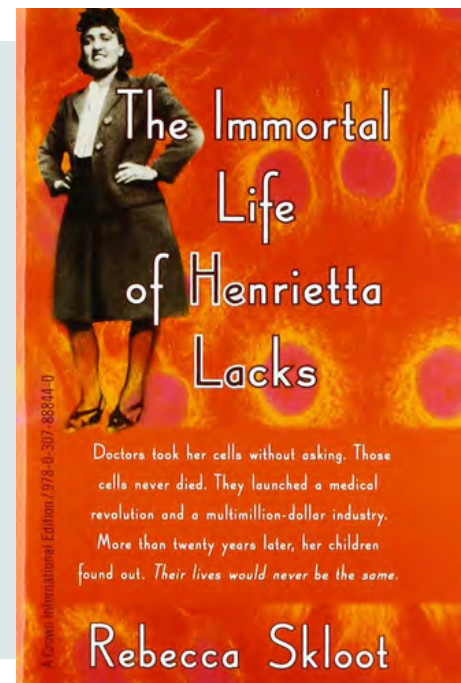
In addition to recognition, the Lacks family wants and deserves financial compensation for their hardships over the past 71 years since Henrietta's cells were taken without her consent. The Henrietta Lacks' Foundation was founded in 2010 by Rebecca Skloot to help those who have been involved in research without their consent, such as the Lacks family. The foundation was originally made with the thought that organizations would be the main donors, however donations have [*mostly come from individuals*](#). This lawsuit, and the likely many others that will follow, will not be over for some time, so in the meantime if you wish to support the Lacks family you can [*donate here*](#).

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Author: Rebecca Skloot

"Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor, black, Southern tobacco farmer in life. After her death more than 60 years ago, her cells became the first "immortal" human ones grown in a culture and are still alive today. HeLa cells were vital to monumental scientific innovations and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Lacks remains virtually unknown and her family did not know about her "immortality" until more than 20 years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. The family never saw any profit. The story of the Lacks family is connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of."

*VII3 Book Recommendation, Paraphrased from the New York Times



Black Owned Businesses to Support in NOLA

By: Kaylee Giacomini & Shelby Olin

Black owned businesses make up the fabric of our city. Here are some of our favorite attractions, shops, restaurants, and bars to support.

Attractions

- New Orleans African American Museum
- The Backstreet Cultural Museum
- Dutch Alley Artist's Co-op
- Treme's Petit Jazz Museum
- NOLA Organic Spa
- House of Dance and Feathers
- New Orleans Drink Lab

Shops

- Community Book Center
- King & Queen Emporium International
- Material Life
- Kay's
- Motherland African Art
- Mana's Accents
- West London BTQ
- Loretta's Authentic Pralines, Inc.
- Bean's Formal Wear
- Adrian's Bakery

Restaurants

- Bywater American Bistro
- Deja Vieux Food Park
- Cafe Abyssinia
- Boswell's Jamaican Grill
- Backatown Coffee Parlour
- Ice Cream 504
- The Cupcake Collection
- Addis Nola
- Estralita's Express
- Coffee Bliss
- Queen Trini Lisa

Bars

- The Business Bar
- New Orleans Jazz Market
- Second Vine Wine
- The Revolution
- Sweet Lorraine's
- Vaso Bar & Venue

Studio Be



Footprints to Fitness



Stella Jones Gallery



Morrow's



Dooky Chase



14 Parishes



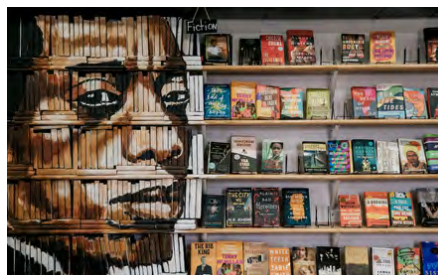
New Orleans Art Bar



Bar Revolution



Baldwin & Co.



Compere Lapin



Black History Month: a First Generation American's Perspective

By: Nnenna Ukpaby

Black History Month evolved from a week-long event called “Negro History Week.” It was founded by Carter G Woodson, who is known as the “father of Black history.” Woodson wanted to encourage people of all ethnic and social backgrounds to discuss the Black experience. He chose the month of February in honor of the birth month of two influential figures in ending slavery; Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Black History Month is celebrated in *February in the United States* and Canada and in October in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Netherlands.

What it Means to Me

Black History Month means everything to me. It is a time when I reflect on the great Black leaders that came before me. I am also intentional about pouring into the Black community by supporting black owned businesses, artists, designers, and other creators. I wish Black history was celebrated every day. I hear the conversations about corporations’ celebrations of Black History Month being performative. I want us as a society to do more to make Black people feel celebrated daily, not just for one month out of the year.

As a first-generation Nigerian-American, I view Black History Month differently than my peers who are American Descendants of Slavery (ADOS). My ancestors were not enslaved but many of the opportunities that I have been afforded stem from the efforts of enslaved people in the United States. I deeply respect and acknowledge the resilience and

adversity that African Americans endured to fight for their freedom and that of future generations.

My family’s origin story in the United States is a testament of that sacrifice. My grandfather, Dr. Ernest Ukpaby traveled to the United States on a ship (pictured below) to Ellis Island in New York City on September 21, 1949. He later went on to receive his undergraduate education at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), his master’s degree in Sociology at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), and a PhD in Sociology at Bradley University. He paved the way for me to be a third-generation college educated individual. This would not have been possible without the bravery of enslaved people and civil rights activists that risked their lives to fight for equal access to education, jobs, and a better quality of life.



Student Spotlight: Kalyn Green

Interviewed by: Shelby Olin

She/Her

Combined Degree MHA

Hometown: Luling, Louisiana

What has your favorite class been in the department so far? Which class has been the most beneficial to you?

My favorite class in the department so far has been Health Systems Concepts with Professor Emily Harris. Health Systems Concepts immediately provided me with a foundation to understanding the healthcare system as a whole, as well as provided perspective on my personal position in our current healthcare system. This perspective I gained allowed me to reflect on how my personal stake in the healthcare system will affect me as I enter into the healthcare field as a future public health professional. This class has also been the most beneficial to me thus far. Not only did I learn valuable aspects of the healthcare system that I will carry with me forever, but I also gained valuable team building skill sets as a vast majority of the work we completed throughout the course was team based and interactive.

As a student in the HPM Department, what advice would you give to people that are interested in health policy and management?

The advice I would give to people that are interested in health policy and management would be to stay steadfast in your passion of this field. Graduate school will be so fulfilling in the sense that the things that you will learn will clearly become applicable to the field and your interests, allowing you to clearly begin to see your purpose.

What does Black History Month mean to you?

To me, Black History Month is a universal statement of my importance. As a black woman coexisting in a world that, frankly, was not built for my success, Black History Month is one month throughout the year where I, along with the rest of my community members are loud and proud about being unapologetically black. Black history month means being seen, it means being heard, being acknowledged, being respected, and being celebrated. During Black History month, the stories, accomplishments, legacies, and resiliency of the black community are highlighted every day, as it should be year round. Black History is a part of American History, and even though it is for just one month, when Black History is acknowledged during this time, it provides me as a black woman a deeper sense of belonging and pride for my identity. Ultimately, Black History Month means a multitude of things to me, but the thing I take away most from Black History Month is the sense of value that I feel for myself and my community during this time.



What type of career do you see yourself going into after graduating from Tulane SPHTM?

My ideal career after graduating from Tulane SPHTM would be to work my way up to become an executive director of healthcare equity for a hospital or large healthcare organization. I dream of dedicating my career in healthcare administration toward advocating for marginalized communities in the healthcare setting, while also working to establish healthcare systems whose normal practices include providing equitable and culturally competent care to all of their patients.

Student Spotlight: Dewayne Parquette

Interviewed by: Shelby Olin

He/Him
MHA

Hometown: Gonzales, LA



What has your favorite class been in the department so far? Which class has been the most beneficial to you?

My favorite class in the program so far would be Managerial Communication with Dr. Stranova. The class was beneficial to my professional development and gave me skills that expanded my ability to present information in a professional manner. My ability to create, present, and discuss information before an audience such as a board of directors for a company has improved tremendously.

As a student in the HPM Department, what advice would you give to people that are interested in health policy and management?

My advice would be to do research on health policy and management to inform themselves on the type of material and skills they would gain from the program. Once you have the knowledge, and if it matches your interest, go into the program as a sponge and gain all the knowledge possible.

"Black History Month is heritage, culture, history, and excellence. It is a time that black people embrace each other and celebrate our culture and history."

What type of career do you see yourself going into after graduating from Tulane SPHTM?

I see myself going into a manager or supervisor role in a department of a hospital. My ultimate goal is to become a COO of a hospital and work toward improving operational inefficiencies to improve the access and process of care.

What does Black History Month mean to you?

To me, Black History Month is heritage, culture, history, and excellence. It is a time that black people embrace each other and celebrate our culture and history. Black History Month highlights the history and legacy of black people that have built and impacted this country in many ways. I believe it should be more than just a month, but it is a time designated to learn and highlight our culture and history.



The Music of New Orleans

By: Alison Hurwitz

Few cities around the world are as synonymous with music as New Orleans, which is universally considered to be the birthplace of jazz music. Jazz was born as a byproduct of the cultural fabric of the city; a mix of African, Caribbean, French and Spanish influences, each culture bringing its own flavor to the sounds that shaped New Orleans.

The geographic center of music in New Orleans is Congo Square. Located in what is now Louis Armstrong Park, Congo Square was once the only place in which enslaved Africans were permitted to gather. In the late 1700s, under French and Spanish rule, enslaved Africans were permitted to buy and sell goods on Sundays, and often gathered in the spot that would later become Congo Square. After New Orleans became a part of the United States in the 1800s, a city ordinance limited the gathering of enslaved people to that spot, and only until sunset. African music is manifold, and enslaved Africans came from all parts of Africa. In Congo Square, music was the universal language, and served vital functions, as a force of social cohesion, a spiritual practice, and a form of resistance to the degrading racial order of the city.

The early history of jazz in New Orleans is most often associated with Buddy Bolden, a cornetist whose musical talent and charisma became legendary in the city. As a result of Bolden's ingenuity, New Orleans musicians began moving away from more traditional sight-reading toward playing by ear. Eventually, New Orleans jazzmen became known for a style called "collective improvisation," that permitted greater spontaneity and freedom of expression. Louis Armstrong, born 1901, was also known as a pioneer of jazz, and showed the world a style of New Orleans music that had never been heard before. Since the beginning of the 20th century, Black artists from New Orleans like Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino, Irma Thomas and Lil Wayne have made a lasting impact on music.



Policy (and Management) Pop-Up Schedule

All HPM students (MPH, MHA, and PhD) are invited and encouraged to attend a series of policy (and management) pop-ups that are taking place in March and April of this semester. These pop-ups are meant to be an informal and non-serious discussion with faculty and colleges on serious topics surrounding policy and management. All of these discussions will take place outside and physically distanced to provide adequate COVID safety. Please see the full schedule with discussion prompts below- don't forget to add the ones you're interested in onto your calendar! Can't wait to see everyone there!

Monday, March 7 noon-1pm:

Dr. Demosthenidy on How can you set better health policy when you only control half of the government? Backatown Coffee (301 Basin St.)

Thursday, March 10, 6 pm-7pm:

Dean LaVeist & Dr. Stoecker on How can we get people to take this dang ol' vaccine? The Bean Gallery (637 N Carrollton Ave)

Wednesday, March 16 8am-9am:

Professor Harris on How can you fire someone effectively? Backatown Coffee (301 Basin St.)

Wednesday, 3/23 noon-1 pm:

Dr. Anderson on Why aren't we getting good value from value-based payments? The Daily Grind (1500 Canal St)

Tuesday, April 5th - 6pm-7pm:

Dr. Stranova on What makes a bad leader? Cafe Du Monde in City Park (56 Dreyfous Dr)

Monday, April 11th 6-7pm:

Dr. Callison on What sorts of policies work in averting overdose deaths? Cafe Du Monde in City Park (56 Dreyfous Dr)

Thursday, April 14th noon-1pm:

Dr. Walker on Why aren't more people in care and how can we change it? Backatown Coffee (301 Basin St.)

Friday, April 22 noon-1pm:

Dr. Shi on what can we do about high drug prices? The Daily Grind (1500 Canal St)

HPM Graduate Assistant Needed!

\$15/hour, 15-20 hours per week

The HPM department is seeking a self-directed individual to work in the HPM chair's office. Be the face of the department as you interact with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and VIP's.

You'll serve on the editorial board of THIS newsletter. You'll also be involved in day-to-day department operations like special event planning, case competitions, mock interviews, etc.

Interested?

Send your resume to HPM@tulane.edu

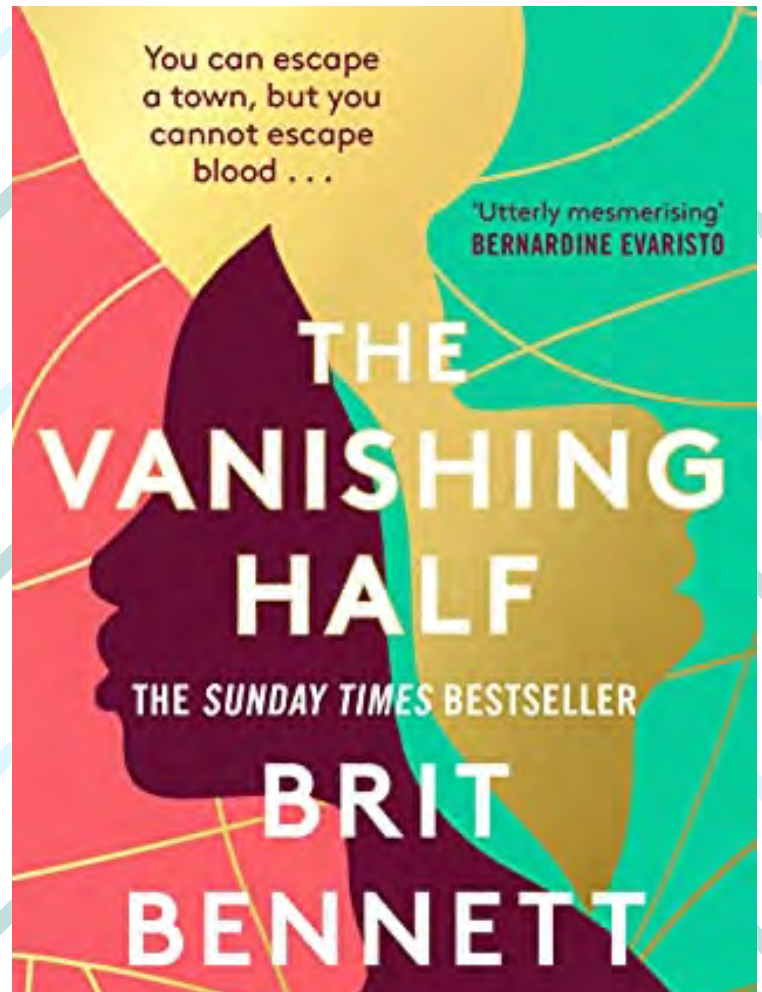
Book of the Month

By: Rowan Poehler

The Vanishing Half Author: Britt Bennett

The *Vanishing Half* written by Brit Bennett (2020) is a historical fiction novel that explores the impact of race and generational trauma on a family. Stella and Desiree are light-skinned black identical twins born in the 1940s in a small town in southern Louisiana. Both girls run away together at 16 to start a new life, but over the decades their lives take them to very different places. Stella leads her life passing as a white woman whereas Desiree eventually moves back to her hometown with her daughter.

The story spans generations and shows how Stella and Desiree's daughters are impacted by their mothers' decisions long before they were born. Race and identity are major themes throughout the novel, as well as motherhood, classism, and gender. Bennett created a beautiful, gut-wrenching, thought-provoking story that shows how the past can forever shape who we become.



Podcast of the Month

By: Alison Hurwitz

THE PRAXIS

CONNECTING THEORY AND PRACTICE FOR
HEALTH JUSTICE

WITH
EDWIN LINDO, JD

The Praxis

Host: Edwin Lindo

Hosted by Edwin Lindo, JD, Associate Dean of Social and Health Justice at the University of Washington School of Medicine, *The Praxis* aims to explore the root causes and impacts of racism and other forms of marginalization in the pursuit of health justice. Throughout the season, Lindo interviews scholars and researchers to discuss their own work in the field of health equity, including topics such as the impact of race on maternal and child health outcomes, chronic disease management in the context of health equity, and the pervasiveness of race in medical education. Lindo does a deep dive into history, theory, science, and practice as they relate to racism, medicine, and our healthcare delivery system. *The Praxis* is a worthwhile and important listen for anyone interested in using theory to inform practice that will make our healthcare system more equitable.

Dept. Events

- **2/28-3/1:** Mardi Gras Holiday - no school
- **3/3:** SPHTM Career Services Workshop- Prepping for a Virtual Career Fair
- **3/10:** Spring 2022 Public Health and Health Administration Career Fair (Virtual)
- **3/14:** Hunches and Lunches- Danju Zhou
- **3/18:** SPHTM Career Services Workshop- Everything You Need to Know about the Job Search
- **3/24:** Spring 2022 Tulane Virtual Career Fair

Mardi Gras: Your Faculty in Krewes

This Mardi Gras, our own Dr. Stranova will be walking in a few parades! Word is he saves the best throws for HPM students along the route. See him here:

- **2/23:** Krewe of Ancient Druids - Float 9, Neutral Ground side - bottom - Position #1
- **2/27:** Krewe of Thoth - Float 19b, Neutral Ground side - 2nd section - Position #1
- **3/1:** Pete's Fountain Half Fast Walking Club
- **3/12:** Irish Channel St. Patrick's Day Parade
- **3/19:** The Italian American St. Joseph's Day Parade

Your Editors

Kaylee Giacomini, Eli Santiago, Shelby Olin, Kobe Walker, Nnenna Ukpaby, Joey Ballan, Siddhesh Desai, Michael Fabrizio, Alison Hurwitz, Andrew Kamali, Rowan Poehler, Sauren Stone

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