

## 2020 Summer Newsletter

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# Racism and Inequities in Health Care for Black Americans

Steven Starks, M.D., Thara M. Nagarajan, M.D., **Rahn Kennedy Bailey, M.D.**, Danielle Hairston, M.D.

Black Americans have long suffered from the negative health consequences of racism and encountered numerous barriers to receiving the health and mental health care they need. These inequities have intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. What is the role of psychiatry in addressing these problems and working toward the eradication of racism?

Organized medicine and health care systems have consistently described their desire to achieve health equity. The coronavirus pandemic and its impact on Black communities shine a light on the pervasiveness of what has so far been an unattained goal—accessible, high-quality, and evidence-based care for all groups regardless of race, class, gender, or sexual identity. In the midst of the current public health crisis, psychiatrists and mental health professionals are challenged to take a closer look at their role in meeting the needs of communities that have been made vulnerable by systemic forces and social factors. The disproportionate number of Black Americans who have been infected by SARS-CoV-2 and died from COVID-19 is a call to action for all institutions and individuals that provide treatment, services, and care to engage with these communities in impactful ways. Our Association, its members, and its allies have the capacity to target local and national responses to the anxiety, loss, grief, and collective traumatic reactions of Black Americans.

The health of Black Americans has been synonymous with inequity since our country's inception. While the word "inequity" is a useful descriptor in measuring outcomes, it fails to define the core reasons for health disparities. The substance of inequity is racism. Medical and institutional racism have driven disparate outcomes from Black Americans since the Colonial period. During the times of enslavement of people of African descent, they were considered inferior and inhuman. As property and possessions, the primary function of those enslaved was free labor to support the national economy.

Full article: <https://psychnews.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.pn.2020.6b39>

# Recent Events

## Pathways to Residency Webinar Series

June 3, 2020 | 5pm PST

featuring

**Dean Rahn K. Bailey, MD**

Associate Dean of Clinical Education,  
Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

The Black Women's Health Imperative Presents

## Black & Well TV

The Importance of Clinical Research in Communities Of Color



THE HOST

**LINDA GOLER BLOUNT, MPH**

President & CEO, BWHI



GUEST

**DR. EDITH P. MITCHELL**  
Vice President and Chair of Research  
W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute



GUEST

**MARTHA A. DAWSON, DNP, RN**  
President, National Black Nurses Association



GUEST

**ANDREA COLLIER**  
Journalist and Author

**FRIDAY, MAY 22ND**  
4-4:45pm



Tune in live - [www.crowdcast.io/blkwomenshealth](http://www.crowdcast.io/blkwomenshealth)

For Surviving COVID-19 Resources - [www.coronavirus.bwhi.org](http://www.coronavirus.bwhi.org)

## COVID-19: The Battle to Save Black Lives

—VIRTUAL TOWN HALL—

Minority Health Institute presents a solution-based, action-oriented webinar focused on the health, economic, and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Black communities.

The hour-and-a-half-long conversation will be a resource to educate, equip and empower people with information to build an effective action plan during these unprecedented times.

**Thursday, April 30, 2020**

12 -1:30 pm PT / 3 -4:30 pm ET

To Register for this FREE ZOOM conference, please email: [mhinst3425@gmail.com](mailto:mhinst3425@gmail.com)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing instructions about joining the webinar. Participants are invited to submit their questions, comments and/or concerns before the webinar. Call-in by phone line will also be available.



**MINORITY HEALTH INSTITUTE, INC.**

*'Uplifting the health of humanity*

Dr. Richard Allen Williams,  
President and CEO



**Richard Allen Williams, MD, FACC, FAHA, FACP**

Clinical Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Past President, National Medical Association  
Founder, Assoc. of Black Cardiologists



**David Pryor, MD, MPH**

Regional Vice President, Medical Director, Anthem



**Jehan (Gigi) El-Sayoumi, MD, FACP**

Founding Director, Rodham Institute

Professor of Medicine, George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences



**Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA**

President, American Medical Association



**Oliver T. Brooks, MD**

Chief Medical Officer, Watts HealthCare Corporation

President, National Medical Association



**Muntu Davis, MD, MPH**

County Health Officer, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



**Vickie M. Mays, Ph.D., MSPH**

Professor, UCLA Department of Psychology in the College of Letters and Sciences

Professor, UCLA Department of Health Services



**Gustavo Friederichsen**

CEO, Los Angeles County Medical Association



**Lisa Barkley, MD, FAAP, FSNM, FCSM**

Chair and Program Director, Family Medicine Residency, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science



**Min Neelys, MA**

Director of Health Equity Policy & Advocacy, American Medical Association



**Reverend J. Edgar Boyd**

Pastor, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Los Angeles (FAME)

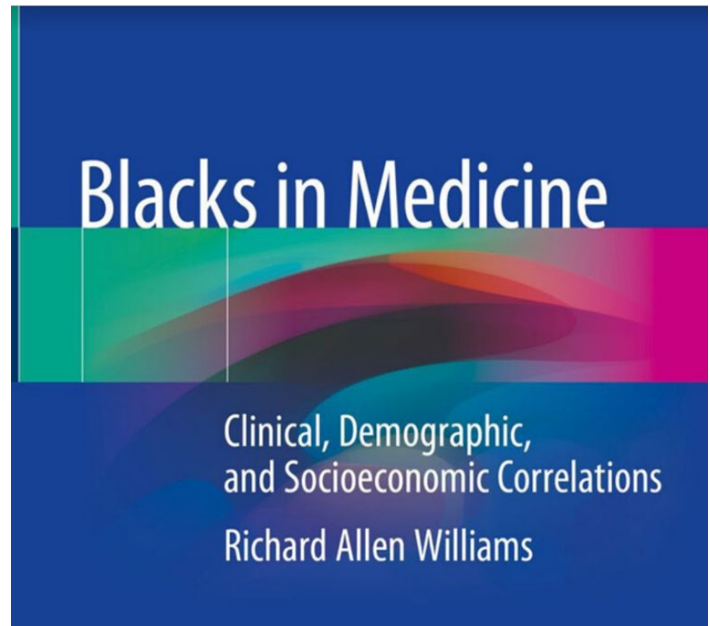


## PART 12: Public Awareness of Clinical Research and the Path to Diversity in Clinical Trials

June 3, 2020



# Blacks in Medicine: Clinical, Demographic, and Socioeconomic Correlations



**Congratulations to Dr. Richard Allen Williams on publishing his ninth book: *Blacks in Medicine: Clinical, Demographic, and Socioeconomic Correlations* (Springer Nature 2020). Please spread the word! Get a preview and order your copy at [Springer.com](https://www.springer.com) and on the Minority Health Institute website at [mhinst.org](https://mhinst.org).**

This socially conscious, culturally relevant book explores the little-known history and present climate of Black people in the medical field. It reveals the deficiencies in the American healthcare structure that have contributed to the mismanagement of healthcare in the Black population, and examines cross-currents that intersect with the major events in minority medical history.

Illustrated across 10 expertly written chapters, this text features a longitudinal timeline with the presentation of evidence-based information drawn from historical, political, and clinical sources. The book begins with an analysis of diseases particularly prevalent in the Black community due to socioeconomic inequalities in available medical care. These diseases include sickle cell anemia, hypertension, heart failure, drug addiction, and HIV/AIDS. Bolstered by profiles of historically well-known Black physicians, stories of success in medical education, and the remarkable impact of Black medical organizations, subsequent chapters address the triumphs and tribulations of the Black medical professional in America. Concluding with an examination of the current health status of Black people in the United States, the book makes a case for future systemic improvements in healthcare delivery to minority communities.

A unique, noteworthy reference, *Blacks in Medicine: Clinical, Demographic, and Socioeconomic Correlations* is written for a broad range of physicians and health providers, as well as professionals in the social sciences and public health.

# Satcher Health Leadership Institute

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Dr. Maisha Sandifer, who has been a member of the Cobb Institute Research team has been appointed as the Health Policy Director in the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Maisha N. Standifer has over 15 years of applied health program administration, evaluation and research expertise, including health policy development and analysis, mixed methods research and examining health disparities and inequalities domestically and globally.

This is a wonderful tribute to her hard work. We are very proud of her work with the Institute and especially thank her for serving as the lead in the planning for the Cobb Scholars Research Workshop Webinar that will occurred on Saturday, June 27, 2020.

Please share with Maisha your congratulations and we look forward to her collaboration with the Cobb Institute to whatever extent possible in the future.

This achievement is in part, a testimony to the mentoring opportunities that the Cobb Institute can provide for early career development. Maisha is proud to be a Cobb Scholar as well.

# Dr. Alexis Cooper

Alexus Cooper has served on the Board of Directors of the W. Montague Cobb/NMA Health Institute since 2017.

She was a medical student at Thomas Jefferson School of Medicine in Philadelphia and she graduated in June 2020 with the degree Doctor of Medicine.

Alexus Cooper M.D. now serves as a PGY I Resident in Orthopedic Surgery at Wake Forest School of Medicine in Winston Salem, N.C.

She will continue to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cobb Institute and contribute to the Cobb Scholars Program and the continuing development of the Social Media Platform for the Institute.

She has demonstrated exemplary skills as a medical student and also as an early career researcher in the field of Health Disparities.

The Cobb Institute and especially her mentor, Vice Chair Dr. Edith Mitchell, are extremely proud of her accomplishments and wish her well in her chosen field of Orthopedic Surgery.



**2020**  
*Graduate*



# Giving back

A small ray of light during a turbulent weekend took place at the corner of East 41st Place and Avalon Boulevard in South Los Angeles, when a honking motorcade of graduating kindergartners and parents circling the [Kedren Community Health](#) offices came upon a waving Danny Trejo in the hospital's parking lot.

With help from the [Everest Foundation](#), Trejo's Tacos set up in the parking lot of the outpatient center for the Department of Psychiatry Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Residency Training Program for Charles Drew University School of Medicine, to hand out 500 free grilled chicken and barbacoa bowls for neighbors and hospital staff. Kedren has aided the underserved community of South Central Los Angeles for more than 50 years and currently is also providing free COVID-19 testing for the area. The Everest Foundation assists medical research in schools of medicine and universities with their Part of the Cure program.



Full article: <https://www.laweekly.com/danny-trejo-brings-smiles-to-kedren-community-health-center/>

# Statement from Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion André L. Churchwell regarding the death of George Floyd

## My Heart is Broken.

As a native Nashvillian and a Vanderbilt physician, I cannot uncouple my medical experiences from the lens through which I view the world. As I watched a recording of the virulent act, an impassive policeman using his knee and his body weight to slowly compress and crush the neck of Mr. George Floyd, I could not stop myself from seeing all the vital structures present – his windpipe which delivers oxygen to his body; his carotid arteries that supply oxygen to his brain – and knowing that injuring any one or combination of them would lead to his untimely death.

After watching this grim scene, I reached out to experts in behavioral psychology to help me understand what mental and emotional forces allow one human being to be so callous, and without apparent remorse, as to gradually and knowingly kill another human being. One expert told me that while he could not offer a definitive answer, a partial one resides in two domains.

The first concept is when one believes, through years of generational messaging inculcated deep into the psyche, that a black person's life has less value, then one can commit a violent act without fear of retribution or grief. Black people – and people of color in general – then can be deemed both unconsciously and consciously as “subhuman,” and viewing them as such allows one to feel psychological ascendancy over them. The idea of white privilege has its roots in the pseudoscience that states that Africans and African Americans have “intellectual and moral deficiencies,” and is why, consequently, white people from 1619 (the year enslaved Africans arrived in America), 1719, 1819, 1919, 2019, and on, can act dismissively toward them and create rules and laws to enable their subjugation.

The other mental and emotional force that compels such heinous behavior is contempt. Contempt, by definition, leads one to not simply dislike what someone has said or done, but adds revulsion and derision to your assessment of a whole race. It, once again, deeply influences the manner in which you treat people of color, allows you to purposely crush the neck of a black man in full public view, and further grants you approval to dismiss the cries and concerns that you are killing Mr. Floyd.

Read Full Statement at: <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/diversity/may-31-statement-from-andre-churchwell/>



# Vehicle Donation Program

We are live and open for donations. The process is painless and the benefits can help to provide additional support for the COBB operations and programs. Please share the link with friends, family and business associates.

Vehicle Donations are tax deductible.

VISIT: <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/w-montague-cobb-nma-health-institute#mFormIFrame>



## Call Us to Donate

**855-500-RIDE**

855-500-7433

DONATE NOW





# Charles R. Drew School of Medicine Psychiatry Residents PG-Y 1 Class 2024



Left to Right: Simon Allo, Victor Nnah, Aaron Abraham, Dr. Rahn Bailey, Wemmy Audu, Mariam Fam, & Mohayed Mohayed





A flyer for a webinar. At the top, it says "W. Montague Cobb Institute" and "NMA HEALTH". To the right is the "All of Us" logo. The title is "COVID19: An Uninvited Guest in Our Communities". Below the title are portraits of five speakers: Rodney Hood, MD; Dwight Tillery, JD; Lisa Merritt, MD; Cheryl Holder, MD; and Host-Randall Morgan, MD. A Moderator, Winston Price, MD, is also listed. The date and time are "Sat. June 20, 2020 - 12 - 1:30PM EST". The registration link is "https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_gCASMHScSbO2dNROdz08eg".

Announcing the first of an ongoing series of webinars supported by the Cobb Institute and members of the NMA. We will study the impact of Covid-19 at the heart of our communities and what can be done to restore our communities. Please also note the impressive list of speakers who will provide great information and insight during the webinar. Please refer to the Facebook link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/WMCCCommunityAwareness>



## Community Awareness

@WMCCCommunityAwareness · Community

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### About

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The W. Montague Cobb NMA Health Institute is committed to solutions and strategies for racial and ethnic disparities in health & healthcare, with a primary focus of filling the knowledge and research gaps in the health disparities.

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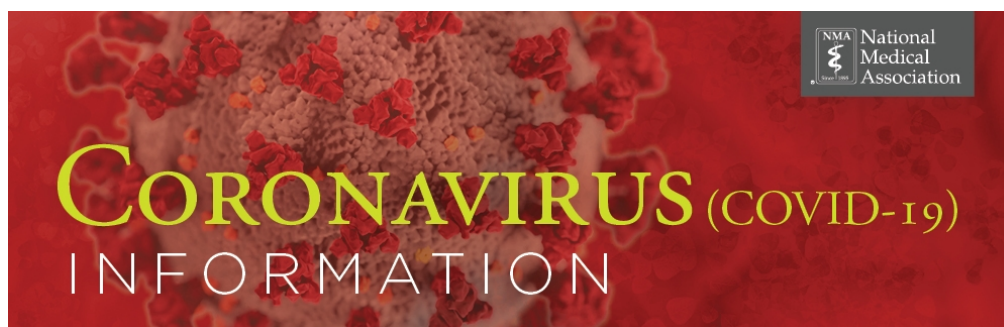


Community Awareness

June 19 at 8:14 AM · 🌐

Celebrating JUNETEENTH Day

Please visit: <https://www.nmanet.org/page/COVID-19-Resources> for more Coronavirus (COVID-19) information.



\*Upcoming meeting invites will come from AMC Source from now on to avoid any confusions.\*

|   |   |               |
|---|---|---------------|
| July 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2020                        | Opening Ceremony including Cobb and Laurencin Awards                            |               |
| July 31 <sup>st</sup> - August 4 <sup>th</sup> 2020 | <a href="#">National Medical Association Convention and Scientific Assembly</a> | Virtual       |
| August 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2020                      | Finance Committee Meeting   | 8pm- via ZOOM |
| August 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2020                      | Pipeline Committee Meeting  | 2pm- via ZOOM |

\*\*\* Have you recently received an award? Recently got a manuscript accepted? We want to acknowledge you! Please share your accomplishments to Jasmine Malachi via email @ [cobbinsstitute@outlook.com](mailto:cobbinsstitute@outlook.com) \*\*\*

