

UW-MADISON
DIVERSITY FORUM 2022

Health, History and Representation Matters

Gale D. Johnson, MPA

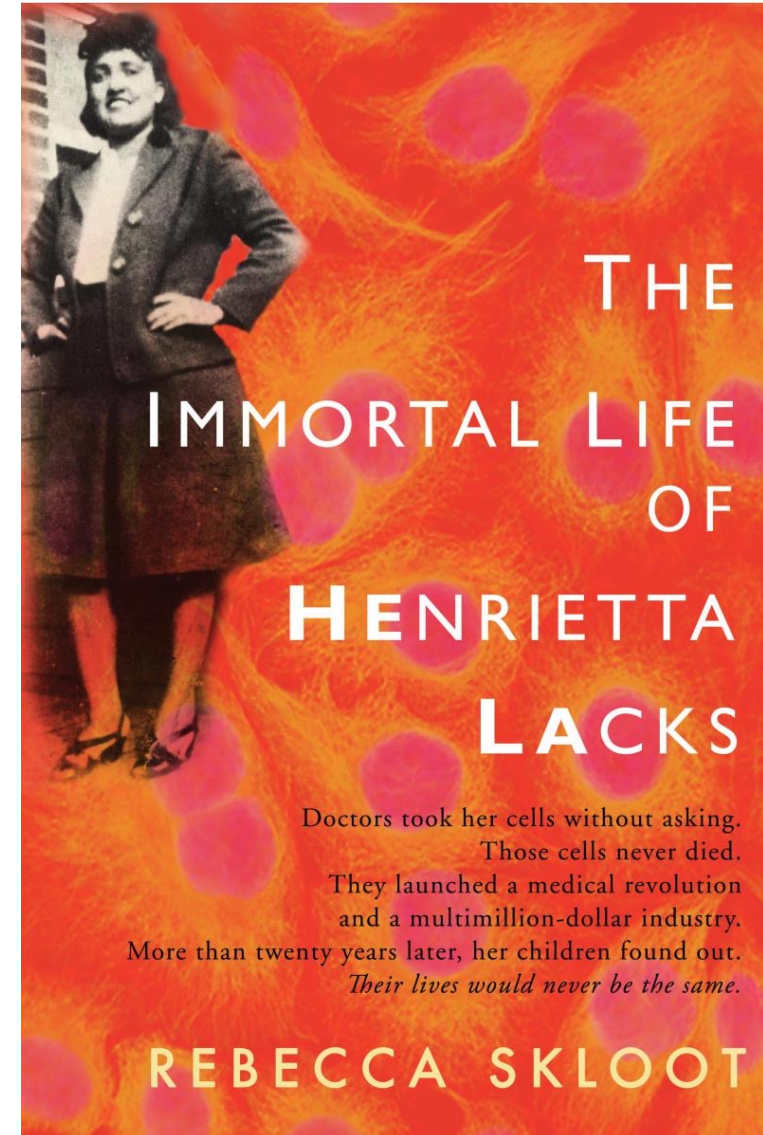
Co-Vice Chair

African American Health Network of Dane County





Henrietta Lacks



GERM WARFARE DECLARED AGAINST BLACKS!

HUNDREDS OF
BLACK MEN
DISCOVERED
MASSACRED
IN SYPHILIS
'EXPERIMENT'.

SEE ARTICLE INSIDE PAGE 2

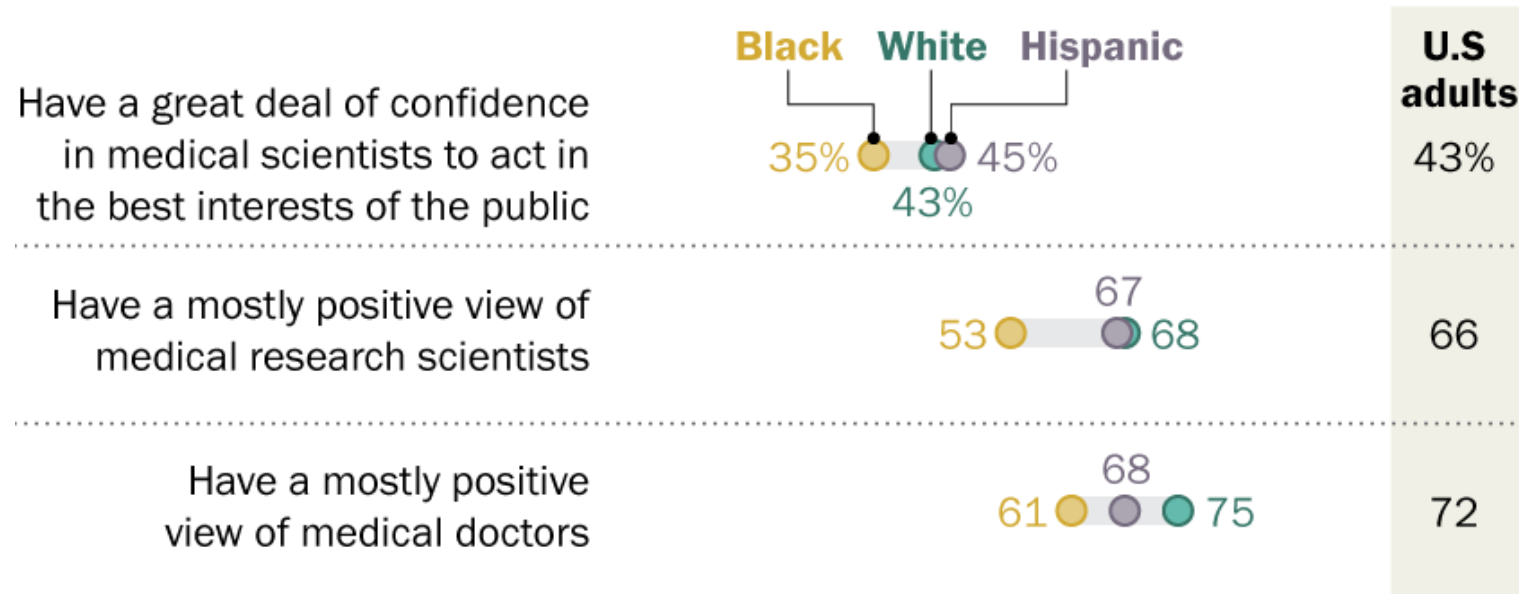


MEDICAL CARE MISTRUST



Black adults have less positive views of medical scientists than Hispanic and white adults

% of U.S. adults who ...



Note: Whites and blacks include those who report being only one race and are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Surveys conducted April 20-26 and April 29-May 5, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



*“We all benefit from awareness, education
and research.”*

Thank you

UW-MADISON
DIVERSITY FORUM 2022

Community Mental Health Research Program

Earlise Ward, Professor
Dept of Family Medicine and Community Health
Licensed Psychologist
UW Diversity Forum 11/17/2022

Why Depression; Why Health Disparities

- Nationwide (NIMH 2017):
 - One in six Americans report having depression in the past year
 - In any given year 18 million Americans suffer from depression
 - 2020 depression became the leading cause of disability globally (WHO, 2010)
- African Americans
 - Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health- Black Americans are 20% more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population (Anxiety and Depression Association of America, 2020)
 - African Americans (56.5%) report more severe depression symptoms and associated disability than Whites (38.6%) (Williams et al., 2007)
 - African Americans are disproportionately burdened by depression but receive adequate mental health care only 14% of the time (Gonzalez et al., 2011).

Research Goals

- Improving quality of mental health care and increasing mental health outcomes for African American adults with major depressive disorder (MDD) and cancer.
- Developing, testing and implementing culturally adapted behavioral treatments for depression and cancer among African American adults, and other underserved group with MDD.
- Increasing inclusion and engagement of African Americans in mental health and cancer research.

Past – Laying the Foundation

- Dissertation
 - Ward, E.C. (2005). Keeping it real: A grounded theory study of African American clients engaging in counseling at a community mental health agency. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 52, 471-481.
- African American women's beliefs about mental illness
 - Ward, E.C., & Heidrich, S. (2009). African American women's beliefs about mental illness, stigma and preferred coping behaviors. *Research in Nursing and Health*, 32, 480-492.
- African American men's beliefs about mental illness
 - Ward, E.C., & Besson, D. (2013) African American Men's Beliefs About Mental Illness, Perceptions of Stigma, and Help-Seeking Barriers. *The Counseling Psychologists*, 41 (3), 359-391.
- Older African American women's beliefs about depression
 - Ward, E.C., Mengesha, M. & Issa, F (2014). Older African American women's lived experiences with depression and coping behaviors. *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 21(1), 46-59.

Culturally Adapted Depression Intervention- Oh Happy Day

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Current Research

- **ICTR Stakeholder and Patient-Engaged Research (SPER) Award (2017-2018)**
 - Established a Faith-Based Community Advisory Board - **Present**
 - Developed faith-based depression intervention (FAITH)
- **Baldwin (2018-2021)**
 - Getting on Top of Your Low Mood
- **Wisconsin Partnership Program (2019-2021)**
 - Aim 1- Examine the wellness of African American clergy and their coping methods during the pandemics
 - Aim 2- Develop an online mental wellness program and an App for clergy

International Collaborations

- Depression Research in Ghana, Africa
 - Naab, F., Brown, R., & **Ward, E.C.** (2019). Culturally Adapted Depression Intervention to Manage depression among Women with Infertility in Ghana. *Journal of Health Psychology*, 1-13
- Sabbatical at University of Exeter, U.K. (2018).
 - **Ward, E.C.**(2020). *Adapting Low-Intensity Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) to Accommodate Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Patients: Supporting BAME!* Low Intensity Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Skills and Interventions. Eds. Paul Farrand. Sage Books
- U.S. Virgin Islands—data analysis in progress

Community Led Research

- Need for FAITH (Fellowship and Improve Thy Health)
- Formation of Faith Based Community Advisory Board (FB-CAB)
- Process of developing FAITH
- Final Outcome, FAITH

Need for Faith-Based Intervention

- Brief history of Oh Happy Day Class
- The church is the first social service agency in the Bible
- “The church is God’s hospital.”
- Important to be proactive starting in the churches
- Curb the tide of depression
- Seeking help doesn’t eradicate your faith, instead it enhances your faith
- The church is a SAFE place



Oh Happy Day Faith

Participant Workbook

Earlise Ward, Ph.D., LP, HSP

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Inspiration

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is
“What are you doing for others?”

Dr. Martin Luther King

Thank you

