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MEDICAL CENTER

Racism, Health and Health Care: Where do we go from here?

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI

VP for Health Equity, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Executive Director, Meharry-Vanderbilt Alliance

June 4, 2020

@DrCHWilkins
#HealthEquityLeaders
#MissionDrivenMetrics

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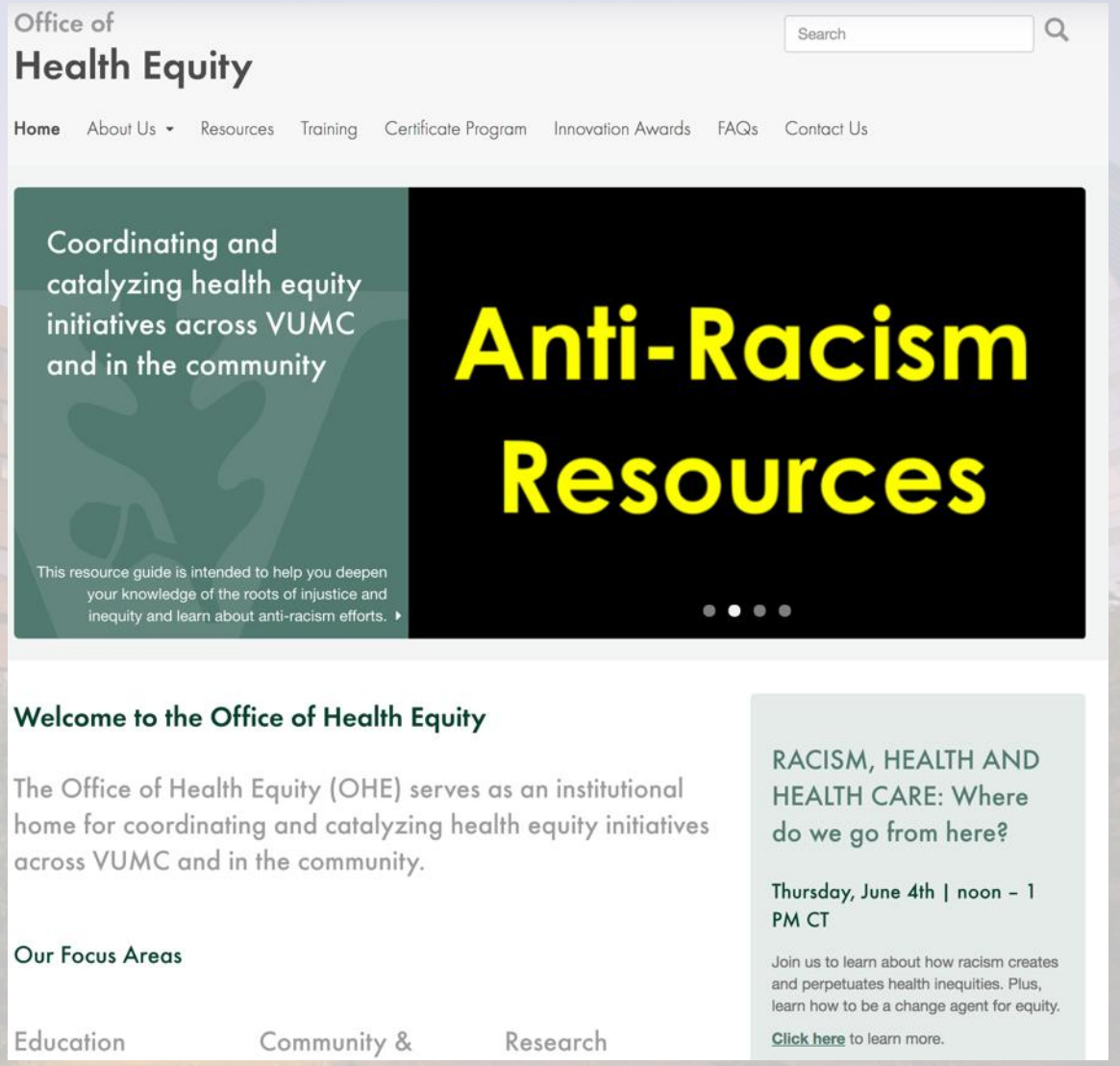
Moderator/Host:

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI

@DrCHWilkins



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

Civil Rights Leader, Political Strategist, Nobel Laureate

Why should we talk about racism and health?

Wilkins 06.04.2020

POLITICS

America's Health Segregation Problem

Has the country done enough to overcome its Jim Crow health care history?

VANN R. NEWKIRK II MAY 18, 2016

A doctor's office in Merigold, Mississippi in 1939 (MARION POST WOLCOTT / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS)

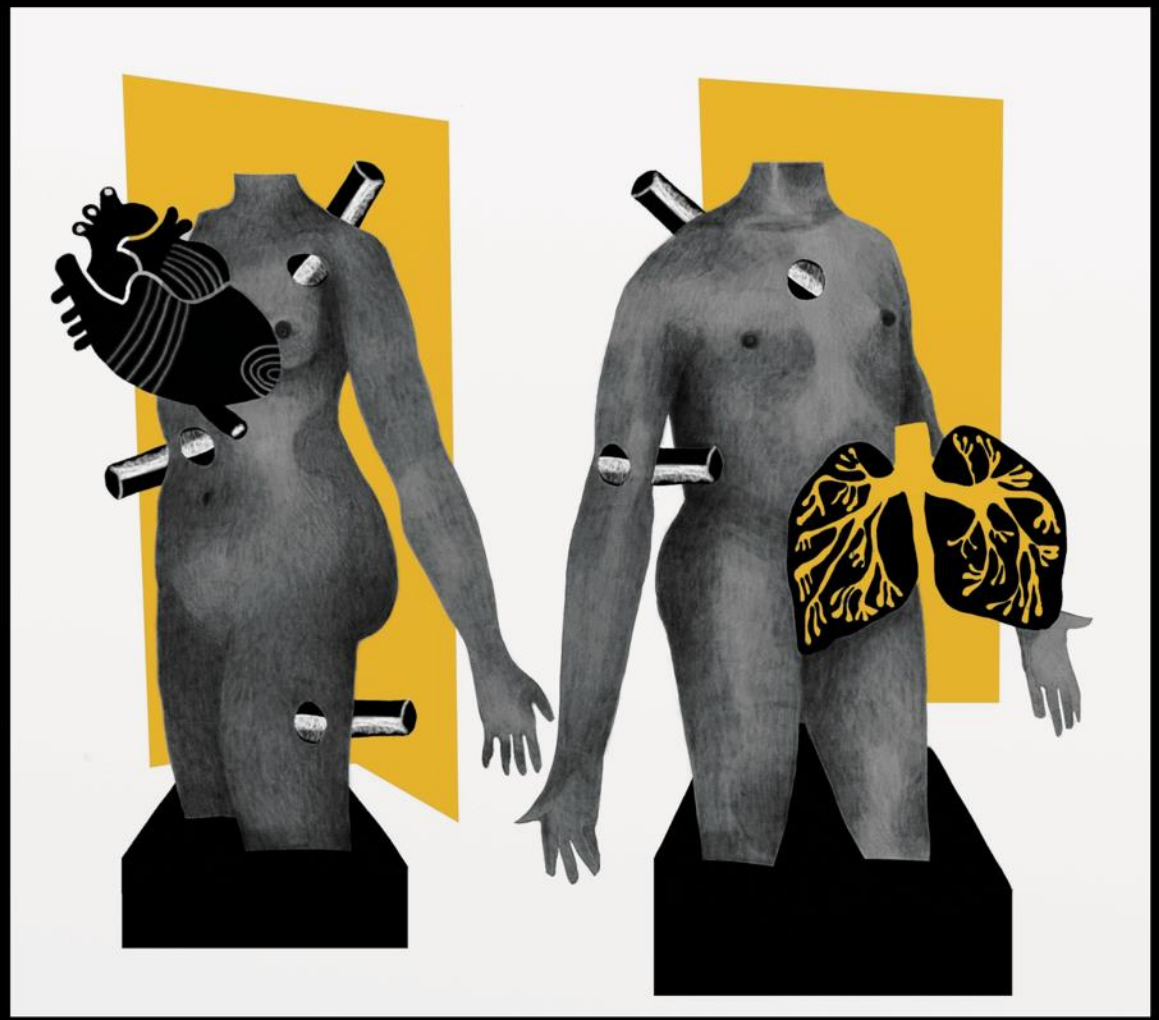


ILLUSTRATION BY DIANA EJAITA

Myths about physical racial differences were used to justify slavery — and are still believed by doctors today.

By Linda Villarosa

AUG. 14, 2019

Misdiagnosing African Americans?

A common test for kidney disease adjusts based on race, and that could be leaving some black patients behind.

by Shera Avi-Yonah

AUGUST 8, 2019 9:00 AM

The American Prospect published online Aug 2019.

This Issue | Views 11,835 | Citations 3 | Altmetric 236 | Comments 2

Viewpoint

June 6, 2019

Reconsidering the Consequences of Using Race to Estimate Kidney Function

Nwamaka Denise Eneanya, MD, MPH[1,2]; Wei Yang, PhD[3]; Peter Philip Reese, MD, MSCE[1,3]

» Author Affiliations

JAMA. 2019;322(2):113-114. doi:10.1001/jama.2019.5774

	Total N	% White	% Black	% Asian	% Hispanic
Cockroft Gault[1]	249	? ~ 100%	~ 0%	~ 0%	~ 0%
MDRD	1628	80.1%	12.1%	?? Perhaps ~ 7.8%	
CKD EPI 2009	5504	63%	32%	1%	(incl with white)
CKD EPI 2009 Validation[2]	6646	77%	18.7%	1%	(incl with white)
CKD EPI 2011 Derivation	8254	63.2%	31.3%	1.2%	4.3%
CKD EPI 2011 Validation[4]	5036	72%	9.6%	14.7%	3.7%[3]

Proportion of participants by race/ethnicity in the GFR estimating equations datasets

April 2018: National Geographic acknowledges its coverage has been racist; plans to address.

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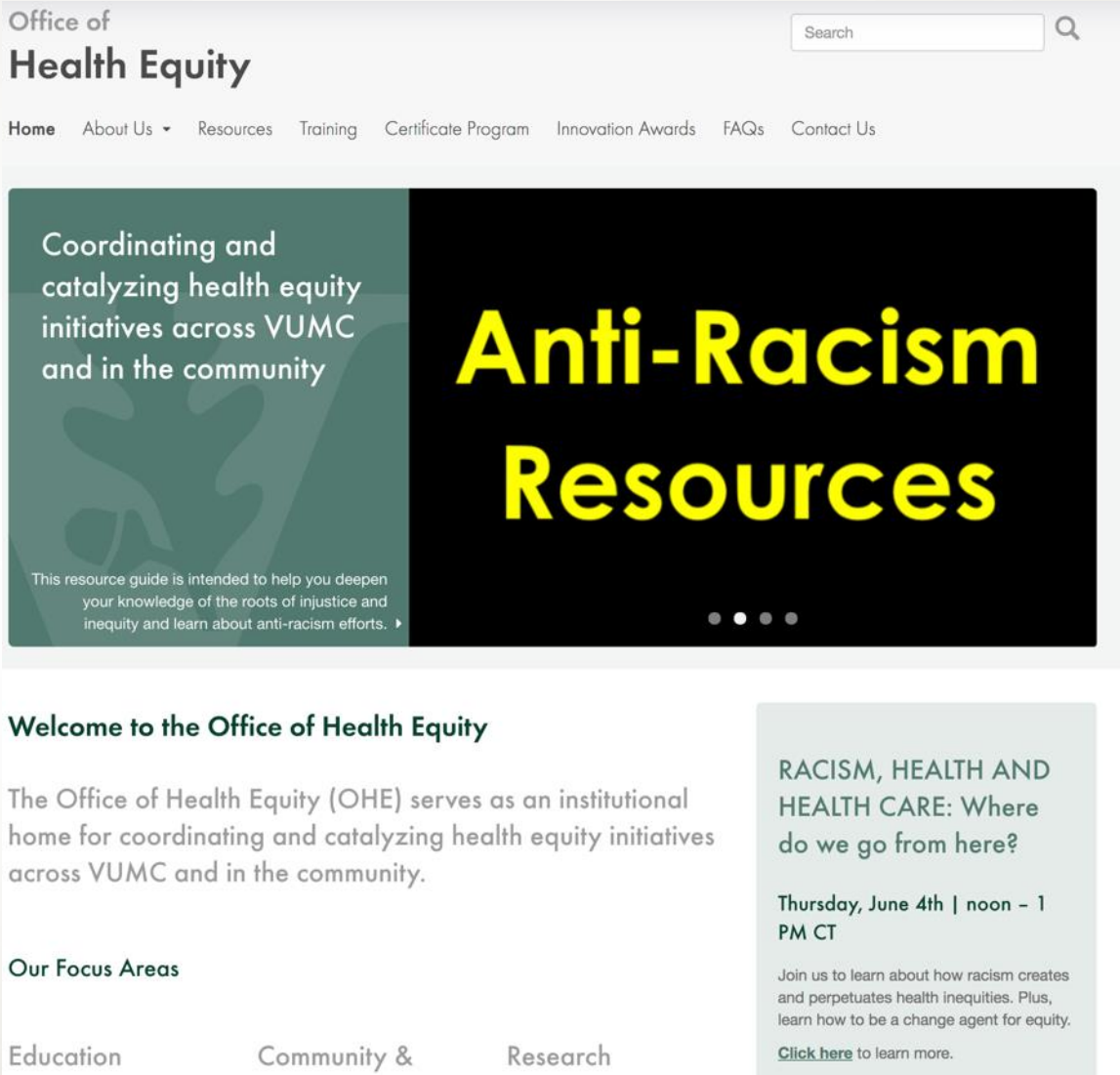

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Panelists :

Derek M. Griffith, PhD

Professor of Medicine, Health, & Society; Director, Center for Research on Men's Health

Editor of *Racism: Science and Tools for the Public Health Professional*

Jonathan M. Metzl, MD, PhD

Frederick B. Rentschler II Professor of Sociology and Medicine, Health, and Society; Professor of Psychiatry;

Author, *Dying of Whiteness*

Kristy Sinkfield, MEd

Director, VUMC's Strategy and Innovation Office

Will Furuyama

VUSM 3rd Year Medical Student
Social Mission Committee Co-President

What is racism?

Derek M. Griffith, PhD
Center for Research on Men's Health
Vanderbilt University

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Nashville, TN
June 4, 2020

“History doesn’t repeat itself
but it often rhymes.”

Paraphrase of Mark Twain in A SAID POEM for
Ronald and Beatrice Gross (1970)

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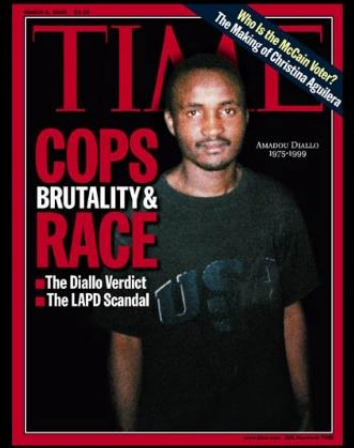

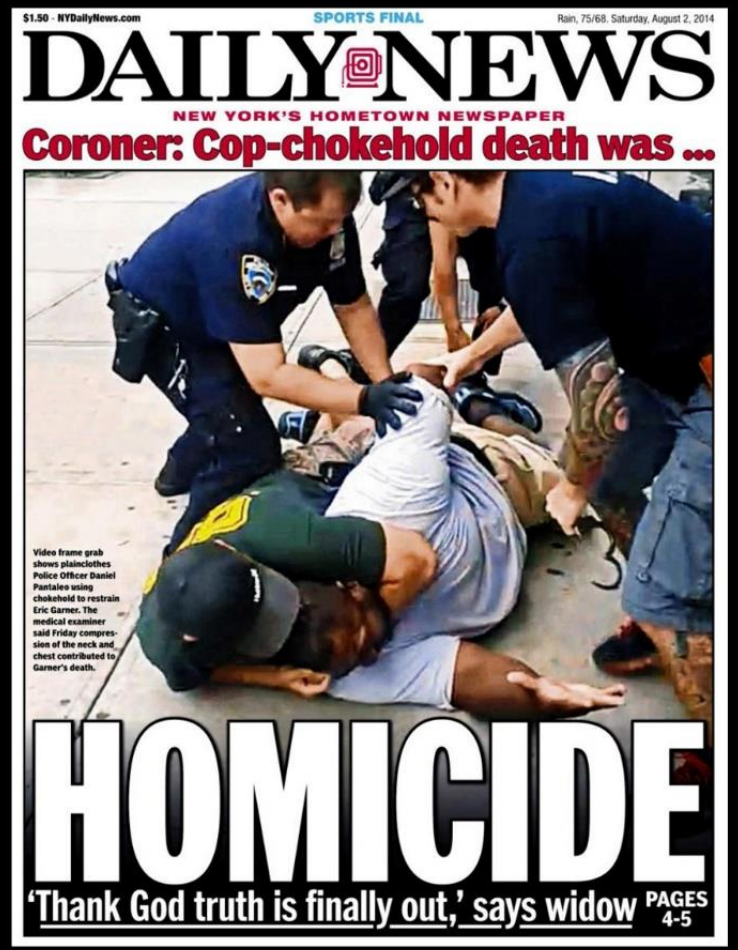

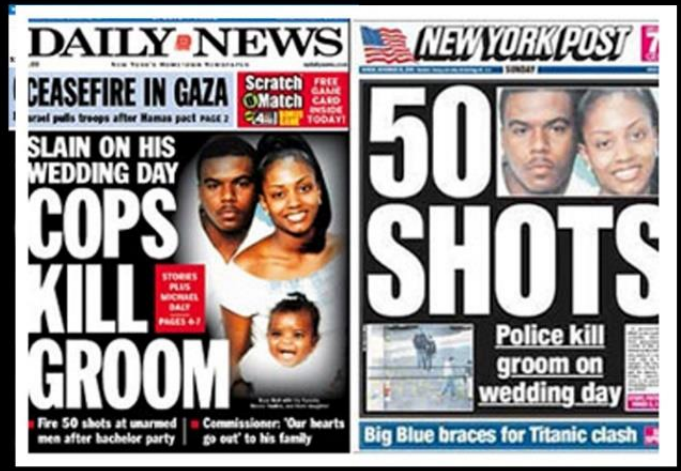

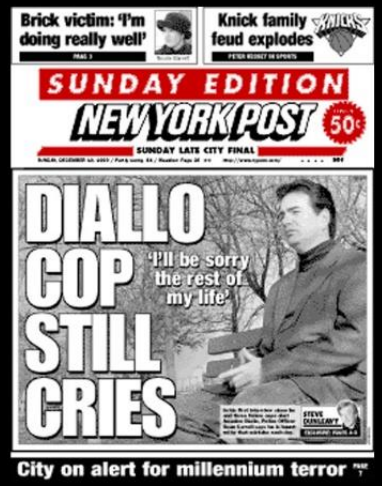

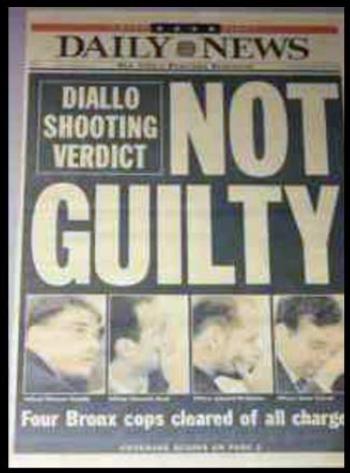

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"There's a lot of power in the question 'Why? When we ask why, it forces us as individuals to really dig deeper and think about the origins of these disparities… And we have to have this conversation as a country. People need to be having these conversations at their dinner tables every evening."

(Amani M. Allen, PhD, MPH, UC Berkeley SPH, 4/24/2020)

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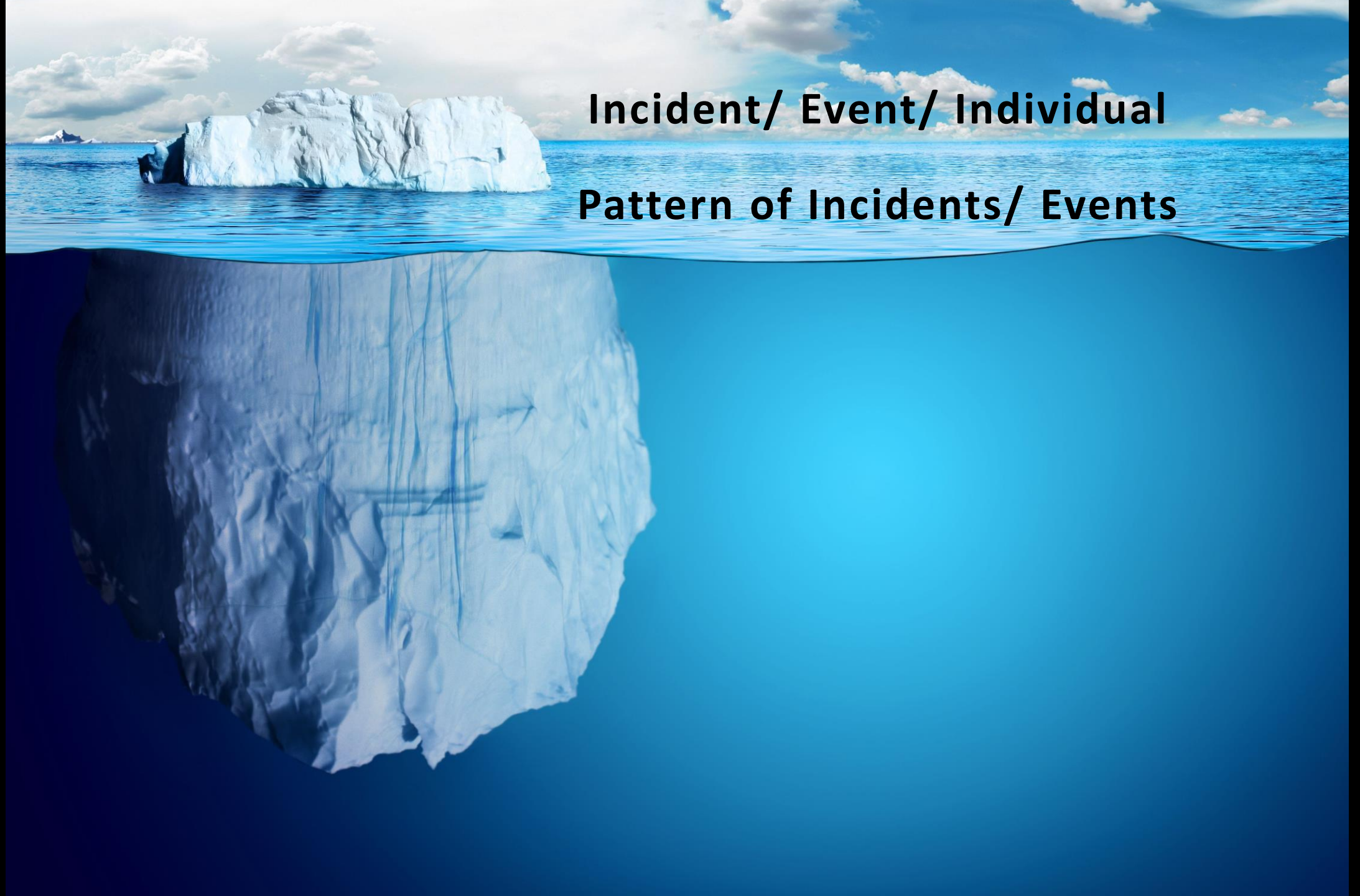
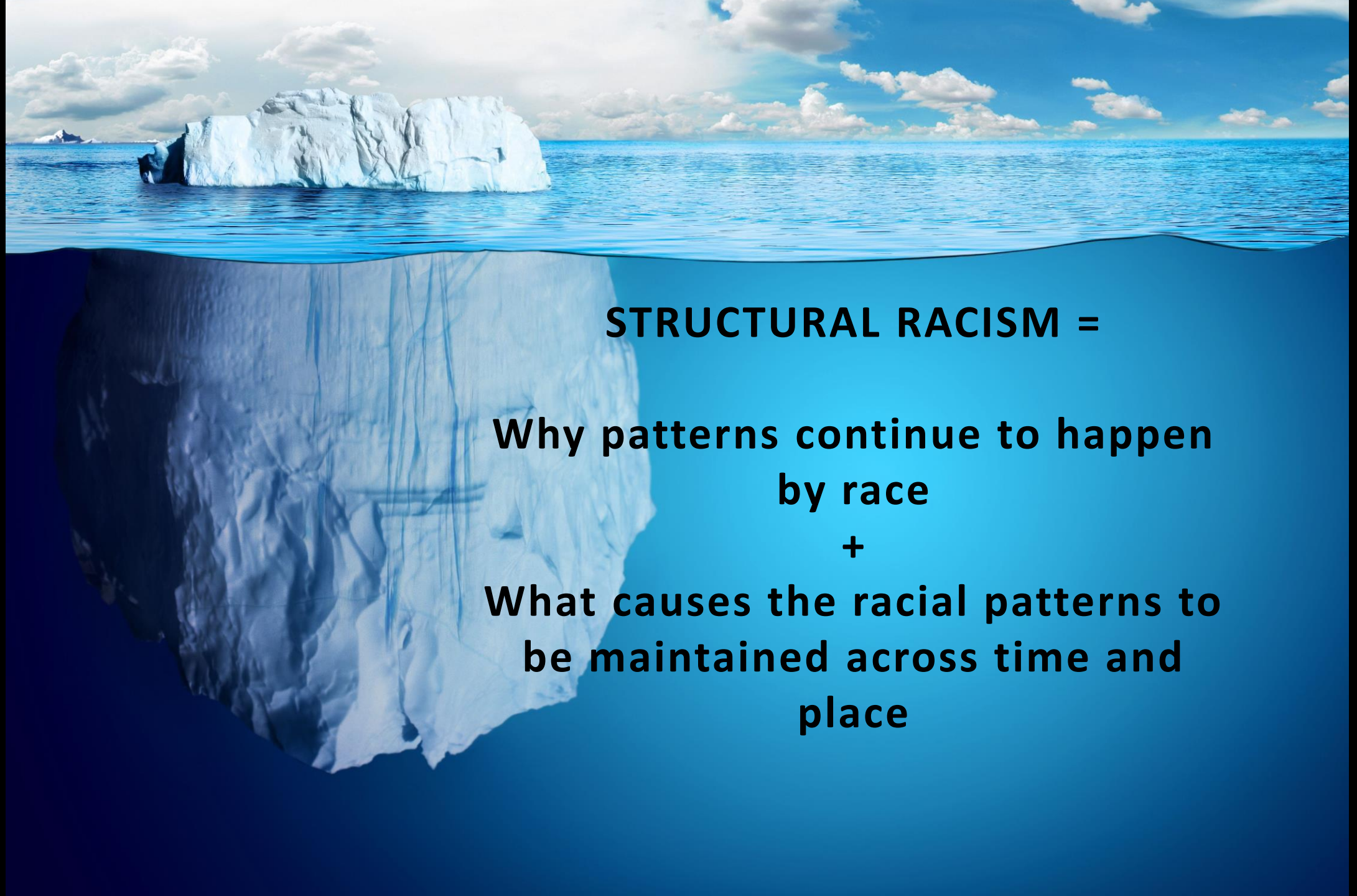
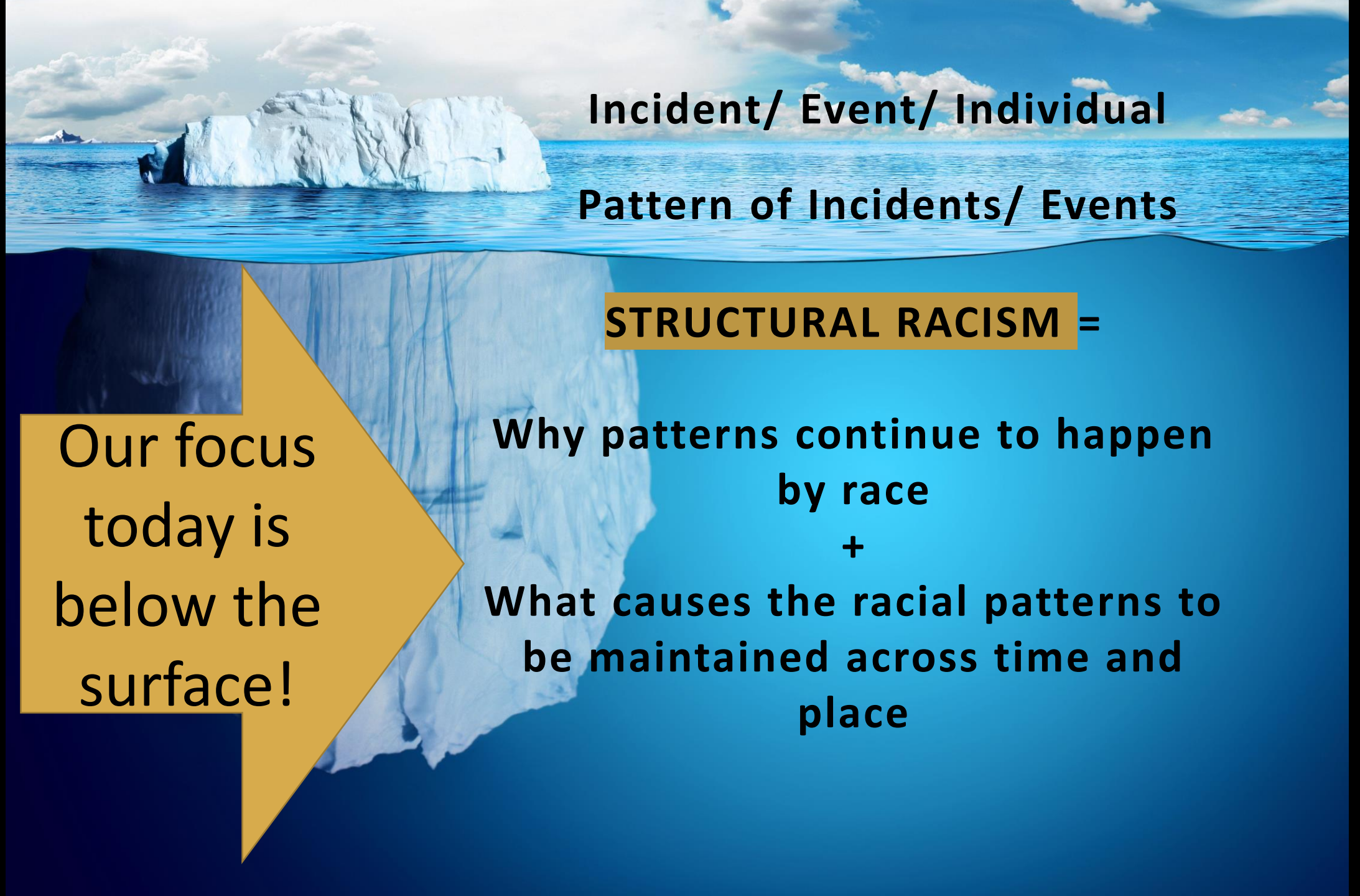

Incident/ Event/ Individual
Pattern of Incidents/ Events


STRUCTURAL RACISM =
Why patterns continue to happen by race
+
What causes the racial patterns to be maintained across time and place


Incident/ Event/ Individual
Pattern of Incidents/ Events
STRUCTURAL RACISM =
Why patterns continue to happen by race
+
What causes the racial patterns to be maintained across time and place
Our focus today is below the surface!

RACISM DEFINED

"Racism is an **organized social system** in which the dominant racial group, **based on an ideology of inferiority**, categorizes and ranks people into social groups called "races" and uses its power to devalue, disempower, and **differentially allocate valued societal resources and opportunities** to groups defined as inferior".

(Williams et al., 2019)

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Questions/Feedback?

Thank you!

The Office of Health Equity
https://www.vumc.org/healthequity