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
Moderator/Host:

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)
Civil Rights Leader, Political Strategist,
Nobel Laureate
Why should we talk about racism and health?
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)
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

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**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](#)


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equation Type</th>
<th>Total N</th>
<th>% White</th>
<th>% Black</th>
<th>% Asian</th>
<th>% Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cockroft Gault(^1)</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>? ~ 100%</td>
<td>~ 0%</td>
<td>~ 0%</td>
<td>~ 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDRD</td>
<td>1628</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>? (\text{Perhaps} \approx 7.8)%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD EPI 2009</td>
<td>5504</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>(incl with white)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD EPI 2009 Validation(^2)</td>
<td>6646</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>1% (\text{incl with white})</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD EPI 2011 Derivation</td>
<td>8254</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CKD EPI 2011 Validation(^4)</td>
<td>5036</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>3.7%(^3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
April 2018: National Geographic acknowledges its coverage has been racist; plans to address.
Moderator/Host:

Consuelo H. Wilkins, MD, MSCI
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

Racism, Health and Health Care: Where do we go from here?
Vanderbilt University Medical Center Office of Health Equity
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)

National Healthcare Disparities Report

Report of the Secretary’s Task Force on Black & Minority Health

Unequal Treatment

Vanderbilt University
“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)
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 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)
Questions/Feedback?

Thank you!

The Office of Health Equity

https://www.vumc.org/healthequity