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EVENING ETHICS

“Don’t Let the Lion tell the Giraffe’s story”: How the Curation of History Hobbles Medical Ethics With Harriet A. Washington, MA (Columbia)

2021 Cowan Memorial Speaker & Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Speaker

Thursday
October 7, 2021
5:30pm-7pm



Harriet A. Washington, MA (Columbia) is our 2021 Cowan Memorial Lecturer and Priscilla M. Mayden Endowed Speaker. In *Medical Apartheid*, Harriet Washington notes that Winston Churchill echoed the title's Nigerian aphorism, observing that "History is written by the victors." With an eye to assessing the medical treatment of those in the African diaspora, she will evaluate the holistic ethical landscape by focusing on signal events, including within the COVID-19 pandemic. In examining ethical frameworks that have defined the parameters of moral medical issues and have justified the medical agency of those in power Washington will demonstrate how this is often achieved by ignoring pertinent events —by eliding large swaths of the history. This selective curation of history consistently elides unethical acts and must be questioned as a prelude to restoring ethical behavior in medicine.

Background readings:

1. [How environmental racism is fueling the coronavirus pandemic](#) by Harriet Washington (*Nature*, 5/19/2020)
2. [Statues that perpetuate lies should not stand](#) by Harriet Washington (*Nature*, 9/21/17)
3. [African American Physicians and Organized Medicine, 1846-1968 Origins of a Racial Divide](#) by Baker, Robert B., Washington, Harriet A., et.al. (*JAMA*, 7/16/2008)
4. [Limning the Semantic Frontier of Informed Consent](#) by Harriet Washington (*JLME*, Fall 2016)
5. [Flacking for Big Pharma](#) by Harriet Washington (*The American Scholar*, 6/3/2011)
6. [The Well Curve](#) by Harriet Washington (*The American Scholar*, 9/7/2015)

Two other opportunities to see Harriet Washington present:

Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: ‘A Hideous Monster of the Mind’: Medical Mythology and the Construction of ‘Blackness’ Thursday, October 7, 2021, 12:00 pm-1pm,
<https://medicine.utah.edu/internalmedicine/grand-rounds/gr-livestream.php>

The Cowan Public Lecture & Priscilla Mayden Endowed Lecture: “Medical Apartheid and Beautiful Lies: Repeating the Past and Breaking the cycle” Friday, October 8, 2021,
<https://utah.zoom.us/j/95140646243> Passcode: 611870

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/95304732845>

Passcode: 838654

CME event code:
280019

Questions? Contact
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