

RECOGNITION, REMEMBRANCE, AND REFLECTION:
**The Syphilis Study at
Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama**



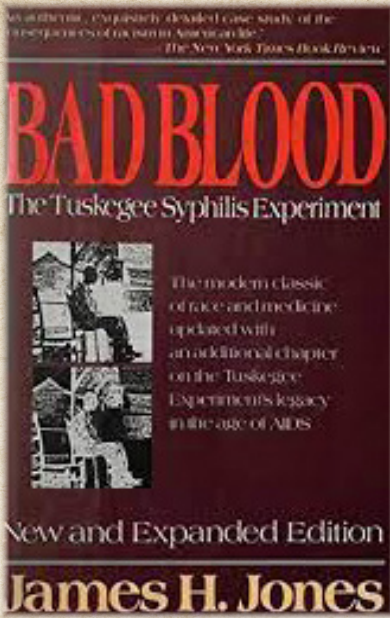
50th

ANNIVERSARY

This event will acknowledge the 50th anniversary of the end of the United States Public Health Service Study of *Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male at Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama, 1932–1972*. The intention is to create a space for authentic, accurate storytelling and discussion regarding current and future opportunities for public health leaders at CDC and beyond to move from trust to trustworthiness. The program examines what happened, how and why it happened, lessons learned, the palpable effects still felt today, and CDC's ongoing role in improving health equity. Participants include experts in the fields of public health, ethics, history, and journalism. Our format includes moderated panel discussions. The recorded version of this event will be posted to our website shortly after the live event.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (ET)

CDC Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia
Global Communications Center (Building 19)
Alexander D. Langmuir Auditorium, Roybal Campus
1600 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30329



The New York Times

Syphilis Victims in U.S. Study Went Untreated for 40 Years

By JEAN HELLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 25—For 40 years the United States Public Health Service has conducted a study in which human beings with syphilis, who were induced to serve as guinea pigs, have gone without medical treatment for the disease and a few have died of its late effects, even though an effective therapy was eventually discovered.

The study was conducted to determine from autopsies what the disease does to the human body.

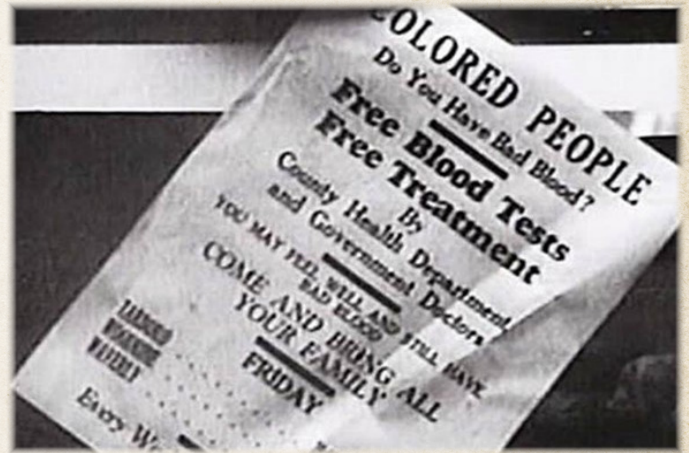
Officials of the health service who initiated the experiment have long since retired. Current officials, who say they

have serious doubts about the morality of the study, also say that it is too late to treat the syphilis in any surviving participants.

Doctors in the service say they are now rendering whatever other medical services they can give to the survivors while the study of the disease's effects continues.

Dr. Marilyn K. DuVal, Assistant Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare for Health and Scientific Affairs, expressed shock on learning of the study. He said that he was making an immediate investigation.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 with about 600 black men,



THE TUSKEGEE EXPERIMENT 75 YEARS LATE



Three of the principal researchers in the study, David Albritton, Eunice Rivers and Dr. Walter Edmondson. Behind them is a federal government car from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, all of which were in poor supply among the subjects of the syphilis study.



RECOGNITION, REMEMBRANCE, AND REFLECTION: The Syphilis Study at Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama

WELCOME

Termika N. Smith, EdD, MPA, Committee Chair



Joseph R. Biden Jr.
President



Xavier Becerra
Health and Human
Services Secretary



**Vice Admiral
Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA**
Surgeon General



Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH
CDC Director and
ATSDR Administrator



Debra Houry, MD, MPH
Acting Principal Deputy Director



Termika N. Smith, EdD, MPA
Committee Chair

RECOGNITION, REMEMBRANCE, AND REFLECTION:

The Syphilis Study at Tuskegee and Macon County, Alabama

ACT ONE

History

Moderator, Paul Rashad Young, MD

Discussants

Lillie Tyson Head EdS, MS | James H. Jones, PhD

Susan Reverby, PhD | Paul Lombardo, PhD, JD

ACT TWO

Never Forget

Moderator, Jo Valentine, MSW

Discussants

Jean Heller | James A. Curran, MD, MPH | Dixie Snider, MD, MPH

Fred D. Gray, Esq. | Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD

ACT THREE

Never Again

Moderator, Susan K. Laird, DNP, MSN, RN

Discussants

Rueben C. Warren, DDS, MPH, DrPH, MDiv | Christopher F. Koller

David Satcher, MD, PhD | Daniel Dawes, JD | Mary Leinhos, PhD

ACT FOUR

Thank You

Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA

Diane Rowley, MD, MPH

In acknowledgement of Bill Jenkins

Ted Pistorius, MPA

In acknowledgement of Peter Buxtun

ACT FIVE

Questions and Answers

Moderator, Susan K. Laird, DNP, MSN, RN

CLOSING REMARKS

Debra Houry, MD, MPH, Acting Deputy Director

Termika Smith, EdD, MPA



**RECOGNITION, REMEMBRANCE,
AND REFLECTION:**

**The Syphilis Study
at Tuskegee and
Macon County, Alabama**

BIOGRAPHIES



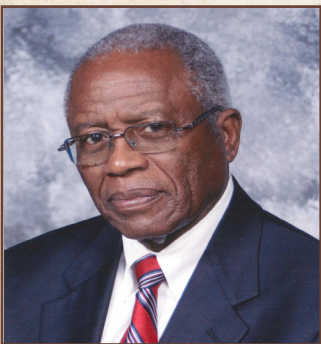
James A. Curran, MD, MPH, joined the Rollins School of Public Health as dean and professor of epidemiology in 1995, after 25 years of leadership at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is emeritus director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research and holds faculty appointments in the Emory School of Medicine and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing. Curran is known for heading the 1981 CDC Task Force charged with investigating the first cases of what became known as AIDS. While at CDC, he attained the rank of assistant surgeon general. Author or co-author of more than 300 scholarly publications, he was elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science (now the National Academy of Medicine) in 1993. In 2009, the dean's position was named the James W. Curran Dean of Public Health in his honor. On July 1, 2022, Curran stepped down as dean and remains on the Rollins School of Public Health faculty as dean emeritus and professor of epidemiology and global health.



Daniel E. Dawes, JD, is a healthcare and public health leader, health policy expert, educator, and researcher who serves as executive director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine and as a professor of health law, policy, and management. He is the author of two books, *150 Years of ObamaCare* and *The Political Determinants of Health*. He was instrumental in developing and negotiating the Mental Health Parity Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Affordable Care Act's health equity-focused provisions, among other landmark federal policies. Dawes is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and an elected fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine. He serves as an advisor to the White House COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force, a member of CDC's Advisory Committee to the CDC director and co-chair of CDC's Health Equity Working Group, with the NIH's National Advisory Council for Nursing Research.



Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD, is university professor of medical humanities, medicine, health policy, and American studies at George Washington University. She is also adjunct professor of nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. She is an internationally recognized expert on the history of race and American medicine, health, healthcare, and bioethics. She is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the Hastings Center. A native of West Philadelphia, she received her bachelor's degree from Hampshire College and her MD and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. In March 2022, the U.S. Senate confirmed her appointment to the National Council on the Humanities.

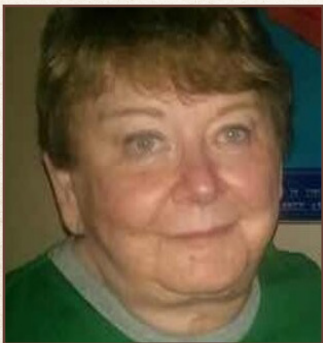


Fred D. Gray, Esq. is a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, lives in Tuskegee, Alabama, with his lovely wife Carol and continues to practice law specializing in civil rights litigation, with offices in both cities. He represented many civil rights icons and organizations including the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study (Pollard, et al. v. USA, et al., still pending), Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Claudette Colvin, Congressman John Lewis, the Freedom Riders and Walkers, Selma to Montgomery Marchers, NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Congress of Racial Equality and others. He is president of the Tuskegee Human & Civil Rights Multicultural Center, which is a memorial to the participants in the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. On July 7, 2022, President Joe Biden awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award.

BIOGRAPHIES



Lillie Tyson Head, MS, EdS is the president of the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, which was organized in 2014 by descendants of the 623 men unethically and immorally treated in the United States Public Health Service Syphilis Study from 1932 to 1972 in Tuskegee, Alabama. Head's father, Freddie Lee Tyson, was unknowingly recruited into the study. As president of Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation, Head is committed to keeping the men's stories alive and promoting education. The organization connects descendants across generations, provides annual scholarships to descendants, participates in the research project "The Untold Story," and offers support and guidance to the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care while pursuing all other strategic plans.



Jean Heller enjoyed a nearly 40-year career as an investigative and projects reporter before leaving that career in 2008 to run a national marketing company and write mystery novels. During her news career she worked for the Associated Press, Cox Newspapers, the Newhouse Newspapers, *New York Newsday*, the *Jackson Hole News & Guide*, and the *St. Petersburg Times* (now called the *Tampa Bay Times*). She has won multiple awards, including the Worth Bingham Prize, the Polk Award, and the Florida Newspaper Society's award for best investigative reporting. She is also an eight-time Pulitzer Prize nominee. One of those nominations was for her first novel, *Maximum Impact*. She is finishing book five in the award-winning Deuce Mora mystery series. Heller lives in Chicago and Southport, N.C.



Debra Houry, MD, MPH, is CDC's acting principal deputy director. Since 2014, she has served as director of the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at CDC. In this role, she led innovative research and science-based programs to prevent injuries and violence and to reduce their consequences. She previously served as vice chair and associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and as associate professor at the Rollins School of Public Health. She also served as an attending physician at Emory University Hospital and Grady Memorial Hospital and as the director of Emory Center for Injury Control. She has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters, is a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and has received numerous awards throughout her career including the APHA Jay Drotman Award.



Ben Johnson joined President Jimmy Carter's administration in 1979 as director of consumer programs. From 1983 to 1987, he worked as the administrator of the Business Regulation Administration. In 1988, he was appointed administrator of the Housing and Environmental Administration and directed enforcement and compliance of housing and environmental laws in Washington, D.C. He was then named director of the District of Columbia's Department of Public Assisted Housing. In 1993, he joined President Bill Clinton's White House staff as an associate director in the Office of Public Liaison. Johnson then served as special assistant to the president and was responsible for outreach to the African-American community. He later served as deputy assistant to the president, and in 1999 was appointed assistant to the president and director of the White House Office on the President's Initiative for One America.

BIOGRAPHIES



James H. Jones, PhD, spent his academic career teaching American history at the University of Houston and the University of Arkansas. He is the author of *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, A Tragedy of Race and Medicine* (1981), which won two academic prizes and was selected by *The New York Times* as one of the 12 best books published in 1981. His second book, *Alfred C. Kinsey: A Public/Private Life* (1997), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Biography. He has held postdoctoral fellowships from Harvard University, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Rockefeller Foundation. His articles have appeared in publications ranging from *The New Yorker* to the *Hastings Report*, and he has delivered public lectures at more than 80 colleges and universities. He and his wife, Linda divide their time between homes in Washington, DC and Sacramento, CA.



Christopher Koller is president of the Milbank Memorial Fund, a more than 100-year-old operating foundation that improves population health and health equity by connecting leaders with experience and sound evidence. The fund fosters state health policy leadership and publishes *The Milbank Quarterly*, a journal of population health and health policy. Before joining the fund, he served Rhode Island as the country's first health insurance commissioner. He was the CEO of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island. He has a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and master's degrees in religion and public-private management from Yale. He has served on four committees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and its Health Care Services Board. He is a professor in the Department of Health Services, Policy and Practice in the School of Public Health at Brown University.



Susan K. Laird, DNP, MSN, RN, is the training and health education lead at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of the Associate Director for Communication, Division of Communication Science and Services. She co-leads CDC's Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication Initiative. She served for 13 months in the COVID response, initially in issues management, followed by 9 months as the principal deputy of the Joint Information Center. In her prior roles at CDC, she served as clinical director for CDC-INFO, branch chief for community engagement, communications director for CDC's Public Health Grand Rounds, and director of the Division of News and Electronic Media. Her bachelor of science in nursing, master of science in adult health, and doctor of nursing practice are all from Georgia State University.



Mary Leinhos, PhD, MS, is acting team lead to the Public Health Ethics and Strategy Unit in the Office of Scientific Integrity, CDC Office of Science. She serves as a senior health scientist in the Office of Applied Research in CDC's Center for Preparedness and Response. She earned an MS in molecular biology and a PhD in higher education studies from the University of Arizona. She conducted dissertation research on the emergence and institutionalization of bioethics in the United States, later published as a monograph. She began her CDC career in 2003 as an HHS Emerging Leaders Program intern in NCHHSTP's Office of Health Disparities. In 2006, she joined CDC's National Office of Public Health Genomics, serving on the steering committee of the newly created CDC Public Health Ethics Committee.

BIOGRAPHIES



Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA, has served as the associate director for minority health and health equity for CDC/ATSDR since 2011. She has executed innovative models of collaboration that have expanded the influence and impact of the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity including the implementation of the CDC John R. Lewis Undergraduate Public Health Scholars Program and the James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Fellowship. Liburd was the 2021 recipient of the Harriet Hylton Barr Distinguished Alumni Award, one of the highest honors of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health. She also received the CDC Honor Award for Health Equity (Group Award) in recognition of her role as chief health equity officer. Liburd holds a BA from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, an MPH in health education and health behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MA in cultural anthropology, and a PhD in medical anthropology from Emory University.



Paul Lombardo, PhD, JD, Regents' Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law, is a lawyer and historian at Georgia State University College of Law who is known for his work on the legal history of the American eugenics movement. His books include: *Three Generations, No Imbeciles: Eugenics, the Supreme Court and Buck v. Bell* (2008), and *A Century of Eugenics in America: From the Indiana Experiment to the Human Genome Era* (2011). He is currently studying how the politics of birth control, abortion and eugenics intersected at the time of World War I. He advised the Cold Spring Harbor (NY) Laboratory panel that assembled the digital Image Archive on the American Eugenics Movement and was also a contributor and consultant for the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum exhibit, *Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race*. From 2010 to 2016, he served as senior advisor to the President's Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues that reported on the U.S. Public Health research scandal in post-WWII Guatemala.



Ted Pistorius, MPA, is the deputy director of management and overseas operations at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has been with CDC since 1990 and has served as management officer for the National Center for Preparedness, Detection, and Control of Infectious Diseases, deputy director for management for CDC's Division of Viral and Rickettsial Diseases, and acting associate director for management and operations at CDC's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention. He served a three-month detail in 2002 for the Global AIDS Program in Ethiopia, where he served as the acting deputy chief of party. In 2010, he began serving a three-month detail in Ghana fighting polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Early in his public health career, he served as director of the Connecticut STD Control Program and as supervisor, Riverside STD Clinic in Houston, Texas.

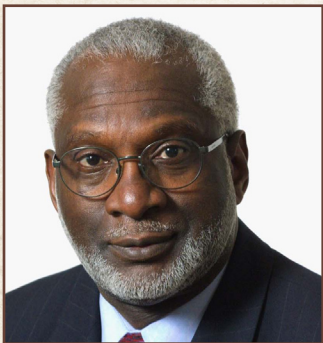
BIOGRAPHIES



Susan Reverby, PhD, is the Marion Butler McLean Professor Emerita in the History of Ideas and professor emerita in women's and gender studies at Wellesley College. She is the author or editor of eight books, including *Examining Tuskegee: The Infamous Syphilis Study and its Legacy* (2009), and her latest, *Co-Conspirator for Justice: The Revolutionary Life of Dr. Alan Berkman* (2020). She was a member of the Legacy Committee that lobbied successfully for the federal apology for the USPHS syphilis study in Tuskegee, and she worked with former CDC Director David Sencer in 2010 to get the Obama administration to apologize to the government of Guatemala for a PHS study of inoculation STIs in Guatemala (1946–48) that she uncovered. She is currently working with the Change the Air Foundation on a history of mold infestations and disease.



Diane Rowley, MD, MPH is professor emerita in the Maternal and Child Health Department, Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before joining the UNC faculty, she directed a research center on health disparities at Morehouse College from 2001 to 2008. She spent her early career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She was one of the first African-American women to complete the Epidemic Intelligence Service and join CDC in a staff position. Her final position at CDC was associate director for science in the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. She received her medical degree from Meharry Medical College, is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, and a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology.



David Satcher, MD, PhD, is a physician-scientist and public health administrator with a record of leadership, research, and community engagement. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Morehouse College and holds MD and PhD degrees from Case Western Reserve University. He served as the 16th surgeon general of the United States (1998–2002) and the 10th assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services (1998–2001). He also served as CDC director and ATSDR administrator. He has held top leadership positions at the Charles R. Drew University for Medicine and Science, Meharry Medical College, and the Morehouse School of Medicine. He has received over 50 honorary degrees and numerous awards from diverse organizations and agencies. Currently, Dr. Satcher is the founding director and senior advisor for the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.



Termika Smith, EdD, MPA, is the associate director for policy, communications, and strategy in CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health. She leads the division's legislative and congressional relations, strategic communications, and partner engagement. Before joining DASH in April 2022, she spent nearly seven years as associate chief for policy in the Division of Global HIV & TB. She joined CDC after her dual fellowship at the Brookings Institution and American Public Health Association with the United States Senate Committee on the Budget and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. She worked as a senior director of clinical administration at the Mobile County Health Department leading three primary care clinics and the Ryan White program. She earned a doctorate in education, leadership, policy, and law from Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama, and is a certified paralegal.

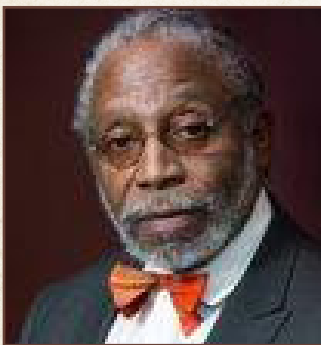
BIOGRAPHIES



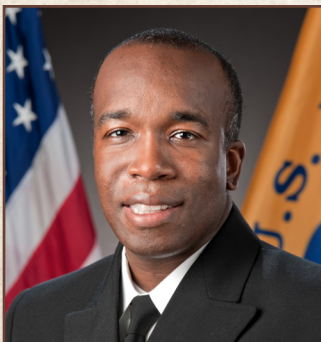
Dixie Snider, MD, MPH (Rear Adm. retired), is a former chief science officer at CDC. After earning a bachelor of science in chemistry from Western Kentucky University, he attended the University of Louisville School of Medicine, graduating with highest honors. In 1984, he received a master of public health from Emory University. He began working at CDC in 1973 as a tuberculosis medical officer at the Oklahoma Department of Health. Although public health had not been his initial career choice, he fell in love with the idea of improving the health of a population as opposed to treating one person at a time. In 1975 he was appointed chief of the Research and Development Branch in the Division of Tuberculosis Control, followed by an appointment as director of the TB Division in 1985 and as chief scientist for the Office of the Director in 1993 until his retirement in 2006. He played a key role in arranging the 1997 presidential apology for the Tuskegee syphilis study.



Jo A. Valentine, MSW, is the associate director of the Office of Health Equity in CDC's Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention, where she has worked since 1991. She leads efforts to reduce STD disparities in the United States and promote health equity, oversees the Tuskegee Health Benefits Program, and manages the Tuskegee Public Health Ethics Program. In these roles, she leads and coordinates multidisciplinary teams and workgroups and provides technical assistance for intervention development and program implementation for disadvantaged and underserved populations. She also gives technical advice to state and local health departments and nongovernmental organizations. She received her master's degree in social work in 1995 from the Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work.



Rueben C. Warren, DDS, MPH, DrPH, MDiv, is the director of the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama. He is also adjunct professor at Meharry Medical College and Morehouse School of Medicine. He previously served as associate director for minority health and associate director for environment justice at CDC and part-time director of infrastructure development at the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Harvard Alumni Award, as well as an honorary doctor of medical science and the recipient of the President's Distinguished Service Award from Meharry Medical College. In 2003, his academic status at Meharry was elevated to dean emeritus. In 2013, he received the honorary doctor of humane letters from Meharry Medical College.



Paul R. Young, MD, USPHS, joined CDC in 2012 as a medical officer in the Division of Global HIV/TB. He gave technical support to countries in Eastern and Southern Africa, focusing on programs aimed at decreasing mother-to-child HIV transmission. Currently, he serves as the regional associate director overseeing CDC's Division of Global HIV/TB programs in Brazil, the Caribbean, Central America, the Dominican Republic, and Kenya. Before joining CDC, he was an assistant professor and Pediatric AIDS Corp physician with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative from 2008 to 2012. He provided HIV care to pregnant women and their families in Lesotho and supported the decentralization of treatment programs into rural districts. He received his medical degree from Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, Georgia.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

We would like to thank everyone who graciously gave of their time to participate in this commemorative video.

Robin D. Bailey Jr., MA
Rebecca Bunnell, PhD, MEd
Joe Carter
Joyce L. Christian, MSN, RN
Dick Conlon, MPA
Norman Hayes, JM
Lillie Head, EdS, MS
Anne-Renee Heningburg, MPA

Leandris Liburd, PhD, MPH, MA
Paul Lombardo, PhD, JD
Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH
Pat McConnon, MPH
Leandro Mena, MD, MPH, FIDSA
Jonathan Mermin, MD, MPH
Omar Neal
Mittie Newman-Thornton

Leonard Ortmann, PhD
Christopher Parker, PhD
Ted Pestorius, MPA
Peggy Tatum
Jo Valentine, MSW
Theilene Williams

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Karen Bouye, PhD, MPH, MS

Health Scientist, Office of Minority Health & Health Equity
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Catina Conner, MPH

Senior Policy Analyst, Office of Science, Office of Scientific Integrity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Paula Eriksen

Health Communication Specialist (CTR)
Division of Communication Science and Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Anne-Reneé Heningburg, MPA

Lead Public Health Advisor, Global Immunization Division
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Susan K. Laird, DNP, MSN, RN

Training and Health Education Lead
Division of Communication Science and Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Mary Leinhos, PhD, MS, (ad hoc)

Acting Team Lead, Public Health Ethics and Strategy Unit
Office of Science, Office of Scientific Integrity
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Leonard W. Ortmann, PhD

Senior Ethics Consultant
Office of Science, Office of Scientific Integrity
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Christopher S. Parker, PhD

Chief, Management and Operations Branch
Center for Global Health, Division of Global HIV and TB
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Ted Pestorius, MPA

Deputy Director, Management and Overseas Operations
Center for Global Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hilary Joy Polk, MPH, (ad hoc)

DEIAB Communications Lead, Office of the Director
Office of the Associate Director for Communication
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Tony Richardson, MS, MPH, MSCJ

Public Health Analyst (Issues Management)
Office of Science
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Termika N. Smith, EdD, MPA

Associate Director for Policy, Communications, and Strategy
Division of Adolescent and School Health
National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Jo A. Valentine, MSW

Associate Director, Office of Health Equity
Division of STD Prevention, NCHHSTP
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Paul R. Young, MD

Commander, U.S. Public Health Service
Regional Associate Director, The Americas and Kenya
Division of Global HIV & TB, Center for Global Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

50th

ANNIVERSARY

RECOGNITION, REMEMBRANCE,
AND REFLECTION:

**The Syphilis Study
at Tuskegee and
Macon County, Alabama**



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention