

HENRIETTA LACKS PL

Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture **2024**

Saturday October 5, at 9^{AM}

TURNER CONCOURSE • 720 Rutland Avenue • Baltimore

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**
INSTITUTE for CLINICAL &
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

CTSA Clinical & Translational[®]
Science Awards

— Honoring Mrs. Henrietta Lacks —



The woman we know as Henrietta Lacks was born Loretta Pleasant on Aug. 1, 1920, in Roanoke, Virginia.

She was raised by her grandfather on a tobacco farm in Clover, Virginia following the death of her mother Eliza. In 1941 she married David Lacks and shortly after they moved their family to the Turner Station community of Dundalk, Maryland. Henrietta raised the couple's five children — Lawrence, Elsie, David Jr. ("Sonny"), Deborah and Zakariyya — while David Sr. worked at Bethlehem Steel. David and Henrietta lived in a neighborhood surrounded by family and friends, and Henrietta Lacks frequently helped extended family make the transition to Baltimore by offering housing and meals. Henrietta enjoyed dancing, cooking, playing cards and taking her children to visit Clover on the weekends.

In January of 1951, Henrietta went to The Johns Hopkins Hospital after finding a lump in her cervix. A sample of the mass was taken and a few days later, she was diagnosed with stage 1 cervical cancer. The following month, Henrietta had her first radiation therapy treatment. The doctor took samples of the cervical tissue without obtaining her consent (the U.S. health system did not yet have established practices for doing so) and sent them to a lab to see if they could be grown in culture, as was routine for women with cervical cancer being treated at the hospital. After a brief stay at Johns Hopkins,

Henrietta was discharged and she returned home to continue to care for her family. During the next six months, she received radiation treatment.

However, her health eventually deteriorated. Mrs. Lacks was admitted to Johns Hopkins Hospital in August of 1951. Her tumor had spread, as the cancer was unresponsive to radiation treatment. Treatment ceased and her health continued to decline. Henrietta was given medication to ease the pain, and sadly on October the 4th, 1951, at the age of 31, Henrietta Lacks passed away.

But not all of Henrietta Lacks died that day.

She unknowingly left behind a piece of her that still lives today and will outlive us all. Henrietta is the human behind the HeLa cells, the first immortal cell line. HeLa cells have been mass produced, they traveled into space, they were used to help develop the polio vaccine, and they made possible many other landmark scientific discoveries in genetics and the treatment of disease. Henrietta Lacks has been described many ways: as a heroine of modern medicine, a medical miracle and a wonder woman, to name a few.

But to her family, she was a daughter, wife and mother, and friend to the world.

Keynote Speaker



Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, M.D.

Director, NIMHD
National Institute on Minority Health
and Health Disparities

Dr. Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable is Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He earned his B.A. in chemistry in 1974 and M.D. in 1978 from the University of Miami. He then completed his primary care internal medicine residency and a research fellowship in general internal medicine at University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) before joining the faculty as an assistant professor in 1983. Dr. Pérez-Stable practiced primary care internal medicine for 37 years at UCSF. His research interests have centered on improving the health of individuals from racial and ethnic minority communities through effective prevention interventions, understanding underlying causes of health disparities, and advancing patient-centered care for underserved populations. Recognized as a leader in Latino health care and disparities research, he spent 32 years leading research on smoking cessation and tobacco control in Latino populations in the United States and Latin America. Dr. Pérez-Stable has published more than 300 peer-reviewed papers.

The Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture Series

The primary goal of the Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture Series is to honor Mrs. Henrietta Lacks and the positive global impact of HeLa cells. By coming together each year to remember the woman behind this lifesaving, world-changing development in biomedical science, the Johns Hopkins research community will remember that HeLa stands for Henrietta Lacks.

This series will also serve as an annual reminder of the gratitude, respect, and clear communication due to all research participants. Keeping biomedical research connected to the community is an ongoing process rooted in the open exchange of ideas among all stakeholders.

To facilitate this process, speakers for the Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture Series are selected for their ability to communicate current ethical complexities and challenges facing biomedical research in a way that is engaging and accessible to scientists, health care providers, and members of the lay community.

The Henrietta Lacks Memorial Lecture will always be free and open to the public.

Program of Events

The Occasion: Honoring Mrs. Henrietta Lacks

JaBrea Rodgers
Great-granddaughter of Henrietta Lacks

Greetings

Dr. Daniel E. Ford

Director, Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

Welcome

Mr. Kevin W. Sowers

*President of the Johns Hopkins Health System and
Executive Vice President of the Johns Hopkins Medicine*

Reflections on Scientific Discovery

Dr. Nadine Barrett

*Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Public Health,
Senior Associate Dean, Associate Director,
Atrium Health/Wake Forest Comprehensive Cancer Center.*

Urban Health Institute Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award

Dr. Lisa Cooper

Director, Urban Health Institute

Medical Advancements in Cervical Cancer Prevention and Screening

Dr. Lynn McDonald

Clinical Program Director at The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Dr. Betty Chou

*Johns Hopkins Generalist GYNOB Division Director, Johns Hopkins GYNOB
Residency Program Director, Johns Hopkins Colposcopy Co-Director*

Call to Action from the Lacks Family

Keynote Speaker

Eliseo J. Pérez-Stable, MD

Director, NIMHD

National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Intermission ~

(15 minutes)

Performance

Paul Rucker

*iCubed Arts Research Fellow, Assistant Professor at Virginia
Commonwealth University, Curator for Creative Collaboration for
VCUarts, and Founding/Executive Director of Cary Forward museum.*

*Commission by PAHH @ the Johns Hopkins Center for Medical
Humanities and Social Medicine*

Discussion and Q&A

Featuring a panel of our esteemed guests.

Henrietta Lacks Dunbar Health Sciences Scholarship for Paul Laurence Dunbar High School

Ms. Jamie Seward, Esq.

*Senior Associate Director of Alumni Relations at Johns Hopkins University &
Medicine - Development and Alumni Relations*

Mr. Jimmy Tadlock

Executive Director, MERIT Health Leadership Academy

2024 Scholar :

Katia Arias Valle

Concluding Remarks

Dr. Daniel E. Ford

Lunch

At Turner Concourse

When using social media please include:

#HLML24 & #ThankYouHenrietta24 to share your experience.

Follow us on X and Instagram at **@ICTRJHU**

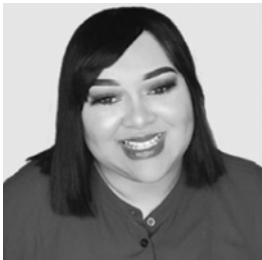
& find Johns Hopkins ICTR on Facebook!

Featured Lacks Family Speakers



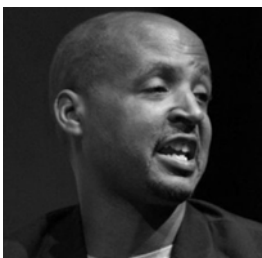
JaBrea Rodgers

JaBrea Rodgers is a recent graduate of North Carolina A&T State University with a B.S. in Supply Chain Management. She is passionate about health equity, and continuing the legacy of her great-grandmother, Henrietta Lacks. Inspired by her family's unique place in medical history, JaBrea is committed to advocating for healthcare advancements that benefit all communities, with a focus on addressing disparities in access and treatment. She aims to use her platform to uplift humanity by promoting innovation, inclusivity, and justice within the healthcare industry.



Veronica Robinson

Veronica Robinson is a patient rights advocate who speaks on The Lacks family's experience in biomedical research, impact on participation, and ethics in this modern era of precision medicine. She also serves as Senior Advisor to the Lacks family-led HELA100: Henrietta Lacks Initiative and is honored to serve as a World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Cervical Cancer Elimination. Veronica travels the country sharing The Lacks Family's efforts to control their medical history and rebuild trust with the medical community, about which she was honored to give a 2018 TedX Talk. Working with the National Institutes of Health, Veronica serves as an All of US Ambassador advocating for access to precision medicine and a Lacks Family Representative on the HeLa Genome Data Access Working Group. As a member of this groundbreaking Working Group, she provides controlled access to genomic data and ensures credit is attributed to The Lacks Family in publications based on the research done with Henrietta's DNA data. Inspired by her family's journey, Veronica began her studies at Baltimore City Community College, now focused on political science to help advance health equity and social justice for all. As a mentor for Baltimore City Public Schools, Veronica is committed to empowering the next generation. Today, Veronica sees the first-hand impact of Henrietta Lacks' legacy on patient rights, informed consent, and patient-centered care as she works in a medical lab in Maryland.



David Lacks, Jr.

David Lacks, Jr. is the grandson of Henrietta Lacks and the son of Henrietta's middle son David "Sonny" Lacks. David is a patient rights advocate, who travels the country sharing his grandmother's important contributions to science. David and his family have been proud to speak truth to power as they serve as catalysts for modern bioethics policies and inform consent laws that are affording patients an unprecedented "seat at the table", by advancing science, building trust, and protecting research participants. In 2013, a milestone was reached as the Lacks Family entered a groundbreaking, HeLa Genome Data Use Agreement with the medical, scientific, and bioethics communities, giving David and his family a role in regulating the HeLa genome sequences, discoveries, data shared and important HeLa science to come. David is honored to serve on this historic National Institutes of Health six-member panel, which reviews proposals from researchers seeking to sequence the DNA of cell lines derived from his grandmother's tumor or to use DNA profiles of such cells in their research. In this role, David works to provide controlled access to the genomic data and ensure that credit is attributed to the Lacks family in papers and scientific presentations based on the research done with the DNA data. David possesses a degree in computer information systems and travels internationally installing computer systems and labs for businesses and educational institutions. David assisted in the creation of the Lacks Family website, and in his spare time uses his talent to maintain the Lacks' family digital media. David is currently leading the organization of a conference to celebrate the incontestable impact of Henrietta to commemorate Henrietta's 100th birthday and Co-Founded CELLebrate Henrietta Lacks.

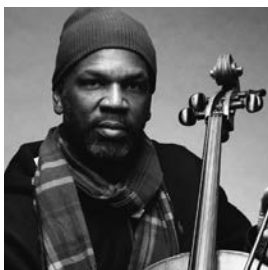
Featured Speakers, Performers, & Moderators



Nadine J. Barrett, PhD, MS, MPH

Nadine J. Barrett, PhD, MS, MPH is a Professor in the Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy in the Division of Public Health Sciences and the inaugural Senior Associate Dean of Community Engagement and Equity in Research at Wake Forest School of Medicine, she is Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement for Wake Forest Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Clinical Translational Science Institute and the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity. Prior to joining Wake Forest, Dr. Barrett served 13 years in senior leadership roles at Duke University, as the Founding Director of both the Duke Center for Equity in Research and the nationally awarded, Duke Cancer Institute's Office of Health Equity. She is also President of the national Association of Cancer Care Centers, in Washington DC.

A medical sociologist by training, Dr. Barrett is a health disparities researcher, expert equity strategist, and a nationally recognized leader in facilitating authentic community, healthcare, and academic partnerships to advance health equity. She develops multi-level interventions to address implicit bias, structural and systemic racism, and inequities that limit access to quality research and trustworthy health care among underserved and marginalized populations. Dr. Barrett brings an equity lens to her work and collaborations to enhance healthcare systems, close the disparities gap in health outcomes, and increase diverse and broad representation in research participation and the research workforce.



Paul Rucker

Paul Rucker is a multimedia visual artist, composer, and musician. His practice often integrates live performance, original musical compositions, and visual art installation. For nearly two decades, Rucker has used his own brand of art making as a social practice, which illuminates the legacy of enslavement in America and its relationship to the current socio-political moment. His work is the product of a rich interactive process, through which he investigates community impacts, human rights issues, historical research, and basic human emotions.

Rucker has received numerous grants, awards, and residencies for visual art and music. He is a 2017 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship awardee, a 2012 Creative Capital grantee in visual art as well as a 2014, 2018, 2019 MAP (Multi-Arts Production) Fund grantee for performance. In 2015 he received a prestigious Joan Mitchell Painters & Sculptors Grant as well as the Mary Sawyer Baker Award. In 2016 Paul received the Rauschenberg Artist as Activist fellowship and the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship, becoming the first artist in residence at the National Museum of African American Culture.

Residencies include MacDowell Colony, Blue Mountain Center, Ucross Foundation, Art OMI, Banff Center, Pilchuck Glass School, Rauschenberg Residency, Joan Mitchell Residency, Loghave, Montalvo, Hermitage, Hemera Artist Retreat, Air Serembe, Creative Alliance and the Rockefeller Foundation Study Center in Bellagio, Italy. He will be a Master Teacher at the Atlantic Center for the Arts in 2025. In 2013-2015, he was the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation Artist in Residence and Research Fellow at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He has been awarded a 2018 TED Fellowship, a 2020 TED Senior Fellowship, and the 2018 Arts Innovator Award from the Dale and Leslie Chihuly Foundation and Artist Trust. He has received support from Ford/Art for Justice Fund for 2000 and 2022, and the Mellon Foundation for 2022.

Rucker is an iCubed Arts Research Fellow and Assistant Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia and Curator for Creative Collaboration for VCUarts.

He is also the Founding/Executive Director of Cary Forward museum opening in 2025.

Featured Speakers, Performers, & Moderators



Daniel E. Ford, MD, MPH

Dr. Daniel Ford is a professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He holds joint appointments in psychiatry and behavioral sciences and, at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, in health policy and management and in epidemiology.

Dr. Ford serves as the director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research and the senior associate dean for clinical and translational research at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Widely regarded as a pioneer in research associated with the interrelationships between mental disorders and chronic medical conditions, Dr. Ford gained international acclaim for clinical studies documenting depression as an independent risk factor for coronary heart disease and for research describing the long-term health risks related to sleep disturbances. He was chosen by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to direct the evaluation of its \$12 million Depression in Primary Care Initiative. He also has been the principal researcher on a large training grant to develop researchers in general internal medicine.

A leader in using the Internet for clinical research, Dr. Ford worked closely with Johns Hopkins personnel who developed e-IRB, an electronic process for submitting research proposals to the school of medicine's Institutional Review Board, which oversees requests to launch clinical studies. His research interests include ways to improve the treatment of chronic diseases through information technology. He also advocates treating human research subjects as partners, ensuring that they receive sufficient thanks for their commitment and willingness to contribute to scientific progress. Dr. Ford received his M.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1982. He arrived at Hopkins that year as a medical resident and, except for a brief period as a National Institutes of Health fellow, has been on the Johns Hopkins faculty ever since. He received his master's degree in public health from the Bloomberg School in 1986.



Kevin W. Sowers, M.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N.

Kevin W. Sowers, M.S.N., R.N., F.A.A.N., is president of the Johns Hopkins Health System and executive vice president of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

As the second person in Johns Hopkins history to hold these dual roles, Mr. Sowers oversees the health system's six hospitals – The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center, Suburban Hospital, Sibley Memorial Hospital and Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital – and sets strategies that advance our mission to deliver outstanding care, train the next generation of leaders and advance research and discovery. He also serves as chair of Johns Hopkins Community Physicians, which has more than 40 primary and specialty care outpatient sites throughout Maryland and the Washington, D.C., area.

Mr. Sowers came to Johns Hopkins Medicine after 32 years with the Duke University Health System, the last eight as president and CEO of Duke University Hospital.

He joined Duke University Medical Center Hospital in 1985 as a staff nurse in oncology and held several faculty and nursing leadership positions. His numerous senior leadership posts across the Duke University Health System included chief operating officer for Duke University Hospital and interim CEO for Durham Regional Hospital. Among his senior administrative roles, Mr. Sowers oversaw consolidation of Duke's clinical lab services, emergency and trauma services, and managed care and patient care services.

Featured Speakers, Performers, & Moderators



Dr. Lynn Richards McDonald

Dr. Lynn Richards McDonald is a Clinical Program Director at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. With honors diplomas and degrees from Coppin State University, Chatham University, Johns Hopkins University, and the Health Sciences Centre of Nursing, Dr. McDonald specializes in cervical cancer screening and human papillomavirus (HPV) education and vaccination. She has pioneered a groundbreaking cervical cancer screening inpatient program to help at-risk populations.

Dr. McDonald's approach is rooted in equitable healthcare principles, involving advocacy, education, engagement with healthcare providers, extensive community outreach, and enhanced accessibility. Her contributions have had a profound impact on the battle against cervical cancer. Dr. McDonald's peer-reviewed women's health articles and book chapters are widely disseminated nationally and globally. The Baltimore Magazine recognized her as one of the preeminent nurses in the region with a focus on women's health in 2015.



Betty Chou, MD

Dr. Betty Chou is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and has been the Clinical Director of the Johns Hopkins Colposcopy Clinic for 9 years. After graduating cum laude with dual degrees in Biochemistry and Biology from the University of Maryland in 1995, she completed both her medical school and OB/GYN residency training at Johns Hopkins. She has been on faculty with Johns Hopkins since 2003. Dr. Chou has been the Johns Hopkins GynOb Residency Program Director since 2016 and the Johns Hopkins Generalist GynOb Division Director since 2023.

While Dr. Chou enjoys her generalist OB/GYN practice, her primary areas of clinical care and research has been the management and prevention of cervical dysplasia and cervical cancer. In addition to her robust practice where she cares for women with abnormal pap smears, she also studies the barriers to cervical cancer screening and the patterns of HPV vaccine utilization that are leading to disparities in the cervical cancer disease burden in minority and at-risk populations.



Lisa Cooper, MD, MPH, MACP

Dr. Lisa Cooper is a Liberian-born internal medicine physician, social epidemiologist, and health services researcher. As the Director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute, Dr. Cooper leads the Institute in its mission to advance health and health equity across Baltimore City. An international thought leader and award-winning community-engaged researcher, Dr. Cooper is also the Founder and Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity, the James F. Fries Professor of Medicine and Bloomberg Distinguished Professor for Equity in Health and Health Care in the Johns Hopkins University Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health.

The Dunbar Scholars



Jamie Seward,
Senior Associate Director of Alumni Relations
at Johns Hopkins University & Medicine –
Development and Alumni Relations



Jimmy Tadlock,
Executive Director of Merit
Health Leadership Academy.

These two will be co-presenting the back story of the Henrietta Lacks Health Sciences scholarship program.



Katia Arias Valle – 2024 Recipient

Katia Arias Valle is a current senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Katia Arias Valle is an accomplished student and distinguished participant in the 2024 Questbridge Scholar Prep Program, a prestigious initiative designed for first-generation students from low-income backgrounds who exhibit exceptional academic potential. Throughout her high school career, Katia has demonstrated remarkable dedication and academic prowess, culminating in her recognition as valedictorian and her position as the top ranked student in her class.

Her academic achievements are complimented by her active involvement in Building Steps, a program dedicated to supporting High school students pursuing careers in STEM and healthcare. This involvement aligns with Katia’s aspiration to Major in Biology at the collegiate level. Her long-term goal is to leverage her undergraduate education to attend medical school and ultimately pursue a career as a neurosurgeon, fulfilling her longlife dream. Katia’s exceptional performance and commitment to her educational and career goals reflect her dedication and promise in her chosen field, for a bright future.

2024 Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award Winners

The Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute bestowed the 2024 Henrietta Lacks Memorial Award to the New Song Community Learning Center and Johns Hopkins’ SOURCE.

This collaboration tackles childhood mental health by transforming a self-help book, “Trauma to Triumph,” into an interactive mobile app. The app offers activities, journaling tools, and a peer support community, while fostering user engagement, reflection, and progress tracking. Led by middle schoolers with adult guidance, this program leverages technology to empower youth to lead healthier lives.

The Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

Daniel E. Ford, MD, MPH, Director

Cheryl Himmelfarb, PhD, RN, Deputy Director, Community and Collaboration Core and Recruitment Innovation Unit

We are grateful to contributing partners:

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Lisa Cooper, MD, Natalie V. Wiggins, Kendrick Gwynn, MD, MPH, Mary A. Spiro, MS, Tomozia H. Graves

Medicine for the Greater Good – Johns Hopkins Medicine

Panagis Galiatsatos, MD, MHS, Kimberly Hailey-Fair, MPH, CPH

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Dunbar Health Sciences Scholarship Committee: Monica Shuler-Marrow, Eboni Wise, Michelle Watkins, Donna Clare, Janine Tucker, Libby Darrell, Lisa Swoboda, Elena Thompson, Chrystal Green, Jamie Seward

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