We are seeking engaging, dynamic presenters who actively embody this year’s conference theme, Revolutionary Healing and Rebuilding. We encourage individuals and/or groups from academic and/or non-academic backgrounds to share information and experiences in the format of a presentation, panel conversation, interactive workshop, artistic expression, or any other creative format of their choosing. This conference centers voices who seek to transform current systems and structures in order to acknowledge past and present traumas of systemic racism. We are looking for presenters who can reflect on the structural challenges and barriers to health equity and advance the work being done to uproot and reconstruct our health systems.

Conference Theme

Revolutionary Healing and Rebuilding: Learning from Today, Transforming Tomorrow
February 24-25, 2022. The conference will be virtual on 24th and in-person on 25th.

“Where do we go from here?” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. posed this question in his 1967 book of the same title, in which he reflected on the state of America following a decade of struggle for civil rights. He called for a shift in American society towards greater economic justice, without which there could be no true progress towards equality. Over 50 years later, this is once again one of the most critical questions our generation faces. We are in the midst of multiple overlapping crises that impact human health and wellbeing -- the COVID-19 pandemic, racial and systemic injustices, and worsening climate change, to name a few. As such, governments, institutions, and communities are facing a crossroads; we can either maintain the status quo, or radically change the way we do things. With the current increased focus on public health and equity, we are in a unique position to uproot and reconstruct our health systems. The conference theme, Revolutionary Healing and Rebuilding, recognizes that the first step in transforming systems and structures is to acknowledge past and present traumas of systemic racism. As we learn from today to transform tomorrow, we must recognize the pressing need to take lessons from our current situation and act now to build a better, more equitable future. This year’s conference seeks to provide a space to acknowledge the wounds of systemic racism, reflect on the structural challenges and barriers to health equity, and advance the work being done to sow seeds that will grow into more equitable systems for tomorrow. We hope that the theme, Revolutionary Healing and Rebuilding, will renew, inspire, and empower us all to reimagine the future of our communities.

Application Components:

- Name(s)/contact information of speaker(s)
- 200-word introduction of speaker(s)
- What does minority health mean in the context of the work that you will share? (200 words)
- How does your work align with this year’s theme? (200 words)
- Title and description of intended session (150-200 words)
- Confirmation of all speakers’ availability on February 24th and 25th, 2022
- Optional: You may share a video of a talk you have given, a description/abstract of a presentation you have given, or any other demonstrative materials of your previous work

For more information or to apply, please use the following link:
http://go.unc.edu/be-a-speaker

Applications are due January 7, 2022. Selected speakers will be notified by January 22, 2022. Please contact mhc.speakers@gmail.com with any questions!
Breakout Session Ideas
Please use these as inspiration and expand upon them. You are also welcome to create your own breakout session idea.

- What are reparations and what would they look like?
- Healing from generational trauma
- Acknowledgment, Accountability, Advocacy
- Impact of family on minority mental health
- Reproductive health of African/African American women (infant mortality, higher complication rates, higher gestational diabetes)
- Physician distrust in minority communities
- Misdiagnosis/dismissive healthcare
- Dismantling systems of oppression and systemic racism
- Systems-based thinking and change
- Power dynamics and/or redistribution of power
- Equitable partnerships in research and practice
- Human rights and social, environmental, and climate justice
- Racial trauma and restorative healing
- Reducing health disparities and improving health equity