



UNC
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GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

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Important Announcement: Pivot to Virtual Minority Health Conference

The Minority Student Caucus is looking forward to hosting the 43rd Minority Health Conference, *Revolutionary Healing and Rebuilding: Learning from Today, Transforming Tomorrow*, **from February 24-25, 2022**. However, in light of recent increases in coronavirus infections related to the Omicron variant, we believe that the most prudent course of action that prioritizes the health and safety of our attendees is to host a **fully virtual** conference. We are confident that this year's conference will remain an engaging and worthwhile experience for our attendees, with Dr. Donald Warne and Ms. Jacqueline Patterson as our keynote speakers.

We continuously reflect on the question, "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. 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. 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.

At the Gillings School of Global Public Health, community is at the heart of what we do, where we lift voices to accelerate change. The Minority Student Caucus was founded to raise the voices of Black students and to impact policies at the School of Public Health. Nearly every year since 1977, we have convened hundreds of community members, professionals and students to explore a diverse range of topics that have an impact on minority health. We look forward to seeing you virtually at the 43rd Minority Health Conference on **Thursday, February 24th – Friday, February 25th 2022!**

Sincerely,

Takhona Hlatshwako
Department of Health Policy and Management
Minority Health Conference Co-Chair

Victoria Triana
Department of Health Behavior
Minority Health Conference Co-Chair

