



March 2021

CDU News



**Charles R. Drew University
of Medicine and Science**

**President's Breakfast Recap
Community Forum
...and more!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD | President & CEO

Greetings!

Women's History Month began as a local celebration right here in the state of California in March 1978. Two years later, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 2, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress officially passed a law designating the entire month of March as Women's History Month. The expansion only seemed natural as the contributions of women to the fabric of not just our nation, but to our very society, became undeniably apparent.

The very existence of CDU is a testament of the leadership and courage of strong women such as Lillian Mobley, Caffie Greene, Nola Carter, Johnnie Tillmon and Mary Henry, who fearlessly advocated for more extensive medical services for the citizens of South Los Angeles following the Watts Rebellion. On the faculty front, CDU has hosted a number of brilliant women in STEM who have shaped the minds of our current and future health workforce, including, but not limited to:

Dr. Patricia Bath, who worked at CDU from 1974-1993, was the first African American in U.S. history to complete a residency in ophthalmology in 1973, and the first woman in the nation to chair an ophthalmology residency program – the very program she helped develop at CDU. In 1986, she released her most well-known invention: the Laserphaco Probe; and in 1988, she achieved another first when she received a patent for the device, becoming the first African-American female doctor to receive a medical patent.

In the present day, our very own COM Dean **Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith** is considered a pioneer in addressing youth violence as a

public health issue, as well as the idea that violence needs a preventative approach rather than a punitive one. Additionally, Dr. Prothrow-Stith served as the first—and youngest—female Commissioner of Public Health for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1987-1990. In 1995, former President Bill Clinton appointed her to the National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention.

At CDU, we recognize and welcome the knowledge that we cannot afford to count women out—in fact, we know that we need to be deliberate in ensuring we attract significant numbers of women to STEM fields, as well as ensuring there are ample opportunities for them to assume positions of leadership. History has demonstrated that this is not always been an easy task, nor a popular one, but it has also clearly demonstrated that diversity of thought, life experiences and skills are of great value to any organization. CDU is proud to honor the past, present and future contributions of the women of our campus community during this month, and each month moving forward.

As a health professions institution of higher education founded on the principles of social justice and equity for all people, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science declares its unequivocal support for the Asian, Asian American and Pacific Islander American Community in the wake of the heartbreaking shootings in Atlanta earlier this month. We are keeping the families and friends of those killed so tragically in our thoughts and prayers.



2021 President's Breakfast Welcomes Angela Davis

Noted activist, author and educator Angela Davis was the featured guest speaker at CDU's sixth annual President's Breakfast, presented by Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, on Monday, March 22. This year's topic for the President's Breakfast, "The Intersection of Accountability and Social Justice: Leveraging Philanthropy in an Era Focused on Racial Equity," centered on racial disparity in today's funding environment and the impact of philanthropy on racial equity, as well as the role of corporations and foundations role in promoting diversity and inclusion.

CDU President/CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle served as moderator of the hour-long conversation, which also served as the kick-off event of the University's newest virtual series, the CDU Leadership Summit, a four-part quarterly series seeking to educate, engage and equip participants with information on corporate philanthropy, social justice, as well as research and health education in Black and Latinx populations.

For more information on future Leadership Summit events, please [click here](#), or visit www.cdrewu.edu/pb-leadershipseries.

Prior to beginning the conversation, Dr. Carlisle clarified the difference between charity and philanthropy, noting that charity looks to solve immediate issues while philanthropy is more strategic and geared towards achieving long-term solutions. "Whether we are pursuing our philanthropic endeavors on behalf of institutions or as individuals, we must ensure that we are doing so with the intention of making a true difference in the world we live in, and not just to participate in charity for charity's sake," he said.



"If corporate philanthropy is to be truly effective, then the strategies of corporate philanthropy should be designed to ensure its ultimate obsolescence. I say this because [although] many of us benefit from capitalism, it is in many ways the root of the problem," Davis said, citing the current COVID-19 pandemic as an example of highlighting systemic inequities in healthcare due to the privatization of the industry. "I say this as someone who remembers the rise of global capitalism in the 1980s, and as someone who remembers a time when anyone could go just about anywhere to receive healthcare."

"Having said that, there are philanthropists that are doing very important work," she continued, noting that in higher education especially, philanthropy allows students to pursue their studies when they would otherwise not be able to afford it. "At the same time, we must imagine a future in which that is no longer necessary, and where people can learn because they're passionate about learning and sharing information. We have to look at radical solutions and question the fact itself that education has been turned into a commodity."

In previous conversations, Davis has questioned the authenticity of corporate diversity initiatives, arguing that society's focus should instead be on dismantling the systems that necessitate the need for these initiatives in the first place. She expanded those statements at the President's Breakfast, explaining that while she was not opposed to diversity, she was realistic in her expectations that any legitimate effort to dismantle these systems would be a protracted one. "I've often pointed out that the work we've been doing [during the 20th and 21st centuries] should have been initiated in the immediate aftermath of slavery, instead of assuming that the legal abolition of slavery was enough," she said. "Often times, institutions assume that the primary way to address racism is to bring those who have been previously marginalized into the fold without attempting to examine what [aspects of] the institution created these problems of racist exclusion in the first place."

Further, she noted, social justice issues are intersectional and should not be viewed as standalone issues. "As we go about the work of creating the possibility for social justice in certain areas, we will become aware of issues in areas that we had not previously recognized. There is no racial justice if we ignore gender injustice and economic inequalities," she explained. "There's no way that we, as individuals, can address every issue needed to attain social justice, but what we can do is recognize how broad the framework is."

Medical Professionals Reflect on COVID-19 One Year Later at Community Forum



CDU hosted its seventh virtual Community Forum via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, March 25, featuring CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle; Dr. Jerry Abraham, Epidemiologist at Kedren Community Health Center; Dr. Oliver T. Brooks, Chief Medical Officer at Watts HealthCare Corporation; and Dr. Sharon Cobb, Director of the RN-BSN program in the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. The interactive discussion, moderated by special assistant to the President Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, discussed COVID-19's continued impact on communities of color as more vaccine doses become available in the United States, as well as what to do to stay safe as we begin to emerge from the devastation caused by COVID-19.



Dr. Carlisle began the conversation by defining herd immunity, which occurs when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, whether through vaccination or previous infections, thereby reducing the likelihood of infection for individuals who lack immunity. "Historically, about 70% of the population must be immunized against an infectious agent in order to prevent it from spreading. To achieve that, the population needs to embrace the need for vaccination."



Dr. Cobb emphasized the importance of continued community engagement throughout the vaccination rollout, particularly in communities of color. "We've seen that our increased efforts to decrease vaccine hesitancy in under-resourced groups, especially in African American and Latinx communities, have been successful," she said. Resolving this issue of reluctance allowed public health officials to begin focusing on another issue: a lack of access to vaccination sites.



Alongside CDU Community Faculty member Dr. Rev. Joe Waller and the L.A. County Department of Public Health, Dr. Cobb recently completed an initiative to sign up 190 L.A.-area churches as vaccination sites. "We're seeing an increase in faith-based communities who want to get involved in equitable distribution," she said.

Dr. Abraham spoke of his work pioneering a vaccination distribution program at Kedren Community Health Center, which increased the number of vaccinations by allowing members of the community to bypass socioeconomic barriers such as lack of access to transportation and technology. There were challenges, he acknowledged, such as individuals from more affluent neighborhoods occupying appointments meant for South LA residents.

Despite this, Kedren currently vaccinates up to 5,000 individuals per day and plans to replicate the program in other communities such as Watts and Compton. "This is a race against time to get the vaccine out and into people's arm as fast as we can so we can end this pandemic," he said. "Most people are now eligible [to receive the vaccine], and we're excited to spread that news, especially in Black and Brown communities throughout Los Angeles."

In light of recent news that pharmaceutical companies began including children in clinical trials for the vaccine, Dr. Brooks offered insight on why they were not included in initial trials alongside adults. He explained that vaccines are generally developed for adults and once they are determined to be safe and effective in that population, labs begin to test on a smaller subset of children. "This way, children do not have to go through the same rigorous process as the adults did," he said. Further, he said, children have statistically been less at-risk of dying from the virus than adults. "It's imperative that children are vaccinated, but it was more imperative that the most vulnerable populations were vaccinated first."

Dr. Carlisle also emphasized the social responsibility element of vaccinating and attaining herd immunity against COVID-19 especially. "Individuals that don't want to receive the vaccine must be cognizant of the decision that they're making on behalf of other people they encounter, particularly people in their household," he said. "If someone makes the decision not to vaccinate [against COVID], they are endangering the lives of their loved ones, and that should be one of the strongest messages we convey regarding vaccination."

Another Successful Match Day for the College of Medicine

Thirty-six College of Medicine (COM) graduates, including two from the Class of 2020, joined their peers around the world when they learned where their paths would take them on Match Day, which took place on Friday, March 19, via Zoom.

College of Medicine Dean Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, PhD, gave remarks during the virtual ceremony, commending students for their resiliency and dedication during the most unusual of times. “I do want to acknowledge the work you’ve done as a class – not only in terms of your successful completion of medical education, but also the outreach and volunteer work you’ve done during this pandemic,” she said. “You’ve lived up to fulfilling the vision of this University.”

Over 137 participants attended the virtual ceremony to watch the newly minted physicians announce where they would complete their residencies and celebrate with their loved ones. The top residency matches for this year were in primary care specialties, with 58% of students pursuing fields such as family medicine, internal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology. The remaining 42% will pursue sub-specialties such as emergency medicine, anesthesiology, and orthopedic surgery. Of all CDU students matched, 70% will complete their residencies in California.

“This is truly one of the best Match Day’s we’ve ever had at CDU,” said Daphne Calmes, MD, Associate Dean of the CDU/UCLA Medical Education Program and program emcee.



CDU’s own residency programs in Psychiatry and Family Medicine also welcomed a new cohort of future practitioners this year, with 14 slots in both programs being successfully filled (six for Psychiatry and eight for Family Medicine, respectively). The University also welcomed its first cohort of nine residents for its newest residency program in Internal Medicine:

Family Medicine: Abayomi (Yomi) Adeyemi, MD; Awah Lem Atanga McCormick, MD; Leah Carter, MD; Melanie Chan Cowes, MD; Kirin Escher, MD; Jennifer Le, MD; Shirley Mori, MD, Bhumi Patel, MD

Psychiatry: Jonathan Alaniz, MD; Yasmeen Elmelige, MD; Neelam Grewal, MD; Anum Iqbal, MD; Zhijia (Zack) Liang, MD, MBA; Sarah Motadi, MD, MA; Julie Pham, MD; AnnaLisa Wilson, MD, MPA

Internal Medicine: Brittney Brown, DO; Roderick Eguilos, DO; Vincent Long, MD; Alejandro Cleo Mongalo, MD; Cydney Purificacion, MD; Aaron Taylor, MD; Shakir Ullah, MD; Jerry Umeh, MD; Javier Jimenez, MD

Since the return of medical resident training to the University in July 2018, the programs has produced over 50 physicians who will practice in some of the most medically under-resourced communities of Los Angeles, including Service Planning Area (SPA) 6.. The area continues to be federally designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area and/or a Medically Underserved Area by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.



CDU, SSA-II Instructor Honored by L.A. Clippers Organization with Teaching Appreciation Award

Arneshia Bryant-Horn, MBS '19, MPH '20, an instructor in the Saturday Science Academy-II and College of Science and Health, was nominated by her 5th grade students at South Park Elementary School to be honored by the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team through its Teacher Appreciation Program, which recognizes outstanding teachers for their hard work and dedication.

“When you love what you do, the experiences are enough to keep your heart full,” Bryant-Horn explained. “My STEM students at South Park Elementary school are very special to me, and to know that I am just as special to them gives me clarity and purpose,” she said.

She cites her time as a student at CDU for informing how she interacts with her students today. “[My time at CDU helped me understand] how all of our experiences are somehow connected. Many times, we think that our experiences are ours and ours alone, but that’s not the case. This knowledge helped me strengthen my sense of empathy, compassion and understanding.”

As she continues on her path as an educator, she hopes to continue to inspire her students through the power of representation. “Being a minority science instructor at the collegiate level is rare,” she said. “However, I embrace the challenge of being the change I want to see. With my involvement in education, my continued success is essential because I have to lead by example.

Annual Faculty Award Nominations Open Until April 9

The Academic Senate of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is accepting nominations for the 2021 Outstanding Faculty Awards until Thursday, May 14. Nominations may be made by any member of the University community, including the nominee themselves. A faculty member can only be nominated for one award. The four categories available for nomination are the Outstanding Professor Award, Outstanding Research Award, Outstanding Service Award and the Outstanding Teaching Award.

Nominations for awards should be made by submitting a brief letter addressed to the Academic Senate Ad Hoc Awards Committee, through Melanie Rodriguez, Academic Senate Program Manager at academicsenate@cdrewu.edu. This letter must include the nominee’s name, which award he/she is being nominated for, and a list of evidence that the nominee meets the criteria established for the award (overall, teaching, research, and service accomplishments as appropriate). A significant part of the nominees’ records should have been established while a faculty member at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.



CDU Style Guides Available via Sharepoint

CDU’s Visual Identity and Style Guides, the rules for use of the University’s logo, colors and language, have been updated for 2021, and they have a new, easier-to-find location: SharePoint. Both guides can be viewed and downloaded here: [CDU Visual Identity Guide](#) and [CDU Style Guide](#).

The updates feature new fonts, including Calibri as a new “everyday font,” and additional colors in the palette. The new sections are highlighted in light green.

If you have any questions about these guides or their application, please contact the Office of Strategic Advancement.



Legacy of CDU

“Legacy of CDU” offers readers an intimate look into the rich history of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Special thanks to Robin Schiff

Women’s History at CDU

In honor of Women's History Month, CDU is proud to honor the lives and legacies of five female trailblazers who were vital to the establishment of CDU and expanded medical services in South Los Angeles following the Watts Rebellion: Nola Carter, Caffie Greene, Mary Henry, Lillian Mobley and Johnnie Tillmon.

After the 1965 Watts Rebellion, the McCone Commission report found that inadequate healthcare was a major factor for the civil unrest. All motivated by their love and concern for their community, Carter, Greene, Henry, Mobley and Tillman aligned to fight for a hospital and more extensive medical services for the citizens of South Los Angeles. The result was Martin Luther King Hospital and the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School (later known as CDU), which opened doors for African Americans and other minorities to train in healthcare.

Although these women were primarily regarded as prominent Los Angeles civil rights activists throughout their lives, their influence spanned far beyond Southern California:

- Nola Carter worked with the Neighborhood Adult Participation Program (NAPP), providing social services for homeless youths and later served as director of its Florence-Firestone Center until 1982.
- Caffie Greene worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, helping to organize a local committee to build the Watts Health Foundation, which sponsored community health clinics.
- Mary Henry served on President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty task force, which created the national Head Start program.
- Lillian Mobley was elected a delegate to the 1980 National Democratic Convention. She also served on CDU's Board of Trustees.
- Johnnie Tillmon became the first person to chair the National Welfare Rights Organization and later served as executive director, fighting for the welfare rights of people, particularly women and children.

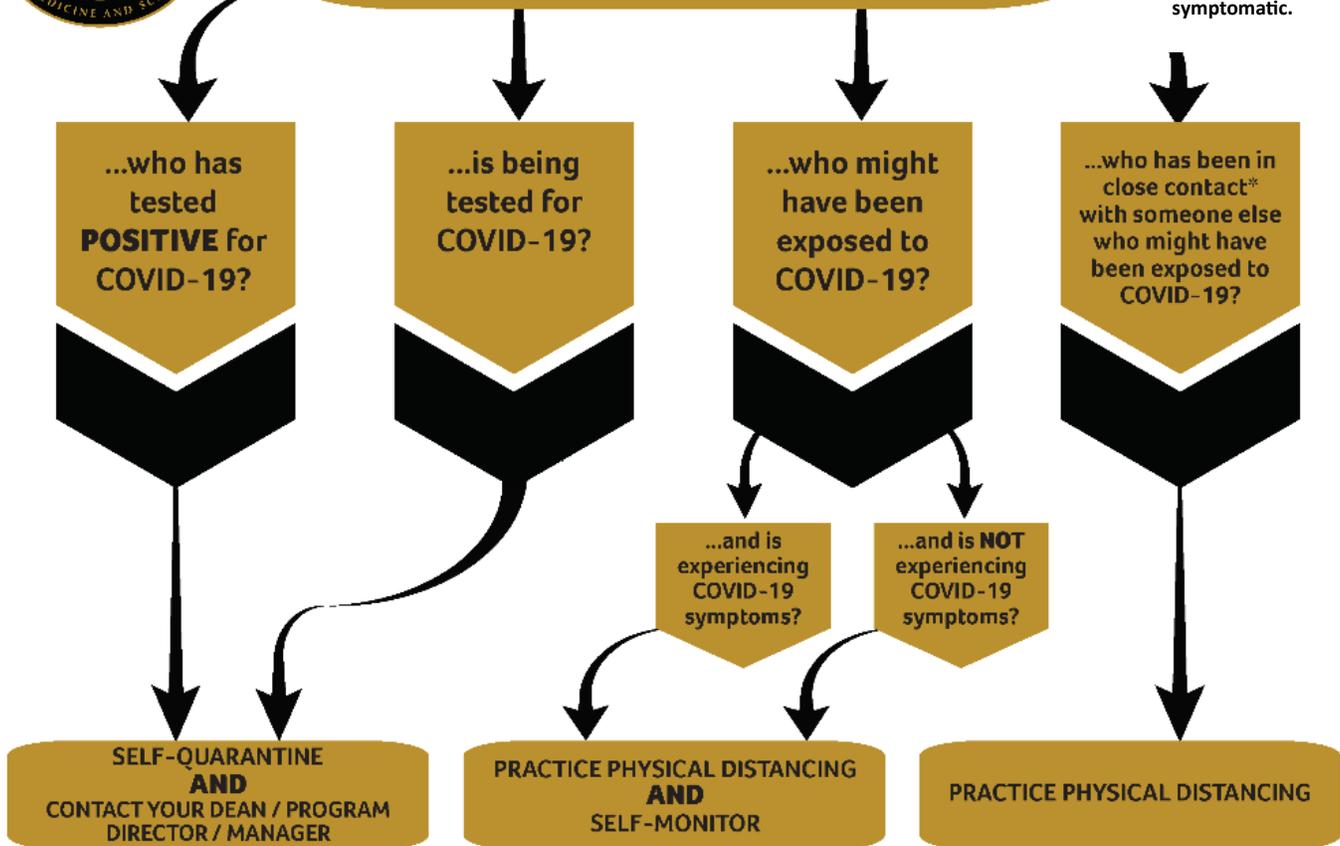
We are pleased to honor their lives and legacies this Women’s History Month and for many more to come.



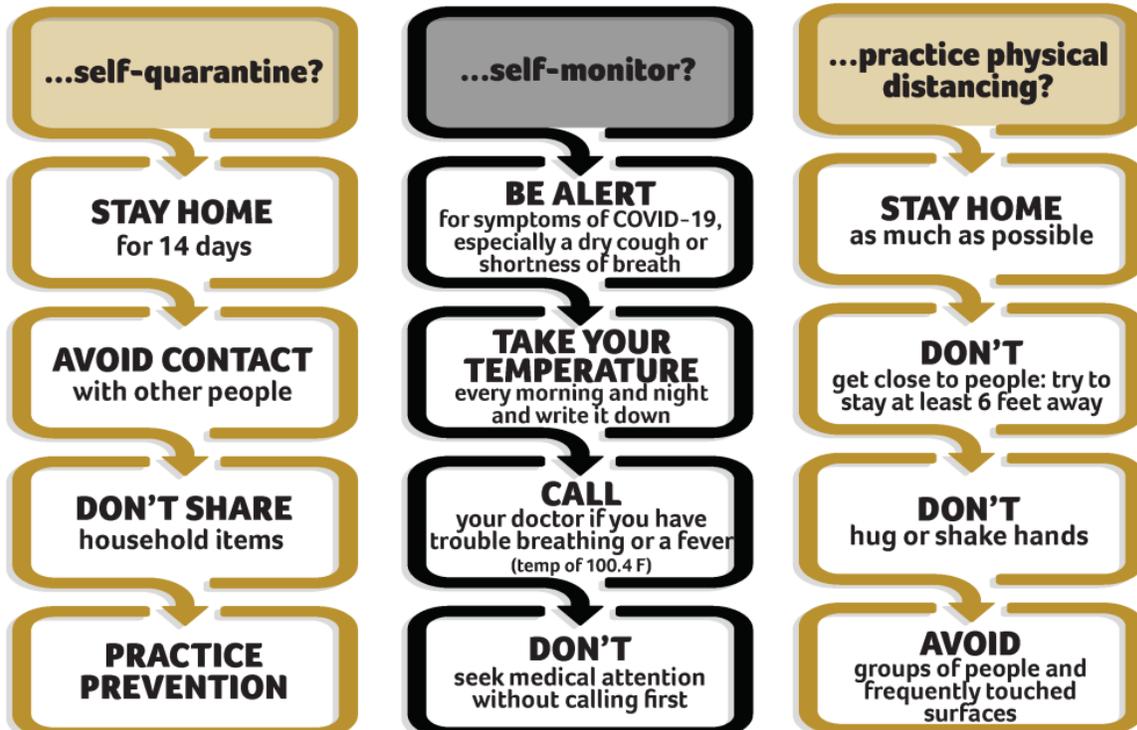
COVID-19: What to do if... I've been in close contact with someone...

What is Close Contact?

People who have been within six (6) feet of for at least 15 minutes within the 48 hours before symptom onset and while symptomatic.



COVID-19: HOW DO I...





In The News

Spectrum 1 News

[Inside the Issues with Alex Cohen - David Carlisle](#) (3/2/2021)

Los Angeles Sentinel

[Black Doctors Launch New Healthcare App](#) (3/4/2021)

Los Angeles Times

[Doctors really want to vaccinate Black people against COVID-19. Unequal access to shots fuels mistrust](#) (3/4/2021)

Bleacher Report

[Anfernee Simons Wins 2021 NBA Slam Dunk Contest; Full Scores and Reaction](#) (3/7/2021)

Quartz

[Access to broadband could affect your healthcare](#) (3/7/2021)

UCLA

[UCLA-led study reveals 'hidden costs' of being Black in the U.S.](#) (3/8/2021)

Yahoo News

[Mike Bloomberg Reflects On Unprecedented Year: If "We Apply What We Have Learned During The Pandemic... We'll Be Able To Build A Safer, Healthier, And Stronger Future For Generations To Come."](#) (3/10/2021)

The Argonaut

[SHARED HARVEST FUND HOSTS CHAT ABOUT DISTRIBUTING VACCINES TO COMMUNITIES OF COLOR](#) (3/10/2021)

San Diego Voice and Viewpoint

[Black Men Face High Discrimination and Depression, Even as Their Education and Incomes Rise](#) (3/11/2021)

Becker's Hospital Review

[How do we operationalize equity? Dr. Alisahah Cole talks CommonSpirit's COVID-19 vaccine strategy](#) (3/16/2021)

APLA Health

[APLA Health Congratulates Becerra on Confirmation as Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (3/18/2021)

BusinessWire

[Henry Schein Furthers Its Commitment to Accelerating Vaccine Equity by Partnering With the Black Coalition Against COVID-19](#) (3/25/2021)

Virginia Tech Daily

[From dean to volunteer activist](#) (3/24/2021)

American Hospital Association

[Joining Hands for Greater Impact: How Hospitals are Partnering to Support their Communities through COVID-19](#) (3/25/2021)

My News LA

[Charles Drew Students Among Those In College COVID-19 Study](#) (3/29/2021)

University Business

[COVID vaccine study includes 12,000 students, 21 colleges](#) (3/29/2021)

Forbes

[Large National Study To Test Moderna Vaccine's Impact On Spread Of Virus Among College Students](#) (3/30/2021)

Montana Standard

[Did racism kill Jackie Robinson?](#) (3/31/2021)

Our Weekly

[Vaccine access is the key to fighting COVID-19 in the Black community](#) (3/31/2021)

Our Weekly

[Vaccine equity in South LA](#) (3/31/2021)



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