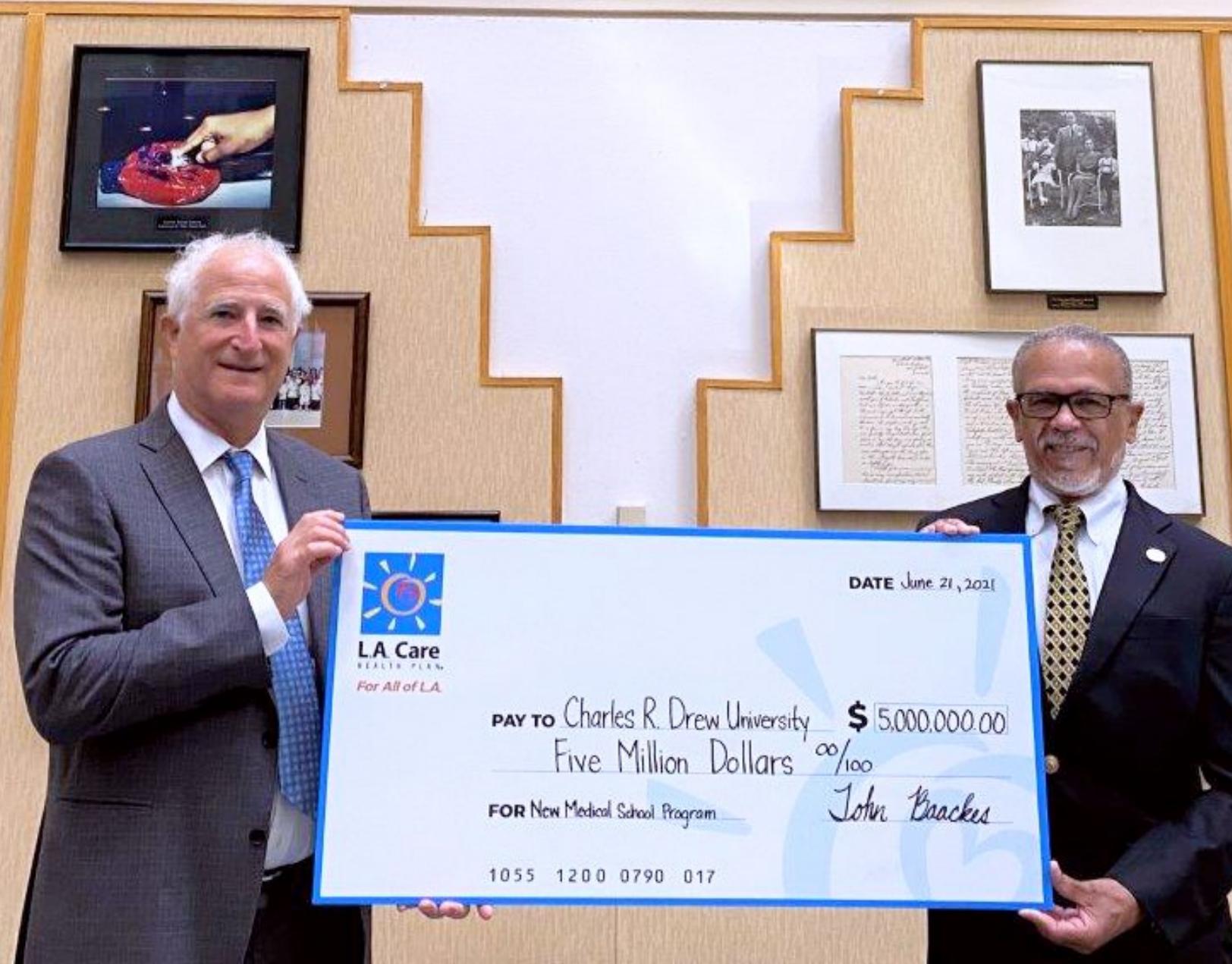


June/July 2021

CDU News

CDU Founding Fathers
Dr. Charles R. Drew
Dr. George Washington
Dr. W. Scarborough
Dr. Donald Smith
Dr. W. Arthur Brown



DATE June 21, 2021

PAY TO Charles R. Drew University \$ 5,000,000.00
Five Million Dollars ⁰⁰/₁₀₀

FOR New Medical School Program John Brackes

1055 1200 0790 017



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

Greetings!

I'd like to start off this special edition of CDU News by extending a hearty "Congratulations" to CDU's Class of 2021! I had the privilege of conferring 489 degrees to the newest group of healthcare professionals on June 7. There is a more extensive graduation feature included in this month's edition, but the accomplishment of earning a degree is to be feted and celebrated multiple times over. Once again, congratulations. You can view the full ceremony [here](#).

Next, I'd like to thank our longtime partner, L.A. Care Health Plan, who committed \$5 million to the development of our new medical school, slated to begin in Fall 2023. The forthcoming medical school at CDU is a clear marker of progression in our institution's 55-year journey, and will serve as a significant step towards improving health outcomes for the residents of South Los Angeles. We are grateful for the support from L.A. Care as we solidify the legacy of CDU, an institution that stands as a beacon of hope in one of the most densely populated and under-resourced urban areas in the nation.

Earlier this month, state legislators approved a budget that would allocate \$50 million to CDU to support the construction of the building that will house our new program, and we are hopeful that Governor Gavin Newsom will sign the budget very soon. Each day, as word of CDU's mission and work spread throughout the nation, more individuals and organizations are recognizing that **Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is a good and worthwhile investment.**

It has certainly been a busy time for the University over the past few months, and I look forward to you reading more about all that we've been up to in this special edition of the newsletter.

As we continue to learn more about the new Delta variant of COVID-19, I'd like to remind everyone to remain diligent and intentional in their way of thinking about COVID. Although we have made significant strides against this pandemic, it is still not over, and we should keep practicing essential public health measures that have been proven effective in preventing the spread of the virus. Those include getting vaccinated when you can; maintaining at least six (6) feet of social distance when in public; wearing a mask; washing your hands frequently; bumping elbows instead of shaking hands; avoiding hand-to-face contact; and coughing or sneezing into the inside of your elbow.

As long as we continue to work together and stay vigilant, I have no doubt that we will be able to defeat COVID-19.

Unfortunately, I must end on a somber note. As you may have heard, our friend and colleague Mr. Ali Roshan passed away unexpectedly on June 4, 2021. Friday, June 4, 2021. He was a treasured and valued member of the CDU family for over 12 years, serving the entire campus by managing the University's website and Broadcast system. Ali will be remembered for his warm spirit, thoughtfulness, and willingness to help and serve anyone without hesitation.

We extend our deepest condolences to the Roshanaei family including his wife Jacinda, his young sons Ryan and Bryan, as well as his friends and colleagues at CDU. We will be hosting a virtual celebration of life for Mr. Roshan on Tuesday, July 13, at 11 a.m. and hope you'll join us via Zoom by [clicking here](#).



2021 Commencement

CLASS QUOTE

Fight for a seat at the head of the table.

Excerpts from Dr. Carlisle's Commencement Remarks

As I look out upon you—virtually—I think it's fair to say that what you had expected to be a memorable year and time in your life has certainly been that—and much more than you, or any of us, had bargained for. Wouldn't you say?

In order to create the hardest-use metal, raw steel is put through a process called “tempering”—that is, it is stressed by being subjected to extremely high heat. While this process actually reduces the hardness of the metal a little, it makes the steel less brittle and more flexible. As a result, it emerges from the process stronger and more resistant to breakage, and thus, better for all applications.

You've been through something similar this last year: You've certainly been stressed by the uncertainty imposed upon us all by the pandemic. It may have caused anxiety or worry for yourself and your family. You may have even questioned whether you'd make it through—healthy and successfully—to the end of this academic year. As you move forward in your lives, education and careers, you may not look back upon this time of pandemic “fondly,” but the experiences you've endured—and I think that's the right word, “endured”—certainly have tested you. And your arrival at this ceremony today is evidence of your success in navigating this trying year. As a result, you've become more resilient—and better for everything you do in life. *You are emerging from the world shaped by COVID a stronger and better generation of healthcare practitioners.*

You're also emerging, at long last, into a world with rays of hope peeking over the horizon. *You are the generation of healthcare practitioners that will lead us into that post-COVID world.*

We're emerging into a post-COVID world in which we're beginning to see that the racial and ethnic health disparities laid bare by the pandemic may finally lead to action. A new administration is taking much more seriously the medical impact of the pandemic, as well as its disproportionate impact on low-income communities of

color. The issues of health inequity and social justice have received substantial media coverage.

Substantive action is likely to be slower than we would like or than it should be, but I think the pandemic has delivered an inflection point on the tremendous lack of health equity in this country, and I think we'll see real changes. It's not just an aspiration anymore. It's coming, and *you are the generation of healthcare practitioners who will lead it.*

As you head out into your careers in this post-COVID world, remember, your calling is a noble one. If the pandemic demonstrated anything, it's the commitment of the health practitioners in this country to provide compassionate care.

You are emerging into a world of medicine that has been dramatically changed by the pandemic we have all experienced. But you are also emerging into a world that has a dramatic need for you like never before.

This nation has a physician and health provider shortage that is growing. For communities of color, the gap is even wider.

It's hard to imagine a time of greater opportunity or need for health professions graduates than this year and the years immediately following.

I know you will make yourselves, your family and the entire CDU Family very proud of you.

Again, congratulations, and I wish you all the best.

2021 Oath and Honors

Each year the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing, College of Science and Health and the College of Medicine celebrate the accomplishments of their newest graduates and wish them well in their journeys to becoming compassionate health professionals.

Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing

Dean's Leadership Award: Miranda Arciaga; Andrea Takayama; Ghada El Masri; Chioma Nkwocha; Jasmin Ramirez; Alondra Santana; Cathlyn Cwiek; Fabian Nunez; Laura Valera-Sanchez; Abel Tiony; Catherine Jimenez; Chinyere Helen Ezeanyim; Johnathan Wayne Devane Shaw; Tanisha Ragland; Agnes Andal Maramba; Leroy Donald Scott; LeTasha Shinisa; Catherine Jimenez; Allana Kathleen Bush; Shamina Mignon Williams; Irene Pocasangre; Nadia Lopez; Brittany Lumpkins

Clinical Excellence Award: Shequila Edwards; Victoria Metzger; Nwankwo Bosah; Tiffany Adaobi White; Arkay Marie Lising; Margaret A. Owaka; Awa Diakite; Allana Kathleen Bush; Kristine Shahinyan; Adriana Ponce

College of Science and Health

Dr. Charles W. Buggs Award: Jose Arambulo; Mohit Bandla; Simran Ghuman; Isaura Macias; Revecca Millan; Breann Michele McAndrew; Shamayah Revis; Rohun Sadeghi; Wendy Shang; Amir Teixeira

Jack Mitchell Award: Nicole Mueske; Jasmin Whitlow

Dr. Raymond Kivel Award: Gabby Preap; Nikesha Williams

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Award: Isaura Macias; Alexandra Novac

Geraldine Burton Branch Scholarship Recipients: Bo Baldomero; Diema Bates; Esmeralda Carrillo; Noemi Gil; Amina Latif; Revecca Millan; Keiyana Morris; Joseph Rincon; Barbara Savage; Jasmin Whitlow

College of Medicine

Dr. Charles R. Drew Award: Mariela Nevarez

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award:

Richard Morgan

Dr. Rebecca Lee Award: Jessica Bodden

Dr. Carlos Consecó González Award: Ruth Miranda

Dr. Geraldine Burton-Branch Award: Diana Lopez

Dr. Mitchell Spellman Award: Kalonji Cole

Cesar Chavez Award: Michael Hernandez

Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias Award: Sarai Santos

Dr. Theodore Q. Miller Peer Advocacy Award: Brenda Iglesias

Dean's Award of Excellence: Stephanie Clavijo

The Dean's Humanism in Medicine Award: Clea Marsh

Dr. Delford Williams III Surgery Award: Janell Holloway

Gold Research Award: Paulina Villanueva

Silver Research Award: Mercedes Scott

Bronze Research Award: Richard Morgan

2021 Commencement Recap



Commencement Speaker: Hon. Senator Holly J. Mitchell

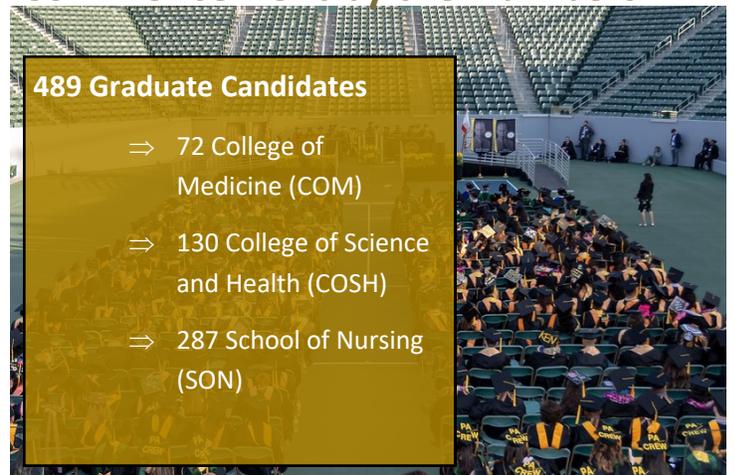
On November 3, 2020, Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell was elected to serve the Second District of Los Angeles County. Throughout her career in public service, Supervisor Mitchell has always worked with the understanding – that creating a California where all residents can thrive – means investing in the communities, families and children of LA County. In her keynote address at this year's Commencement Ceremony, Sen. Mitchell encouraged the Class of 2021 to follow their intuition: "You're going to encounter crossroads in your life that require you to make a decision. Whatever you choose, it will be the right decision as long as you follow your gut."

Student Speaker: Shequila Edwards



Shequila Edwards (College of Science and Health) was the student speaker at this year's ceremony, prefacing her remarks with a quote from former U.S. president Barack Obama: "Don't just get involved. Fight for your seat at the table. Better yet, fight for a seat at the head of the table."

Commencement by the Numbers



Awards and Honors



Michael Bloomberg



Dr. Anthony Fauci



Sen. Holly Mitchell (center)



Dr. Barbara Ferrer (center)

President's Award: Michael R. Bloomberg

The President's Medal recognizes extraordinary service to CDU by a member of the University community who has performed with excellence in his or her profession.

2021 Honorary Doctoral Degree: Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Barbara Ferrer and the Hon. Senator Holly Mitchell

Nominees for the honorary doctoral degree are distinguished in their respective fields and widely recognized. Nominees must have demonstrated intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of the University's mission and higher education, and with the highest ideals of the person's field.



Dr. David Satcher Headlines June Leadership Summit

Dr. David Satcher, 16th Surgeon General of the United States, issued the keynote address at the second installment of the Virtual Leadership Summit on Health Equity and Social Justice on Thursday, June 10, 2021. The topic for the Summit, “Racism as a Public Health Issue,” featured transparent dialogue on how the pervasive nature of racism has profoundly affected not just social outcomes, but health outcomes for communities of color in the United States.

CDU President/CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle served as moderator of the hour-long conversation, which also featured distinguished leaders in addressing health equity, such as Dr. Asif Dhar, Vice Chairman and US Life Sciences and Health Care (LSHC) Industry Leader for Deloitte, LLP; Dr. Sandra R. Hernández, President and CEO of the California Health Care Foundation; Dr. Robert K. Ross, President and CEO for The California Endowment.

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

“In order to eliminate disparities in health, we need leaders who care enough, know enough, will do enough and are persistent enough,” Dr. Satcher said in his keynote remarks, which also provided an overview of racism and public health. He stated that public health is “what we, as a society, do collectively to ensure the conditions that people will be healthy. That’s [a tall order, because] assuring these conditions is not an easy thing to do. “

Prior to beginning the larger conversation, Dr. Carlisle offered clear definitions for “structural racism” and “public health,” noting that the two are inextricably linked—public health is defined as the science of protecting the safety and improving the health of entire populations, and structural racism directly undermines public health efforts by reinforcing discriminatory beliefs, values that affect the distribution of resources. “It’s important that we understand the meaning of these terms going into [this] conversation, because when we can accurately define and add context to the words that make the phrase ‘racism is a public health crisis,’ so significant, we can devise more effective solutions to prevent suffering and promote wellness in communities of color,” he said.

Dr. Dhar offered additional perspective on how racism itself serves as a negative determinant of health outcomes. “Racism is often a root cause of homelessness, poverty, unemployment, violence, poor nutrition and mental health concerns for people of color. Unequal access to medical care has led to poor outcomes these communities, however limited to access to quality education, jobs, healthy food can have even more profound impact,” he said. “Studies have indicated that these non-medical drivers of health can account for approximately 80% of a person’s overall health outcomes.”

Dr. Hernández explained how to effectively use public health data to tell stories clearly and advocate for additional support in communities that need it most. “We’ve committed to using data as a tool for clearly informing systems, leaders and advocates on what the evidence actually indicates. Racial disparities in public health have been well-documented for decades, and what we’ve learned over the years is that you also need personal stories to accompany the data. This helps to uplift the voices of individuals who have historically not been included in important policymaking conversations,” she said. “It’s also important to put that data in the hands of the communities themselves, and make that data actionable to the advocates trying to address systemic inequities.”

Following up on Dr. Hernández’s point, Dr. Ross advocated for organizations to get to the root of systemic issues by being willing to “be proximate to the pain and vulnerability of injustice.” He continued: “The easiest thing to say, but the hardest to do, is center the experiences and wisdom of those most impacted by health injustices and structural racism. If you center their experiences and engage them about strategies moving forward, that is one of the most effective ways to cultivate change.”

[Click here](#) to view the full June Leadership Summit on the CDU YouTube page.

Experts Discuss Discriminations Effects on Health in Communities of Color

CDU hosted its ninth virtual Community Forum via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, June 3, featuring CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle; Rhonda Smith, Executive Director of the CA Black Health Network; and Mr. Michael Browning, Prevention Director at the People Coordinate Services of Southern California, Inc.

The interactive discussion, moderated by special assistant to the President Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, explored the history of how racial discrimination has led to poor social, health and economic outcomes, and how that history presents itself in the present day.

To watch a replay of the most recent Community Forum, [click here](#).



Dr. Carlisle began the conversation by debunking the myth that race is biological. “Race is a social construct that was created to facilitate the oppression of certain populations through racial classification,” he said. “It’s a lingering product of the colonization of many populations of color in centuries’ past. From a physiological standpoint, there are few situations where this social construct is at all relevant but there are social determinants that are affiliated with race.”

Negative determinants of health in communities of color include poor quality housing, lack of access to affordable and healthy foods, lack of access to quality healthcare and more. The pandemic has only exacerbated these inequities, as we have read reports of minorities suffering from disproportionate infection and death rates due to the virus, as well as an initial lack of testing and vaccination sites available in the communities that need them most.



Ms. Smith discussed the steps necessary to truly advance health equity and eliminate disparities. “We tend to focus on addressing health disparities at the individual and community levels, which are important, but there’s not as much emphasis on what is happening at the systemic level. There are policies that benefit people who are *seeking* care, but not policies that address at the system level for individuals who are *providing* care. The investments that had been made in the communities that need them have not been long term.”

This leads to implicit bias and people potentially being treated differently because of the color of their skin. “It transcends any other determinant such as education and income levels, because assumptions get made about a person solely due to the color of their skin,” she said. “This leads to decisions being made about the quality of care a person should receive as a result of those unfortunate assumptions.”



Mr. Browning concurred with Smith’s emphasis on change at the systemic level, because “race plays a role in almost every area of public health. People with power and resources tend to look at the individuals who don’t—usually people of color—as invisible bodies, unless there is an opportunity for profit,” Mr. Browning said. “The construct of race does much more damage to our health than the system itself even realizes, and it’s up to us [as the affected populations] to point those issues out.”



African Americans and Latinos have steadily worked towards closing the educational gap between Whites in recent years. However, studies have shown that even when controlling for income, education and wealth, racial disparities in health remain. “Education is empowerment, but not everyone is equally empowered by education,” Dr. Carlisle said, citing Microsoft founder Bill Gates as an example. “[He] did not go to college and is wildly successful, but not everyone has the advantages that he did. What [disadvantaged communities] have to do is ensure that we are putting our own building blocks and infrastructures in place to create a foundation that young people can use to become successful in the future. We also have to challenge institutions in society directly whenever they fail to honor what it means to be free of prejudice and not practice discrimination.”

Longtime Partner L.A. Care Health Plan Commits \$5 Million to CDU for Upcoming MD Program



L.A. Care Health Plan, the largest publicly operated health plan in the country, announced on June 21, its intentions to commit \$5 million to support CDU's upcoming four-year medical school.

This new grant is a continuation of L.A. Care's partnership with CDU through the Elevating the Safety Net initiative. With more than \$8.4 million in funding from the initiative, CDU has awarded full scholarships to 16 medical students and has funded residents and faculty salaries while expanding its Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Residency Programs.

The new medical school program will train an additional 60 medical students each year. CDU, which has a history of graduating racially diverse students, estimates the new school will increase the number of Black medical graduates in the State of California by approximately 30 percent and Latinx medical students by roughly 20 percent after graduating its first class of 60 medical students in 2027.

L.A. Care's financial commitment will be used to:

- Develop a community health pre-matriculation training experience focused on professionalism and wellness activities for medical students
- Enhancement of the current Simulation Center to offer medical training activities for students and faculty
- Establish a service learning program for medical students to offer certifications as emergency medical technicians, community health workers, and patient navigators
- Establish a center for faculty development to focus on the recruitment, retention, and development of faculty

State Legislators Approve \$50 Million in CA Budget for CDU

In early June, California state legislators approved for \$50 million in the state's annual budget to be allocated to the construction of CDU upcoming health professions education building, which will house the forthcoming four-year medical degree program (*concept art pictured right*).

Should Governor Gavin Newsom sign and approve the budget later this summer, the funding will benefit the state of California by increasing the number of Black and Latino medical graduates in the health care workforce. The University has already contributed significantly to the diversity of the nation's healthcare workforce over the last five decades. More than 70% of University graduates since 2000 are people of color, and a California Wellness Foundation report estimated that one-third of all minority physicians practicing in Los Angeles County are graduates of the CDU medical school and/or residency training programs.



"We are deeply appreciative of this support from the State Legislature and are hopeful for approval from Governor Newsom later this summer. With this funding, CDU aims to increase the number of Black doctors practicing in the State of California by more than 30% and the number of Latinx graduates by nearly 20%," said CDU President and CEO Dr. David Carlisle. "This will not only enhance our attractiveness and reputation as a health professions university, but it will also help us address our mission in a very direct way by providing us the additional resources and infrastructure necessary to train the health professionals who will address the medical needs of the communities where they live and work."

Academic Senate Announces 2021 Outstanding Faculty Award Winners

The Academic Senate of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Outstanding Faculty Awards:

Congratulations to Dr. Roberto Vargas, who was awarded the Outstanding Professor award for the 2021 Outstanding Faculty Awards. Drs. Delia Santana and Ingrid Roberts-Terrell were honored for their service with the “Outstanding Service” and “Outstanding Teaching” awards, respectively. Dr. Magda Shaheen was awarded the “Outstanding Research” award.

The Outstanding Professor award is given to those who exemplify excellence in teaching, research, and/or community service.

The Outstanding Service award was awarded to Dr. Santana for her dedicated service to the University that furthers the CDU mission.

The Outstanding Research, established in 2017, recognizes faculty members for dedicated research conducted through the University.

Lastly, the Outstanding Teaching award was posthumously awarded to Dr. Roberts-Terrell in honor of her outstanding teaching contributions to the University that further the institution’s mission.



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

Legacy Lookback: CDU’s Olympic Heroes Answer the Call

Twenty-five years ago this month, CDU emergency medicine residents Andrew Khan, DO, and David Loya, MD, were two of the first responders at the scene of the bombing that took place in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Summer Olympics. Drs. Loya and Khan, who also served as Emergency Medicine physicians at the former King-Drew Hospital at the time, were among 12 physicians chosen from 400 applicants to work the Games that year.

At the time of the blast on July 27, 1996, which left 111 injured and two dead, the two men were initially two blocks away concluding another celebration. When the bomb detonated, they both sprang into action and ran to the scene on foot with bags full of basic medical supplies. Ultimately, Drs. Loya and Khan treated about a dozen patients each at the scene, with most suffering from severe shrapnel injuries. Dr. Loya acknowledged the fear that he and his colleague felt as they neared the scene, figuring that "the little bomb might be a way of gathering a bunch of people to then set off a bigger bomb."

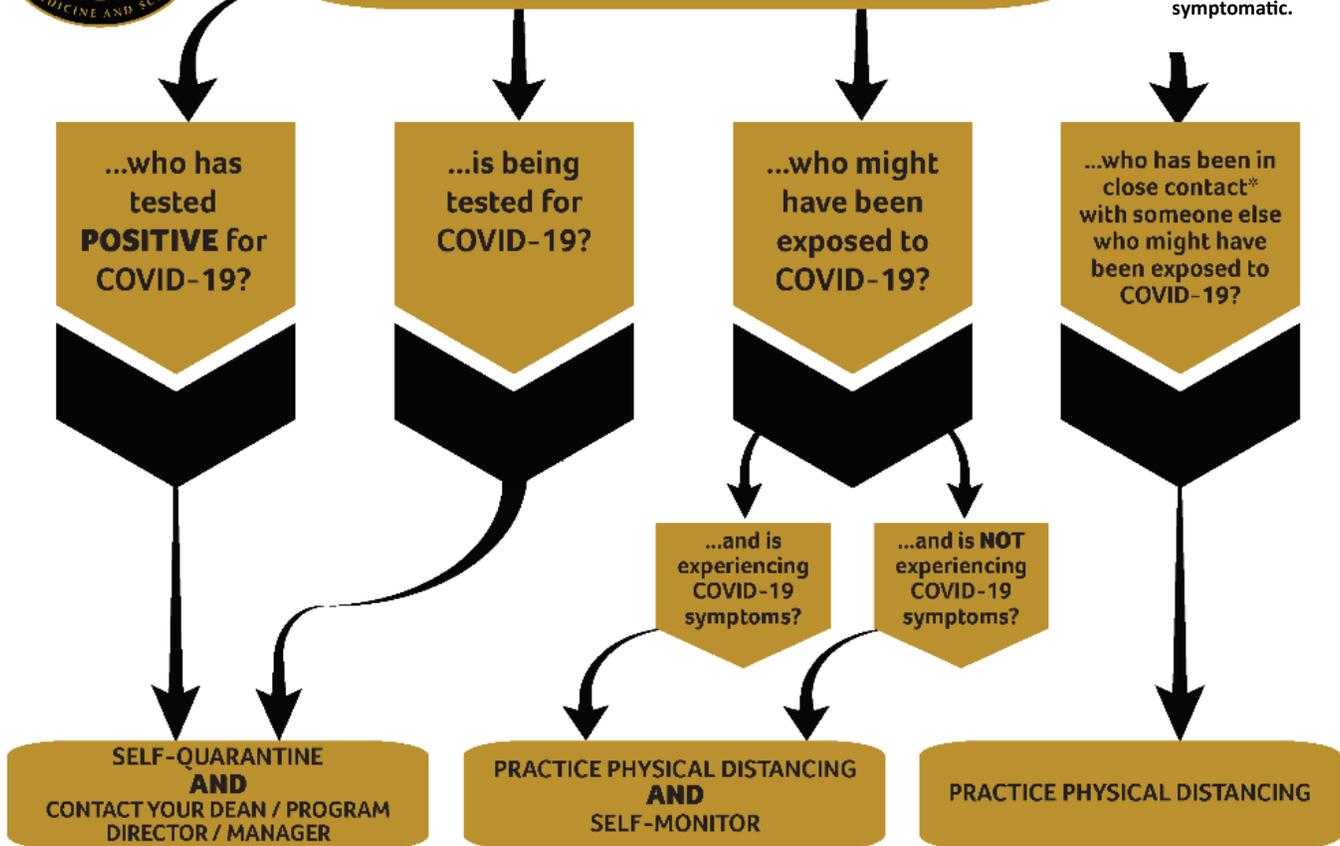
However, in the face of their fear, Drs. Loya and Khan remembered to rely on their training. "You do this at the hospital all the time," Dr. Loya said in a 1996 interview. "But in this situation, I felt like I was making a unique contribution. There was no one else who could do it." As a result of their heroism, they received numerous accolades including citations from then-Mayor Richard Riordan, City of Los Angeles and then-County Superintendent Yvonne Brathwaite Burke as well as recognition from President Bill Clinton.



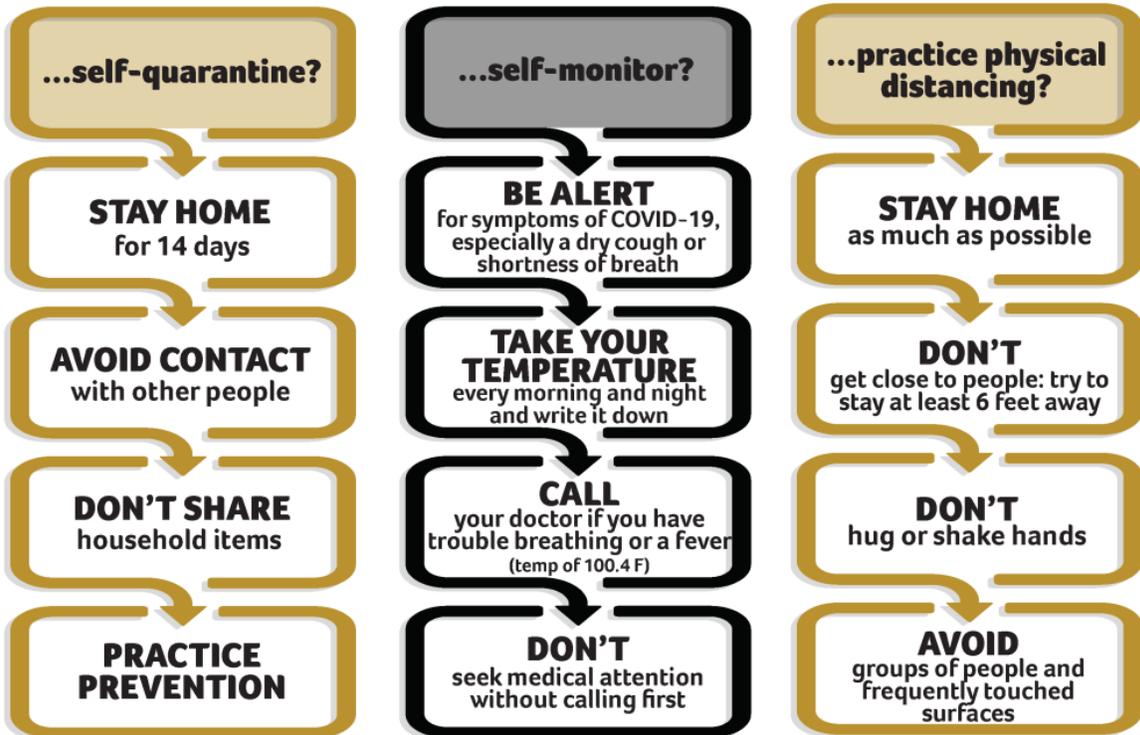
COVID-19: What to do if... I've been in close contact with someone...

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

Globe Newswire

[Thurgood Marshall College Fund and Association of College and University Educators Launch National Initiative to Strengthen HBCU Online and Blended Instruction](#) (6/8/2021)

UCLA News

[A Vision of Equity in Public Health](#) (6/10/2021)

My News LA

[LA Care Health Plan Commits \\$5 Million To New South LA Medical School Program](#) (6/21/2021)

Long Beach Patch

[\\$5 Million Donation To Support South LA Medical School](#) (6/21/2021)

Daily News

[LA Care Health Plan Commits 5 Million to New South LA Medical School](#) (6/21/2021)

Daily Breeze

[\\$5 million given to CDU program that aims to increase Black and Latino medical student graduates](#) (6/21/2021)

NBC 4 Los Angeles

[LA Care Health Plan Commits \\$5 Million to New South LA Medical School Program](#) (6/21/2021)

Science Magazine

[Expanded Prevent COVID U Study Also Includes Adults 18-29 Who Are Not Affiliated With A University](#) (6/22/2021)

Diverse Issues in Higher Education

[Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Receives \\$5 Million for Medical School Program](#) (6/24/2021)

Business Wire

[L.A.'s BLACK AIDS Monument \(BAM\) to Be Unveiled on Nat' HIV Testing Day](#) (6/25/2021)

Our Weekly

[Charles Drew University receives funding for new medical school program in South LA](#) (6/30/2021)

LA Sentinel

[Senator Bradford Secures More than \\$130 Million in Direct, Equitable Investments for His District in the State Budget](#) (7/1/2021)

ABC 7

['Alarming' rise in COVID hospitalization rates seen among Black residents in LA County: Officials](#) (7/6/2021)

KTLA 5

[KTLA 5 Segment - Dr. Shiela Young](#) (7/6/2021)



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