



Advanced Practitioner  
Society for Hematology  
and Oncology

# APSHO AP Academy

# Confronting Structural Racism and Advancing Health Equity

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# Disclosures

- F. Diane Barber has no relevant financial disclosures



# Learning Objectives

1

Define racism and summarize its impact on patient care.

2

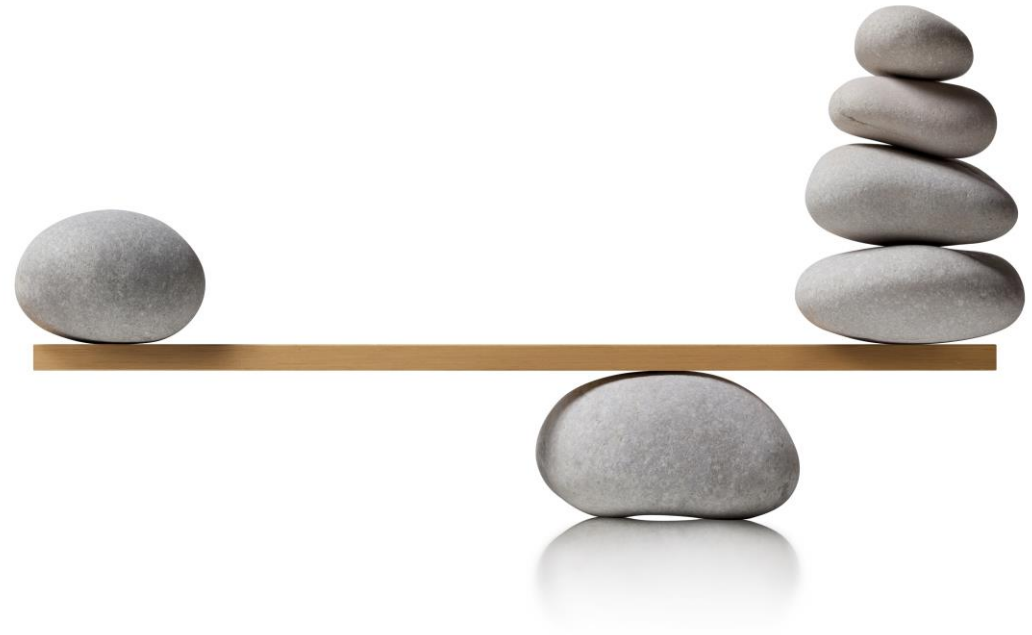
List different types of historical structural racism.

3

State the role of the AP in dismantling structural racism.

“Not everything that is  
faced can be changed, but  
nothing can be changed until  
it is faced.”

*James Baldwin*



# Introduction

## Social Determinants of Health



# Types of Racism

- **Individual**

- Negative interactions between individuals in their institutional roles or as public or private individuals based on individual characteristics (e.g., age, race, gender, etc.).

- **Structural**

- Macro-level conditions that limit opportunities, resources, and well-being of less privileged groups.

# Individual Racism

Individual subconscious attitudes, beliefs, prejudices, and stereotypes regarding ethnicity, age, race, sexuality, ability, and gender.

Influence judgement and unintentionally contribute to discriminatory behavior.

Involves both favorable and unfavorable assessments of an individual or groups of people.



# Structural Racism

Laws, rules, and practices, that are sanctioned and implemented by our government and embedded in our economic, cultural, and societal norms.

Structured to advantage the White population and disadvantage racial and ethnic minority populations.

(Bailey, Feldman, & Bassett, 2021)

# Historical Impact of Structural Racism in Healthcare

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Slavery

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Eugenics

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Jim Crow laws/social policies

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Segregation

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Redlining (long-lasting impact on social determinants of health)

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Targeting African Americans (Tusgekee; H.Lacks)

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Manifest Destiny 19<sup>th</sup> century

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Chinese Exclusion Act 1882

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# Slavery

In 1619, slavery was commercialized, racialized, and inherited.

Enslaved Africans and their descendants were viewed as commodities to be bought, sold, and exploited.

Largely accepted/tolerated as a necessary social and economic institution that was protected in law and custom in the Antebellum South.

Slavery was abolished on December 6, 1865, in the United States with the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Slavery facilitated racist beliefs that enslaved people had animal-like inferiority to justify the dehumanization and exploitation of slaves.

Legacy: residential segregation that limits access to quality healthcare, food, housing, education, and employment.

(Crane, LeBaron, Phung, et al., 2022)

# Eugenics

A set of racist beliefs and practices that aimed to improve the genetic quality of a human population by selective breeding, sterilization, and other forms of population control.

This ideology contributed to atrocities involving Jewish people in Nazi Germany, mass sterilization and institutionalization of marginalized people in numerous countries.

Thirty-three states passed laws permitting eugenic sterilization in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In California, from 1909 to 1979, 20,000 sterilizations occurred in state mental institutions.

In 1927, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that forced sterilization of the handicapped did not violate the U.S. Constitution.

Twenty-five to fifty percent of Native Americans were sterilized between 1970-1976.

Over 8,000 people were sterilized through the North Carolina Eugenics Board, nearly 5000 were African American.

# Jim Crow Era (1877 to 1954)

The federal government sponsored and supported racially separate but unequal distribution of resources such as housing, education, healthcare, and employment between white and black people.

The segregation principle extended to transportation, parks, cemeteries, theaters, and restaurants.

Racial caste system in which Black Americans occupied the lowest rank.

The Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, 1964, 1968, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was supposed to end unequal treatment of African Americans in the United States.

Legacy: Persistent racial inequalities in wealth, income, employment, and healthcare, which results in racial disparities in access to healthcare and health status.

# Segregation

Refers to the occupancy of different neighborhood environments by race that was developed in the United States to ensure that whites resided in separate communities from blacks.



Deemed illegal with the passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. However, many African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians still live in segregated neighborhoods.



## Legacy:

Increased exposure to physical and chemical hazards.

Increased prevalence and co-occurrence of chronic and acute psychosocial stressors.

Increase risk of preterm birth for U.S. born and foreign-born black women.

Later-stage diagnosis, elevated mortality and lower survival rates for both breast and lung cancer for blacks.

(Williams, Lawrence, & Davis, 2019)

# Redlining



Introduced by the U.S. government in the 1930s.



Practice of systematically denying various services (credit access, mortgage loans) to residents of specific neighborhoods, based on race/ethnicity and primarily within urban communities.



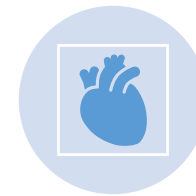
Lead to housing segregation and decades of disinvestment in health care, schools and other basic services and infrastructure.



Officially discontinued in the 1940s.



Legacy persists with redlined neighborhoods having higher poverty rates, lower-performing schools, lower social mobility, greater exposure to extreme heat, fewer parks, high gentrification rates, and more hazardous industrial facilities.



Linked to increased risk of diabetes, hypertension, and early mortality due to heart disease.

(Egede, Walker, Campbell, & et al., 2023; Kyere, E., 2022)

# Tuskegee Study

## Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in African-American Men (1932 to 1972).

- A research study that for forty years passively monitored hundreds of adult African-American men with syphilis despite the availability of effective treatment.
- Participants were denied standard of care (penicillin); discouraged from seeking medical care outside of the study; subjected to blood draws, spinal taps, and autopsies by the study's white medical staff.

## Legacy in African American Community:

- Medical mistrust.
- Avoidance in seeking healthcare.
- Wariness of public health campaigns.
- Low participation in clinical trials, organ donations, and routine preventive care.

(Alsan & Wanamaker, 2018)



# Henrietta Lacks Story

Henrietta Lacks Story: a black woman with cervical cancer, who died in 1951.

- Doctors at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland took samples of her cancerous cells while diagnosing and treating the disease. They gave her tissue to a researcher without her knowledge or consent.
- Lack's cells turned out to have an extraordinary capacity to survive and reproduce (HeLa) cells.
- Doctors and scientists repeatedly failed to ask her or her family for consent as they shared Lack's medical records to the media and published her cell's genome online.
- Biotechnology and other companies profited from her cells, yet the family did not receive any compensation.

Legacy:

- Currently, the system for protecting human research participants does not require consent for deidentified biospecimens obtained from clinical practice.

(Wolinetz & Collins, 2020)

# Manifest Destiny

The idea that the U.S. (European colonists) had the God-given right and destined to expand its territories and ideals across the North American continent.

Coined in 1845 by John L. O'Sullivan, a magazine editor, who wrote about the annexing of Texas and the inevitability of American expansion.

Used to validate the Westward Expansion the acquisition of Oregon, Texas, New Mexico, and California before the Civil War and was used to justify the removal of Native Americans from their ancestral homeland.

Legacy:

Policies were created to destroy Native American ways of life, cultural practices, traditional languages, spiritual beliefs, ceremonies, and family systems.

Native Americans were forced into the bottom social strata of European settlements or retreated into remote and barren lands where they struggled to survive and were plagued with ongoing health problems.

# The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

- First law in United States history to restrict the immigration of people of a specific racial or ethnic group.
- Repealed in 1943 because the United States (U.S.) wanted China as an ally in its war against Japan.
- Legacy:
  - Immigration policies that ban specific ethnic refugees, increase border security and interior enforcement, expand deportation and expedite removal.
  - Under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, unauthorized immigrants and most authorized immigrants with less than 5 years of US residency are excluded from receiving federally funded benefits.
  - Unauthorized immigrants have been excluded from participation in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).
  - Lower rates of preventive care and worse long-term health outcomes for immigrants.

(Stanton, 2020; Wilson & Stimpson, 2020)

# Impact of Racism on Patient Care

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Inadequate patient assessments

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Inappropriate diagnoses and treatment decisions

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Decrease time involved in patient care

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Insufficient follow-up after hospitalization

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Decrease patient treatment adherence

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Diminish trust in healthcare providers

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Less compassion for certain patients

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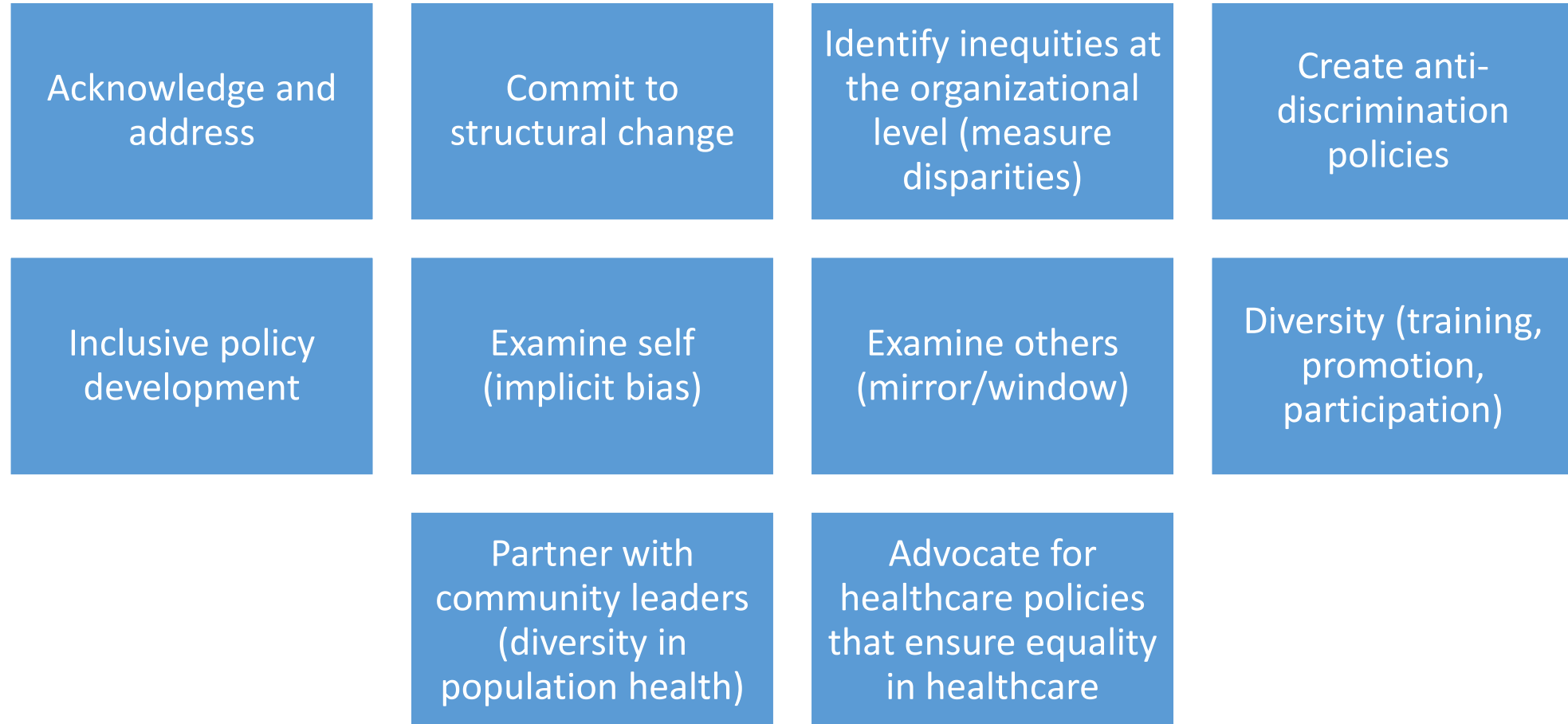
Poor patient-clinician interactions and communication

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(Mayden, 2021; Williams, Lawrence, & Davis, 2019)



# Dismantling Structural Racism (Role of AP)



(Mayden, 2021; Sabin, 2022)

# Resources for the AP

- Professional organizations (APSHO, ASCO, ONS)
- Online webinars, courses, and training modules
- Books and Articles
  - ***Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People*** - Mahzarin R. Banaji & Anthony G. Greenwald
  - ***Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*** - Jennifer L. Eberhardt
  - ***Sway: Unravelling Unconscious Bias*** - Pragma Agarwal
- Partner organizations
  - Color of Change, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Equal Justice Initiative, Kirwin Institute, Race Forward, and Southern Poverty Law Center

# Summary of Key Points

Historical structural racism continues to perpetuate inequitable access to high-quality health care today.

Change will only come from intentional and sustained efforts to dismantle the legacy of historical structural racism.

# Thank you!

You may now proceed to the post-test questions





# Question # 1

- Racism may affect patient care in several ways except for:
  - A. Decrease patient treatment adherence.
  - B. Diminish compassion for certain patients.
  - C. Increase patient-clinician interactions and communication.
  - D. Decrease referrals to clinical trials
  
- Answer: C



# Question #2

- Examples of Structural racism includes all the following except for:
  - A. Jim Crow Laws and Policies
  - B. Redlining
  - C. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882
  - D. Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution
  - F. Manifest Destiny
  
- Answer: D



# Question #3

- The AP can assist in dismantling structural racism by examining self and others.
  - A. True
  - B. False

- Answer: True

