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**2020 Public Health Ethics Forum: Ethical Dilemmas in Rural Health**

**Friday, April 17, 2020**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

**Tom Harkin Global Communications Center**

**1600 Clifton Road, N.E. Atlanta, GA 30333 USA**

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**Graduate Student Poster and Tribal Colleges and Universities Contest  
Call for Poster Abstracts**

**Submission deadline: Friday, March 6, 2020**

Since 2015, the National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University and the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have co-hosted the annual Public Health Ethics Forum on CDC's main campus. The initial forum commemorated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of National Negro Health Week by Dr. Booker T. Washington – founding president of, then, Tuskegee Institute. This year, the forum will examine ethical issues that must be addressed in planning and implementing public health programs intending to improve health outcomes in rural areas, particularly among minority populations.

There are documented disparities in rural areas, particularly among minority populations. Selected topics/domains that have been examined are as follows: (a) barriers and solutions to accessing health care services and physical determinants of rural health; (b) the natural, physical, and built environment (such as physical activity, limited access to public parks, obesity, geographic isolation, improper waste disposal, extractions of natural resources, roadside dumping; water pollution, etc.); (c) environmental justice issues such as toxic waste sites and water pollution; (d) ethical approaches for addressing mental and social health issues; (e) the prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse such as opioids, methamphetamine, as well as vaping issues; and (f) assessing racial/ethnic disparities in the prevalence of obesity, cancer mortality rates, and injury deaths from motor vehicle crashes, firearms, and suffocation. Structural and other barriers contribute to noted disparities in such domains, and perceived inaction to address them gives rise to public concerns of tolerance for largely preventable health inequities. The 2020 Public Health Ethics Forum will bring these and other structural ethical considerations and dilemmas to the forefront and will identify practical ways that public health practitioners can engage with other sectors to advance health equity in rural areas and minority populations.

Students enrolled in graduate schools and programs and Tribal Colleges and Universities with majors or concentrations in public health, public policy, education, criminal justice, social work, psychology or any discipline providing a relevant frame for analyzing ethical issues in rural areas

and minority populations are invited to submit an abstract describing research they are conducting or have conducted. This research must be able to be presented in a poster format. The content of the abstract should focus on ethical issues that underlie the delivery of public health programs focused on rural areas and populations. The abstract can focus on topics regarding rural areas and minority populations including, but not limited to, the following: contextual factors, SES, nutrition (e.g., food insecurity, access to healthy foods), substance use (e.g., alcohol, opioids, methamphetamine, as well as vaping issues), factors in the social and physical environment that create barriers to healthy lifestyles and choices, cultural influences, geography (rural vs. urban), generational change, social determinants of health, access to health care, surveillance, (mis)trust in providers and systems, fairness, as well as adverse childhood experiences. The abstract/poster content is not limited to initial or first-time offerings and can include content previously presented at other local, state, or national conferences. All posters will be evaluated by judges with relevant expertise using vetted criteria during the scientific poster session. The three top poster presenters will be provided an opportunity to further illustrate their work by presenting orally during a session recognizing their achievements. There will be no registration fees required for participation in the forum activities. We are in the process of reserving a block of rooms at a hotel for forum participants.

### **Abstract Requirements**

The abstract should be in MS Word, double-spaced, 12-point font Times New Roman. All abstracts must follow the structured format below:

- Background: Study objectives, hypothesis, or a description of the problem;
- Methodology: Study design, including a description of participants, procedures, measures, and appropriate statistical analyses;
- Results: Specific results in summary form; and
- Conclusions: Description of the main outcome of the study or the intended outcome with supporting data.

Abstracts are limited to a maximum of 275 words, including subheadings. Author(s) must provide 4 to 6 descriptive keywords. All abstracts will be peer reviewed and should be clearly written, well structured, error free, in an appropriate format, and formal scientific tone. Notification of the abstract review status will be sent by March 16, 2020. The top ten (10) abstracts will be accepted for a poster presentation. Because of limited resources, CDC will only be able to provide the cost of travel and accommodations for six students outside the Atlanta area who have been selected to present poster presentations during the 2020 Public Health Ethics Forum. However, students from all regions of the country are encouraged to submit abstracts. Submission of an abstract is considered acknowledgement that if accepted, the author will register for and attend the 2020

Public Health Ethics Forum to present the poster. While faculty members and professionals may serve as advisors to the students as they are preparing their abstract/paper, faculty members and professionals may not serve as co-authors. We are asking that only students serve as authors and co-authors. CDC and Tuskegee University researchers and practitioners, as well as forum presenters and the top three poster abstract winners will be encouraged to submit a paper for publication in the Journal of Healthcare, Science and the Humanities at Tuskegee University.

Abstracts must be submitted as an email attachment with the subject line “Abstract Submission—Student Poster Competition 2020 Public Health Ethics Forum” to: [keh2@cdc.gov](mailto:keh2@cdc.gov) by Friday, **March 6, 2020 by 5:00 PM EST**. Any questions related to the Call for Abstracts should be directed to Dr. Karen Bouye at [keh2@cdc.gov](mailto:keh2@cdc.gov) or by phone at 770-488-8199. When submitting abstracts, please submit your contact information (complete name, phone number, and email address). Submissions should include the following in the email subject line: “Abstract Submission—Student Poster Competition 2020 Public Health Ethics Forum”.