



MOORE INSTITUTE

SUMMER 2020

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2020 has been nothing short of dramatic

A novel virus is impacting the entire globe, disrupting economies, employment and everyday life for millions of people. The murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers set off a long-overdue reckoning with the structural racism built into the very fabric of our nation. We as Americans are pausing to consider how our founding ideals of liberty and justice should be reconciled with the current environment. All of this will have lasting impacts on this generation and the next.

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NUTRITION OREGON CAMPAIGN



COVID-19 pandemic brings groups together to address community food insecurity

OHSU-led Nutrition Oregon Campaign provides structure for Ontario, Oregon community to rally around a common cause

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many cracks in society's safety net systems. It's also brought out some of the best of humanity. In one small eastern Oregon town, the pandemic has been the driving force to unite multiple organizations around a common community need: addressing the rising rates of food insecurity, or a lack of enough food for an active, healthy life.

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Racism contributes to COVID-19 susceptibility in communities of color

Looking deeper into the question of why communities of color experience higher rates of COVID-19 can be like pulling at a thread that unravels the sweater. Once you start seeing how everything is connected, it all comes undone. One thing leads to another, and soon all the underlying threads point to an entirely predictable situation: it's not race that is the risk factor, but *racism*.

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Early life nutrition part of NIH research plan for first time

The nation's leading scientific research organization, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), included the role of nutrition during pregnancy and early life in their recently released nutrition research strategic plan. This is the first time it's been included.

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Boys live dangerously in the womb

[Risky growth strategy can lead to hypertension later in life](#)

In the womb, boys have a more dangerous growth strategy than girls. Boys grow more rapidly and invest less in placental growth, putting them at risk of becoming undernourished if maternal nutrients become scarce during pregnancy. Since the placenta both nourishes the baby and sustains itself, banking on adequate nutrition from the mother in lieu of a larger placenta is a risky strategy.

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WHAT WE'RE READING

[States Keep Failing Black People](#) The New York Times | May 13, 2020

[The Nutrition Crisis of COVID-19 will be Even Worse Than the Disease](#) Washington Post | May 24, 2020

[It's Not Obesity, It's Slavery](#) The New York Times | May 25, 2020

[COVID-19 Has Heightened the Threat of Child Hunger, While Efforts to Prevent It Have Fallen Short](#) U.S. News & World Report | June 16, 2020

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3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd. Portland, OR, 97239, US

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