



Belong | Include | Empower



Dear OHSU School of Medicine Community:

Greetings and welcome to the first issue of the SoM Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism (DEI&A) Newsletter.

This newsletter, emailed the first of every month, will provide resources on DEI&A initiatives in the school and highlight outstanding colleagues.

#### **Our goal**

We wish to support departments, centers and institutes with opportunities to continue to learn, engage and advance our efforts in alignment with institutional goals as defined in the [OHSU School of Medicine DEI & Anti-Racism Strategic Plan](#).

The newsletter builds on a monthly update and resources that we have already been making available (and will continue to make available) on the [School of Medicine Diversity & Equity website](#).

The DEI&A newsletter will be a key tool for us to roll out and implement the school's DEI&A plan, which many faculty members helped create through the [SoM Diversity Affairs Committee](#).

It is my hope that this monthly all-SoM newsletter will be read by students, staff, faculty and other community members to enrich our knowledge and advance our understanding of DEI&A.

#### **Community of practice**

We invite school members to share ideas or contributions by emailing to [somdiversity@ohsu.edu](mailto:somdiversity@ohsu.edu) so that we can build a community of practice together. Co-creating one SoM DEI&A Newsletter for the school will increase alignment and shared impact across our mission areas.

I look forward to continuing to serve as a resource and a partner.

Sincerely,

Leslie Garcia, M.P.A.  
Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
OHSU School of Medicine

## Get involved

- [Serve as a Stepping-In for Respect facilitator, nominations are due now](#)
- [DEI proposals for the SoM Faculty Development Summit, due by Feb. 7](#)
- SoM Departments, Centers, Institutes and Program Diversity Action Plan updates due March 31
- [OHSU's Vaccine Equity Committee is seeking clinical leads and volunteers with pediatric experience](#)



### Improve your cultural fluency

OHSU's Vaccine Equity Committee has identified areas for improvement within service delivery that are applicable to every single employee.

[1 File](#)

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## February Health Observances

### [American Heart Month](#)

Raise awareness about heart health. National Wear Red day is Feb. 4.

Recommended read: [Considerations for Cardiovascular Genetic and Genomic Research With Marginalized Racial and Ethnic Groups and Indigenous Peoples.](#)

### [Low Vision Awareness Month](#)

Share resources on the importance of [getting your child's vision checked](#).

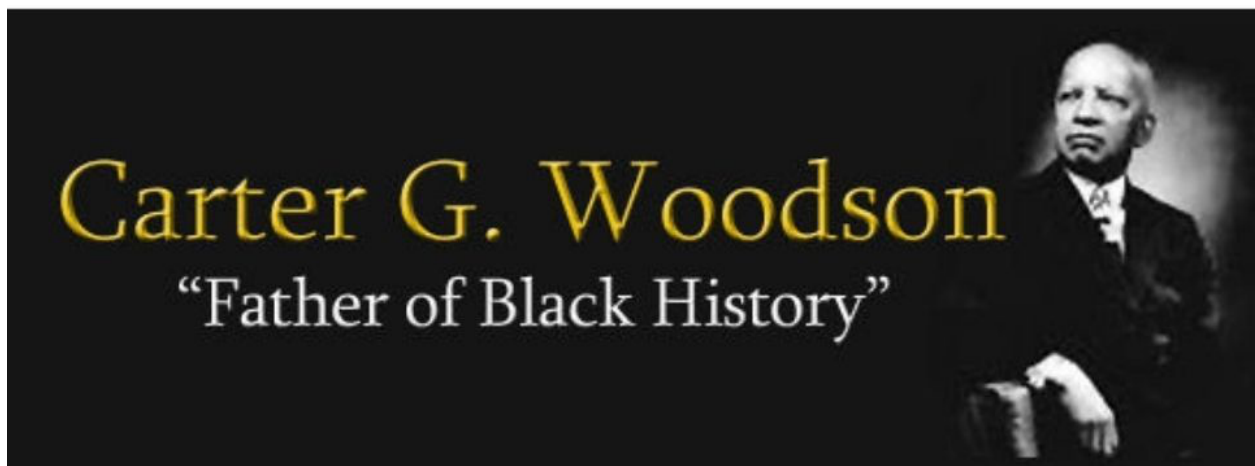
Recommended reads: 1. [Prevalence of Visual Acuity Loss or Blindness in the US](#), highlighting a higher risk of vision loss among Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American individuals than white individuals; 2. Casey Eye Institute's [2021 annual report](#) to learn of their community outreach efforts in serving underserved Oregonians.

### [National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Feb. 2](#)

Acknowledge the accomplishments of women in sports. Learn about the [National Youth Sports Strategy mission](#) to ensure all youth have access to play sports. Encourage others to get active through [Move Your Way®](#) campaign.

Recommended read: [What's Lost When Only Rich Kids Play Sports](#), highlighting how income disparities limit access to sports and impact health outcomes.

## Black History Month



The [origins of Black History Month](#) date to 1915, half a century after the Thirteen Amendment abolished slavery in the United States.

Historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the [Association for the Study of Negro Life and History](#) (ASNLH), an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other peoples of African descent. Join [ASALH's virtual festival](#), this year's theme is "Black Health and Wellness."

Watch [Oregon's Enigmatic Black History](#) by the Oregon's Historical Society. Learn about the [Grand Emancipation Celebration](#) and [Black Exclusion Laws in Oregon](#).

Read about [Black/African American health](#) in the United States.

# Lunar New Year



The Year of the Tiger Chinese New Year celebration begins Feb. 1. The Year of the Tiger (2022) represents ambition, impulsiveness and communication.

Chinese New Year has been celebrated for centuries in China and around Asia. It is also known as the Spring Festival and marks the start of the new Lunar Year. Celebrations end on the 15th day of the first month (Feb. 15) with the Lantern Festival.

Portland's Lan Su Chinese Garden has various [events](#). The [Chinese Historical Society of America](#) regularly presents exhibitions highlighting the experiences of the Chinese in America.

Read about [Asian American health](#) in the United States.

## Enrichment

*Wed., Feb. 2, 6-7:30 p.m. EST | [Beyond Racism: Seizing Your Moment in Time and Building Forward](#)*

Join a conversation about success stories in education at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and predominately white institutions (PWIs). Hear about resilience in the education of Black health care professionals.

*Thurs., Feb. 3, 6-7 p.m. PST | [COVID-19 Vaccine: What are you waiting for?](#)*

Native Action Network presents a two-part webinar focused on vaccines and answering questions for those that are hesitant about getting vaccinated. The webinar will feature indigenous healthcare

providers and people dedicated to providing culturally appropriate healthcare. Dr. Allison Empey, a member of OHSU's Vaccine Equity Committee, will participate.

*Sat., Feb. 5, 12-1:30 p.m. EST | Race and Health Disparities in African American Urban Communities*

Explore how race has shaped African American health through American history and how it paralleled the ways in which racialized conceptions of Black/African American have shaped health care opportunities.

*Wed., Feb. 9, 6-7 p.m. EST | Educated in a White Space: African American Graduates of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, 1850-1925*

During its first 75 years, the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania graduated 18 Black women - more than any other predominantly white medical school. Learn about their careers as they encountered racial and sexual discrimination while demonstrating that medicine is Black women's work.

*Fri., Feb. 11, 12-1 p.m. PST | Black History Month 2022: Harriet A. Washington*

The OHSU School of Nursing and Center for Diversity and Inclusion are hosting Harriet A. Washington, who will offer a historical perspective on COVID-19 and the concept of medical apartheid.

*Wed., Feb. 16, 6-7:30 p.m. EST | Towards Health Equity: Dismantling Racist Barriers for Black Health Care Students*

Join a student-led session with diverse perspectives about ways in which institutions can enact a clear "action agenda."

*Thurs., Feb. 17, 1-2 p.m. EST | The History and Legacy of the Freedom House*

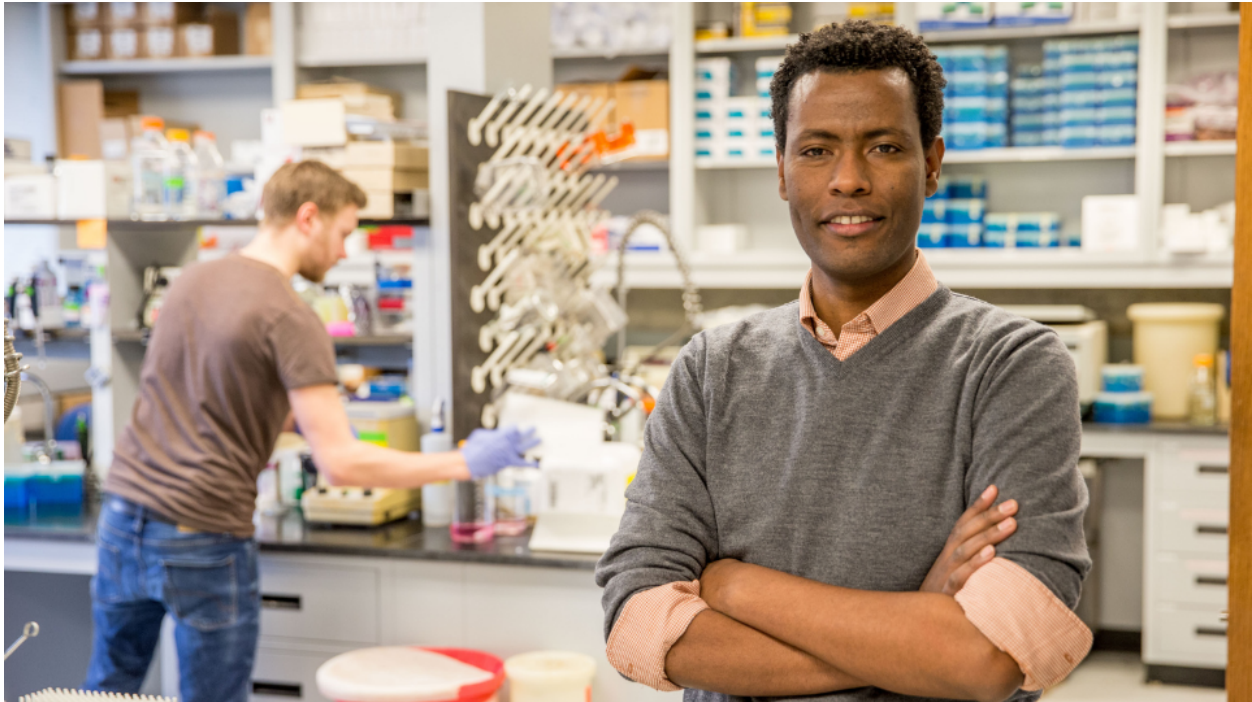
Explore the story of the Freedom House Ambulance Service that trained Black men and women as paramedics to deliver lifesaving medical care to a predominantly Black neighborhood in Pittsburgh.

## Your hand on the pulse

- [OHSU's Center for Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation fund nine Racial, Equity and Inclusion projects in the school](#)
- [Learn about Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Program](#)
- [Nominations are open for the Public Health Excellence in Interprofessional Education Award, due Feb. 4](#)
- [HHS makes \\$13 million available to increase behavioral health care access in rural communities](#)
- [Medical school applicants and enrollments hit record highs; underrepresented minorities lead the surge](#)
- [America's medical residents, by the numbers](#)
- [New AAMC report on health equity in academic medicine](#)



## Faculty Spotlight: Fikadu Tafesse, Ph.D.



Fikadu Tafesse, Ph.D. has translated his career-forging research on tuberculosis into path-breaking contributions to understanding COVID-19.

His [most recent study](#), published Jan. 25 with Bill Messer and Marcel Curlin, shows two paths to immunity from COVID-19. Now a coveted Faculty Excellence and Innovation Award [will fund his efforts](#) to get ahead of the next pandemic. He and his lab aim to build a technology platform to develop therapeutics and diagnostics that can be readily and rapidly tailored to treat emerging diseases.

OHSU recruited Tafesse, an assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, in 2016 from the Ragon Institute in Cambridge, Mass. Hailing from Ethiopia, Tafesse was educated in Ethiopia, Europe and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).