



## Belong | Include | Empower



Dear OHSU School of Medicine Community:

Greetings! April's edition is dedicated to National Minority Health Month. In 2002, National Minority Health Month received support from the U.S. Congress with a concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 388) to promote educational efforts on the health problems currently facing racial and ethnic minorities and other underrepresented populations.

This movement originated in 1915 with [Booker T. Washington](#) (1856-1915), the founder of the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, who understood the connection between poverty, poor health, and high mortality rates of Blacks/African Americans during the early 20th century. His efforts brought awareness to health inequities and in collaboration with the U.S. Public Health Service, to what is now known as National Minority Health Disparities Month.

It is well known that [health disparities](#) continue to impact racial, ethnic, and other diverse underserved communities in the U.S., and there is increased interest in addressing [health disparities to improve health care outcomes](#). National Arab American Heritage Month and National Autism Acceptance Month are also celebrated in April.

During this month, let's acknowledge, reflect and confront the inequities of the past, reveal the inequalities of the present and act for change aiming toward an equitable and respective environment for those we serve and those who serve with us. We need to be centered to bring change, be innovative and be prepared to hear and accept new solutions for health transformation to eliminate health inequities.

With respect,

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

## April Observances



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**Give Your Community A Boost! | April 2022**

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### **National Minority Health Month**

This year's theme is "Give Your Community a Boost!" COVID-19 vaccination, including a booster, is one of the strongest tools we have to end the COVID-19 pandemic that has disproportionately affected racial and ethnic communities. [Learn more here.](#)

### **April 7 | World Health Day**

Each year the World Health Organization draws attention to a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. This year's theme is "[Our planet, our health.](#)"

### **April 13 | Equal Pay Day**

Raise awareness about the wage gap: women, on average, earn about 80 cents for every dollar men earn. View the American Medical Association "[Creation and Assessment of a Virtual Negotiation Workshop for Women Physicians.](#)"

### **April 20 | Chinese Language Day**

The event was established by the UN Department of Public Health Information in 2010. Today, more than one billion people speak Chinese as their first language. [Learn more](#) on how the day is celebrated.

### **April 23 | Spanish and English Language Day**

This United Nations Spanish Language Day was moved from October 12 (Dia de la Hispanidad) to April 23 to mark the anniversary of the deaths of the Spanish literary Miguel de Cervantes and of English playwright William Shakespeare. Today, in the U.S. (and Oregon) English is the most prominent spoken language with more than 254 million English speakers. Spanish is undoubtedly second with more than 43 million speakers. Resource: [Languages spoken in Oregon](#), [Indigenous Languages of Oregon](#).

## National Autism Acceptance Month

# ASO KITCHEN FUN

presented by the AUTISM SOCIETY OF OREGON

by PRISCILLA MADORE and NIF LINDSAY



Download a copy of Autism Society of Oregon's [cookbook](#).

In 1970, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness and assure that all who experience autism are able to achieve the highest quality of life possible. The first annual National Autistic Children's week in 1972 evolved into [Autism Acceptance Month](#) (AAM). Today in the U.S., autism prevalence has risen from 1 in 125 children in 2010 to 1 in 54 in 2020 galvanizing the AAM to further educate the public about autism signs, characteristics, and opportunities to build inclusive experiences.

See the [OHSU Inclusive Language Guide](#) for other terms and definitions. Visit [Autism Society in Oregon](#) for resources. Recommended read: [Perceptions, Experiences, and Needs of Parents of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children with Autism: A Scoping Review](#).

## National Arab American Heritage Month



Arab Americans have ancestry from northern Africa through western Asia. Though sharing some common cultural and linguistic heritage they are ethnically, politically, religiously and individually diverse. The 22 Arab nations include Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq,

Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and Yemen.

In the U.S., many people conflate “Arab” and “Middle Eastern,” but linguistically and geographically that these terms are not fully interchangeable, according to the Arab American National Museum (AANM). The Middle East includes non-Arabic nations such as Iran, Israel, and Turkey. Similarly, not all Arabic nations are located in what is considered the Middle East — including Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco.

According to the [2017 Census](#), approximately 31,974 Arab Americans reside in 28 of Oregon's 36 counties. Arab Americans health status has been historically understudied and their health needs and risks have been poorly documented.

Recommended read: "[The Health of Arab Americans in the United States: An Updated Comprehensive Literature Review](#)." For more information, visit the [Arab American Institute](#) (AAI) and [Arab American Cultural Center of Oregon](#) (AACCO).

## Enrichment

*All events are listed in Pacific Time, even those hosted in other time zones.*

### [Mon. & Wed., April 4 & 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Health Equity in Native America: A Summit](#)

Join medical, community and academic leaders from MIT, Harvard University, Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital and institutions across the U.S. for a conversation about the health and resilience of Indigenous communities.

### [Tues. & Wed., April 5-6, 9 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. | Equity, Resilience and Community Needs: The Future of America's Health Workforce](#)

Participants will understand needs of vulnerable communities, operating programs to address community needs and engaging key stakeholders to amplify impact.

### [Wed., April 6, 12-6 p.m. | OHSU-PSU School of Public Health annual conference](#)

National Public Health Week is celebrated April 4-10th, 2022. The OHSU-PSU School of Public Health's Student Leadership Council will be showcasing the work of students.

### [Wed., April 6, 8-10 a.m. | Caring for LGBTQ+ Older Adults Using a Behavioral Health Lens](#)

This presentation will explore the many ways health care professionals can support their patients by learning evidence-based best practices, applying cultural humility frameworks and using a trauma-informed lens.

### [Thurs., April 12, 8-9 a.m. | Racism and kidney health: turning equity into a reality](#)

Dr. Dinushika Mohottige, assistant professor of medicine at Duke University, will present at OHSU's Department of Medicine grand rounds.

### [Thurs., April 12, 12-1 p.m. | The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health care workforce](#)

The School of Medicine Alumni Association presents in partnership with the Oregon Medical Association and the Oregon Chapter American College of Physicians.

### [Wed. & Thurs., April 13-14 | Thriving Brains and Body](#)

A symposium presented by the Center for Global Child Health Research to improve outcomes for child health worldwide. Keynote by Dr. Mark Manary, who has devoted his career to solving childhood malnutrition in Malawi, Sierra Leone and Ghana.

[Thurs., April 21, 5-7 p.m. | Arab-American Heritage Month: Eleven Reflections on September](#)

View digital film "Eleven Reflections on September," followed by a conversation between the film's writer, director and actor Andrea Assaf, and OHSU's Center for Diversity Inclusion trainer, Dana Ghazi. Register on Compass.

[Mon.-Fri., April 25-29, 10 a.m.-noon | 2nd Annual Health Equity Week](#)

Hosted by McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University, seven facilitated virtual webinars (at no cost) led by scholars providing insights into the roots of health care disparities.

[Fri., April 29, 12-1:30 p.m. | Faculty Development Fridays: Spotlight on Vaccines](#)

In recognition of National Minority Health Month, OHSU's Vaccine Equity Committee will discuss health disparities, cultural responsiveness, trends and barriers to increasing access to vaccines as well as efforts at OHSU to address health disparities.

[Tues., May 3, 12-1 p.m. | Research Week keynote: Marguerita Lightfoot, Ph.D.](#)

Lightfoot, associate dean of research OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, is a co-PI on a collaborative health disparities study awarded \$9 million in 2021 by the NIH "Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity" program. Lightfoot's research has focused on HIV and the social determinants of health and health equity.

## Your hand on the pulse

- [OHSU earns top score in Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2022 Healthcare Equality Index](#)
- [OHSU Northwest Native American Center of Excellence Project receives \\$800,000 in federal funding](#)
- [Health inequity from the founding of the Freedmen's Bureau to COVID-19, AMA](#)
- [How to apply the fourteenth amendment to the constitution and the civil rights act to promote health inequity in the U.S., AMA](#)
- [Integrating health equity content into health professions education, AMA](#)
- [Health equity in academic medicine, AMA](#)
- [Addressing health equity in public health practice: frameworks, promising strategies, and measurement considerations, NIH](#)

## Spotlight: 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional LMSA Conference



The Latino Medical Student Association's (LMSA) event is a student-driven movement that began in the 1960s to improve health care for underserved communities in the U.S. and to increase the number of Latino/Hispanic, and Spanish origin individuals in medicine. LMSA provides educational resources to promote their success and to increase access to culturally relevant health care for what is now the largest ethnic group in the U.S. Pictured above are M.D. Class of 2022 (L-R) Anthony Sanchez, Erin Risotto-Urbanowicz, Cassandra Kasten-Arias and Taylor Vega.

[Religious Holiday Calendar 2022](#) | [AAEO Religious Accommodations and Disability Accommodations](#)

*The SoM Belong, Include, Empower e-newsletter is sent monthly to members of the OHSU School of Medicine. This space is dedicated to the valuable role of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-racism (DEI&A) practices in promoting trust, engagement and well being. Have an idea, resource or an event to share? Questions and comments? [somdiversity@ohsu.edu](mailto:somdiversity@ohsu.edu)*