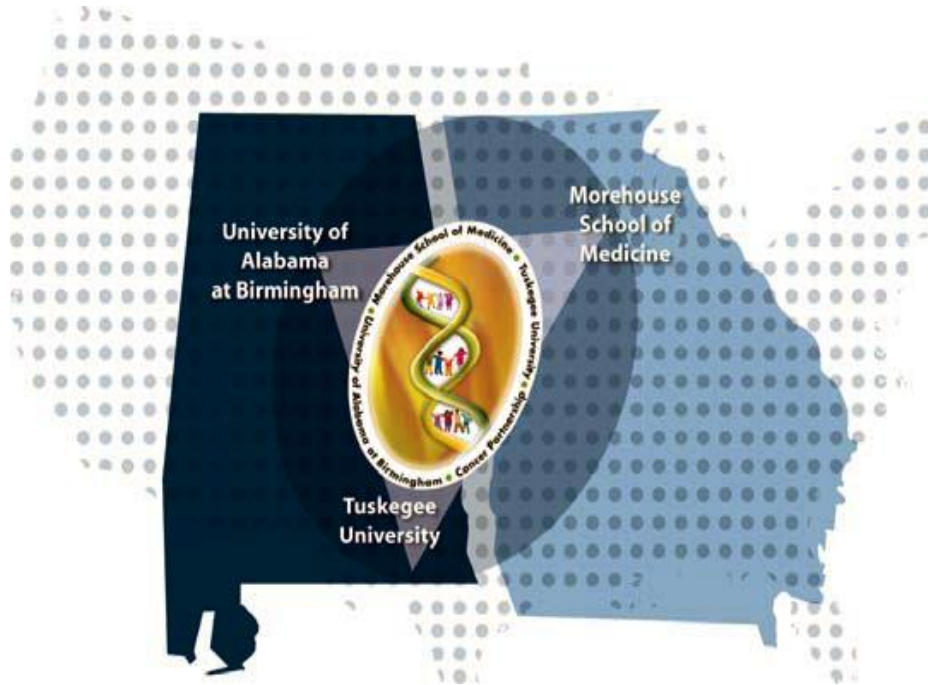


TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY

Health Disparities Research Focus



**Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity
(PACHE Meeting)
NCI-CRCHD
Monday, July 23, 2018**



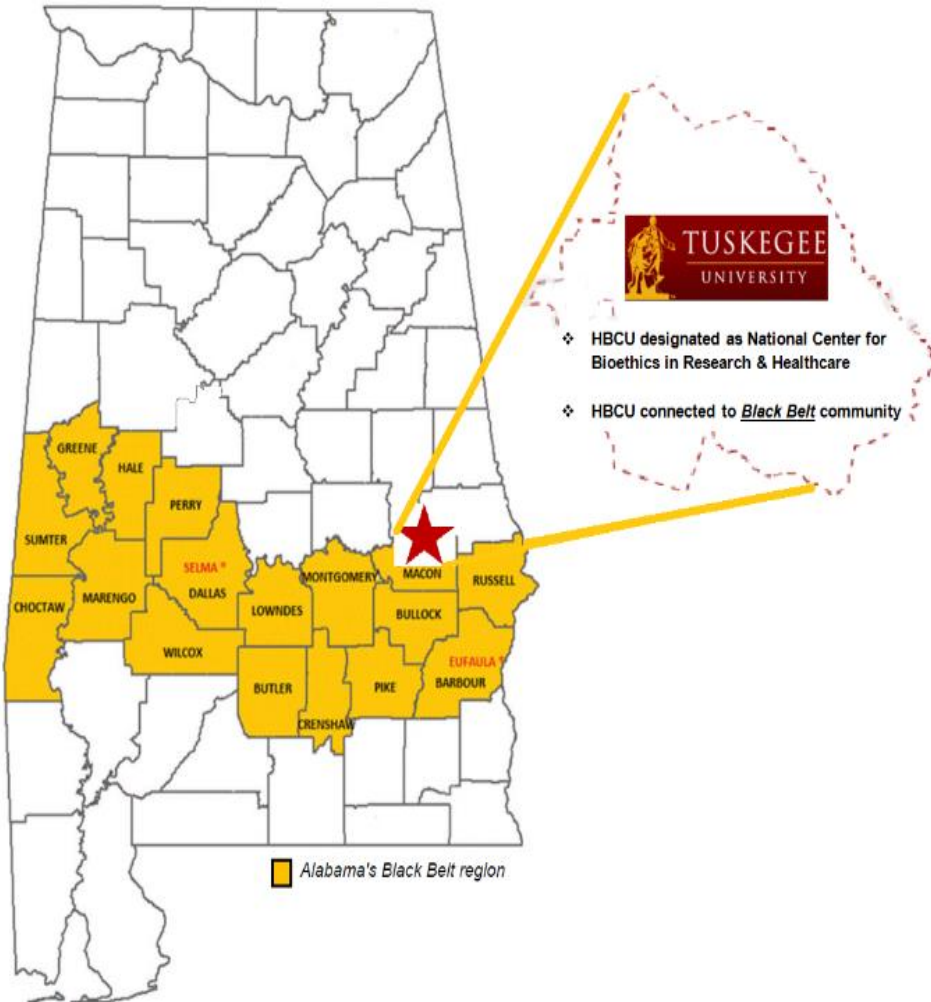
Background

Tuskegee University (TU) was founded by Booker T. Washington as an independent, coeducational, non-sectarian, and state-related historically black university (HBCU) in Alabama on February 12, 1881, for the education and training of African Americans

- TU provides the highest quality education through instruction, research, and service (outreach) to more than **3,000 students** from 39 states and 15 countries.
- First (#1) producer of African American Veterinarians in the United States
- Third (#3) highest producer of African American engineers
- Diverse ranked the Tuskegee University among the top 20 for producers of African Americans receiving baccalaureate degrees in biological and biomedical sciences



Overall Health Disparities Research Focus



The **Goals** are to:

1. Strengthen the biomedical **research capacity** of TU by funding **research projects, at Full and Pilot levels**, that have the potential of developing into competitive grant proposals capable of receiving **extramural funding**.
2. Establish, maintain, and sustain a high-quality **research infrastructure** of shared core facilities, bioinformatics and biostatistics, and bioethics and responsible conduct services to support biomedical research by the TU faculty.
3. Establish relationships, build trust, and engage **local communities** and community-based organizations to learn from and to educate community members on health issues that affect them.

The National Institutes of Health established the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program in 1985, after Congress noted stark health disparities between minority and white Americans.

- RCMI is housed within the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)



TU is one of 18 institutions that receive funding from this program



At TU this funding has been used in multiple ways, most notably was the establishment of The Center for Biomedical Research (CBR)/RCMI Core Facility.

Provide and maintain a modern and reliable shared instrumentation facility for biomedical research at Minority Institutions

History of RCMI
RFA-MD-17-003

TU Research Infrastructure Core (TURIC). The TURIC proposes to combine all research support units into one Core that promotes multidisciplinary and integrated research infrastructure for the TU faculty. These units will make capital-intensive and technical resources available, allowing faculty members to stay on the cutting-edge of biomedical research and to establish cross-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaborations.

Investigator Development Core (IDC): The major goal of the IDC is to provide junior-level and transitional investigators at TU with the necessary resources and training to assist them in their move to the status of independent researchers focused on minority health and health disparities.

Community Engagement Core (CEC): The CEC seeks to establish long-term partnerships with community-based organizations that are programmatically equipped to address health and socioeconomic disparities among disadvantaged populations. The CEC partners with organizations such as the ***Southern Christian Leadership Foundation (SCLF)***, the Tuskegee Citizens Power Lunch, and the Macon County School System.

Components of RCFI-U54

RFA-MD-17-003

In vivo imaging

Digital microscopy

Confocal
microscopy

- Spinning and Laser scanning

Flow cytometry

Immunoblot and
Gel Imaging

Gene-expression
analysis (PCR)

HPLC

Centrifugation

Infrastructure



Impact on Basic Cancer Research

- **Basic Cancer Research:**
- Have increased the number of cancer researchers from 1 to 18
- Funding for cancer research/health disparities research increased from under \$2 million to \$17 million.
- Increase in multi-, trans-, and interdisciplinary research (faculty from Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Agriculture, Environment, and Nutrition Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, and Allied Health)
- Based on accomplishments of U54 Cancer Program, TU former president established Health Disparities Institute for Research and Education
- Renewal of RCMI--health and cancer disparities focus-- Dr. Tim Turner lead, now Clayton Yates
- Other grants obtained due to Partnership are --CTSA, MARC, DoD, R-level, NIH supplements

Establishment of National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care

Presidential Apology – MAY 16, 1997
USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee



Funded through the RCMI infrastructure grant

Infrastructure

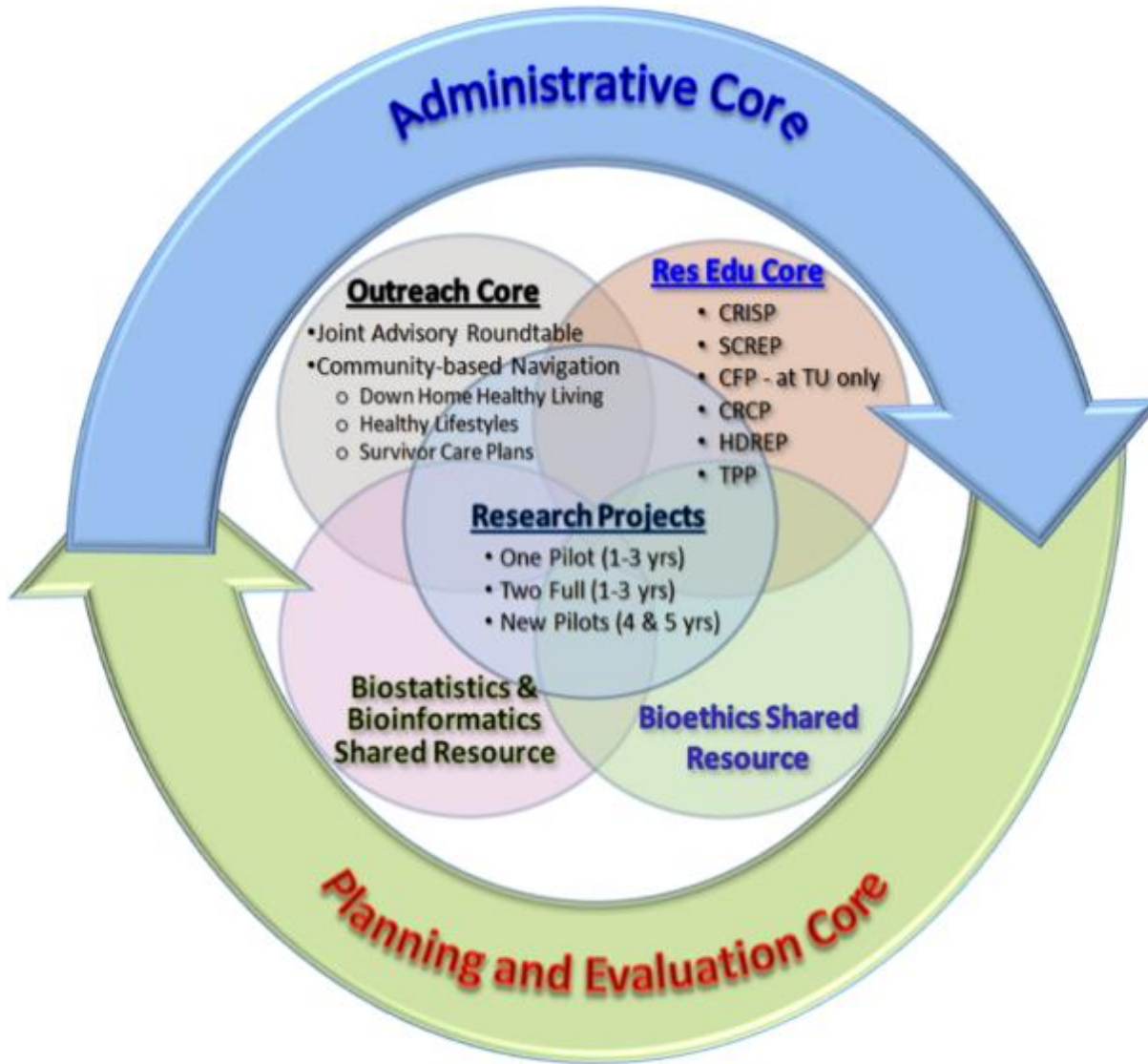


Bioethics Core

Bioethics Shared Resource:

- ❖ Bioethics education increased in community
- ❖ Conducted First Bioethics Conference on Cancer Health Disparities with 150 attendees--funded through NIH R13
- ❖ The Bioethics group conducted six sessions of *Bioethics Education Train the Trainer Workshops*. Twenty-one people from nine institutions and seven states including Puerto Rico benefited from the learning experience and are using, in diverse ways in their home institutions, what they learned.
- ❖ Bioethics now part of recently funded UAB CTSA grant
- ❖ Bioethics training to a wider audience, e.g. training to Community Health Workers in Montgomery, to UG students, to research investigators

INTEGRATION



Bioethics (BRCR) is integrated with all Cores to provide education and guidance in bioethics and to schedule educational activities for all Cores and Programs consistent with their specific aims.



Investigator Development Core

Bioethics and research ethics for early investigators to address cultural sensitivity and issues of respect in research.



Research Infrastructure Core

Training and service in bioethics and responsible conduct of research.



Community Engagement Core

Provision of ethics and RCR services is a fundamental resource essential for basic- to community-level research in RCMI.



Research Projects

Provision of bioethics and RCR from planning stages to reporting research and proposed activities.

Bioethics in RCMI-Cores



Research Education Core

The Research Education Core :

1. Cancer Research Immersion Program (**CRISP**), CRISP summer research component for undergrads from TU or MSM – 4 weeks at UAB
2. Summer Cancer Research Education Program (**SCREP**), SCREP for grad students at all 3 institutions – 8 students for 8 weeks (June-July 2017); presented their research posters at Cancer Research Symposium in July 2017
3. Health Disparities Research Training Award Program (**HDRTA**) (two from each institution), including Grant Writing Retreat

Established by NCI –U54 MSM/TU/UAB Partnership



Community Outreach Core

❑ Community Cancer Research

- ❖ Developed a *Healthy Lifestyles Program*--2 yr. behavior modification program where 62 women from Macon and Bullock counties were recruited and retained
- ❖ Approximately 35% of *Healthy Lifestyle* participants have continued the exercise and nutrition changes and are helping other members of the community
- ❖ Women averaged a 6 lb. weight loss in Bullock County and an average of 22 lbs. for Macon County.
- ❖ Systolic blood pressure was reduced by 8% and diastolic blood pressure was reduced by 7%.
- ❖ A *Healthy Lifestyle Health Marathon* has been held for 9 years in partnership with the City of Tuskegee and over 3000 individuals have been reached through the *Marathon*
- ❖ Registration proceeds go to support two non-profit cancer awareness organizations for prostate and breast cancer
- ❖ Developed a Research Capacity Building Program to increase community-based research.
- ❖ Convened grant writing workshops to 3 community organizations--resulted in the submission and funding of 1 grant

Established by NCI –U54 MSM/TU/UAB Partnership

Town Halls


Town Hall Viewership at the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation

Town Hall	Live audience	Twitter Sites	Twitter Impressions	Facebook Live sites
Town Hall 1	> 100	202	722	2,006
Town Hall 2	75	139	821	841




INTEGRATION

The Community Engagement Core seeks not only to optimize external partnerships, but it also maximizes integration of internal cores.



Senior RCMI faculty will present at Town Halls beginning with Dr. Clayton Yates and Dr. Hong on September 24, Macon County MEANS



Mary Brooks M. ED, MSM/TU/UAB CCC U54 is an expert community organizer with valuable insight into the social and cultural nuances of rural populations.

Interconnectivity of RCMI with other NIH Funded Awards

