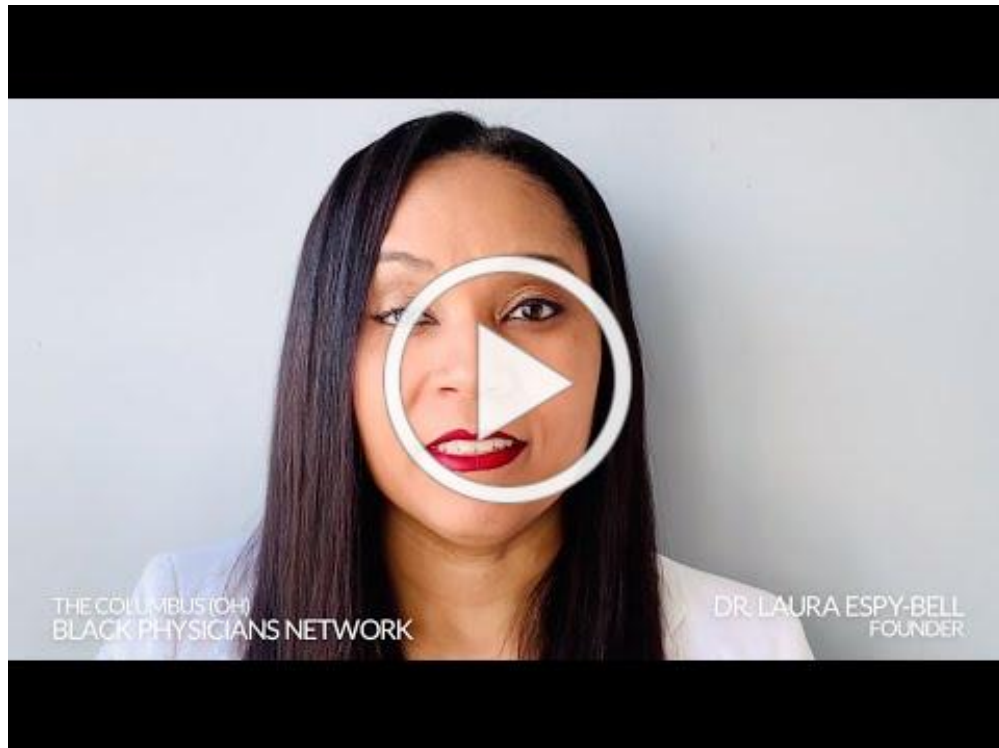


News from the Collaborative

February Featured Content

The Columbus Black Physician Network: “Our Community vs. COVID 19”



**The workers who could get us through
this crisis**

Opinion by Kirsten Gillibrand and Sheila Davis



(CNN)Two overlapping crises have our country in a literal death grip: the Covid-19 pandemic that has killed **more than 500,000 people**, and the **crushing economic downturn**.

We believe there's something that can help. Building a new public health workforce will provide permanent, quality jobs to bolster neglected health systems; create new career pathways, particularly for women and people of color; and ensure greater

health equity in the Black and brown communities hardest hit by the virus.

Over the last year, Covid-19 has laid bare the failures of our health system, which invests enormous sums in treating illness and paltry sums in preventing it. With limited staff and funding, state and local authorities are struggling to keep pace with testing, **contact tracing**, and supporting isolating and quarantining Covid-19 patients. Now, those same strapped governments are also being asked to ramp up complex vaccination campaigns. To mount a public health response of appropriate scale and scope, we need to provide reinforcements.

Across the country, **Community Health Workers** have become trusted messengers on the front lines of strong primary care systems, accompanying patients, helping manage care, and coordinating with health centers and hospitals. Among the migrant farmworkers of **Immokalee, Florida**, for instance, Community Health Workers from the community, who are fluent in the language and culture of the region, are going door-to-door to share crucial pandemic health information and connect people to food, safe housing, labor protections, and financial assistance. These health workers are also building trust in the Covid-19 vaccines by supplying transparent information, and helping residents sign up for and get to vaccination appointments. When state and local authorities work directly with trusted members of the community, we can bolster our overstretched public health systems with local health workers and ensure we reach every community, from our biggest cities to our smallest rural towns.

[Read full article](#)

Insights from the HCGC Blog: Celebrating Black History Month



HCGC is proud to celebrate **Black History Month**. This month we are featuring two blogs from our partners at the Columbus Medical Association on **Black physicians** who have made significant impact in medicine.

Celebrate

Celebrate



Black History Month: Joycelyn Elders

by Annie Wilson, CMA

Joycelyn Elders is a pediatrician and outspoken

public health advocate who served as the first African American Surgeon General of the United States.

Elders was born August 13, 1933, in Schaal Arkansas, to a family of sharecroppers and the first of 8 children. At 15, she entered Philander Smith College, a historically black liberal arts college in Little Rock, Arkansas, on a scholarship from the United Methodist Church. That same year she saw a doctor for the first time in her life and decided to become a physician herself.



Black History Month: Patricia Bath

by Annie Wilson, CMA

Patricia Bath, MD, was an ophthalmologist and inventor of the Laserphaco Probe used in cataract

surgery which resulted in her becoming the first black woman physician to receive a medical patent.

Bath was born 1942, in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. When she was still a teenager, she received a scholarship from the US National Science Foundation, which led to an opportunity to join a research project at Yeshiva University and the then Harlem Hospital Center in New York. She stayed in New York for her undergraduate degree, studying chemistry at Hunter College, and then moved to Washington, DC, for her medical degree at Howard University College of Medicine. Bath interned at Harlem Hospital from 1968 to 1969 and completed a fellowship in ophthalmology at Columbia University from 1969 to 1970.

[View posts in their entirety on our website](#)



Articles of Interest & Upcoming Partner Events

[YWCA 21-Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge](#)

[Why Housing Is Essential To The COVID-19 Response](#)

[Inequities in COVID-19: From People to Policy](#)

[Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care Services: Lessons Learned From Three Ohio Practices](#)

[Helping Children Thrive: The COVID-19 Pandemic's Impact on Health and Well-being](#)

[Ohio is developing a \\$3.6 million centralized coronavirus vaccine signup system](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Answers from Virtual Panel of Healthcare Experts](#)

Monthly Meeting Resources

LOOKING FOR



RESOURCES?

Following each Monthly Meeting and Regional Learning Session, the agenda, speaker information, slide deck and other relevant resources are uploaded to the HCGC website for your reference. [View resources.](#)

For a Calendar of Events visit:
<http://www.hcgc.org/events.html>

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