

Engaging Diverse Communities in Genomics Research and Precision Medicine

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NASEM Panel

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Faith-based Genetic Research Institute

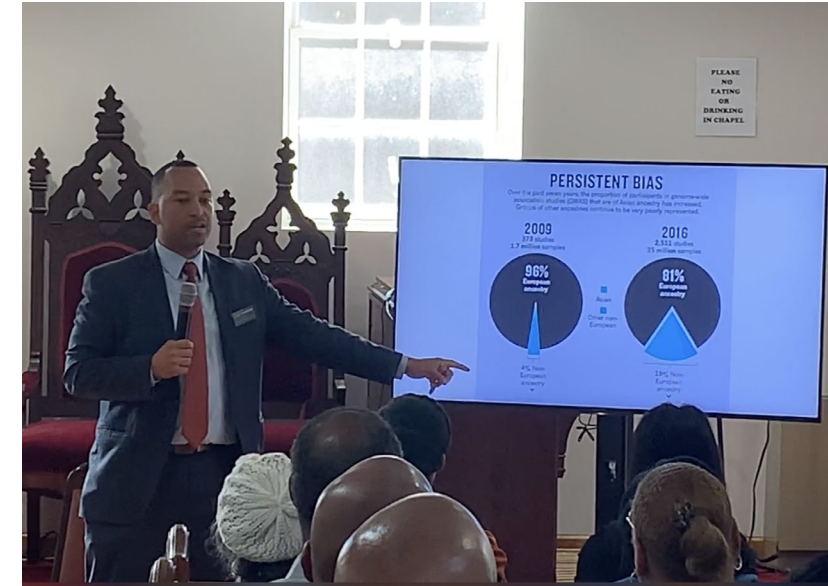
Educating & Empowering Minority Communities in Genomics & Precision Medicine

Who We Are:

- We are a Faith-Based 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to democratizing access to and understanding of genomics and precision medicine for all historically underrepresented minority communities

Our goal is to provide:

- Sustained outreach to historically underrepresented minority communities through regular in-person events in collaboration with at local churches, civic groups, and minority-serving institutions like HBCUs to educate them about genomics and precision medicine
- Deploy a group of “honest broker” communicators of the benefits of genomic research who are from underrepresented minority communities to build TRUST in these communities and increase their participation in genomic research studies
- Host several in-person events at local churches in the DC metropolitan area and engage the local community through our website, blog posts, and online newsletter



June 1st, 2019 Event at Greater Christ Baptist Church in Detroit Michigan (“Pre-Pandemic”)

When it comes to medical research, trust is lacking for many in minority communities

Main Sources of distrust for African-Americans:


- Exhibit A: U.S. Public Health Service Syphilis Study at Tuskegee (1932-1972)
- Exhibit B: The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (“HeLa” cells)
- Exhibit C: Countless instances of health disparities experienced by African-American patients over the years



How do we overcome the distrust that many minorities have for the medical community?


- Highlight the health benefits that minority patients have seen thus far due to advances science and biomedical research
- Provide culturally congruent “honest brokers” that can be a trusted source of scientific information for African-Americans and other minorities
- Address racism at the highest levels in academia, industry, and government to create a truly level playing field for scientists-of-color in the US

Example of Recent FBGRI Event



DNA 101:
Understanding Your
Genealogical Heritage
and Health Outcomes.

**All
of Us**
RESEARCH PROGRAM

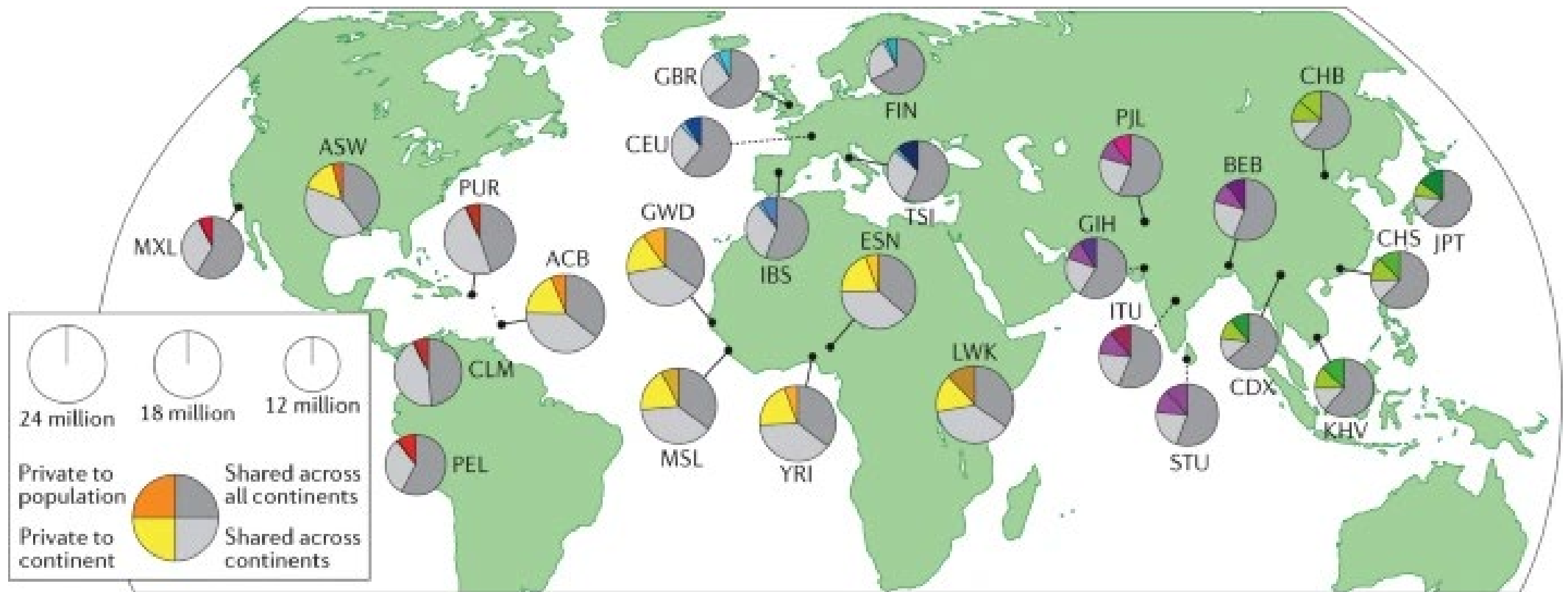
 **Featuring:**
Tshaka Cunningham, PhD, Polaris
Kareem Washington, PhD, Howard
University

A promotional graphic for the 'All of Us' research program. The top half features a photograph of a family—a man in a flat cap and glasses kissing a woman on the cheek, with a child in the foreground. A dark blue text box is overlaid on the left. The bottom half is a solid coral-colored box containing a stylized starburst graphic and the event details.

At the moment, health care is often one-size-fits-all. When we visit the doctor, our treatments are often the same. We think one day health care should be tailored to you. This is called precision medicine. And research can help us get there. How? By creating a resource that may allow researchers to conduct thousands of studies on health and disease. Join us. The future of health begins with you.

September 23rd, 2022

Increasing Diversity in Genomic Databases is more than Good Will – It is Good **Science**!



Non-European participants represented only 19% of individuals studied in GWAS⁷ even though over three-fourths of the world population live in Africa and Asia

Nature Reviews | **Genetics**

Source: [Nature Reviews Genetics](#) volume 19, pages175–185(2018)

THANK YOU!



www.fbgri.org