

Kaiser Permanente

Transcript:

2nd Annual African Americans in Health Care Awards
Feb. 26, 2021

00:00:00:24 - 00:00:18:21

Drew Hawkins

Good afternoon, everyone, I'm Drew Hawkins, the board chair of the Reginald Lewis Museum. And while I would much rather be greeting you in person, it is with great pleasure that we welcome you virtually to our museum and to the second annual African-Americans and Health Care Awards program.

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Drew Hawkins

Today, we're extremely honored to recognize our awardees for their outstanding contributions to the field of health care, all of which have and continue to make amazing contributions both locally and globally that are shaping the world. I thank you for your impact and I also congratulate you for being an award recipient.

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Drew Hawkins

I would also like to thank any knowledge our sponsor, partner and a leader in the health care industry. Kaiser Permanente. We are fortunate to have Alma Roberts, the interim director of Community Health, as an active and valuable member of our board of directors.

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Drew Hawkins

And together with Alma, Celeste, and their other amazing colleagues, we have developed some incredible programs around health care and leveraging some of the treasures of the museum that we have to offer. We thank them for their continued support and applaud them for their leadership and health care awareness and maintenance within the African-American community.

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Drew Hawkins

It is now my pleasure to turn things over to Celeste James, the executive director for Kaiser Permanente.

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Celeste James

Good afternoon, everybody. It's my pleasure to be here with you today, and I'm so happy to be here representing Kaiser Permanente in this partnership with the Regional Affluence Museum. So we are extremely excited to bring to you today this conversation with with our guest speaker, Dr. Macchia Corbett and Dr. Freeman Hrabowski.

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Celeste James

We're also, of course, delighted to be able to honor African-Americans in health care. And so it is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you, first

and foremost, our regional president, Ruth Williams Brinkley. Ms. Williams Brinkley is our regional president since spring of 2020.

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Celeste James

She joined our region to oversee all of our health care and care delivery and health plan operations in Washington, D.C., suburban Maryland and Baltimore. Kaiser Permanente reaches about 770,000 members in 33 medical centers across this region, and we are very pleased to have at our helm Ms. Williams Brinkley, so I'd like to bring her to the mic

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

. Thank you, Celeste. And good afternoon, everyone. I just want to let you know how honored I am to welcome you to the second annual Americans and Health Care Awards alongside our partners at the Reginald Lewis Museum. As we celebrate Black History Month, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promise to every American. This note was a promise to all men, yes, black men, as well as white men, that they would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

And let me emphasize right here that this promise also extends to women and people of all genders. We gather today not only to recognize the significant contributions of African-Americans to the health care field, but also to consider how we, as health care professionals and community leaders are helping our communities to access those basic human rights as we

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

face a pandemic that has disproportionately affected communities of color. It is our duty to help build confidence in the COVID 19 vaccine and to ensure that everyone in our communities has access to it. Kaiser Permanente has been committed to fighting this pandemic, both caring for our patients and our members, and provided much needed comic relief, such as

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

food and housing assistance, and supporting our community through this time of need. Black Americans are nearly one and a half times more likely to contract COVID and almost three times more likely to die from the virus compared with white Americans.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

Yet, according to a recent study from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, only about half of black Americans say that they will receive the Culbert vaccine. Whether it's fear, whether it's mistrust or misinformation that's causing this hesitation, we must build confidence in this vaccine to help our community move past the pandemic.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

We must ensure that the most vulnerable among us have equal access to this protection. This past year has revealed some very difficult truths in our society from the moment and the Movement for Black Lives Matter started to this pandemic.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

We have seen the impact of systemic racism on our health and wellbeing. This racism goes back generations, and yet we see it in those most impacted by COVID 19. At Kaiser Permanente, we have a long standing commitment to addressing equity, inclusion and diversity.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

We invest in these areas within our organization and in the communities we serve as part of our commitment to total health. We recognize that addressing equity is vital to our role in COVID vaccine distribution. We are committed to delivering the vaccine to our communities in the most equitable way possible as the vaccine supply is available.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

We have partnered with states in our region and across the country to support vaccination to community members. We are honored to partner with community organizations to help educate and inform about the vaccine, as we will do today. Here with the Reginald Lewis Museum.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

Today, we also celebrate the second annual African-Americans in Health Care Awards. Never in our history has recognized in our health care professionals been so important this year, we have all watched as our health care heroes stepped up and remained on the frontline of battling COVID 19.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

They cared for our patients, they cared for their families, they cared for each other and they also cared for us. Today we have the tremendous honor of recognizing black leaders in health care who have worked tirelessly to alleviate the burden of this pandemic on our community.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

Additionally, today we are truly blessed and honored to hear insights and vital information from Dr. King's Nakia Corbett. As a viral immunologist

with the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Corbett was one of the lead researchers on the maternal vaccine development.

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

We're very proud of Dr. Corbett, and she's going to share more about the science behind the vaccine and information that demonstrates its safety. In conclusion, I would like to say, as we look to move forward past this pandemic, we can only achieve vaccine confidence in communities and communities of color through working together with partners like Original Elf

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

Lewis Museum to raise awareness and educate our community around both the safety and the importance of the vaccine. Today, I ask you to listen. I ask you to learn and I ask you to ask questions so that you can be informed and can share what you hear about the vaccine with your friends, your families and your networks

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Ruth Williams Brinkley

. I challenge you to join us in continuing the pursuit of Dr. King's Mission to ensure that all in our community have access to basic human rights, including equal opportunities to achieve total health. And now I thank you for being with us today, and I'm going to pass it back over to you, Drew.

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Drew Hawkins

Great, thank you, Ms. Williams Brinkley, and again, we appreciate and are so delighted to have an opportunity to continue the partnership with you and Kaiser Permanente, and we greatly appreciate all the leadership that you all are continuing to take in so many different ways.

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Drew Hawkins

So 2020 a year for us all that will go down in the history books as one to remember and some things that in 2020 we'd rather not remember. Luckily for us at the museum, we had a host of positive things that occurred and at the top of that list was being at the right place, at the right

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Drew Hawkins

time and having an opportunity to bring Terri Freeman to Baltimore as the new executive director for the Reginald Lewis Museum. Since my time is limited today, since we have so many dynamic things we have to cover, I can't come close to giving you all of her background and the extensive list of accolades and accomplishments on her resume

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Drew Hawkins

. I will tell you, however, that prior to joining us, Terri Freeman grew, transform and changed the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. She expanded programing, improved community connections, increased educational programs and more than tripled their operating budget in the six years she was there.

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Drew Hawkins

The words that come to mind as I described Harry to me smart, dedicated, passionate, creative, caring, inclusive, humble and she gets it. But don't just take my word for it. Museum is open. Come visit us and take the time to meet Terry in person yourself and weeks and months to come.

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Drew Hawkins

I can't say enough about how thrilled we are at the museum to have Terry joining us. Her longstanding passion for bridging communities and her clear understanding of the musnsform the museum's vision for many years to come.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

It's my pleasure now to introduce to you, Terri Freeman.

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Terri Lee Freeman

Thank you, Drew. We are so happy to be partnering with Kaiser Permanente on this most important and timely topic. The Lewis Museum wants to exemplify excellence. And today we do just that with incredibly dedicated health care practitioners in a year when scientists and medical professionals have become our superheroes.

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Terri Lee Freeman

COVID 19 has taken a tremendous toll on humanity, but it has been particularly harsh on communities of color. Issues of access, equity and economics present barriers for black and brown people, while yet providing opportunity for this virus. Essential workers those who don't have the option to work from home, who don't have an option of not working because

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Terri Lee Freeman

they are the breadwinners for their family. Those essential workers that can't drive in their individual cars alone but must ride on public transportation to get to work low wage workers who may live in multigenerational homes, exposing our elders to all the people those workers interact with daily.

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Terri Lee Freeman

And now, unfortunately, fear fear of not understanding this vaccine. But having enough understanding about their history to know that medical trials have not always been kind to people of a darker hue. This is what COVID has been for communities of color.

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Terri Lee Freeman

So today we honor those who have worked to protect us and keep us healthy and safe through communication and outreach and clinical care and research and development. Today we say thank you for being our superheroes, and she rose.

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Terri Lee Freeman

Reginald F Lewis was a self-made millionaire. He came from meager beginnings in East Baltimore, but he was tenacious and was a self and never afraid of hard work. Each of the clinicians being honored today are also tenacious professionals who are fighting a war on our behalf.

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Terri Lee Freeman

We are so honored to give you your flowers this afternoon. So let's move on with our program.

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Dr. Nicholas Sherman

My mother died when I was a kid. Graduating from high school, graduating from college, graduating from medical school. Those big life moments are bittersweet when you can't share them with the ones you love. I've been there. I know that look familiar, but not coming home and COVID hit.

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Dr. Nicholas Sherman

No one has ever seen anything like COVID. You feel hopeless. My best friend's father died of COVID 19, then my father caught it. It was a rush of emotions. I broke down in tears. Wearing a mask, washing your hands.

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Dr. Nicholas Sherman

Sacrifice those things now, if we protect each other a little longer, we can hold each other a little tighter. Because love protects us all.

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Terri Lee Freeman

Our first award category is for excellence in COVID 19 Community Response. The award will be presented by Dr. Tinisha Cheatham, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and physician chief for the Baltimore Service Area with the mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group.

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Dr. Tinisha Cheatham

Dr. Letitia Dzirasa joined the Baltimore city government as the commissioner of health in March of 2019. Dzirasa believes that equitable care is a basic right and will tirelessly advocate for programs that support the overall health and well-being of all Baltimore city residents.

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Dr. Tinisha Cheatham

Dr. Dzirasa has special interests include obesity management and prevention, trauma informed care in children and adolescents, and the expanded use of technology to improve health outcomes. Today, we're recognizing Dr. DeRosa and the Baltimore City Health Department for their great work in creating the Baltimore Health Corps, a coordinated response to the dual COVID 19 public health and unemployment

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Dr. Tinisha Cheatham

crisis. The Baltimore Health Corps addresses the public health and employment crisis created and exacerbated by COVID 19. As part of their response, in partnership with other agencies and organizations, the Baltimore Health Corps hired hundreds of displaced workers, trained them in community health work and deployed them to the areas of greatest need in support of the city's emergency

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Dr. Tinisha Cheatham

response to the public health crisis. As part of the group's commitment to racial equity, they prioritized hiring from black and brown communities hardest hit by the crisis, not just because they're committed to doing what's right and equitable, but also because these individuals are trusted messengers that are key to a culturally appropriate public health response.

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Dr. Tinisha Cheatham

Dr. Dzirasa also provided care to patients in the Baltimore community, having trained at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in pediatrics and worked as medical director for School-Based Health and Quality at Baltimore Medical System from 2013 to 2016. I am honored to present the Excellence in Community COVID 19 Response Award to Dr. Letitia Dzirasa.

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Dr. Letitia Dzirasa

Good afternoon, everybody. I would just like to say thank you to the Reginald F Lewis Museum and Kaiser Permanente for this honor. I am so blown away that I would be considered in a category with other health care dignitaries that are doing such important work around COVID 19.

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Dr. Letitia Dzirasa

Really appreciate the thought, really appreciate the honor and also just want to take a moment and thank my team. I could not do any of this without the team that surrounds me, so really appreciate everyone at the health department who's working so hard to protect the citizens here in Baltimore City.

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Dr. Letitia Dzirasa

Thank you.

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Terri Lee Freeman

Congratulations, Dr. Dzirasa. Our second award category is for excellence in COVID mental health response. The award will be presented by Alma Roberts, interim director for Community Health at Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic States and a board member of the Reginald F Lewis Museum.

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Alma Roberts

Annette March-Grier is the visionary co-founder and president of Roberta's House, a family grief and trauma support center that offers a place for children and families to mourn and heal. Roberta's House offers over 13 different free programs for all ages of individuals experiencing a wide range of losses.

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Alma Roberts

The organization has served more than 7000 children and individuals since its inception in 2008. Like many nonprofits, COVID 19 presented major challenges for a burtis house, refusing to leave Baltimore's residents without crucial grief support during the pandemic. Roberta's house immediately shifted its grief support services to remote virtual online and via telephone.

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Alma Roberts

Every core program continued to operate throughout the pandemic, and over 400 people were served in just one quarter in January of 2021. The agency completed construction on the first full service bereavement center in Maryland to serve 3000 individuals annually and to address the grief resulting from the high mortality rates of individuals and families across Maryland.

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Alma Roberts

In recognition of her innovation in the area of grief and trauma, Ms. March-Grier has received countless awards, including the prestigious list of Top Ten CNN Heroes in 2014. I'm especially proud to recognize the work of Annette, the staff of Roberta's House and its board of directors that I am so honored to share with the 2021.

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Alma Roberts

Excellence in COVID 19 Mental Health Response Award.

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Annette March-Grier, RN

Thank you, Kaiser Permanente and the original F Lewis Museum of Maryland for this award in health care leadership and excellence in the COVID 19 response. Your encouragement means everything in these stressful times to us. Our work did not cease but intensified, and we quickly pivoted to all virtual and social platforms to support our communities in the pandemic

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Annette March-Grier, RN

Roberta's house is also proud to announce during Black History Month its opening of the first constructed family bereavement center in the United States, founded by an African-American nonprofit to address the social injustice in mental health and grief support for African-Americans and the underserved.

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Annette March-Grier, RN
We could not.

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Annette March-Grier, RN
Have done this without the support of our partners. Thank you.

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Terri Lee Freeman
Congratulations. Congratulations, Ms. Mar Greer. Our next award is for Excellence in Community Health. The award will be presented by Celeste James, interim vice president of Brand Communications and Community Engagement at Kaiser Permanente.

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Celeste James
Stephen B Thomas, PhD is the founding director of the University of Maryland, Center for Health Equity and NIA Center of Excellence on Race, Ethnicity and Health Disparities Research. He is internationally recognized as one of the nation's leading scholars on community engaged interventions designed to break the cycle of risk factors associated with premature illness and death due to

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Celeste James
chronic diseases. Dr. Thomas, along with his team, developed the health advocates in reach and research, a community based intervention program here, as it's also called, has created an infrastructure to engage barbershops and beauty salons in Prince George's County, Maryland, as culturally relevant portals for health, education and delivery of public health and medical services in the community.

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Celeste James
Here builds upon the rich and powerful history of barbers and beauticians as trusted entrepreneurs providing essential services to the African-American community. Care Services and research activities include promoting colorectal cancer screening, health and wellness screenings, the Black Men's Health Initiative and flu vaccine studies, just to name a few.

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Celeste James
Dr. Thomas's body of work with Dr. Sandra Quinn on overcoming the legacy of the Tuskegee Syphilis study contributed to the 1997 presidential apology to survivors of the Tuskegee study. Dr. Thomas is particularly interested in how the legacy of the syphilis study has impacted trust and

influence the willingness of African-Americans to participate in medical and public health research

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Celeste James

. It is my great pleasure to present Stephen B Thomas, PhD with the excellent in Community Health Award.

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Stephen B Thomas, PhD

It's an honor to receive the Excellence in Community Health Award for 2021. We wake up this morning with a coronavirus pandemic raging across the world, with the United States leading the way. one of the things that it has exposed is the need for completely reframing reimagining our relationship with our neighbors.

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Stephen B Thomas, PhD

You know, far too many people live in the shadow of a medical wonder world. Our whole effort in the Center for Health Equity has been to translate the science of medicine and public health into culturally tailored, community based interventions and is extremely an honor to be recognized for this work.

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Terri Lee Freeman

Congratulations again to each of our award winners, Dr. Dzirasa, Annette March-Grier and Dr. Stephen Thomas next. It gives me great pleasure to introduce Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC, who will be presenting Dr. King's Mekere Corbett with the Excellence in Health Research and Development Award.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Thank you very much. I am delighted to present this award to that because Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, the scientific lead of the Vaccine Research Center's coronavirus team at the United States National Institutes of Health, she is widely recognized now as a rising star in the immunology community around the world.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

In fact, she is in the most recent issue of *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most significant people in the world, the next 100 most significant people in the world. And her introduction was written by Dr. Fauci himself.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And what he said was that during this pandemic, all the work that she has been doing on the coronavirus backed biology and vaccine development have led to this year's research, leading to the discovery of a stabilized version of the spike protein that's found on the surface of all coronaviruses and is a key target for vaccines, treatments and

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

for diagnostics. And as a result of her work, we can say that she has had a substantial impact, according to Dr. Fauci, on ending the worst respiratory disease pandemic in more than 100 years. As a graduate of NBC, she is our best.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

We're very proud of her, and most important, what we can all know is that she is the first black woman in the world to ever create a vaccine that should give all of us goose bumps. Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Thank you so much, Dr. Hrabowski. And you notice how he put, according to Dr. Fouty, in there, but I will say that Dr. I mean, Dr. Hrabowski is my my personal PR.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Equally as highly of me as Dr. Fauci. So it is beyond a pleasure to have been introduced by him today. And and to have things like that written by Dr. Fauci, but above and beyond that to be recognized as part of this series of awards by this museum, particularly because I like to think of myself as a

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Baltimoreans in so many ways because I spent so much time there when I was at you in D.C. and my time in Baltimore actually really ignited what I think of as my passion for community outreach and actually drove me into vaccine development.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So my heart is always and forever with Baltimore in that regard. I have been getting lots of awards. Black History Month, Women's History Month, etc. But the ones that stick out the most are the ones that recognize their contributions because the science will come.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

one thing I always knew was that I was I was a scientist and I was pretty good at it, and the science will come. But getting it to the people is the most important part of it. And so I am thankful for this award and I hope that you all enjoy our conversation later.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Dr. Baskin, I will be teaching about the vaccine a little bit. Thanks again.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski and Jacqueline C. Hrabowski

The reason that Jack and I decided to participate is that we had the chance of listening to a former NBC student, a university graduate, Dr. King's Mika Corbet at NIH, who has actually created the vaccine.

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Jacqueline C. Hrabowski

There's a lot of skepticism, especially among African-Americans, about this whole vaccination.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

People often ask us if it was a really hard decision to participate in the trial, and I often say it wasn't so much hard. It was a serious conversation that we have that so many people are dying from this COVID 19 and disproportionately large numbers of people of color.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And someone has to stand up and say, No, we have to follow the science and get the vaccination.

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Jacqueline C. Hrabowski

When I talk with my friends who are skeptics about this whole vaccination process, I simply point out that, you know, I participated in it. I'm alive and well. It hasn't affected me.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

When people say this is an experiment. No, this is the best of science coming from the most informed experts in the world who are saying our decision must be to take this vaccine. We are so blessed that we have this vaccine.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And for people of color, I would tell them to look into the face of Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, came to UMBC, and went on to receive a PhD. And so there are scientists of all races involved, men and women involved in this process of the creation and the implementation of the vaccine development.

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Jacqueline C. Hrabowski

It's not just about you. It is about others that you live with, that you work with that you talk with. Think about doing this for our community, for for others and what this might mean for that.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Vaccinate and protect the people you love. Learn more at covidlink.maryland.gov. Great. And so we want to begin with this conversation, I believe my face will come up. Also, Dr. Corbett, I told people to look into your face, you know, you came to UMBC as a 17 year old Kizzy really smart from from

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Hillsboro, North Carolina. Excited. And so when people see you now, they're seeing the scientist. But just for a minute before we get into the science, let's let's have some fun. I want you to talk for a minute about who you are.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

In fact, that you majored in sociology of biology, you come out of the South, you are a woman of faith. Those kinds of things. People need to know that scientists are real people. You know what I mean? And so talk, if you would, about if you ever could have imagined you'd be in this position right now and

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

what it means for you and how your life has changed now that you've had this discovery.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, I am still Kizzy. I'm still the little girl that you met when I was 17 years old and being recruited into the Meyerhoff program. And that girl was more than a scientist actually before a scientist, I was, you know, I'm a Christian and I'm sassy and I'm bright and I'm fashionable and I'm all of these

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

things and I'm southern and I'm empathetic, and I'm all of these things that make me into this person that makes me a better scientist. And so I think that that is the most important part of the end of the story in all is that people drive the research and then people drive it further into the arms in

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

the case of vaccinologists. You know, I actually remember saying to you or to the group when I was making to my.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Oh.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, I always been fairly outspoken, outspoken and shout out to my parents for that. But you know, hi, I'm kids Mickey Corbett, and I'm going to be the first black woman to win a Nobel Prize in medicine.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And everybody was like, OK, I got, you know, that's always been my dream. And I actually used to research Nobel laureates like their entire history and practice of fake acceptance speeches if I was them. And, you know, it really speaks to just.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Putting yourself where you want to be. Yes. And really speaking the words to the universe. I obviously had won a Nobel Prize, yet I don't know if I will. But I think that even just helping to save the world, so to speak is good enough.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so I think I knew that I was going to do something and know what it was.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

I hear. And so when I think about your coming in to the program, I'm thinking about the fact that we want to convince more young women, more little girls, more black people to go into science. And you know, the our program is for that purpose to go into science and medicine.

00:32:33:07 - 00:32:50:03

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

It is significant that Dr. Leticia Zaragoza is also a meyerhoff. She and her husband so very proud of her for getting that award today. But I want you to talk a minute about the importance of supporting students in college, in science, what the meyerhoff did for you as it prepared you to go on and get the Chapel

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Hill and where you are now. Say something about that program and the need to support students and in their pursuit of science.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, Dr. Barsky, it is simply one word resources, right? Yes, it is equaling the playing field with people who have generally been under-resourced and those are communities of color and people from underrepresented minority groups. And the meyerhoff program provided that.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And it wasn't just financial resources, right? So, you know, people talk about luxury, but part of being luxurious is being at peace. And I remember when I was choosing between meyerhoff and other places, my dad told me, Go where you're going to be loved?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And it was just so clear. It was so clear that the program, beyond whatever odd amount of dollars they provide by way of scholarship really was a place where every single person in that program was special, where every single person in that program would be loved, where the goal wasn't to fail you out of your bio 101

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

class, but instead to lift you up. And I think with that, the lessons that come with that is that community is important because protecting your protecting your peace can only be. And that's just how it goes, and so if you're not comfortable, you might thrive intellectually.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so the meyerhoff program really level the playing field where other people coming to college and they're automatically comfortable because particularly at UBC, right, it is a predominantly white institution. So they're around their peers. You know, they're around a lot of people who already speak like them and walk like them and dress like them and et cetera

00:34:41:14 - 00:34:49:01

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

. You know, the my health program provided this niche for us to just be to be comfortable and to thrive.

00:34:49:29 - 00:35:07:04

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Excellent. So what advice do you have for children and young people and families as they think about the possibility of considering a career in science before we get into cold it just any advice you would have for the little girls who might see this one day or the high school students?

00:35:07:27 - 00:35:17:14

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

The first thing is that the the beauty of being young, if you are a little girl or a little boy or a little of an injured.

00:35:17:24 - 00:35:19:03

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Person.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Is the time to explore. And that is so beautiful, I think. So for me, I started that exploration process when I was 16 years old, really at a

force, to be frank. I wanted a summer job and my mom said, You're not going to be working at a clothing store and you're going to do something this summer

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

. It's going to be scholarly. And so I found a scholarly job and I fell in love with science that way. And what you really have to do is just really just start to explore as soon as possible, find out what you like and what you don't and really what wakes you up every day with excitement.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And that's the biggest part. And then secondly, is that one of the things that I can say as I look back on the entirety of my career trajectory is that I always had someone in the space that was looking out for me.

00:36:11:09 - 00:36:28:28

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So find those people and seek them out. And, you know, it almost has. It almost has to be intentional in a way, right? You want someone to be equally as invested in you as you are you, because the world is more likely to care about two people than it is for one.

00:36:28:28 - 00:36:42:14

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And it most certainly the world is more like they care about Dr. Barsky than they were a little to the core of it. So you find that person and you have them be invested in you and your success.

00:36:42:20 - 00:36:59:04

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Yes, it's very important. So let's move to COVID 19. And you know, we always talked when you were in college about being a scientist who could speak in a way that people knew. You knew the science. But that was clear enough that the person who did know science would have some sense of what you're talking about.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

So I want you to the audience that to talk about your research, the process and the path and how we got to develop the Moderna vaccine, please.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Absolutely. So I am a viral immunologist by training. So what that means is that I study viruses and I study the human immune system, but not outside of the context of the intersection of the two that I'm trying.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so it's in a really critical way, and so that's where I took my career and I got to the Vaccine Research Center at a time where Merz, which is another coronavirus, was circulating in 2014 and it became very clear that these viruses had the potential to cause deadly outbreaks, and it was only a matter of

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

time before one of pandemic proportions hit. But there was no vaccine. No one knew anything about the viral immunology. It was really kind of a blank slate. And so we studied in really intricate detail. one particular protein and it's the protein that's on the surface of the virus sticks out like this, and it's the reason why the

00:38:09:15 - 00:38:33:28

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

virus gets into the cell. So if you can block that you have a successful vaccine that we basically studied ways to make the immune system block coronavirus spike proteins from binding to cells. And so that's what we've been doing and the support that has led the vaccine that you have today, where you get spike protein into your

00:38:33:28 - 00:38:42:04

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

body via message and you create an immune response is very specific to it and it blocks infection and you are protected.

00:38:42:21 - 00:38:56:08

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Wow. Very important. And so at what point did you know that your work was going to make a difference in that process? You know, we back going back and I remember you made some comment about how long that would take you to actually create the vaccine.

00:38:56:09 - 00:39:07:16

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Talk about that for a moment you were making progress, but at some point you really were confident when you spoke on CNN with Cooper Anderson. You spoke with confidence about how things were going to happen, and I was with goosebumps.

00:39:07:23 - 00:39:10:00

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Talk about that process and how you got there.

00:39:10:29 - 00:39:14:17

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Well, first of all, let me tell you that.

00:39:15:17 - 00:39:27:12

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

I got around my timeline. We're like, Well, you know what? You just have to believe in yourself, and you have to believe in your work. And when God says something in his life is in order. Who am I to say?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

No, it's not. And that's how I feel. And so I then said that back in last April said that the target for getting to the general population would be this spring. And here we are. And the reason why we I think we we really knew that is because we had already at that time entered into what's called

00:39:47:11 - 00:40:08:21

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

a phase one clinical trial. So this is the stage of clinical testing where you were assessing just safety. Is the vaccine safe? Yes or no? And because we done that so quickly and because we'd amassed this large network of collaborators, whether it be FDA engaged, Moderna, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, the pieces of the puzzle were

00:40:08:22 - 00:40:24:07

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

there. The vaccine was there, and all we needed to do was to just move each of the different steps I formation to from the animals because I was doing all the preclinical stuff that suggested that it was very safe and very immunogenic.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so I was we were very confident in that way.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

That's very good. And I remember you're talking to me about this challenge of clinical trials, and you were determined to get to a certain percentage of the participants who would be black. We talked about that a lot. You were texting me about that.

00:40:40:14 - 00:40:52:25

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Oh my God, we got to get that right. And based on that, it was very clear that Jack and I wanted to be in that trial and we did get in that trial by the summer. Talk about the importance of black people being in the trial growing up in Birmingham.

00:40:52:26 - 00:41:07:03

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

I am so aware of the Tuskegee study saw the grotesque pictures know all that. But no, we've got to believe in the science and I keep saying that people, when they say we don't know about the people who developed, I said, Look at the face of kids media, corporates, let's talk about why it's important and what percent

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

of the participants are black and what that tells you.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know what Dr. Bastianini say. Look at her attitude. I don't take no mess now. No, actually my people. And that's and that's exactly. And that's exactly how I felt after the phase one clinical trial, which was conducted by us actually at the NIH in collaboration with Kaiser Permanente, actually in Seattle.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Coincidentally, but. There were four. It was 4% black enrollment in that phase one clinical trial. I like to say it was the only failure that I had last year and it was embarrassing. And it was not going to get us to the place where we would be able to if we got to that point in the phase

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

three, be able to speak very frankly to our community and say that this vaccine is safe and effective. And so it became a mission of all of us, including the companies. They were actually very invested in this, increasing the number of African-American enrollment and also Hispanic, Asian-American, et cetera, because it's important.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Yes.

00:42:20:25 - 00:42:21:06

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Yes.

00:42:21:22 - 00:42:41:00

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You perhaps have to start things equitably in order to finish them that way. Yes. If we got to the point now where we were still at 4% in the phase three, then it would be a disaster even beginning to start to talk to people about the science of the vaccine.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so it was important, and I thank you for being in the clinical trial. My family, my friends, everyone really rallied behind me in that way and I am indebted. But yes, we slowed down the phase three clinical trial to make sure that the numbers were on par with what we felt were respectable.

00:42:59:26 - 00:43:02:07

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Mm-Hmm. And we got the 10% black, which is.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

10% 10%. So a little bit less than what we want it to be. We wanted to be around 13% and mirrored the population of black people in the country.

But you know what? I have other vaccines going into trials, so we'll do it there.

00:43:17:01 - 00:43:21:27

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And this 10% this and so am I correct? You would tell anybody, take the vaccine. Am I.

00:43:21:27 - 00:43:22:05

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Right?

00:43:23:04 - 00:43:35:21

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

We take the lead. Yes. Say it's safe and it is effective. And moreover, not just in your typical white man, but also in black men and women that were in the trial as well.

00:43:35:28 - 00:43:49:00

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

You know, and I like telling people that at Moderna, the one of the chief scientists there is also you see my black man who is involved in that process. And Michael, you had something to do, not just with Moderna, though you your platform, is it?

00:43:49:00 - 00:43:54:22

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

I will say something about that and how what you have is involved with some of the other vaccines, not all, but some of those others.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Right. So the information that we got from the spike protein that I was talking about in that brief description earlier, some of the really cool information that we got about how to make it a really good vaccine is patented, a patent pending, I think still maybe a couple days not, but patented flash patent pending.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And it is being used by not just Moderna, but also by Pfizer, Johnson and Johnson. Those are not AstraZeneca, but Novavax and several other companies are going to develop Moderna's vaccine and actually did the studies towards the development.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

But our signature and our intellectual property is a lot of place.

00:44:39:17 - 00:44:51:07

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

I think so. This is my last question. And then the museum can decide if he wants to give questions opportunities for others to ask questions. I could go on forever. We know that would be. But let me just ask you this.

00:44:51:14 - 00:45:03:26

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

What's next? Everybody wants to know. So what is it going to do? What's Dr. Kaufman going to do? What can you say? I know you can't say everything, but I know everybody wants you. Is there anything you can say and at least start by saying, you said other vaccines, your work?

00:45:03:27 - 00:45:09:22

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

I know you're working really hard on that science every day. What are you working on right now and what do you see for your future?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, I was actually really rare and in the influenza vaccine field. So when I got to the vaccine research center, I wanted to work on coronaviruses. But coronavirus is extremely risky, especially when you think about moving into your career trajectory, because if we didn't have this pandemic, I would be under the radar.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So we'll be publishing papers. But they wouldn't be New England Journal of Medicine, frankly. But so, you know, so I worked in flu because flu is the bread and butter. When you talk about vaccine development, especially next generation vaccines, and I actually have a flu product that's going into phase one clinical trial.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Oh, really? It was supposed to be going now, but to run a virus. So I don't know when we've slated it for, but it's going, yes. And then there are several other products that probably will go as well.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And also, you know, one of the things that people don't know is my team also developed the Lilly Eli Lilly's monoclonal antibody therapy. So both the first in human vaccine and the first in human therapy came out of my day.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And what does that mean?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

What does that mean?

00:46:19:06 - 00:46:25:01

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

Yeah, it's about when you said you develop the antibody. I mean, if you're not in science, I'm in math and I still don't know so.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So Eli Lilly is a pharmaceutical company, and the proteins that your body makes to fight off coronaviruses are called antibodies. Okay, so that's what the vaccine actually makes your body. OK. You can take it one step further and isolate those and then design them or so to speak and give them to people as a therapy.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Oh, and so not only have we developed the vaccine, but we also co-developed the antibody therapy in collaboration with Eli Lilly and both of those with the first. Wow. Wow. Yeah. So I'm sorry what I. Oh, and so what's next?

00:47:05:29 - 00:47:29:24

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Yeah. Yes. You know what? I'm just I'm going to do science, and I'm going to do science at a place that's intellectually similarly stimulating and set a borders in money. But you know, I am a scientist. See myself running a laboratory.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Vince, having or running my own institution, so, you know, anything is possible at this point.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And it's great when you're when you're when you're really in your thirties, all things are possible. It's amazing. We're really proud of you exactly one half my age. So this is all great. And let me just say to you, we all thank you for remaining Kizzee for remaining.

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

While you may be Dr. Corbett, but your personality has that sassiness, but also shows people you can be a scientist and be a real person and a person of faith and care about people. You know what I mean?

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Dr. Freeman Hrabowski

And communities, as you've said so many times and about African-Americans. So thank you for all of that. I'm going to turn it over and see if there are questions from the audience. So museum folks. Help us out here.

00:48:13:28 - 00:48:24:27

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you so much, Dr. Hrabowski. We do have a few questions for Dr. Corbett, and the first one is what do you say to people that say the vaccine was rushed to market?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, I would remind people that the work that went into these vaccine concept. Started 50 years ago, man delivery of therapeutics is not news to scientists, and fortunately, I think we've done a better job of translating the science people.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so I understand where the questions come from that. But this has been these types of technologies have been in development for a very long time. And as I said, I particularly been working on coronavirus vaccines and knew so much about how to make a really good coronavirus vaccine that it was there was AIDS into the clinic

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

. So we knew exactly what to do with the mice. We knew exactly what doses, we knew exactly how to make the vaccine and make it safe. And so we cut off a lot of times just by being prepared.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And then secondly, what you're seeing also is unprecedented in just the network of collaboration. So Kaiser Permanente running a phase one clinical trial from a vaccine that came from the New Age and Moderna, which are collaborating. And so you have this really intricate collaborative effort that number one, the resources that go into that are a lot.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so it takes money to develop a product, right? And then secondly, they're all hands on deck because the situation is so dire, but no part of the the clinical trial trajectory or the vetting, so to speak of this vaccine's safety and effectiveness was compromised.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And certainly, the scientific integrity was not compromised along the way. And so that's what I say to people.

00:50:09:25 - 00:50:26:18

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you. The next question is how is the COVID vaccine different from the flu vaccine and if we take the COVID vaccine? Do we continue to take the flu vaccine? And also do we know how long the COVID vaccine lasts in your system or the immunity?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

OK. OK, so the flu vaccine that you take seasonally if you do take the flu vaccine is different and if it is a body of three viruses rather, but

it's very weak flu virus that you get and it basically tells your immune system.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Hi, this is what the flu virus looks like. So if you see that flu virus later during that season, you're protected against it. And so that's a little bit different than the COVID 19 vaccine, which is again, just the spike one protein from the coronavirus given to your body via messenger RNA, or mRNA.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so those are two really different concepts number one. And then two, the viruses are completely different. So if you think about one corona virus and then say, for example, MRSA that happened in 2014, these are cousins. Flu and coronavirus are like distantly related.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

20 generations apart. And so it's very hard for your immune system to pick up on viruses that are so different, even if you've been vaccinated by another one. And so, yes, if you get the coronavirus vaccine, you should also get the influenza vaccine.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

I actually had my flu vaccine back in August, and then I got my coronavirus vaccine in December. And as far as immunity to the coronavirus vaccine. So, you know, one of the things that stands out to people is the flu vaccine, which you do have to get every single year, largely because of the genetic diversity in the

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

viruses. So there's cousins and coronaviruses, but they're still pretty closely related. Like in my grandmother's house at Christmas. But for flu, you most likely don't ever see some of your cousins and to like funerals. And that's how distant though they are.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And they also circulate in such a way that different ones come around seasonally. And so you do have to get vaccinated every single season for flu. But for coronaviruses, albeit there are variants. I know you've heard about those, but they're still really, really closely related.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so we are eliciting a really, really good and high level immunity against these viruses. And as far as we can tell, remembering that the phase one clinical trial started last March, so that's about a year in the immune responses are not waning in any way that we would be alarmed.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so you want to get your vaccine and you want to start your immunity now, and we're hopeful for the long lasting effects of that immunity.

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Martha Tesfaye

Thank you. We we have another question that came in and that is, do vaccines affect different races differently? And what do you tell people who fear that the vaccine will negatively impact their health a few years from now?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Right. So the first question is, could vaccines affect different races differently? Yes. And that is exactly why it was important to have areas. And that's why we we really tried very hard to enroll black people, white people, Asians, et cetera, so that we could say very clearly, Look, this vaccine works well and it works well in everyone

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

. And so that is what we can say. So this particular vaccine does not affect anyone any differently than it actually, you know, older people or having better immune responses for some reason. But but nevertheless, you know, the 90%, 95% efficacy that you see is good for everybody.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Obviously, there are people with immune compromised and stuff like that. But on a race basis, yes, the vaccine is safe and effective for everyone equally. I'm sorry, I forget the second question.

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Martha Tesfaye

The second one was how like long term side effects people?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Yes, yes, yes, yes. And so this is actually one of the major questions that people have. So there's the. Well, it might that dispel that by saying we did all the work previously and then there is, but what about in the future?

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

But what about it? So, generally speaking, for vaccines, actually, 95% of any side effect that we've ever seen from vaccines in general happens within the first two months. And so when I talk about science, driving how we are operating in this development process, that's exactly why the FDA required that the vaccine be in the phase three participants

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

for two months before we could even submit for emergency use. So the FDA was on that. They've said we need to see safety data for up to two months in the phase three before you can even say we want to put it into the general population.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Secondly, remember that the phase one started a year ago and those people are safe and healthy and healthy and. You know, great people that work hard to get him because they've been, you know, vaccinated for a year now.

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And also one of the major concerns that people have with long term effects is this messenger RNA, which sounds scary. It's genetic material, the little black. But remembering that this technology has been being developed for over 15 years and it's been in clinical trial for a very long time since the onset of Moderna for particularly, they have

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Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

other vaccines that have been in clinical trials, but also for other therapeutics like cancer therapeutics. And so we know the long term effects of RNA in the body. The body actually knows how to handle Imani very well. Your cells do this day in and day out.

00:56:32:27 - 00:56:50:28

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

It's like boiling water for a cell. Very easy. And so cells know how to recognize messenger RNA. They know how to read the messages almost perfectly. And then after that, they know to get rid of the mani. So the message doesn't say that you're sick.

00:56:51:20 - 00:57:10:19

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, I've heard people call and now make the analogy to like a Snapchat message. It goes away in 24 hours and just leaves behind the immune response that's protective for you. And so, you know, I understand the fear, but it's just not apropos based on all of the knowledge that we have.

00:57:12:23 - 00:57:34:22

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you for that, Dr. Corbett, and I have a question from an R.N. who lives in Baltimore City. She says I'm doing my best to explain the science in layman's terms. Sometimes I'm received. Other times I'm not received any suggestions on how I can use language as a frontline worker to educate my community.

00:57:34:22 - 00:57:38:27

Speaker 9

And she says, by the way, we live in Sandtown and Harlem Park, our community.

00:57:40:12 - 00:57:57:25

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, so the first thing is, don't get down and out on your health, if some people see I actually was like that in the beginning of this because I felt it was just like the burden was sitting on my shoulders to get so much information to so many people.

00:57:58:00 - 00:58:11:05

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

As soon as possible so that we can start to save lives. But you know, the way I like to think about it, you know, everybody didn't hear Jesus the first time he said something, right? So, you know, you just hold fast and that's what you're doing.

00:58:11:05 - 00:58:29:24

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Remain informed, which is also what you're doing because you're on this webinar and then touching one life in a pandemic and remembering that those people are going to go spread that message beyond to their community, remembering that that one person is going to go get vaccinated, which has an effect on their entire community.

00:58:30:18 - 00:58:57:04

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Remembering that just touching one person in this time helps the masses. But as far as language for me, I actually don't hit the target all the time, right? So I just had Dr. Hrabowski saying, What is that? And I'm thinking I just said something very late, but I you really does help to use analogies and to pair

00:58:57:04 - 00:59:21:23

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

those analogies. I wouldn't say down but make them parallel to the audience that you're speaking to. So, you know, analogies to family really hit home to African-Americans because family is really for centuries. All we had. And so is that that kind of feeling has trickled for generations.

00:59:22:06 - 00:59:38:08

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So like to use analogies. I like to be very guide people so that they are very sorry in their questions. So people will say, Oh my God, Dr. Corbett, I'm so worried about the vaccine. I'm so worried. I'm so worried about the vaccine, and I say, Well, what are you worried about?

00:59:38:08 - 00:59:55:25

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And they're just like, I just don't understand, like the vaccine. And I try to make sure that they know that there's a lot of things that I can say, but help me help you. So guide me to where your fear lays because I could spend all day talking about the vaccine.

00:59:55:29 - 01:00:14:25

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

I mean, doing it right now, right? But I really want to make sure that you pinpoint what someone's hesitancy is really about. So whether sometimes it's autism, sometimes is the rapid development, so you don't always have to explain the vaccine to everyone but just address their particular concern.

01:00:18:11 - 01:00:27:09

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you. The next question we have is what efforts are currently being made in the laboratory to tackle the other COVID 19 variants?

01:00:29:03 - 01:00:29:18

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Are there.

01:00:31:07 - 01:00:31:12

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Things.

01:00:31:19 - 01:00:51:29

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Like holding my breath or press release that came out yesterday about that? But yes, so we have the variant vaccines, so to speak. So. So what that means is that the message that your body gets for the spike protein, we've now incorporated variations in that spike protein into the messenger for the mRNA vaccine.

01:00:52:07 - 01:01:07:25

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And that's going into phase phase one clinical trial just to assess for safety and that the vaccine actually shipped from Moderna to NIH yesterday. So we are on it if necessary, but it's not clear that it's even going to be necessary.

01:01:07:25 - 01:01:29:23

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So you do see a dip in efficacy with some of the other vaccines as they compete with the variants, for example, in South Africa. But it's not nothing. They're still very respectable protection against the variants and moreover, very, very respectable protection against the variants as it is pertaining to severe COVID 19.

01:01:30:19 - 01:01:50:24

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Which is most important. Not that concerned about the variants, I know that the media hypes them up. But part of being prepared is saying, listen, if it does become a problem, we got you covered because we've now tested it in a phase one and we're really ready to really amplify that vaccine into the population if necessary.

01:01:53:13 - 01:02:10:06

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you so much. There's one follow up relating to the flu vaccine is there are there any reactions, contradictions related to getting the flu vaccine and the COVID vaccine in close proximity? Or should there be a gap between the two vaccines?

01:02:11:20 - 01:02:18:16

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

I think that that that when you get the vaccine and you know what, this whenever I feel like I might misspeak, I always say that.

01:02:19:05 - 01:02:19:11

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

I don't.

01:02:19:11 - 01:02:37:09

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

Want to misguide people. I think that when you get the COVID vaccine, they do ask you if you've been vaccinated within the last two months. And really the part part of that is because you want your immune system to come calm down a little bit so that it is in its best shape so that it can help

01:02:37:09 - 01:02:56:26

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

to boost immunity to something else. So what happens when you get a vaccine is you get inflammation and you know, all of these things happen to your immune system that really makes it hyper. And so if something else was to come in at that same time, it wouldn't be as effective.

01:02:57:21 - 01:03:15:22

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

People say, Well, why don't we just take a double dose at the same time of the COVID 19 vaccine instead of two doses separated is because you want to you want to say hi to the immune system with the first dose and then a second dose you can want to just barge into without even speaking kind of

01:03:15:22 - 01:03:34:06

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

thing, right? So you want to wake up the immune system and then you want to really set it off. And that's the reason why you would want your immune system to calm down after two different vaccines. I mean, and that's also one of the reasons why it was so important, for example, with the with pediatric vaccines or

01:03:34:06 - 01:03:48:06

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

there to be ample research towards getting multiple different vaccines into children as soon as possible. So by combining them, because if you had to wait for your immune system to calm down each time, you can imagine a child would be ten before they finished all their vaccines.

01:03:48:26 - 01:03:51:18

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so. So yeah, you don't want to get them too soon after each other.

01:03:53:24 - 01:04:07:08

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you for that. one more question and that's regarding young children. When do you anticipate young children taking the vaccine as they're going to be trial soon or are there some taking place right now?

01:04:08:00 - 01:04:23:23

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So this is one of the times when I if I get that question from someone I could speak directly to, I would ask them about what the age of young children, because the way that this happens is called dose the same dose, age, de-escalation.

01:04:24:01 - 01:04:42:07

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

So whereby the current trials were in the 16 and up age group. There are currently trials that are happening from twelve to 16 and then downward and onward, right? So you as you prove safety and efficacy of each age group, you can go down.

01:04:44:01 - 01:04:56:05

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

And so the trials for the twelve and up age group are happening right now. It is expected that those vaccines could be into that age group in the general population by the end of the spring, with hopes that it's safe and effective.

01:04:57:24 - 01:05:15:24

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

We are doing work in younger animals, so we're infant monkeys, for example, to prepare for dosing all the way down to the infant ages. And so, you know, with time, we we will get there. But I can at least say with confidence that we're twelve and up will be there by the end of spring.

01:05:18:24 - 01:05:30:15

Martha Tesfaye

Thank you so much for that. We have a lot of questions that we will not be able to address today, but I know you do give in on a lot of events, so we will be able to follow you.

01:05:30:22 - 01:05:36:08

Martha Tesfaye

And a lot of thank you's coming through. So thank you so much, Dr. Corbett.

01:05:36:16 - 01:05:43:21

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You're welcome. I mean, thank you, guys. This is actually really fun for me. I get to ignore emails by talking to people.

01:05:43:21 - 01:05:44:06

Martha Tesfaye
So.

01:05:44:28 - 01:05:48:24

Martha Tesfaye

We're very happy to hear that we'll turn it over to Alma right now.

01:05:50:23 - 01:05:55:23

Alma Roberts

I could listen to Dr. Corbett, talk about science all day. Wow.

01:05:56:19 - 01:06:00:20

Dr. Kizzmekia S. Corbett

You know, I can go all day and that's actually problematic.

01:06:02:22 - 01:06:26:24

Alma Roberts

Wow, that is just awesome. Awesome. Well, good afternoon, everybody. My name is Alma Roberts. I'm interim director of Community Health and Economic Opportunity and Impact for Kaiser Permanente. I am also a very, very proud member of the board of directors of the original Lewis Museum of African-American History and Culture.

01:06:27:13 - 01:06:49:03

Alma Roberts

On behalf of both of these organizations, I thank you for joining us this afternoon for this wonderful example of the intersection of health and culture. Let me thank all the honorees for all that they do under normal circumstances and for the tremendous efforts that they have undertaken during this unrelenting pandemic.

01:06:50:05 - 01:07:15:14

Alma Roberts

I want to especially thank doctors, Corbett and Hrabowski for a profoundly relevant and timely conversation. How wonderful is it to have the scientist and one of her clinical trial participants share such a special and meaningful relationship? Your stories, your leadership are so important as we work to overcome the historic called trauma.

01:07:16:08 - 01:07:35:18

Alma Roberts

Communities of color have suffered in the name of science in this country. And let me just take a moment right here and testify this past Tuesday. I had my second dose of the Moderna vaccine. And as was the case with the first, I have not had any side effects.

01:07:35:29 - 01:08:02:14

Alma Roberts

I want to thank Dr. Corbett for her groundbreaking work and Dr. Hrabowski for his courage. You both made my decision easier. The recording of today's event will be made available to all of you when you receive it. Please share it freely and help us advance understanding and confidence in the vaccine in our communities, our workplaces and our

01:08:02:14 - 01:08:24:07

Alma Roberts

homes. Also following today's event, you will receive a short survey aimed at understanding the impact of this event on your perceptions and discussion decisions concerning the vaccine. The link for the the survey is also in the chat. If you want to get an early start.

01:08:25:01 - 01:08:46:13

Alma Roberts

Please take a moment. Take time to help us understand if this event and others that we are planning can make the difference in building vaccine confidence. Finally, the partnership between Kaiser Permanente and the Reginald F Lewis Museum is both unique and necessary.

01:08:47:02 - 01:09:13:27

Alma Roberts

We want to bring voice and visibility to issues that bind us culturally and socially and to those that at times create barriers to our health and prosperity. Together, we will continue to address topics that matter to you and that help us to navigate through trying times yet hopeful times together toward healing joy and well-being for all.

01:09:14:23 - 01:09:24:08

Alma Roberts

Again, congratulations to all our honorees and thank you all for joining us in their celebration. Enjoy the rest of your day.