

February 2, 2021

To All Department Members,

Since 1996 February has been officially designated as Black History Month in Canada and is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.

In addition to events taking place in the wider community, ([click here](#)), there are a number of workshops, talks, and other activities planned for McMaster. Suzanne Archie and Bev Pindar-Donick have compiled a list of these activities which is included in the section below. More details about other events at McMaster, as well as the moving poem read by Amanda Gorman at Joe Biden's Inauguration, can be found [here](#).

Nick

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2021 – EVENTS AT McMASTER

Black History month provides an opportunity to share and learn about the experience, contributions, and achievements of Black Canadians. The global challenges of 2020 further exposed systemic inequities that exist at the root of our institutions. Black History month provides an occasion to celebrate resilience, determination, and time to reflect on the continued struggle for racial justice.

In celebration of Black History month, we have compiled a **list of academic events occurring this month** that spotlight anti-black racism, medicine, and achievement of Black academics.

On February 10, 2021, Ameil Joseph, Associate Professor, Faculty of School of Social Work, McMaster University, will present at Department Rounds and speak to *the Social and Historical context of Anti-Black Racism in Medicine*.

On February 17, 2021, Dr. Kassia Johnson, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics, will present at Department Rounds to discuss *How Systemic and Embedded Anti-Black Racism Impacts the Careers of Black physicians and the care of Black patients*.

On February 27, 2021, BPAO (Black Physicians Association of Ontario (www.bpao.org)) will host its annual health symposium online. The keynote speaker is Dr. Kwadwo Kyeremanteng, who will speak about COVID-19: *Reflections from experiences on the Frontlines*. Other topics include using race-based and sociodemographic data to improve health outcomes for Black and marginalized populations in Toronto by Cynthia Damba MBChB, MHS.

On February 28, 2021, the Black Physicians of Canada is hosting the virtual **Black Physicians Summit – Enhancing the Black Trainee Experience** ([Blackdocs.eventbrite.ca](https://blackdocs.eventbrite.ca)). The keynote speaker is Ike Okafor (a senior officer in service learning and diversity University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine) who initiated the COS (Community of Support) program, which has boosted Black student representation at the University of Toronto medical school from one Black student in the class of 2020 to 25 Black students for the class of 2024.

During the week of February 22 to 26th. (exact time and date to be announced)The ACFAM (African Caribbean Faculty Association of McMaster) and AADS (African and African Diaspora Studies) are hosting a **Faculty Symposium and Meet and Greet** to provide an

opportunity for Black students to network and make personal connections with faculty.

Dr. King's speech "*I Have a Dream*" of 1963, still resonates today, 58 years later. We hope that you take some time this month to learn something new about Black history – "We cannot walk alone".

Suzanne Archie
Bev Pindar-Donick

