



Supplemental Materials

for

The Tuskegee Experiment: An Introduction in Ethics for Pre-Healthcare Professional Students

Daniel Miranda, Jr. and David Jesse Sanchez

Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, CA 91766, and Life Sciences Department, Los Angeles City College, Los Angeles, CA 90029

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Corresponding authors. Mailing address: Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Western University of Health Sciences, 309 East Second St., Pomona, CA 91766. Phone: 909-469-8479. Fax: 909-469-5600. E-mail: dmirand00@yahoo.com or sanchezd@westernu.edu.

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Appendix 1: List of learning objectives and sample essay prompts.

Examples of Learning Objectives to Connect with Assignment:

- *Know the cause of Syphilis*
- *Understand the symptoms of the different stages of Syphilis*
- *Demonstrate background knowledge and ramifications of the Tuskegee experiments*
- *Know how ethics are involved with all scientific experiments*
- *Be able to describe the principles of informed consent and protection of patients in medical setting*

Example Essay Prompts:

(A) In a one page essay, describe what the Tuskegee experiments were and what infectious organism was being studied. Explain the different stages of the infection and which stage was being examined in the Tuskegee experiments. What were ethical problems with the experiments and provide a reason why people would have participated in these experiments as a patient and as a physician.

(B) In a one page essay, describe what the Tuskegee experiments were and what infectious organism was being studied. What were ethical problems with the experiments and provide a reason why people would have participated in these experiments as a patient and as a physician. Explain what informed consent and IRBs are and how they work to protect patients.

(C) In the near future you are working in a clinic and run across a patient with their adult child. The adult child brought in the patient who is a 65 year old seemingly healthy adult. You notice that the patient is not happy to be there. You ask why and they say it is because they recently read the book *Bad Blood* and are very concerned coming to for a wellness visit after hearing about the Tuskegee experiments. In a one page essay explain to the patient (Mr. Smith) the overall details of what events occurred in the Tuskegee experiments and the ways that are in place in a medical setting to make sure that never happens again.*

* This essay prompt is based on work published: **Shavers, V.L., C. F. Lynch, and L. F. Burmeister.** 2000. Knowledge of the Tuskegee study and its impact on the willingness to participate in medical research studies. *J Natl Med Assoc.* **92(12):** 563–572.

Connections to ASM Curriculum Guideline Suggestions for General Microbiology:

Ability to communicate and collaborate with other disciplines

- *Effectively communicate fundamental concepts of microbiology in written and oral format.*
- *Identify credible scientific sources and interpret and evaluate the information therein.*

Ability to understand the relationship between science and society

- *Identify and discuss ethical issues in microbiology.*