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To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

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Race, Racism and Health

Featured at Lakeland Health's Community Grand Rounds series

ON JULY 10, 2018, DR. DAVID R. WILLIAMS was the guest speaker for Lakeland Health's Community Grand Rounds series, held at the Howard Performing Arts Center.

The Community Grand Rounds series is Lakeland's three-year educational speaker series focusing on the impact of racial discrimination on the health of African Americans and on health inequities. It is a collaborative effort between Lakeland Health and The Todman Family Foundation, designed for professionals in medicine, allied health fields, social work, government leaders and community members.

Williams is the Norman Professor of Public Health and Professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. Previously he taught at Yale University and the University of Michigan. The author of over 400 scientific articles, his research focuses on social influences on health. Elected to the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, he has been ranked as the Most Cited Black Scholar in the Social Sciences in the world and as one of the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds.

During his presentation, Williams spoke about the biological effects of exposure to

racial discrimination and provided examples of what clinicians, health systems, municipal leaders and others could do to address this problem.

Michael Nixon, vice president for Diversity & Inclusion at Andrews University, says, "I am delighted that Lakeland Health hosted this installment of the vitally important Community Grand Rounds on Race, Racism and Health on our campus. As we continue striving to develop world changers here at Andrews, it is important that we also understand the unique effects and challenges that members of certain races have been forced to wrestle with due to the ills of racism."

Curtis VanderWaal, chair and professor of social work and director of the Center for Community Impact Research at the Institute for Prevention of Addictions, shared his response toward the program and speaker. "We are indebted to Dr. Williams for not only his research but also the practical examples that he shared to help clinicians, school administrators, health systems, municipal leaders and everyday citizens address this problem directly."

Visit lakelandhealth.org/community-grand-rounds for additional resources and information.



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