



A Podcast Discussion Guide for Teams

The [Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities & History](#) encourages teams throughout Duke University to engage with [UNHEALED: A Story of Race, Memory, and a Teaching Hospital](#) together. Consider picking a time and place for team members to talk about the podcast after everyone has had a chance to listen. Below are suggested discussion questions.

Ice Breakers:

- Why did you decide to listen to the podcast?
- Choose one word or phrase that describes your reaction to the podcast.

Episode 1: What's Past is Present

- Where are you from? How much do you know about the racial history of your own community? How much do you know about Durham's racial history?
- Where were you in 2020? Please describe one thing that you learned or that surprised you about racial tensions during that year.
- Have you heard the story of Maltheus Avery at Duke before? Who decides what history is worth knowing? Should medical students and other future health care providers learn about the Tuskegee Syphilis

Experiment, Henrietta Lacks, and Marion Sims? If so, how can students learn about the experiences of African Americans in health care that is not so dreary and depressing?

Episode 2: How Two Stories Became One

- Have you heard of Dr. Charles Drew? Bessie Smith? What do you make of their stories?
- What was your reaction to hearing how Charles Drew's story was merged with Maltheus Avery's?
- What are the harms or benefits of telling one person's story to illustrate a larger problem? (e.g., Serena Williams and pregnancy-related issues)

Episode 3: A Family's Story

- How does learning the story of Maltheus Avery's life affect how you think about his death?
- What was your reaction to learning the stories of Maltheus Avery's two brothers, Waddell, and Parnell?
- If you were an Avery family member, how would you feel about whether to tell this story 75 years after it happened?
- Why is it important to include Avery's two brothers when telling his story?

Episode 4: No Room at the Inn

- Can you think of parallel examples today of how reporting about racism goes viral in the media?
- Is traditional media or social media attention the best path to change?
- What did you learn about the role of the Louis Austin and the Black press in challenging American racism in the Jim Crow era?
- How did criticisms of Duke by writers who were Black differ from those of other authors?

Episode 5: Invisible Racism

- If Duke Hospital was more progressive than other segregated facilities in 1950, does it mean that it was "morally off the hook?"
- What do you think people will be saying about Duke University 75 years from now? What do you hope they will say?
- Professor Kinghorn says that while we often think of hospitals as places of technology and treatment, their most fundamental mission is to provide care—to be "hospitable." Do you agree? And why does this matter for the Avery story?

Episode 6: Moments to Movements

- In your time at Duke and Durham, what (if any) protest movements have you seen?
- Have you seen changes toward greater racial equality? What do you think still needs to be done?
- Did the podcast hosts fairly balance the two themes of "how far we have come" with "how far we still have to go? Or do you think that one theme was emphasized to the exclusion of the other?"
- How did this podcast affect your perception of working at Duke? And of those who came before you?

Episode 7: What Now, Why This Story Matters

- How does it make you feel as a member of the Duke community today learning about the anger the Avery family had towards Duke University?
- How have family members talked to you about what life was like during the Jim Crow era?
- Why do you think local history does or does not matter to an institution like Duke?
- Did you learn anything that surprised you about what Duke Health is doing in the community today?
- In what ways can remembering the Avery story (and others like it) further racial progress?

After your conversation, let us know what you thought of the podcast and any questions you have for Drs. Tweedy and Baker. Email us at trent-center@duke.edu.