Talus (Astragalus) Fractures
Maxime J Coles MD

It takes tremendous force to have a fracture of the talus (astragalus) bone. This is a dense bone and injury to it is relatively uncommon and represents less than 1% of all fractures. It is the second largest bone of the tarsus after the calcaneus (heel bone). It carries a high-risk injury, very difficult to manage and does present a challenge to the orthopedic surgeon. We will try to review the basic management of such injury and discuss some of the practical surgical procedures used to repair such fracture in order to obtain the best outcome.

Talus fractures occur as a result of a high-injury trauma, notably from a motor vehicle accident. They can be isolated but more often they are accompanied with neighboring bones fractures and dislocations. Jumpers landing from high jumps represent most of the victims. Skiers and snowboarders are frequently injured in practicing their favorite sports because of the stress placed on the talus at landing especially on the lateral process.

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The talus bone is the connector between the lower leg and the foot, bearing mainly the weight of the body through its superior surface, called the dome. It is composed almost entirely of coarse bone, largely covered by an articular cartilage, a slippery material which allows the smooth gliding of the superior surface over the neighboring bones. A talus fracture represents a break in one of the bones that forms the ankle with the tibia and fibula. It is represented by a head, a neck and a body part. The ankle allows the foot to move up and down in flexion or extension mainly. While the talus sits on the top of the calcaneus (heel’s bone), forming with it, the subtalar joint, it allows the foot to move inward and outward which brings it importance in walking on uneven surfaces. This type of fracture often occurs during a high-energy event, such as a motor vehicle accident or a jump from significant height.

Because of its importance in the range of motion of the ankle joint, a fracture of the talus bone may alter the functioning of the joint resulting in substantial loss of motion and stability. Poor healing of a talus fracture can lead to complications, including a painful limp, degenerative arthritis, chronic pain, deformity and avascular necrosis. For these reasons, most displaced fractures involving the talus may require a surgical approach.

The talus bone sits between the bones of the lower leg and the calcaneus (heel bone). All parts of the Talus bone can get involved in a fracture. A break through the mid portion is through the neck which is between the head and the body. The body sits under the tibia and the head articulates distally in the foot with the tarsal bones (Navicular and Cuneiforms). Fractures of the talus although rare, presents with serious consequences. The vast majority of them are intra-articular because the talus is a bone almost completely covered with articular cartilage. They can be seen in closed or open injury but most of the time it will require a special attention for evaluation and treatment.

The talus may also fracture through a prominence on the outside of the bone called the lateral process out to the side which occur when the ankle is forced out in snowboarders. Fractures of the talus are classified by the numbers of fragments into minimally displaced or stable fractures. In these cases, the fragments are held together and remain aligned. Even in a minimally displaced fractures, the fragments may stand together and not requiring surgical treatment. In a displaced fracture, the fragments move out of their anatomical position. The amount of displacement relates to the force at impact. A highly comminuted and displaced fracture is more likely to be unstable but only a restoration in the alignment can predict a functional outcome.
A talus fracture through the neck portion is depicted above.

Talus fractures can be classified by how much the pieces of bone have moved out of their normal position. Minimally displaced or stable fractures are barely out of place. The broken ends of the bone line up correctly or almost correctly. In a minimally displaced fracture, as well, the bones fragments usually stay in place and rarely will require surgical repair.

A displaced fracture occurs when the bone breaks into pieces to lose their anatomic position. The mechanism of injury and the force at impact will determine the amount of displacement. I will repeat it as often as possible that a displaced talus fracture is unstable and can be treated only by surgical means. A good restoration in the anatomical alignment can dictate the return to functionality. An open fracture by definition is an emergency and will require surgical attention with irrigation and debridement of the surrounding muscles, ligaments and bone as well as an open reduction and internal fixation. Such fractures are prone to infection and can take more time for healing.

At physical examination, the physician should look for any sign suggesting an open injury. A punctiform wound may be the door of exit of a bony fragment through the skin, any ecchymosis showing signs of oozing blood or any large laceration and bleeding over the ankle or any deformity are looked for. The patient is unable to bear weight on the injured lower extremity. The foot and ankle are carefully examined on such findings. The blood supply may be jeopardized due to compression of the vessels by displaced bony fragments. Sensation in the foot as well as the range of motion of the toes will allow to check on functionality. Assess the calf muscles for a possible increase in compartmental pressure or in loss of sensation of the foot requiring any emergent treatment. Often, these patients are polytraumatized and the Advanced Trauma Life Support Protocol is expected to be part of the initial evaluation for the extremities, the pelvis as well as the spine. A splint for comfort is necessary while further radiologic studies are warranted.
An ankle film with multiple views will confirm the clinical diagnosis of a talus fracture but the CT scan with cross-sectional images of the foot, remains the study of choice. It will provide sufficient information on the fragments to plan any surgical treatment. The best classification used to help the orthopedist to take a choice of treatment is the Hawkins’s classification dealing with the fracture interesting the neck of the talus. A picture below is depicting this atypical fracture that all us will find difficult to treat. I can’t go over all the fractures type like the head, the lateral process, the body etc but I will choose the fracture of the neck to better present the difficulties in treating such injury and appreciate the importance of the blood supply of the bone itself. At the end I will hope that our lector will understand the importance of this bone and that our residents will comprehend the need to give a special attention to the Talus bone.

Hawkins’s classification of a neck fracture of the talus.
Case Presentation:
I would like to go over a recent case of mine: A 24-year-old young lady is examined by me in the Emergency room following a Motor Vehicle Accident in which she was an unrestrained driver involved in a head-on car accident. She has a one system injury and was cleared by the trauma team. She was found intoxicated with alcohol and has also shown multiple narcotics in her system. She is in pain and the right ankle showed an obvious deformation. At examination, the talus is deformed and displaced but her neurovascular status in intact and more, the right calf muscle is soft to palpation. This is a closed fracture which is going to ask for an immediate attention. A well-padded posterior splint is applied and she is sent for regular X-rays and CT scan study of the ankle.

Such a case is a challenge at 1:30 AM, for the most experienced orthopedic surgeon. I would like to review it with you. The blood supply of such a bone is precarious and it becomes important for the patient to be treated in an expeditious way to prevent any future complications. By far the biggest handicap with this injury is the way the blood supply is presented to the bone itself, from distal to proximal. Let me start with a little reminder on the blood supply to the talus bone. Many vessels bring a rich blood supply to the talus but a fracture through the neck especially can destroy the entire vasculature. Mainly three important vessels bring a sufficiently rich vascularization to the entire bone:

1. The “Dorsalis Pedis artery” supplies the head and the neck of the talus bone while contributing to supply the arteries of the tarsal canal and the tarsal sinus (beneath the talar neck). This represents the main vascular supply to the head and neck portion but one can understand that a displaced fracture at that level may destroy the way the blood is supplied.
2. The “Peroneal artery” provides some branches laterally especially to the lateral process. It also contributes to the artery of the sinus tarsi.
3. The “Posterior tibialis artery” supplies the dorsal aspect of the talar neck and also aliment the blood supply to the sinus tarsi artery.
4. The artery of the sinus tarsi canal is then supplemented with anastomotic branches which supply the talar neck. The main artery supplying the body of the talus comes from the artery of the tarsal canal.

In a non-displaced (less) or in a displaced talar neck fracture, we can understand how the vasculature to the entire talus can be jeopardized. If a non-displaced fracture of the neck can disrupt intraosseous branches at the tarsal sinus or the tarsal canal, one can be lucky to have in a Hawkins type 1 or even a Hawkins type 2, a preservation of some of the blood supply. Unfortunately, when we deal with a
Hawkins type 3 or a type 4, the mechanism of injury and the displacement of the fragments bring to the anatomical area such a destruction that the almost entire blood supply described, is lost. This is why these fractures become a nightmare for the orthopedic surgeon and their approach imposes a methodical way in the goal of avoiding further destruction to the precarious remaining blood supply. It will be repetitive for me to mention again that the biggest problem with such injury is the loss of the entire blood supply to the talus bone. The more destruction or displacement, the more certain the chances in developing an Avascular Necrosis will be present.

Let us return to our 24-year-old patient who was a victim of a Motor Vehicle Accident and presented via ambulance as a trauma patient at 1.30 AM. After damage control like the orthopedist like to say, radiologic studies and CT scans revealed an injury classified as a Hawkins “3” like shown on the pictures below, because the head of the talus was still in place, undisturbed but the body of the talus was extruded and displaced behind the distal tibia.

Radiographic studies showed a Hawkins 3 talus fracture with some comminution and a body extruded and posteriorly displaced. The head of the talus is still in its anatomical position articulating the tarsal bones:

Coronal and sagittal views of the right ankle

A CT Scan showing the absence of the talar body in the subtalar space and a talar head still articulating with the tarsal navicular and cuneiforms bones. I have exposed the “puzzle” and we will need to find a solution to the problem in order to save this young lady lower extremity.
What are my options as an orthopedist in such a Talus fracture (Hawkins 3)?

A talus fracture is a painful event. We may want to apply a well-padded splint from toe to upper calf to protect the extremity which I reported earlier, was performed as soon as we had trauma clearance with elevation of the right lower extremity by two pillows above the level of the heart.

All talus fractures do not require surgical treatment. If they are stable and non-displaced or the bony fragments are in good alignment, immobilization in a short leg cast or even a Cam-Walker supplemented with crutches ambulation with toe touch to a non-weight bearing, will allow the fracture to heal. This non-weight bearing protocol will need to be absolutely implemented for at least 6 to 8 weeks and then a rehabilitation may be necessary. Functional Bracing can be equally used in treating an un-displaced or minimally displaced fractures.

On the contrary, when a talus fracture is displaced like we see here in our patient with a Hawkins 3 or four, there is no other option than to perform an open reduction and an internal fixation using K wires, plates or different kind of screws or even plates. Nowadays it has become more practical to use cannulated screws going front to back or inversely going to back to front to stabilize the fragments. The purpose of the surgical treatment is to perform a good debridement and allow an apposition of the broken fragments and to hold them in position and build up a stable construct. The clinical outcome will depend on the quality of the reduction and the comminution at the fracture site, re-enforced by the most stable fixation possible.

So, here we are. facing this young lady at 2 AM, ready for the surgical treatment. Often, I like to approach such injury medially and if necessary open as well the lateral side for exposure. The blood supply is already compromised but you want to manage the soft tissue envelope carefully, avoiding more destruction to the remaining vascular envelope. Surely, you want the best option whenever possible. It is imperative to save the fragments, align them to allow a possible reconstruction.

So, through a medial approach, using a 5 centimeters-oblique incision starting anteriorly to the medial malleolus and extending obliquely and distally between the insertion of the anterior tibialis and posterior tibialis tendons. Attention was well taken to avoid disturbing more of the venous or arterial blood supply to the area. The capsule was found destroyed medially and the body of the talus was discovered, displaced posteriorly behind the tibial pilon. Attempts at relocating the body of the talus failed at first until I was able to pre-drill and osteotomize the medial malleolus for a wider exposure. Then, it becomes easier to relocate the body of the talus to its anatomical position. I had no other choice than to stabilize the comminuted fracture with three transfixing “K’ wires left above skin.

I wish to have been able to insert at least one additional cannulated screw but the fracture component to the head and neck was so oblique that it would shear the cortex. The “K” wires were placed under C-Arm control. We did reconstruct the dome and perform a good apposition of the fragments, in a precarious stability. Copious irrigation and splinting were performed after an anatomical reconstruction and then fixation of the transected medial malleolus. Immediate intra-operative films are shown here:
An anterior view in the immediate post-operative period with a transfixing a comminuted talus fracture and a cannulated screw holding well the osteotomized medial malleolus. The 3 “K” wires were left above the skin, percutaneously holding on a comminuted fracture of the talus (Hawkins 3).

A lateral view of the immediate post op is also shown with hardware holding on a comminuted fracture of the talus.

The immediate post op was uneventful and she tolerated the procedure well. One will hope that her problems are over and she will need to wait for further healing of the fracture. The talus is not always predictable and in some 6 weeks we will need to look for an important sign (Hawkins’s sign) which is of prognosis value. We wish that such process in a talus fracture was so simple. In anyway, she did good with the crutches and was discharged home on pain medication.

What are the complications we can face in such a case?

In any unstable fracture of the talus, the blood supply may be disrupted at the time of injury but it is also possible to expect a certain return to the destroyed vasculature. It may return to the bone providing adequate healing of the fracture. Often, the bone may die without sufficient blood supply, leading to a progressive collapse, often painful. This phenomenon is called Avascular Necrosis (AVN) or Aseptic Necrosis or Osteonecrosis. The reduction in the perfusion to the bone with it precarious blood supply coming from distal to proximal is responsible of this problem. Whenever the bone collapses in this condition, there may be a complete destruction of the articular cartilage with chondrolysis allowing a constant rubbing of the bony fragments and resulting in further degenerative arthritis.
In the past such a painful situation was treated with an ankle fusion but nowadays, more and more one will suggest an ankle hemi-arthroplasty or a total ankle replacement to resolve such painful problem. One may also say that an ankle replacement does not offer the longevity of a total hip or a total knee replacement but the alternative on a long range to avoid a painful situation, will bring such patient to embrace the choice. I wish I were able to discuss in more details, different points of view in the orthopedic literature but I would not like to entertain our lectors on this problem.

I tried to present simply, a complicated case for which I used my surgical skills recently. In a way, I wanted to present the difficulties encountered by the orthopedic surgeon in any comminuted fracture of the talus bone. Although those fractures are serious, I hope I was convincing enough to expose the sense of urgency to our AMHE Newsletter lectors in instilling a better understanding in the emergent treatment of such a fracture. I wish also to dedicate this paper to all of our hard-working orthopedic residents in Haiti or in the United States who may have faced such injury during their residency training or during their far away assignment. They certainly will understand better the seriousness of the injury, the approach to the problem and the amount of disability such fracture carries with it.

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J’ai écouté avec attention la théorie de Freud sur Dieu et la religion cette semaine. Pour beaucoup et pour Freud lui-même, l’homme cherche toute sa vie à répondre à deux questions existentielles fondamentales à savoir : quelle est l’origine de l’humanité et où allons nous après la mort ? J’étais très impressionné par la tentative de Freud de ramener le divin à une dimension humaine, donc saisissable et à portée de vue. J’en ai parlé cependant à des collègues de tous bords : religieux, athéistes, voire ésotéristes en vue de mieux comprendre ce que sa théorie de la religion pourrait enseigner à nous autres assoiffés de lumière et toujours en quête de vérité sans ambages.…

Essayons d’expliquer en quelques mots la théorie de Freud sur Dieu et la Religion !

Freud pense que Dieu ne nous a pas crées et que c’est nous autres qui avons au contraire créé Dieu. En effet, pour satisfaire à notre soif de sécurité et de protection, nous inventons un dieu qui soit notre père et qui puisse pourvoir à nos besoins. Pour Freud, le Dieu dont on parle chaque jour, c’est un Dieu taillé sur mesure comportant un volet de punition et un volet de protection. Quand nous agissons bien, ce dieu nous récompense. Par contre, il tend à nous punir si nous agissons mal envers lui et envers nos semblables. D’où les notions d’enfer et de paradis. L’homme, dit-il, est un animal destructeur, toujours enclin à dominer ses semblables et à faire table rase de son environnement. Il serait comme un enfant qui a besoin de vivre sous le protectorat d’un être plus fort .Et, étant donné que Le genre masculin a toujours été considéré comme le genre le plus fort, Dieu est donc souvent dépeint comme un père : d’où la notion de Dieu le père, si souvent employée dans le langage religieux.

Après avoir entendu la vidéo, J’avais trouvé un Freud plutôt latéraliste, qui cherche à tout ramener à des pulsions sexuelles originelles et à un matérialisme desséchant, ignorant ainsi la dimension spirituelle et supra humaine de la religion. Il rejoint d’autres écrivains comme Voltaire qui croit que « si Dieu n’existait pas, il faudrait l’inventer pour punir les bandits », ou mieux Tolstoï, qui disait à l’approche du siècle dernier ce que Freud n’a fait que répéter plus tard, à savoir que Dieu n’a pas créé l’homme à son image et que c’est l’homme qui au contraire, aurait créé Dieu. Freud fait donc de la religion un gendarme appelé à policer les mœurs de la société. Il faut avouer que Freud, quoique rompu aux pratiques du talmud ou du judaïsme, était devenu trop imprégné de la culture occidentale pour faire un tant soi peu de place au coté ésotérique de la religion. Là on se demande ce que Freud aurait fait ou dit s’il s’était porté témoin d’un homme possédé par un Loa et qui s’était mis à manger des tessons de bouteilles sans une égratignure dans la bouche ou au niveau de la langue ? Ou mieux un homme se mettant du charbon de bois ardent aux cheveux ou dans la main sans se faire bruler ? Aurait-il cru autrement ?

En parlant à des initiés qui s’y connaissent bien en religion, j’ai vite compris qu’il y avait des
failles dans cette théorie où Dieu serait une simple invention de l’homme pour répondre uniquement à ses besoins primaires de santé, de logement, de vêtements et de nourriture, et qu’une approche beaucoup plus équilibrée méritait d’être considérée. D’abord, qui a créé qui ? Une femme chrétienne m’a dit que même si nous ne nous en rendons pas compte, Dieu nous a peut-être créées sans que nous le sachions. Elle prit en exemple son chien qui est devenu inséparable d’elle et qui l’attendent chaque soir au seuil de la porte lorsqu’elle rentre à la maison pour la saluer…. Pour le chien, elle est devenue un dieu parce que c’est elle qui lui donne à manger et qui lui protège contre les conditions extrêmes de température et de privation. Elle ajoute que le chien ne l’a pas inventée pour être son Dieu à cause de ses besoins essentiels, et que c’est elle qui, fidèle à sa promesse de prendre soin du chien, le fait chaque jour, sans rien attendre en retour. Pour elle, C’est à cause de la fidélité de Dieu envers nous, qu’il continue de prendre soin de nous et de pouvoir à nos besoins. Elle pense donc que Dieu nous a créées et que nous n’avons pas créé Dieu. Au sens strict du terme, on ne saurait, ni ne devrait émietter Dieu et le réduire à un tel niveau. Car si c’en était bien le cas, chacun aurait ses dieux propres à lui et la pan théologie regorgerait de ces dieux défunts une fois finie notre vie, et éteint le souffle qui est en nous.

Un deuxième ami, irreligieux mais croyant, de son état, m’a dit que Dieu ne nous a pas créées et que nous n’avons pas créé Dieu. Au sens strict du terme, on ne saurait, ni ne devrait émietter Dieu et le réduire à un tel niveau. Car si c’en était bien le cas, chacun aurait ses dieux propres à lui et la pan théologie regorgerait de ces dieux défunts une fois finie notre vie, et éteint le souffle qui est en nous.

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et interpréter est pour beaucoup de fidèles la pire des offenses que l’on puisse faire à Dieu. Beaucoup disent qu’il faut obéir sans comprendre parce que cela renforce notre foi. La posture EX-cathedra d’une voix trônant du haut de la chair, n’améliore en rien le rapport entre Dieu et l’homme dont le prêtre, l’Imam ou le pasteur aurait dû jouer un rôle plutôt facilitateur. La vraie nature du divin semble être souvent cachée à dessein en vue de perpétuer l’ignorance et occulter les faits. Dans l’esprit d’un débat constructif, j’espère que chacun y apportera sa pierre et continuera d’alimenter le flux de pensées seul capable de fixer un projecteur sur la vraie nature du divin.

Rony Jean-Mary, M.D.

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**IN MEMORIAM (DR. SURENA)**

AVEC PEINE ET DOULEUR,

L’AMHE ANNONCE LE DÉPART VERS L’AU-DELÀ DE LA TRÈS REGRETTÉE, DR. MARIE-YOLENE SURENA VAVAL, SURVENUE DANS LA NUIT DU 27 AU 28 MAI DERNIER À L’HÔPITAL DE MIREBALAIS, HAITI, À L’ÂGE DE 68 ANS.

DR. MARIE YOLENE SURENA VAVAL ÉTAIT UN MéDECIN COMPÉTENT, PÉTRIE D’UNE GRANDE HUMILITÉ ET D’UNE GRANDEUR D’ÂME EXCEPTIONNELLE.

ELLE EST DU NOMBRE DE CEUX ET DE CELLES QUI ONT BLANCHI SOUS LE HARNAISS ET QUI ONT DÉDIÉ LEUR LONGUE CARRIÈRE DE MÉDECIN À ÉDUCQUER, À TRANSMETTRE LEUR VASTE SAVOIR AUX GÉNÉRATIONS D’APRÈS, ET À SAUVER DES VIES.

LOIN DE CHERCHER UNE EXISTENCE FACILE, EMPAILLÉE DE CONVENANCES, ELLE AVAIT POURTANT COMPRIS, DE TRÈS TÔT, QUE L’ESTIME DEVAIT PLUTÔT S’ACQUÉRIR PAR LE TRAVAIL ARDU ET CONSISTENT. ELLE A DONC GAGNÉ TOUTES SES ÉPAULETTES SUR LES CHAMPS DE BATAILLE. ELLE RENTRE DANS L’ÉTERNITÉ AVEC HONNEUR ET DISTINCTION. PLAISE À DIEU DE LA COURONNER POUR SON ŒUVRE ICI-BAS !!!

TOUTES NOS CONDOLÉANCES AUX FAMILLES VAVAL, SURENA, DÉBROSSE ETC., ET À TOUS CEUX QUE CE DEUIL AFFLIGE, PARTICULIÈREMENT AU DR. CLAUDE SURENA SON ÉPOUX, ET À TOUS SES ENFANTS .

LA DATE DES FUNÉRAILLES DE LA TRÈS CHÈRE ET REGRETTÉE DR. MARIE YOLENE SURENA VAVAL SERA CONNUe ULTÉRIEUREMENT.

QU’ELLE SE REPPOSE ENFIN D’UNE MISSION SI BIEN ACCOMPLIE ICI-BAS, D’UNE TACHE EXERCÉE AVEC SOIN, AMOUR ET FIDÉLITÉ !!!

RONY JEAN-MARY, M.D.
AMHE FLORIDA CHAPTER PRÉSIDÉNT
A- Prior to the pandemic, suicide risk was twice as high among female nurses compared to American women. A new study in the healthcare community showed that a female nurse older than 30, was found to be 70% more likely to die by suicide than a female physician. Data were drawn from the National Violent Death Reporting System.

The study was performed by Matthew Davis, an associate professor in the department of Systems, Population and Leadership at the University of Michigan. He tried to explain the rate of suicide by the high job demands and the lower autonomy compared to physicians, the avoidance of mental health services by fear of stigma as well as a greater access to prescription drugs. More, the pandemic has added more stress to the healthcare professionals especially the nurses.

159,000 suicides were reviewed between 2007 and 2018 and 2,400 involved nurses and 8 on 10 were women (80%). 850 suicides were found among physicians with 85% were men. The remaining 156,000 were found in the general public with a higher incidence in men with ¾ of those cases.

He concluded that the suicide incidence among nurses was 17.1 per 100,000 compared to 8.6 per 100,000 for women in the general population, doubling the risk. The number of suicides among male nurses was insignificant.

Davis thinks that the suicide rate among physicians was not found to be significantly higher than the rate found in the general population. He also noticed that when nurses or physicians take their lives, drugs are often involved. A 17% of suicide is noted in the general population due to drugs but among physicians or nurses nearly a quarter (25%) of the case have drug involved. Antidepressant, Barbiturates, Opioids and Benzodiazepine were the most involved medications.

B- Anybody who has received their two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or the one dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving the shots. These fully vaccinated persons can resume their pre-pandemic activities. These vaccines virtually eliminate any chances of contracting or spreading the virus. You can attend activities like going to the marketplace mask-less because you are not at meaningful risks in catching the virus. If you come with flu like symptoms, you may consider to stay at home.

Although Dr Fauci announced as well as President Biden to be free of mask, the CDC has advised vaccinated people to continue wearing it especially when visiting hospitals, nursing homes, homeless places, travelling etc. The recommendations go to the immunocompromised patient to continue wearing the masks.

In families fully vaccinated who still have not reached the two weeks post injection, the wear of mask seems to be reasonable and protective against other unvaccinated members especially the 12- and 15-year-old or when engaging with the outside world.

It may be also well on the way to declare that anybody who had receive the vaccine, will need a booster shot in a year or so. Both Pfizer and Moderna have already started working on the booster. Although, soon Soon we will reach 300 million of vaccine doses distributed to the public.
C- Young men who suffered with the COVID-19 infection were found to have nearly six time the risk of developing erectile dysfunction while inversely, men with erectile dysfunction were also found to have five times more chance to catch the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This study was performed by Emmanuel A Jannini MD, a professor in endocrinology and medical sexology at the university Rome Tor Vergata in Rome, Italy. 

Erectile Dysfunction can be either a short term or a long-term complication of the disease although Diabetes, old age, smoking or high body mass can present with endothelial dysfunction. A biomarker will help in making the diagnosis in COVID-19. Men now have a compelling reason to become preceptive to the vaccine because they potentially could become poor performers in the bedroom.

The Coronavirus is already known to damage blood vessels, especially vessels supplying the penis can’t make any exception to the rule. Researchers have discovered with the electronic microscope, the virus in penises tissue taken from patients infected with COVID-19. This study was recently published in the last issue of the “World Journal of Men’s Health”.

Erectile dysfunction can be also the hallmark of a non-obstructive coronary artery disease especially when asymptomatic patients who suffered from the disease may present with undetected small blood vessels problems. A professor at the University of Miami Miller school of Medicine, Ranjith Ramasamy found out that the blood vessels themselves were unable to provide enough blood to satisfy an erection. He even thinks that those effects may represent permanent changes because the study was performed on the two patients who developed COVID-19 and subsequent impotence which forced them later to benefit from a penile prosthesis.

D- COVID-19 cases in the USA are dropping and recently, mandates on the wear of masks were lifted. Soon to come with the summer camps, the CDC has stated that vaccinated staffers and adolescents will not need to wear masks during camp activities. Not too many scientists are agreeable with these measures because if we were convinced already that taking the vaccine would be the first step, we are far from approaching the 70% of vaccinated people needed to reach the herd immunity. Only 35% of the population has already received both doses; Many are still hesitant and while the vaccine is extended to the adolescents 12 to 15 in age, parents are not seeing much the reason to have their kids take the vaccine. We do continue to have a problem with the hesitancy.
The inoculation of children may look like it is a key to achieving our goal while we are facing a fourth wave with the virus attacks. Dropping masks for a population at risk, partially vaccinated may be not responsible although Americans are tired of these restrictions in their life and would to regain more freedom in their activities. They want to be able to go to the movie, assist or participate in games or simply attend concerts.

E- Another study found that more than 99% of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 during the last 3 months in 2021 were not vaccinated. The mRNA vaccine of Pfizer and Moderna were more than 96% effective against the infection. The same experience was repeated at the Cleveland clinic last month showing 76% not vaccinated catching the disease. The study was extended to 47,000 employees at the clinic and less than 2000 tested positive for the virus but 99.7% of the one who contacted the virus weren’t vaccinated.

F- The CDC has done what was already prone by many members of the senate (Senator Ran Paul) fighting the right to be free of not wearing masks like they have done in countries like Israel for the last two months. It was announced officially today on 5-13-2021 that the wear of masks was not mandatory anymore.

Parallelly, all kids aged 12 to 15 are eligible to take the vaccine. Children are known to be COVID-19 virus spreaders. We hope to see less hesitancy. If you are fully vaccinated against the virus, it is now official that you do not need to wear a mask inside or outdoor anymore. We still will need 70% of our population to reach this level of her immunity.

We have to remember that last week the CDC was releasing the new guidelines for the wear of mask while Dr Fauci was giving his testimony in the senate without wearing a mask. Senator Ran Paul was pounding him with questions about the need to wear one. The CDC demonstrated the benefits one would have in wearing it outside in exaggerating that outdoor activities were responsible for less than 10% of most transmission of the infection. So much confusion for a population already frustrated. In fact, less than .1% is encountered in the outdoors.

A recent survey from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health on 1300 people in March 2021, showed that only 54% of the population thrust any decision taken by the FDA, CDC and Dr Fauci or the NIH. They are more likely to thrust clinical physicians and nurses than the public health agencies and Institutions. The FDA has the lowest approval with 48%.

G- We continue to find cases of COVID-19 in recipients who have received both doses. In New-York, seven professional baseball players 3 coaches and four staff members have tested positive after having been fully vaccinated with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and only one was symptomatic.

We have seen cases following vaccination in many states as well and the explanation was that the patients discovered post vaccination to have COVID-19 already had contact with the virus prior to take the vaccine. I am still awaiting the explanation of the two vaccinated teachers and her students who all tested positive for the virus last month.

H- Nationwide vaccination is open for the 12-15 across the country and CVS Health is involved in the distribution at 5600 locations. Less than 2 million of COVID-19 cases were found in children aged 11-17 as reported by the CDC. They are at lower risk to develop the disease and if they become sick,
they will present symptoms in a milder form. But some have also exhibited a rare inflammatory syndrome which requires hospitalization. Some have also died from it during the last year of the pandemic. The FDA analyzed the safety of the shots.

About this rare and dangerous disorder occurring in children with COVID-19, it could improve the treatment of the disease. About one child in 1,000 will have symptoms of this rare condition associated with the SARS-COV-2 within four to six weeks: “The multisystem inflammatory syndrome” (MIS-C) consisting in fever, abdominal pain and vomiting or diarrhea. There may be also rashes and cardiac or neurological problems. Once the symptoms are recognized, they need to be treated with steroids but if left untreated or unrecognized, it can become fatal. They also appear less at risk to spread the disease.

An assistant-professor of Immunology at Yale University in New Haven CT, tried to explain the MIS-C syndrome in those children who presented with no antiviral response to the disease. They noted a high level of “alarmins” molecules generally found in the innate immune system responding to all infections. The innate system of the children is the reason why they present milder symptoms during the pandemic.

In the MIS-C syndrome, the investigators found that the kids have shown as well an elevation in the adaptive immune response generally responding to the attack of viruses, fungi, bacteria or parasites. Paradoxically, their own immune system attacks their own host tissue, like it is seen in any autoimmune disease.

I- As per John Hopkins University, there are more than 161 million of cases and more de 3.5 million deaths, around the world. In the United States, there are 33 million of cases and more than 585 million deaths. Haiti has 14,182 confirmed cases and 302 deaths.

J- The pandemic is not over because of the persistent hesitancy in the population where one American on three remains skeptical and refuses to take the vaccine including the older person at risk. The Kaiser Foundation found out that 13% of the adult population refuses categorically to take the vaccine. Another 6% will agree if it mandated by their employers but 15% will wait the effects of the vaccine on others. This is mainly why the United States continues to trail England and Israel in the distribution of the vaccine. If now around 600 Americans die everyday because of the COVID-19, one can understand why a large number of Americans over the age of 40 remain unvaccinated. This is the main reason with the hesitancy for not expecting the death rate to fall near “zero”.

More around the world, vaccination remains at an extremely low rate especially in the poor countries unable to afford a vaccine. In Haiti, we have not started any program of vaccination and we are not sure if the population will be too receptive to it either. More deaths have been recorded recently and Haitians understand the seriousness of the pandemic. In spite of these facts, there are encouraging signs of declining death rate due to COVID-19 in Africa where only 1% of the population has received one dose of vaccine or in Asia for reasons that scientists are unable to explain so far. One will also remember the recent outbreak in India but as of last week, there is a decline in the death rate.

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Ebstein Anomaly with baggage: A Case Report

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Introduction: Ebstein’s anomaly is a congenital heart defect that affects 1 in 20,000 births. Several studies have proposed this anomaly can be related to genetic, reproductive, and environmental factors (6). The primary defect involves the tricuspid valve of the heart; the valve leaflets can be abnormally shaped, too large, or attached to the myocardium (5). The apically displaced heart valve atrializes the right ventricle resulting in backwards flow of blood. This disease has been associated with several other cardiac anomalies including atrial septal defect, ventricular septal, patent foramen ovale, and accessory conduction pathways. The manifestation of Ebstein’s anomaly varies depending on the severity of the defect. Clinical presentation can include cyanosis, congestive heart failure, right-heart failure, cardiac arrhythmias, and cardiac arrest. We present a case of Ebstein anomaly with an unusual presentation and with several concomitant cardiac issues.

Case report: This is a 31-year-old male with a past medical history of diagnosed Ebstein’s anomaly, heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (25-30%), Wolf Parkinson White syndrome, Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation with radiofrequency ablation, Severe Functional Tricuspid Regurgitation and Moderate Mitral Regurgitation (MR) who presented to the hospital because of right leg weakness and vomiting that suddenly started 3 hours prior to admission. His vitals were within normal limits and he had a 3/6 systolic ejection murmur at his left lower sternal border and +1 pitting edema. Stroke alert was called, and an initial CT brain and CTA angiogram were negative. However, a MRI of the brain confirmed an acute infarction of his left corona radiata which was managed with fibrinolytics with complete resolution of his symptoms. Patient underwent a transthoracic echocardiography that showed an ejection fraction of 20-25% severely dilated right ventricle, with mildly to moderately impaired systolic function. Apical displacement of the septal leaflet of the tricuspid valve > 8mm/m2 and severe tricuspid regurgitation. The RVSP is estimated to be at least 40 mmHg (underestimated in significant TR) and there was the appearance of a D-shaped interventricular septum during systole and diastole consistent with RV pressure and volume overload. Patient was subsequently managed with IV anti-emetics and protonix drip with improvement of his clinical picture. Given patient’s echo findings were unchanged and his heart failure was compensated, he was successfully discharged 3 days after his admission with close follow up with his cardiac congenital clinic.

Discussion

There is variability in the clinical picture of Ebstein's anomaly but for the most part, there are cyanosis, right-sided heart failure and arrhythmia. While cyanosis and right-sided heart failure are more common in pediatric population presentation with arrhythmia it is more common in adults (1). In the era of cardiovascular intervention, the survival of Ebstein's anomaly has increased but still <50% of patients survive beyond 10 years (2). ECG is often abnormal in Ebstein's anomaly and shows tall and broad P wave, complete or incomplete right bundle branch block, bizarre terminal QRS complexes and atrial fibrillation. In our patient the only obvious ECG abnormality was a relative low voltage complex (in precordial and limb leads) and very tall P wave in the precordial leads. Chest radiography of Ebstein's anomaly usually shows a globe-shaped heart with a narrow waist that closely resembles massive pericardial effusion. In our case both conditions coexisted (3). Echocardiography is the diagnostic test of choice in such patients and it readily establishes the diagnosis. In the present case an inconspicuous RV with huge right atrium and high-pressure tricuspid regurgitation confirmed the diagnosis (4). In our case, patient had severe functional tricuspid regurgitation and moderate mitral regurgitation from the prior left to right shunt from the ASD he had. Finally, his right ventricular failure led to left ventricular failure with subsequent atrial enlargement which have led to dysphagia and vomiting from possible Ortner syndrome. The development of dysphagia and nausea suggests a compressive effect of the
enlarged endocardium on its surrounding structures.

**Conclusion**-
This case demonstrates a rather unique presentation of Ebstein’s anomaly along with the potential GI (nausea and vomiting) and neurological (acute stroke) complications that may accompany it. This patient presented with severe right ventricular enlargement and tricuspid regurgitation. Subsequent RV failure led to LV failure creating a volume overload of the left ventricle. An appropriate history, physical exam and essential imaging are crucial for the recognition of the different clinical scenarios and complications of Ebstein anomaly.
References:


The June 1, 1921, Massacre.

Reynald Altéma, MD

Part 1

Foreword.

One hundred years ago, an event took place that the powers that be made sure receded to the dustbin of history. This nefarious construct succeeded despite or because of the scale of the damage it wrought, the collusion of law-enforcement officials at every level and the horrific act of a police chief deputizing weapons-carrying citizens, many of the weapons stolen from stores, to perpetrate vigilante mob violence against African-Americans and annihilating a whole neighborhood. This historical injustice needs to be talked about; this massacre can’t remain a forgotten fact not described in history books. We need to make sure it never happens again, lest we forget.

Some apologists will say these events belong to a long-forgotten past and carry little relevance to today. We only have to remind them of this past January 6 to see what a mob of fanatics is capable of doing especially when “law and order” is not carried out by law-enforcement officials.

The wholesale violence against Blacks that pulverized a neighborhood dubbed “Black Wall Street,” by Booker T. Washington after a visit there eight years earlier was neither the first nor last such vile act. It stands out for the extent of the damage, the refusal of local and state authorities to acknowledge its occurrence, to seek remedy and allow revival of bustling businesses and the return of a once-vibrant community. There is a singular peculiar feature of this declension from the ever so frail social cohesiveness: the victim of the alleged crime refused to press charges and the accused left the jail unharmed. Both were never to be heard from and or seen again in the area. This is a remarkable observation when one considers the sulfurous nature of the charge, an assault by an African American against a young white woman at a time when the notion of eye rape was enough of a reason to deserve lynching.

The accusation itself remains murky, both in spatial, temporal and descriptive terms. It reeks of deception. In the seminal and standard chronicling of the event, Death in a Promised Land, by Scott Ellsworth, the so-called assault took place on May 30, 1921, at the Drexel building in downtown Tulsa.
when a shoeshine, commonly referred to then as a bootblack, Dick Rowland, rode the elevator manned by a young white teen, Sarah Page, to use a restroom. On his way down, as he exited the elevator, he supposedly assaulted her, she screamed and he ran away. However, a more recent book, *Tulsa 1921, Reporting a Massacre* by Randy Krehbiel, questions the location and timing of the assault; both books raised questions about the true relationship between the two actors. Damie Rowland, Dick’s adopted mother, in 1972 stated in an interview to Ruth S. Avery that the two were lovers, according to Krehbiel.

Krehbiel tells us that May 30, 1921, was Memorial Day with an elaborate parade downtown by a city renowned for its patriotism and proud of its chauvinism. On such a holiday, the stores were closed and Dick would have been unlikely to be working or to go to the building. Reports about the difficulty of stepping off the elevator added further confusion and raise possibility if indeed he was in the elevator that he may have stumbled on trying to exit and the startled young girl screamed innocently. The fact she refused to press charges is itself telling. *The Tribune* on May 31 mentioned the charges and *The World* did on June 1. We will delve on this later.

Oklahoma is not a place that readily comes to mind when thinking about Blacks’ experience. How, what and why come to the fore. How did this take place? Why was Tulsa a catnip for those of them relocating from the South? What was this Black Wall Street really like? These issues are very germane and offer a window into the upheaval we are living in our present time by going back to the source of the original sin.

The second decade of the twentieth century represented a crossroads of tailwind and crosswind. The latter seemed to carry the day, to neuter any lift while standing ready to facilitate a tailspin of African-Americans’ flight.

Foremost was the reality of white, reactionary America smarting over the almost sundering of the Union over the powder keg called slavery and the aftermath of its dissolution. The North won the war but to paraphrase Frederick Douglass, the South was able to gain in peace what it couldn’t achieve through war with the help of its accomplices from the North. The Compromise of 1877, hereafter coined Hayes-Tilden, sealed the fates of black Republicans who were members of Congress and state legislatures. In a turnaround of tsunami proportion, President Ulysses Grant removed federal troops from the South so that Republican Rutherford B. Hayes could get the White House over the Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, in a resounding death knell of Reconstruction. This socially progressive period of the Union where enfranchised former slaves were able to compete on an equal basis with whites and were able to achieve groundbreaking, if not existential, changes in the makeup of the Union for the better, came to a halt.

Adding insult to injury, the Supreme Court miffed by the fifteenth Amendment in 1870 that awarded citizenship’s rights to Negroes, in effect reversing its previous Dred Scott decision of 1857, sided against Plessy in 1896 and codified racism by legalizing racial segregation. Separate but equal came to mean always separate and never equal. Initial *Black Code* laws aimed at countering the gains of the thirteenth (1865) and fourteenth (1868) Amendments turned into widespread *Jim Crow* laws that became pervasive soon after 1877 and African-Americans were not able to vote, let alone become elected officials, a status that lasted all the way to the mid-sixties under the Democrats’ rock-hard control of the Solid South. The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 under Democratic President Lyndon B. Johnson shifted the paradigm and upended the political landscape. The party of Lincoln gave up its mantra of fighting for civil rights; this trading of places occurred swiftly. What didn’t change was the two-tiered system of the goose and the gander. Slavery and Reconstruction were two incompatible brews and mutually exclusive. Each is either hated or loved. Yet quite a few of those who thought they disliked slavery found out they disliked Reconstruction even more for that concept tested their racial sensibility to the core and left a very unpleasant residue. The matter of Reconstruction is a very sore subject that warrants its own visit later.

As described by Louis Gates, it was followed by Redemption, a concerted effort by Southerners to efface the humiliation and put Blacks back in their place. This was further consolidated by revisionists who took the helm to rewrite history and to portray Reconstruction as an abject failure. They gave cover to the animus against descendants of former slaves. In a 1-2 punch catapulting the canard of black inferiority, the movie *Birth of a Nation* (1915), Madison Grant’s *The Passing of the Great Race* (1916), the essay by U. B. Phillips *American Negro Slavery* (1918), serve as propaganda troika. The learned and
uneducated each had plenty of ammunition; a pernicious condition became endemic. The narrative revolved around the white race wronged by an inferior class of beings, not exactly humans. The KKK that was formed in 1865 after the Civil War, went into decline toward the end of the 19th century and became revived after the movie. Oklahoma became a fertile bastion and it held a stranglehold on Tulsa, reaching offices of mayor, police chief, newspaper editor, lawmakers. The refrain about Reconstruction as a failed experiment would reach fever pitch a decade later with the publication of a manifesto that won Literary Guild selection in 1930, *The Tragic Era: The Revolution after Lincoln*, by Claude G. Bowers. This book didn’t mince any words and staked out the position from the beginning to set the story straight, “That the Southern people literally were put to the torture is vaguely understood, but even historians have shrunk from the unhappy task of showing us the torture chambers.” Films that had mass appeal, daily newspapers, were part of the background of daily litany describing African Americans as lazy, incompetent, truants, intellectually inferior and with no qualm about using the “N” word for epithet as a rule. *Guilty of any accusation until proven otherwise, if proof could ever be found.*

A rebuke of the Bowers book would come a few years later with the masterpiece of Du Bois, *Black Reconstruction in America*. He singlehandedly corrected the fallacy of the inferior race in a subpar performance when given a chance to shine. This *tour de force* of intellectual disquisition unfortunately gets short shrift as a historical document, but even as a lengthy exegesis, it warrants reading. One reviewer fawned that “[he didn’t think] …. anything finer has been written in English in recent years…”

African Americans in the face of this onslaught of tyranny as usual didn’t stay put. They fought, as always, every which way. The NAACP was formed in 1909 by both black and white activists, including the famous Du Bois, and to date remains the premier civil rights movement in the country. It was and remains a citizen’s effort to change the Jim Crow system through legal means and has achieved quite a bit of success over the years. One needs to remember that the principle of coalition is always at play with the NAACP. However not all groups were willing to be so peaceful. Marcus Garvey espoused a different philosophy and another West Indian-born journalist, Cyril Briggs, formed the African Blood Brotherhood from 1919 till 1924, a militant group based in Harlem promoting armed revolt if necessary, against racism and had branches throughout the country, including in Tulsa (blackpast.org). Some of its members took up arms to defend themselves in the melee in 1921. That helped the group gain some notoriety. Some international developments were influencing national events.

The socialist movement that was sweeping Europe reached American shores. Unions in the US in some cases were stressing class warfare over racial distinctions. Quite a few scholars and luminaries were attracted to this tendency. The idea of brotherhood among humans irrespective of ethnicity became an appealing ideology. Because of the virulent racism at home, a number of African-Americans went to Europe to study and fell under the spell of left-leaning ideas. Du Bois is a good example. It is debatable the extent of this influence but nonetheless it did play a role. What is definitely not debatable is the effect of exposure to another culture and customs as it happened during World War 1 (WW1).

WW1 afforded African-American men the opportunity to be enrolled in the military and to bear arms and were able to fight in Europe. That opportunity enhanced the self-esteem of the soldier who was constantly vilified at home. The optics of a black man in uniform didn’t sit well with racists and that became a contentious point in conservative areas of the country, especially in Oklahoma that never developed a tradition of tolerance. A lot of these conservatives saw the enrollment of Negroes as a dangerous step and a threat to their hegemony. Access to weapons by African-Americans added a degree of security and defense against vigilantes. They never went down without fighting. However these external factors paled in comparison to the climate at home in terms of molding the national conversation and landscape.

*Du Bois’s decision to write this iconic text happened when a submission to *Encyclopedia Britannica* was accepted contingent on his removal of “a paragraph on the positive Reconstruction role of black people,” we learn in the preface of the book. Of course, instead of complying he decided to write this hefty rebuttal.*
Woodrow Wilson was president from 1913 to 1921. He systematically removed African-Americans from the federal workforce. The Postal Service, a big employer of African-Americans had to let go many of those employees and stop giving jobs to any. His resume included stint as president of Princeton University and governor of NJ. His racist side has been ignored until a few weeks ago in the wake of Black Life Matters, when Princeton University has decided to remove his name from a building at the school.

Lynching was a common occurrence and a punishment not exclusively applied to African-Americans but meted out in a disproportionate amount to that group. Billie Holiday immortalized this torture in the song Strange Fruit. It became a social event and the gruesome nature sometime ventured into the macabre. Burning the individual at the stake, removal of sex organs and hanging the naked body were some of the more nauseous practices\(^1\). Ads for lynching were routinely published in newspapers. Worse was the fact that lynching attracted big crowds of people who would the day after go to church and vow to love thy neighbor. Because of all of such negative developments, life for an African American was a hardship, more acute in the Deep South for certain. Other places kept beckoning for relocation.

Isabelle Wilkerson in The Warmth of other Suns would describe, “Historians would come to call it the Great Migration. It would become perhaps the biggest underreported story of the twentieth century… Over the course of six decades [1915-1970], some six million black southerners left the land of their forefathers and fanned out across the country for an uncertain existence in nearly every other corner of America.” She went on to chronicle the cauldron-like life in the Deep South and the need to escape it. However, it was also a matter of leaving behind one type of torment to face another one. The resettlement of African-Americans in major metropolitan regions would be associated with Whites rioting and destroying their properties. In the early part of the twentieth century, that happened in Nebraska, NY, Boston, Detroit, etc.

In the case of Oklahoma, it was not considered part of the Deep South in geography, but it would soon join it in spirit and its eager adoption of Jim Crow laws. Oklahoma became a state in 1907. It was a mixture of an annexation of Indian lands and appropriation of virgin territory. Whereas NY City has been named the Big Apple by jazz musicians and has since adopted this moniker, Tulsa itself has had the reputation of the Magic City basically from the discovery of oil. Its magnetism relied on this reputation on one hand and its geographical location.

Tulsa itself officially incorporated in 1898 but it goes back quite a few years in existence as per Russell Cobb in The Great Oklahoma Swindle. It has metamorphosed over the years. As far back as 1540, the explorer Hernando DeSoto described it as Tullahassee in its Creek language name, meaning “old town.” He translated it into Tallise. Then it became Tulsy Town up to its present name of Tulsa. African-Americans have had a presence in that part of the country for quite some time. The Creeks (Indian tribe) enslaved and intermarried them in a model reminiscent of ancient Greece and Rome\(^*\). As Tulsa grew in size, it attracted more blacks because it was not technically part of the South. However, there was a climate of both intolerance and social progress.

\(^*\)Another historical fact not well disseminated is the role that Africans played in those societies that afforded them upward social mobility. They reached the highest echelon in the military, papacy in Rome (africaresource.com, catholicnewsherald.com, talesoftimesforgotten.com).

This paradoxical coexistence is definitely difficult to fathom. For example, even though African Americans weren’t supposed to vote statewide, they still did in Tulsa. There were some African American police officers. There was a prominent union movement with socialist ideation that welcomed African Americans. Intolerance nonetheless won the day. The use of vigilantes for summarily carrying out acts of justice was encouraged by law-enforcement officials\(^\text{”}\). Severe and cruel punishments would be inflicted to even white individuals. The two daily papers in the white establishment had an outsized influence on the justice system.

A successful all-black neighborhood was always on a collision course with the establishment because it portends of economic might that begets ideas of equality, political ambition and these were always considered toxic ideas. So long as African-Americans remain as an underclass, they don’t represent a threat. Otherwise this was an explosive waiting for a spark to go off. As we shall see, two
unforgivable allegations weighed: assault of a white woman by a black man and the audacity of black men to take up arms to defend themselves against a mob.

“A group called the Knights of Liberty operated in Tulsa with the approval of the police and on numerous occasions applied tar and feather after a whipping with knowledge and approval of police, as per Ellsworth.

References:

JUNE 1, 1921 MASSACRE, ITS HISTORICAL RELEVANCE.

Reynald Altéma, MD

PART II

The early part of the previous century saw a coordinated assertiveness by African Americans at many levels. The NAACP in 1909, then The National Urban League in 1910 as well as The Commission on Interracial Cooperation in 1918 represented efforts to fight a system openly advocating their disfranchising through politico-legal means. Carter G. Woodson, a preeminent scholar for whom we are indebted to have Black History Week, then Month, in February, author of The Mis-Education of the Negro started The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915. As we mentioned before, starting in 1915 and lasting till 1970, The Great Migration from the Deep South where 90% of African Americans lived, to all parts of the country, an exodus of immense consequences in the makeup of the society. This phenomenon is well chronicled by Isabelle Wilkerson in The Warmth of other Suns. She dubbed it “…it was the first big step the nation’s servant class took without asking.”

The Great Migration would be fraught with dangers. The great displacement would pit two groups that had always lived separately and the encroachment of African Americans into areas long considered the domain of whites in jobs, housing would light the tinderbox across the nation. In 1919, in what the NAACP called the Red Summer, 30 urban riots took place. Therefore, the same divergence between the two different groups was brewing in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

As we mentioned before, there was a climate of intolerance among the populace at every level spreading in all spheres, irrespective of ethnic origin. For example, union activity was antithetic to the pro-business climate. There was a campaign to chase the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) out of the area using any means necessary. To fan the fire, the KKK as mentioned above had a strong penetration in the area and included a female membership as well as one for teen boys.

The two white newspapers Tribune and World had a conservative bent. Both played a competitive advocacy role for racist ideas with the Tribune upping the ante, often referring to the black section of Tulsa as “Little Africa” or more commonly as “niggertown.” Their editorials were pointed, sharp, without any diplomatic niceties. Their venom could be raw, lethal and on numerous occasions, their positions against a group perceived as a threat resulted in dire consequences for such enemy, an indication of their outsize
influence. Their pro big-oil business and antionium stances held no prisoners; the IWW’s demise in the area is a proof of that. The section where African Americans lived abutted the rail yard and there was always a desire by certain investors to use the space as a warehouse. The existence of that neighborhood was a threat to some business interests. In 1921, the population of African Americans living in Tulsa had bulged to 11,000. It was also an affront to racial sensibilities because young white women were cavorting with black musicians at jazz joints. That was anathema. Miscegenation was a high crime and highly offensive. “Black Wall Street” referred to Greenwood Street, the main thoroughfare in the district. It included 2 movie theaters, 1 hospital, 2 newspapers, The Tulsa Star and The Oklahoma Sun, two public schools, including a high school, various professional offices, stores and other businesses. No bank or other financial institutions existed yet. Some of the adjoining streets offered an image of poverty and substandard housing familiar with was what commonly found in black quarters of many towns across the country. A lot of the businesses relied on customers doing menial work. Greenwood St as the nerve center attracted people from afar and could be considered the equivalent of other immigrant ghettos bustling with activities that eventually blossomed over time. The whole area was in its infancy. It included a surgeon trained at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. A. C. Jackson, and was considered the best African American in the nation.1,2,3

Whatever happened in the elevator became public knowledge on May 31 when the Tulsa Tribune stated “A negro….was arrested……charged with attempting to assault the 17-year-old white elevator girl….an orphan who works as elevator operator to pay her way to business college.” Such a sullen charge about a Negro assaulting a white woman would be followed later by an editorial “To Lynch Negro Tonight” according to many people. However, this editorial for unknown reason (or obvious reason) is not to be found in subsequent microfilms of the edition. Lest there be any accusation of spreading any falsehood, Krebbiel cites the Race Riot Commission report and further states, “When its files copies were microfilmed in the 1940s, the front-page arrest story and about half the editorial page had been torn out.” When the rival World reported the story the following day, June 1, it stated, “There was a movement afoot, it was reported, among white people to go to the county courthouse Tuesday night [May 31] and lynch the bootblack.”

This leaves the clear impression there was a consign that people were responding to. What happened that previous night?

Dick Rowland stayed at the city jail at first and the police moved him to the county jail, on the top floor of the courthouse, a more secure place. He stated he had accidentally stepped on Sarah Page’s foot. The Police Commissioner, Adkison, would testify later that in the afternoon of the same day (Tuesday), he received a call from an anonymous man telling him, “We are going to Lynch that negro tonight.” The chief of police, Gustafson, authorized the transfer and suggested to the county sheriff, McCullough, to get the prisoner out of town for his safety but he refused. There was a precedent of a mob lynching an accused white man, Belton, and that weighed into equation among the African Americans. They gathered around the courthouse where a crowd of whites were already milling. The sheriff and one African American policeman convinced the first contingent of African Americans to leave, but he didn’t fare so well with some unruly whites who even called him “nigger-lover,” the worst injury one white can spew at another. The continued presence of whites alarmed the African Americans who came back better armed, ready to get into action as necessary; the ratio of whites to African Americans was about 20:3. As with all other cases of riots, law enforcement officials usually paid attention to containing the African Americans and remained lax about the aggressive behavior of the whites. No real effort to defuse the situation was undertaken. Supposedly there was an order to hose them down, but that order was not executed. National Guard was not summoned until too late. Several hundred of whites went to the National Guard Armory to seek weapons but were rebuffed.

The melee that night started when a deputy constable named MacQueen attempted to disarm an African American who had no intention of letting him do so. It’s reported that the pistol discharged between ten and ten-thirty. Word spread that the Blacks were attempting to take over the city. The whites looted all hardware stores selling weapons. Tulsa World described it thusly: “Thousands of persons…. including several hundred women, and men armed with every available weapon in the city taken from every hardware and sporting goods store swarmed.” Beauty being in the eye of the beholder, events were interpreted differently; African Americans wanted to protect a fellow citizen wrongly accused, knowing full well there was a chance a mob of whites could come to lynch him. This was seen as an insurrection. The sight of them armed brought out whites’ worst fear and worst reflexive reaction. The authorities shared in that reflexive, visceral reaction. Had they defused the situation earlier, by making sure African Americans as well as whites have left
the courthouse, a different scenario would have developed.

It’s reported that some participants in the black part of town were inciting people to go to the white part of town to start burning property to fend off burning of their own side by oncoming whites. No less than B. C. Franklin, lawyer and father of famed historian J. H. Franklin, who lived the event said so in his autobiography titled, “My life and an Era.”

Adkison, made a colossal decision in deputizing white volunteers and arming them, in fact giving them a free rein. The rationale was to put down the “negro uprising,” never mind the whole episode started with a white mob assembling in front of the courthouse and bent on punishing a negro who had the gull to assault a white girl. An allegation was synonymous with a guilty verdict and worthy of lynching. The deputies looted downtown Tulsa first and carried everything from two major stores, Bardon’s and Magee’s. This was reported by *Tulsa World*. A bricklayer, Laurel Buck, would later testify that a sergeant on duty at the police station egged him to “get a gun and get a nigger.” The National Guard was deployed after the start of the shooting. About fifty men were available and were split to protect several edifices; fewer than twenty were sent to the police station. A power plant substation was under fire and the national Guard did reach it and suffered one casualty at the hands of African Americans.

The shooting went on all night with casualties on both sides. A grotesque incident developed. An African American attached to a car by his feet alive died after the trauma of being dragged through the streets in a mad display of hatred. Another witness, Mary Jones Parrish, would later write, “I had read of the Chicago riot and the Washington trouble, but it didn’t seem possible that prosperous Tulsa, the city which was so peaceful and quiet that morning, could be in the thrall of a great disaster,” in her book, *Race Riot 1921*.

The mayor of Tulsa, T. D. Evans, was not to be heard of during this entire time; he was the highest-ranking official, but he allowed lower-ranking individuals to make crucial decisions. Besides the shooting and the looting, arson occurred. Report has it that the fire chief, R. C. Adler prevented helping any fire coming from the riot zone, cited by Krehbiel. On the other hand, Andrew Smitherman was a leader among the African Americans, and he helped organize the resistance with armed men.

On June 1, 1921 at around five AM, a whistle blew, and folks remembered it as a clarion call for the assault that took place. Without recounting the gory details and minutiae, “…arguments over…details…obscure an irrefutable and essential truth: a terrible retribution was exacted upon Tulsa’s African American community, and the best that can be said of local authorities is that they did not do much to stop it.” The onslaught included bombing from 6 airplanes**, machine gun, looting of stores, arson of homes and indiscriminate killing of African Americans by an angry mob of whites including law-enforcement officials. A lot of the whites looted first and carried away personal belongings of well-to-do African Americans before setting their homes ablaze. Among some of the victims was the famous physician, A.C. Jackson, gunned down in front of his house at point-blank range with his arms up in surrender. This murder is confirmed in the testimony of his white neighbor, John Oliphant***. A lot of the victims burned to death. Many of the dead included children, women. At the end of the day, an entire neighborhood disappeared, gutted in fire and numerous dead among African Americans. On the subject of airplanes, Parrish would say, “…there was a great shadow in the sky, and upon a second look, we discerned that this cloud was caused by fast-approaching aeroplanes …. The enemy…was invading our district, the same as the Germans invaded France and Belgium,” in the same book.

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1. This information is contained in the Oklahoma State Archives, box 25, case 1062.
2. This is the only recorded case of a plane involved in a massacre in US history on American soil.
3. His testimony is part of the Oklahoma State Archives.

In an editorial on June 2, 1921, *World* stated, “The colored section of the town was wiped out, and a long line of hopeless, destitute, pitiful refugees fled northward from the burning town. The German invasion of Belgium with its awful consequences was no more unjustified or characterized with any greater cruelty.” Adding insult to injury, survivors had to fend for themselves. Many escaped to surrounding cities and those who remained behind were taken by National Guardsmen that had come as reinforcement the morning of June 1 but who didn’t stop the looting and arson even though they could have, to either Convention Hall or McNulty Park. They would be released only if a white person could come and vouch for them. Otherwise, they were then sent to holding areas such as church, high school, fairgrounds.

In the aftermath of the massacre, racial sensibilities came to the fore with abrupt force and heavily
influenced policy decision. The initial shock expressed at the loss of lives and the unbecoming act of lynching quickly veered to a narrative of blaming the victims from motley crew of venues; the local papers, preachers’ pulpit, national papers including the NY Times. A variation of the theme of troublemakers among African Americans (called “bad niggers”) disseminating the dangerous notion of equality and mixing of the races were to blame. Admission of Blacks in the military bore some blame for it familiarized them with a potential of parity. Brandishing weapons for self-protection in town was an unforgiven sin. Quickly the idea of reconstruction of Greenwood neighborhood was abandoned. Patricians had another idea. An ad hoc city ruling commission, Public Welfare Board, accepted the proposition advanced by the Real Estate Exchange of purchasing the properties and using the area instead as warehouse and relocating its population to a new area, distant from the whites to avoid mixing of the races, an unacceptable concept. In the end relocation took place but in a haphazard manner and insurance companies refused to pay homeowners for their losses, using a clause of no-coverance in case of riot. Clearly this was a massacre and for the longest period thereafter, the event was mostly not mentioned and if it were, it would be casually referred to as a riot. The event would have to wait seven decades before a commission would be set up to delve into it.

### EPILOGUE.

The real number of dead is still not known for sure and lately there’s renewed interest in finding mass graves. It’s now accepted that up to 300 people died as an estimate. Greenwood street never regained its luster. Some reconstruction took place, but it paled in comparison. A highway built later has split it conveniently, a known measure to restrict economic growth in minority areas. The biggest loss was of talented people because quite a few resided there. A preeminent doctor was killed. For a population of around 11,000, the existence of a hospital was a significant asset. The presence of a very talented physician over time would have resulted in further advance in medical care for society’s benefit. Two very prominent attorneys survived the massacre: B. C. Franklin** and P. A. Chappelle***. Both had stellar careers as residents of Tulsa and their progeny is famous. In the case of B. C. Franklin, his son, John H. Franklin was a renowned scholar, the best coming out of Tulsa, hands down; his resume is very impressive. Since the 1940s, JH Franklin has been writing the very famous encyclopedia, From Slavery to Freedom.


**B. C. Franklin and P. A. Chappelle were very instrumental in helping African Americans fight a lot of racist policies in Tulsa, including some outlandish zoning laws.

***P. A. Chappelle has a very successful lineage. One grandson, Carlos Chappelle, became Tulsa’s first African American presiding judge. A great-grandson, Dany Williams, rose to the title of U.S. attorney for Oklahoma Northern District.

Other survivors of significance include Olivia J. Hooker††, the first African American woman to become a Coast Guard. She received a MA from Columbia U., a PhD. from U. of Rochester in Psychology and she served on the faculty of Fordham U. from 1963 to 1985 and was a founding member of American Psychological Association. She died at age 103 in Nov 2018. Three known survivors of this massacre testified to the House Judiciary subcommittee that is looking into reparations this past week on the 20th of May. Viola Ford Fletcher aged 107 is the oldest of them. Her younger brother, Hughes Van Ellis, aged 100, was also present. The third one did so via video feed, Lessie Benningfield Randle, aged 106.

The Tulsa Race Massacre Centennial Commission created to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the genocide, removed the governor of Oklahoma from the commission because a few days before, he signed into law a bill that precluded the proper teaching of racism in the state history, including an event such as the Massacre, on May 14, 2021.

Several entrepreneurs lost their investments that they never recouped, nipping a nascent economic engine in the bud. All of this because they were African Americans. The wholesale destruction was blatant, with the seal of impunity in a lose-lose formula. Society would have been better served had this neighborhood been allowed to thrive. Racial animus was so strong that it blinded decision in policy making. The very idea of...
equality generated such a fear that it overtook common sense.

This massacre joins a long list of similar nefarious events dating back to days of slavery. Hardly a month passes by without a publication and reassessment of another massacre. The names read like an alphabet soup: Colfax, Louisiana, in 1873 during Reconstruction, Elaine in Arkansas in 1919, Rosewood massacre of 1923 to name just a few. They all share the same characteristics, razzia of a black neighborhood, maiming of innocents, looting, burning of their properties with impunity without any intervention of law enforcement authorities to help. Almost invariably the victims are blamed, “They brought it on themselves.” The saddest part of the June 1 massacre is the fact that so many people died for a made-up reason. Sarah sent a letter to the authorities in September of the same year stating she was not pressing charges and Dick was released.

Exploration of past misdeeds is not an exercise to sow discord. It’s rather a way to understand current events since history tends to repeat itself. It’s a very worthwhile attempt to avoid repeating past mistakes and to protect ourselves against against modern-day potential ethnic cleansing by exercising the most powerful weapons we have: a proper education and going to the polls. We also need to be careful and not sweep a whole group as villains but learn about coalition-building based on shared interests.

*Olivia J. Hooker, PhD, and several survivors of the massacre founded the Tulsa Race Riot Commission in 1997.

References:

Le superintendant de la cour, Maxius, et moi arrivâmes simultanément en sens inverse devant le portail d’un grand immeuble d’appartements dans le quartier de Pacot à Port-au-Prince. Comme d’habitude, nous signalâmes à l’avance notre présence au portier avec les klaxons de ma voiture et de sa mobylette, cette fois-ci en cœur. A cause de l’insécurité qui bat son plein dans le pays depuis un certain temps, tout le monde est sur le qui-vive. Nous pénétâmes précipitamment dans la cour et le portier ferma encore plus hâtivement le lourd et haut portail vert à roulettes en tirant avec sa main droite avec une longue corde en pite. En même temps, il écoutait attentivement les dernières nouvelles politiques à sensations via un téléphone cellulaire démodé, dénommé dérisoirement « edem peze », plaqué à son oreille dans sa main gauche.

J’étais calme et détendu, « poze kou yon ma kafe », mais la cour était en alerte et le superintendant, lui, était plus agité et plus excité qu’une puce. « Il y a quelques minutes qu’on vient de kidnapper un professeur tout près d’ici au Canapé Vert », alerta le portier, cette fois-ci, avec son cellulaire plaqué à son oreille droite, comme pour mieux écouter. Tout le monde, sauf moi, naturellement, était déjà au courant de la nouvelle via le telediol (le bouche à oreille) et les réseaux sociaux.

« Oui, c’est vrai. Je suis, l’un parmi des centaines de témoins oculaires du kidnapping du professeur au Canapé Vert », renchérit le superintendant. « Sur la route du Canapé Vert en allant vers Pétion-Ville, en face de la petite place et de la station de police, quatre motocyclettes avec deux hommes sur chacune d’elles, ont encerclé et bloqué le véhicule du professeur. Quatre d’entre eux sont montés dans son véhicule et sont calmement repartis avec lui en direction opposée vers la Natcom. Cet événement s’est déroulé, au vu et au su de plus d’une centaine de spectateurs pétrifiés ! Plus d’un ont même photographié et filmé cette scène terrorisante qui déjà, fait la une sur les réseaux sociaux. »

Ce fait, indubitablement, venait de bouleverser la réaction de ce peuple haïtien concerné par l’événement qui traditionnellement réagit à ce type de violence. Certaines personnes dans la cour, y compris le superintendant lui-même, ne comprenaient pas pourquoi aucune personne n’était intervenue pour aider le professeur durant ce kidnapping. Par extension, cette violence qui se répète de semaines en semaines questionne la passivité du peuple haïtien qui a perdu « sa colonne vertébrale » en face de ce phénomène localisé principalement dans la zone urbaine de la région métropolitaine.

Quelles sont les raisons possibles de cette évolution comportementale ? Qu’est-ce qui a conduit le peuple haïtien, acteur dans les événements à devenir un simple spectateur ? Comment est-on passé de « l’effet acteur » à « l’effet spectateur » ? L’effet spectateur se produit lorsque plusieurs personnes assistent à un événement et par un effet de groupe implicite, décourage une personne du groupe à intervenir dans une situation d’urgence pour assister son prochain contre une agression ou un crime. En cas de crise, l’effet de groupe a probablement un effet inversement proportionnel sur l’action. Plus le nombre de témoins est élevé, moins il est probable que l’un d’eux aide une personne en détresse. Le corollaire est aussi vrai. Moins le nombre de témoins est élevé, plus il est probable que l’un d’eux aide une personne en détresse.
Aristote nous a enseigné que l’Homme est un « Animal Politique ». Dans cette définition, on comprend bien que l’homme a une condition naturelle mais également une condition sociale particulière qui pour cette dernière en fait un animal pas comme les autres. Il est doté de conscience, de raison et il a su, au fils de son histoire et de son développement, enrichir ses compétences et projeter un cerveau capable de répondre aux exigences de sa condition humaine.

Ce cerveau, celui de l’homme moderne, est venu compléter le cerveau reptilien, c’est-à-dire le cerveau primitif qui régit les fonctions biologiques et l’automatisme du corps humain. Dans le contexte primitif des premiers hominidés, le danger permanent imposait soit la fuite soit la lutte face aux dangers des bêtes sauvages ou des phénomènes naturels hostiles. L’homme au fils de son histoire a développé, complémentairement à son cerveau primitif, un système limbique et un cortex qui régissent ses fonctions émotionnelles mais aussi sa pensée, son langage et son raisonnement. Face à un danger, il peut soit fuir ou lutter pour survivre par mobilisation de son cortex primitif ou agir avec raison en fonction de ces ressources cognitives personnelles.

L’homme moderne a introduit un nouvel élément de son développement cortical avec l’introduction des technologies numériques qui accélèrent les relations interpersonnelles, et d’une certaine manière « horizontalise » l’ensemble des individus en les mettant sur le même plan. Chacun devient acteur mais surtout spectateur d’une forme de téléréalité. Chacun devient un metteur en scène derrière sa caméra. Chacun veut immortaliser l’action qu’il voit, s’immortalisant par-là, lui-même, grâce à cette transcendance numérique. Il faut être là au bon moment, capter l’image, en être le témoin et le transmetteur. Ce phénomène est devenu une condition sine qua non de l’existence, un marqueur existentiel. Il ne s’agit plus d’agir, de faire face à des événements qui mettent en péril autrui, mais immortaliser la scène et s’en satisfaire. Les réseaux sociaux sont devenus le receptacle de ces vidéos permanentes et, chaque jour, 720.000 heures de vidéos sont ajoutées sur le second réseau social le plus populaire, à savoir « YouTube ». Ce chiffre démontre l’importance de cette évolution et de son impact sur les des rapports sociaux.

L’effet spectateur est dorénavant un état de fait social car « le chacun » est devenu un phénomène collectif échappant dès lors aux personnes impliquées. Une sorte de ritualisation moderne s’est installée qui contribue à ne pas réagir face à des violations qui prennent de l’ampleur dans les sociétés modernes. Les apprentissages de sociabilité se réduisent au profit de l’immédiateté alors que les apprentissages rigoureux demandaient du temps. Chacun aujourd’hui avec son téléphone est immédiatement « un Prix Nobel » sachant tout sur tout.

Cicéron nous enseigne qu’aucune société ne peut se développer si la sécurité publique n’est pas garantie par l’Etat aux citoyens. Si le numérique, comme on l’a démontré, provoque en chacun, l’effet spectateur, l’Etat doit donc assurer ce rôle de protection des citoyens tant dans le domaine de la justice et de la police que dans l’acception large du terme, à savoir et surtout l’aspect éducatif. L’Etat pourra ainsi contrebalaier l’effet délétère produit par l’évolution des outils numériques. D’ores et déjà, certains Etats, comme les Etats-Unis et la France travaillent sur cette question de la régulation des réseaux sociaux et de la problématique de la sécurité et de la liberté individuelle qui y est adossée.

Haïti n’échappe pas à ce phénomène de pénétration des réseaux sociaux et de ses conséquences. Mais aujourd’hui, les conditions de l’insécurité ont pris le pas sur la sécurité que l’Etat doit à la population. Au fond de chacun, ce besoin de sécurité que notre cortex primitif appelle de ses vœux doit être mis en œuvre tant sur le plan individuel que collectif, car comme on l’a exprimé ci-avant en citant Aristote, l’Homme est un animal politique donc un Homme de sociabilité, de vie en collectivité. Deux voies se présentent. La première, laisser l’insécurité à ce stade. Ce n’est certainement pas la bonne voie car elle ne peut que s’amplifier et conduire à la nécessité d’assurer son rétablissement de façon ferme non seulement contre les auteurs de ces violences mais à l’endroit de chaque citoyen. La seconde, changer le système pour redonner confiance au peuple ; est-ce possible tant la dégradation du système établi est profonde ?
L’haïtien est enfermé dans un cercle funeste où l’insécurité constatée dans les époques passées et encore aujourd’hui ne sont que la face émergée d’une situation plus grave encore. En définitive, la violence est certes le problème mais c’est, surtout, l’impossibilité de la traiter qui doit être considérée comme le facteur le plus grave. Qui sera l’homme qui pourra restaurer cette sécurité publique et apaiser la situation ? En un mot, qui sera le sauveur ? Disposera-t-il « d’un père Joseph » pour le conseiller dans la bonne voie et non celle actuelle ?

Doit-on remonter aux premières heures de l’indépendance et franchir plus de 200 d’histoires pour comprendre et analyser que les maux d’aujourd’hui sont hérités également des maux du passé ? La réponse est affirmative mais la différence est dorénavant la médiatisation qui permet à chacun d’être parfois l’acteur mais aussi, comme relaté dans les faits de ce kidnapping, surtout un spectateur. Si une différence de forme est là avec les outils numériques du 21ème siècle, la continuité du fond empêche Haïti de « franchir le Rubicon ».


L’histoire après 1804, date qui marque les esprits, date qui est devenue la référence de la carte mentale haïtienne et à laquelle personne ne peut échapper, a été écrite par un haïtien, le Dr Jean-Chrysostome Dorsainvil avec la collaboration de frères français, les Frères de l’instruction chrétienne, venus pour de l’enseignement dans le cadre d’un concordat entre le Vatican et l’Etat d’Haïti. Chacun se réfère aujourd’hui à ce récit historique et qui d’une certaine manière empêche la mise en œuvre d’une analyse plus profonde de l’histoire à travers un devoir de mémoire qui pourrait libérer l’haïtien de son histoire tragique.

Ce devoir de mémoire ne doit pas être seulement l’occasion de revisiter l’histoire afin de mettre en lumière les responsabilités diverses qui ont conduit à l’esclavage, cette tragédie humaine, est surtout et nécessairement l’occasion de fonder les termes de ce destin commun pour créer cette confiance indispensable entre les dirigeants et le peuple. Ce travail de mémoire devra déboucher sur une histoire dans laquelle chacun pourra prendre conscience des réalités et concourir, dès lors, à cette démarche collective qui créera ce ciment social indispensable à la refondation du pays.

D’autres pays ont déjà mis en œuvre ce type de démarches afin de permettre à leurs citoyens de réfléchir, d’analyser et de mieux comprendre les raisons qui ont conduit à des traumatisms dans ces pays. On peut évoquer en autres, le travail de mémoire que la France a réalisé sur plusieurs époques de son histoire tant au niveau de sa responsabilité dans le commerce dit triangulaire, l’esclavage, que pendant la période de la seconde guerre mondiale avec la collaboration du gouvernement de Vichy. Pendant notre époque contemporaine sur la colonisation et la guerre d’Algérie, un travail tout récemment mis en œuvre concernant la guerre d’Algérie dans le cadre d’une commande d’un rapport par le président de la République Française auprès l’historien Benjamin Stora. Ce rapport public, remis le 20 janvier 2021, s’intitule « Les questions mémorielles portant sur la colonisation et la guerre d’Algérie ».

Il s’agit donc d’être acteur. Un véritable acteur de ce travail de mémoire et ne pas rester un simple spectateur. Certes, les modalités habituelles du travail de mémoire sont bien connues des historiens qui disposent notamment de musées, d’expositions, de livres et de tous les outils transmetteurs de la connaissance. Ces outils sont souvent lourds à mettre en œuvre nécessitant des moyens budgétaires importants et dont la diffusion de masse ne peut intervenir que dans des pays qui disposent déjà d’infrastructures d’éducation nationale et culturelle de premier plan. Il faut donc franchir à nouveau « le Rubicon » et permettre à chaque haïtien d’être acteur de ce travail de mémoire.

Il nous faut renverser le paradigme qui nous avait conduit de la position d’acteur à celle de spectateur en redevenant acteur. Les outils numériques qui, en quelque sorte, nous aliènent supplémentairement doivent nous permettre grâce à l’accès à la connaissance qu’ils permettent de pouvoir être le media qui mettra à la portée de chacun cette capacité du travail de mémoire. Il faut donc organiser ce leapfrog éducatif qui constitue la seule issue à la non-reconduction perpétuelle des errements du passé qui se poursuivent jusqu’à nos jours.

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Mai 2021

Published on the AMHE NY Facebook and AMHE Facebook page last two weeks
Articles parus sur la page Facebook de l’AMHE NY et de l’AMHE durant la dernière semaine

Croix Rouge Haitienne: le 8 mai, jour de naissance de Jean Henry Dunant a été décréé journée mondiale de la Croix Rouge. - Il looks like and another mistake of the CDC-NIH Dr. Fauci, let us wait if they will not retract it soon. MC - Are you ready for the cicada invasion? - Haiti is on the third wave of attack by the virus: 297 death in total from the beginning of the pandemic. MC - A new study found that more than 99% of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 during the first four months of 2021 weren’t fully vaccinated. - Bonne fête du drapeau… - Le racisme vu par Dany Laferrière - -Researchers say a new cancer vaccine was well tolerated in an early phase I clinical trial and could potentially be used to treat a range of tumor types.

And more…
Jean-Marie Yolene Vaval Surena MD

Notre amie Jean-Marie Yolene Vaval Surena MD nous a quitte hier soir pour aller rejoindre son Createur. Elle que nous avons connu a l’école de Medecine et qui a su rendre heureux notre ami et confrere Claudy Surena, nous a laisse de beaux souvenirs. Je me souviens de l’avoir rencontre pour la premiere fois alors que nos selections nationales Haitienes de Football, Basketball et Volleyball se rendaient a Cali en Colombie pour les jeux panamericains de 1972 (CONCACAF). Elle avait fait le voyage pour supporter la delegation Haitienne. J’aimerais retracer son chemin en guise d’au revoir.


En 2001, elle devient membre de l’UNDAC et restera de 2005-2011 la coordinatrice de “Emergency Recovery and Disaster Risk Management project” (ERDMP), un projet...
que la banque mondiale met sur pied dans le pays. Son travail en Medicine Communautaire en Haiti lui vaut d’être reconnue en 2011 par l’Universite de Harvard, comme recipiente du “Alumni Award of Merit”. Ses étudiants a l’universite de Medecine et de Pharmacie et aussi a l’Universite de Quisqueya s’enorgueilliront d’avoir partage sa vie pendant ces trente (30) dernieres années de professorat a enseigner la parasitologie.

Yolene aimait le travail et la recherche. Elle avait trouve du temps pour s’embarquer tres tot apres sa graduation, dans un projet d’eradicaction de la Malaria. Je garderai sous silence d’autres projets pour lesquels elle s’est portee volontaire mais son benevolat dans le developpement des activites a la Croix Rouge Haitienne merite aussi d’etre mentione car cela lui a permis de faire ses premiers pas dans le monde medical.

Sa mission sur terre est donc teminee. Elle laissera un vide qu’il sera difficile a combler. Je prend cette occasion pour souhaiter au nom de la AMHE toute entiere et aussi en mon nom personnel, de sinceres condoleances a son mari, notre ami et confrere Claude Surena MD, a ses enfants, Marie Vanessa Clincy, Fabiola Surena Geneec, Claude Christian, Ann Leyla, a ses frere et soeur Leslie et Marilyne et a leur epoux, aux enfants et petit-enfants, a tous les membres proches de la famille, et aux amis affectes par son depart.

Marie Yolene Vaval MD nous a laisse mais elle vivra encore parmi nous. Bon voyage Yolene et que la terre te soit legere.

Maxime Coles MD

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C’est avec beaucoup d’émotions que l’AMHE, par le truchement de son President, au nom du Central Exécutif Comite et du Board of Trustees, presente ses sympathies aux familles Suréna et Vaval, specialement à son mari, l’ex-president de l’AMH, le Dr Claude
Suréna, un fervent et loyal ami de l’AMHE. L’AMHE présente du même coup ses salutations à la grande famille médicale, en particulier l’AMH et la FMP.

La mort de cette éminente Professeure d’Université nous interpelle tous sur la fragilité de l’espèce humaine et sur nos devoirs citoyens. Ainsi, j’exhorte tous nos frères et sœurs Haïtiens à suivre toutes précautions dictées par les autorités sanitaires telles que : port de masque, distanciation sociale, hygiène, participation en groupes et même l’obligation de se faire vacciner.

Commémorons la vie de notre respectueuse Dr Marie Yolene Vaval-Surena qui n’a pas hésité à dédier une grande partie de sa vie au bien-être de tout un chacun, par l’application des méthodes de santé.

Que le Grand Dieu l’accueille dans sa demeure !
Du courage aux familles éplorées !

Dr J. Pierre-Paul Cadet, MD, MBA, FACFEI
AMHE-CEC, Président

The Haitian Medical Association Abroad (AMHE) announces the premature departure of our beloved colleague, Dr. Marie Yolene Vaval-Surena, Professor at the "Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy" and former "Director of the Ministry of Public Health and Population". She distinguished herself during her time at Civil Protection and also, represented one of the most highly rated figures in Haitian Medicine. However, during these few days she endured the adverse effects of Covid-19 and succumbed to it early in the morning of 28 May 2021.

It is with great emotion that AMHE, through its President, on behalf of the Central Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, extends his sympathies to the Surena and Vaval families, especially to her husband, the former President of the AMH, Dr. Claude Suréna, a fervent and loyal friend of AMHE. At the same time, AMHE extends its greetings to the large medical family, particularly the AMH and the FMP.

The death of this eminent University Professor challenges us all about the fragility of the human species and our civic duties. Thus, I urge all our Haitian brothers and sisters to follow all precautions dictated by health authorities such as: wearing masks, social distance, hygiene, participation in groups and even the obligation to get vaccinated.

Dr. J. Pierre-Paul Cadet, MD, MBA, FACFEI
AMHE-CEC, President.
Save the Date!

Friday, July 30 – Sunday, August 1, 2021

ANNOUNCING
The 48th AMHE Annual Medical Convention will be held virtually.

The theme of this this year’s Convention
“Lessons Learned in Medical Practice in the Era of COVID-19.”

AMHE features experienced speakers of various academic backgrounds. Their presentations will cover broad aspects of medical practice. The sessions will offer 20 CME credits. Join us all via ZOOM to learn about the most recent medical advances during the COVID-19 era and fulfill your CME requirements.

The Socially Relevant Art of Marc A. Gaston

June 17, 2021
7–8:30pm

A virtual interactive experience with Maplewood artist Marc Gaston

Advance registration required.
FREE. Link below:
https://bit.ly/33CSx17

Title: “Target Practice 2”
WATCH DREAMLAND ON CNN THIS Monday May 31st at 9 PM
my son,
PATRICK ALTEMA IS THE CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

CNN Films’ ‘Dreamland: The Burning of Black Wall Street’

“Dreamland” celebrates the Black cultural renaissance that existed in the Greenwood district of Tulsa, OK, and investigates the 100-year-old race massacre that left an indelible, though hidden stain on American history. Watch Monday, May 31 at 9 p.m. ET. Source: CNN

Miss Haiti 2021