



Oct 9th - Save the Date

The UMass Worcester Diversity Campus Read

All members of the UMMS and UMMHC communities are encouraged to read *The Immortal life of Henrietta Lacks* and attend the **October 9th special presentation**.

Event: Dr. Roland Pattillo speaks about the impact of the Henrietta Lacks story with the discovery/reproduction of the HeLa cells.

Date/Time/Where: October 9, 2013; 11:30 am – 1:00 pm (Lunch provided)
Faculty Conference Room (University Campus)

Speaker: Roland A. Pattillo, MD, OB/GYN
Morehouse School of Medicine
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Speaker

Background:

Dr. Roland Pattillo was a gynecological oncology fellow at Johns Hopkins University under Dr. George Gey, the researcher who was able to grow cells taken during a biopsy when Henrietta Lacks was being treated for cervical cancer. These cultured cells gave rise to the HeLa cell line. HeLa Cells are considered to be "immortal" because of their ability to infinitely reproduce outside the body.

Currently, Dr. Pattillo is a practicing physician and Professor of Gynecology at Morehouse School of Medicine. In 1995, he organized a women's health conference in honor of Henrietta Lacks and invited members of the Lacks family to Atlanta to speak. The HeLa Conference is now in its 18th year. Both Dr. Pattillo and his wife have a personal relationship with the Lacks family.