

October 5, 2021

Lillie Head
Chair, Board of Directors
Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation
P.O. Box 1001
Wirtz, VA 24184

Via email

Dear Ms. Head and Members of the Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation Board of Directors:

Thank you very much for the discussion with Christopher Koller on Friday, September 17. We are writing, on behalf of the board of directors of the Milbank Memorial Fund, to offer a formal apology to you, your family, and all other descendants of the men involved in the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male for the Fund's role in this racist and unethical research. We are committed both to working with Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation to honor your fathers' and grandfathers' legacies, and to supporting programs that help ensure inequities in health care treatment and outcomes are eliminated.

The Milbank Memorial Fund (www.milbank.org) is a 116-year-old foundation based in New York City. Currently we work with state government officials to implement public policies that improve health. We also publish *The Milbank Quarterly*, a scholarly journal on health policy and public health.

In the past, the Fund supported research activities. Between 1935 and 1972, at the request of the US Public Health Service, the Fund provided money to the Tuskegee Institute to pay for burials of men in the Tuskegee study. Burial funds were made available on the condition of families consenting to autopsies. In addition, the Fund published research articles on the study in its journal and Fund personnel participated in reviews of the study.

In April 2021, after the Fund's current board was apprised of the Fund's role in the Tuskegee study, it established a dedicated board committee and called for an investigation and this apology. Respected historian Dr. Susan M. Reverby is conducting an analysis of the Fund's actions. As we learn more about what happened and why, we will share those findings with you.

The Fund is committed to working with Voices for Our Fathers Legacy Foundation to find appropriate ways to honor your fathers' and grandfathers' legacies. As Chris Koller discussed with you, we would like to endow the Foundation's scholarship program, that helps educate university students in health fields, with a multi-year commitment that results in considerably increased resources for scholarships. We would also look forward to working with you to identify and lift up programs that help eliminate inequities in health care for people of color.

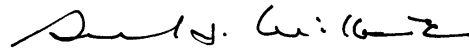
We hope that this apology is the start of a long-term, productive relationship with your organization and would look forward to working together in support of our shared larger goal: to "build a bridge from mistrust to trust." Milbank Memorial Fund leaders are available to meet with you and others you designate to discuss next steps.

Thank you for your gracious and kind acceptance of our initial apology in your discussion with Mr. Koller and for this chance to do so more formally. We will do our best to better honor the legacies of your fathers going forward — and to help inspire a fairer and more equitable world for Black Americans, Indigenous Americans, and people of color.

Sincerely,



Christopher F. Koller
President
Milbank Memorial Fund



Samuel L. Milbank
Chair
Milbank Memorial Fund