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Tuesday May 11 3:03 PM ET

## Black Medical Issues To Be Studied

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) - A new bioethics center focusing on medical issues for minorities is opening in the town where black men with syphilis went untreated for 40 years as part of a notorious government study.

The Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care opens on Saturday. Survivors of the Tuskegee experiments, ranging in age from 89 to 109, will be on hand.

"We expect for the first time to be training and educating significant numbers of African-Americans as bioethicists - something we don't have now," said Benjamin Payton, the university president.

The center was helped by a \$200,000 grant President Clinton announced in 1997, when he apologized on behalf of the government for the syphilis study.

In the 1930s, the federal Public Health Service lured black subjects in Tuskegee with the promise of free health care. A total of 399 men were never told they had syphilis, and researchers carefully monitored how the disease claimed its victims.

By the time the study was exposed by The Associated Press in 1972, 28 men had died of syphilis, 100 others were dead of complications, at least 40 wives had been infected and 19 children had contracted the disease at birth.

Tuskegee University, a historically black college known then as Tuskegee Institute, was not involved in the study.

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