

# HTCC Issues Forum 2012



## The HENRIETTA LACKS Forum

This year the HTCC Issues Forum will present themed research projects based on the bestseller *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot.

**Entry:** To be considered for the Issues Forum, do the following:

- 1) Write (with guidance from your mentor) a 250-word abstract on a topic concerning *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (see below).
- 2) Submit your abstract proposal using the regular submission process, selecting "Issues Forum" as your category (your mentor or Honors Coordinator will probably do this for you).
- 3) In addition to submitting your abstract through the regular registration process, also email this same abstract to [john.oakes@gcccd.edu](mailto:john.oakes@gcccd.edu) by December 23, 2011.

If your proposal is accepted for the conference, you will automatically be considered for inclusion in the Forum.

### **Submission Requirements:**

**Scholarly Content:** *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* is an account of the relationship between "Henrietta Lacks" the person and the "HeLa cells," the cultured cell line derived from her cancer. This story can be read at many levels, including, but not limited to, ones that are social, historical, ethical, educational, scientific and spiritual. Choosing one or more of these contexts as the focus of your discussion, consider what is/are the most compelling question(s) raised by the story of the Henrietta Lacks, her cells and her legacy.

You may reflect and write about this book directly, or you may use it as a springboard into a discussion of another text or modern dilemma related to any of the issues introduced in this book.

You may cite sources in addition to *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, but it is *not* a requirement.

### **Judging Criteria:**

Abstracts that meet the Submission Requirement will be scored on the four criteria listed below:

- **Significance:** Identify and address a challenge that is of significant concern in the area of science and/or social justice stemming from your reading of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.
- **Social and/or Ethical Principles:** Explicitly identify the principles that are relevant and important to your consideration of the issue(s).
- **Stakeholders:** Identify those who are directly or indirectly affected by the conduct or products in question, and explain why.
- **Solution:** Explore one or more solutions (general or specific) to the ethical/social dilemma(s), (at least) briefly detailing some of its/their likely implications.