On this month in history, Dr. Bennet Omalu became the lead author in the first study to confirm chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE) in a living human. Omalu is a Nigerian-American Physician who trained as a forensic pathologist and a neuropathologist. In the year 2002 while working at the coroner’s office, Omalu examined the body of a former professional football player. The body displayed signs of distressing behavior before death and Omalu was curious about what findings the brain would reveal. Upon examination of the brain, Omalu discovered accumulation of tau proteins which impair function. After confirming his discovery, he named the condition CTE. Omalu published his findings in the medical Journal Neurosurgery and was met with reprisal by the NFL who sought to discredit and dismiss his work. However, his work was brought to a larger audience when he was featured in the 2009 September issue of GQ magazine. This sparked a change in the NFL and helped elicit safer practices. Further adding to the notoriety, the film Concussion, produced by Ridley Scott and starring Will Smith details Omalu’s battle with the NFL as they attempt to discredit his work. Doctor Omalu serves as the associate clinical professor of pathology at UC Davis Medical Center and as the president of Bennet Omalu Pathology.

Sources: https://www.biography.com/people/bennet-omalu-122315

“What binds us together is greater than what separates us” — Bennet Omalu

This column, euphemistically titled AA, is meant for all Concordia students who have a question about diversity, inclusion, exclusion, affinity groups and the like. Feel free to send in your anonymous questions to https://goo.gl/Mf7UVp or stop by the OMS office.

The question is: What are affinity groups?

Affinity groups are a group of people linked by a common interest. The groups meet to share ideas that pertain to them, make plans, address issues and build camaraderie among other things.

On campus, we currently have race-based affinity groups. Current affinity groups include: The African Diaspora affinity group, Asian affinity group and Latino affinity group. This year we will be expanding our affinity groups to include a Multiracial affinity group, Queer Students of Color affinity group and a Student for Racial Justice affinity group. The affinity groups in addition to being a safe environment is created to explore what the groups share in common. If you are interested in joining or creating an affinity group, please see Yashica Island at the OMS office or contact via email at yisland@cu-portland.edu

Thank you for your question. If you would like to submit a question of your own for a chance to see it answered here please visit our anonymous google form at https://goo.gl/Mf7UVp

Contributors: Yashica Island, Chi Urom
AFFINITY GROUPS

If you have been reading previous issues of this newsletter and have been to the OMS office or seen the flyers around campus, then you have probably heard of the affinity groups. In a nutshell, affinity groups are a group of people linked by a common interest. On campus, we currently have race-based affinity groups.

The African Diaspora affinity group
The African Diaspora affinity group is open to anyone who identifies as a member of those who have ties or are descendants from the continent of Africa. The group meets every Thursday from 5 pm - 6 pm. Food is usually provided.

Asian affinity group
The Asian affinity group is open to anyone who identifies as a member of those who have ties or are a descendant from the continent of Asia. This group meets every Wednesday from 7 pm - 8 pm.

Latino affinity group
The Latino affinity group is open to anyone who identifies as a member of the Latinx community. This group meets every Wednesday from 6 pm - 7 pm.

Multiracial affinity group
The multiracial affinity group is open to anyone who identifies as a member of multiple racial groups. This group meets every Tuesday from 5 pm - 6 pm.

If you are interested in joining or creating an affinity group, please see Yashica Island at the OMS office or contact via email at yisland@cu-portland.edu

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MOVEMBER

The word “Movember” is a portmanteau of the word Moustache and November. This is an annual event spearheaded by the Movember foundation (movember.com) to raise awareness and funds for Men’s health issues such as suicide in men, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Movember is mainly recognized in November during which men are challenged to grow out their mustache. In addition to this, men and women are encouraged to host fundraising events and create an open dialogue concerning men’s health. The Movember foundation is currently the only global charity that is solely focused on men’s health.

The Movember foundation is currently the only global charity that is solely focused on men’s health

The idea of Movember was born in Melbourne, Australia when two Australian friends Travis Garone and Luke Slattery were having a beer at one of the local pubs. They joked about bringing back the Moustache to popular trend, which was inspired by a friend whose mother was battling breast cancer. They made a campaign about men’s health and prostate cancer and invited 30 “Mo Bros” to participate. The campaign was a success and in 2004, they formalized the concept. The movement has gained widespread recognition ever since. American Comic book juggernaut and film executive, Stan Lee collaborated with the organization in 2012 to award the “Moscar”, an online video submission contest that recognizes contribution to the movement. Since its conception, the foundation has raised a staggering 174 million dollars globally.  
Sources: https://us.movember.com/