Wayne State University Shiffman Medical Library joins the Detroit Public Library (DPL) and other partners in hosting a community wide reading program in 2011. The community is invited to read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, and participate in conversations and programs related to the book’s themes of ethics in medicine, disparities in health care, and advances in medical treatment as a result of research.

**THE STORY**

*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* recounts the story of an African American woman whose cells are taken without her knowledge for medical research. These cells become the first “immortal” human cells (named HeLa cells after the first two letters of her first and last name) and are the foundation for significant medical research and advances that continue through the present. This multi-layered story depicts the relationships between medical research, full disclosure, informed consent, poverty, literacy, family relationships and the African American experience with health care.

**GOALS**

- Make the book widely available to Detroit residents to read and enjoy
- Facilitate discussion by book clubs, churches, community and civic organizations, throughout the city
- Offer events such as:
  - **March 14** – 12-1pm Breast Cancer/Prostate Cancer Prevention & Screening by COSW - WSU Main Campus
  - **March 16** – 2-6 pm Cancer Awareness Information Fair by Wayne County Community College District
  - **March 18** – 4-6pm Book Talk at WSU Shiffman Medical Library & School of Medicine Campus
  - **March 24** – 6:30 pm What Have We Learned by American Cancer Society at Detroit Public Library
- Host the author, Rebecca Skloot, in Detroit for a book talk on **SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011** at 2 pm in the Friends Auditorium at the DPL Main Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI. Open to the public; no charge.

**PARTNERS**

Detroit Public Library with American Cancer Society (ACS), Health Alliance Plan (HAP), Karmanos Cancer Institute (KCI), Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD), WSU School of Medicine and Shiffman Medical Library and others.

**READ THE BOOK**

- Copies of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* are available from your local library
- To find out more about the book, the author, Henrietta’s family, where to purchase the book, and a calendar of events visit the author’s website [http://rebeccaskloot.com](http://rebeccaskloot.com)

**MORE INFORMATION**

- Contact the Shiffman Medical Library by email [askmed@wayne.edu](mailto:askmed@wayne.edu) or phone 313-577-6666
- Also visit the Detroit Public Library One Book Special Events page [http://detroitpubliclibrary.org/onebook](http://detroitpubliclibrary.org/onebook)

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