

Black doctors, scientists try to boost trust in coronavirus vaccine for Black community | The Washington Post

By Lola Fadulu

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The Rev. Liz Walker's job is to minister to souls at Roxbury Presbyterian Church in Boston. But lately it's her parishioners' physical health — and their immune systems — keeping her up at night.

Walker, a former journalist who was the first Black woman to co-anchor a newscast in Boston, was so troubled by her congregants' suspicion of a coronavirus vaccine that she asked Anthony S. Fauci, the government's top infectious-disease expert, to speak with them.

And he did. In an online forum for which more than 2,800 people signed up, Fauci talked about the vaccine development process and why it was essential for the Black community to get vaccinated. When Walker polled her congregation afterward, at least half were unpersuaded.

"I think it just speaks to the issue of you can't change people's minds with one conversation when you are trying to turn people around from decades of skepticism, from decades of distrust," Walker said. "It is not going to happen overnight, no matter what the urgency."

[...]

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