



Trust:

The Seventh Annual Northwestern Bioethics and Medical Humanities Conference

Friday, May 3, 2024

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We are seeking proposals for short oral presentations, and invite submissions from healthcare providers, fellows, faculty, graduate students and alumni, and medical students who have ties to Northwestern University or other medical centers and academic institutions throughout Illinois.

We welcome broad and even unexpected interpretations of the theme.

We also welcome proposals that focus on other topics related to bioethics or medical humanities that are not directly tied to the theme.

The submission deadline is Monday, January 8, 2023.

THEME

Trust is at the core of maintaining the integrity of a society. Trust is particularly essential in healthcare, where a person's life and well-being are often dependent on the advice and care of others, be they clinicians, healthcare systems, or government entities. For individuals and communities, mistrust can lead to dire health outcomes. Uneven trust in authorities, healthcare systems, and clinicians during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to devastating rates of infections and deaths. Yet mistrust in healthcare—and untrustworthy healthcare—are not new. Parallels in history include the plague epidemic following the conquest of Andalusia by Spain and the early 20th century influenza pandemic. Other historical atrocities, such as experiments on enslaved women, the syphilis experiments in Guatemala and at Tuskegee, and forced sterilizations in Lynchburg, Virginia, leave many questioning the trustworthiness of both healthcare researchers and clinicians.

Against this checkered backdrop, where can trust be found—and earned—in healthcare? How do power differentials or cultural differences between patients and clinicians impact trust? How does the role of money and for-profit entities in healthcare undermine trust in the system? How do political beliefs impact trust in elected officials and their designees in public health? And can trust be actively pursued without suggesting a lack of trustworthiness?

TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL OR LEARN MORE



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