Three kinds of humility that will help during post-pandemic conversations about rebuilding the US health system

This presentation will offer some recommendations for how to effectively engage in the upcoming post-pandemic conversations about what went wrong in the US health system during the pandemic, and how to rebuild it to be better. COVID-19 has exposed weaknesses built into many US institutions, both those in the healthcare system (e.g. long-term eldercare facilities underprepared for infection control) and those in the wider health system of social institutions that strongly impact health (e.g. inequitable mass incarceration practices in the criminal justice system that contribute to racial disparities in poverty, housing safety, etc.). The pandemic has brought about renewed and intensifying scrutiny of our institutions; the national protests against racist policing practices are a powerful example. I propose that practicing three different kinds of humility can help us to have better conversations about rebuilding more resilient and equitable health institutions: 1) epistemic humility—there are many types of health knowledge and no type or perspective is inherently superior, 2) intersectoral humility—effective health promotion requires collaboration between healthcare, government, community activist groups, faith groups, etc., and 3) interdisciplinary humility—creating healthier societies requires synthesizing many types of expertise.

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12:30 – 1:30 pm lecture and Q&A

Zoom Registration: bit.ly/bioethics-valles

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