



As the Faculty and Executive Directors of the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics at Harvard Law School, we stand in solidarity with our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) students, colleagues, speakers, collaborators, and communities.

As a health law and policy program, we are acutely aware of the health disparities that result from the systemic and structural racism built into our institutions, and of how medicine can sometimes exacerbate those dynamics. The COVID-19 pandemic is just the last in a long line of health crises that disproportionately take and burden BIPOC lives. We are also acutely aware of how these crises are exacerbated by law enforcement violence.

As a program embedded in a law school, we are aware of the racist structures held up by our own laws that rob BIPOC individuals of their civil rights and liberties.

As an academic institution, we are aware that BIPOC voices have often been ignored and BIPOC scholars have unfairly faced barriers and discrimination in their work and careers.

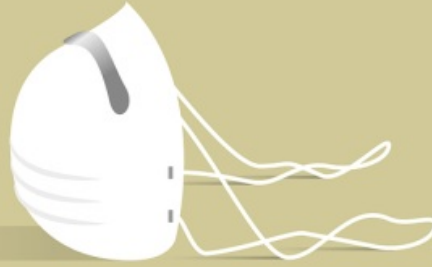
Awareness is not action, however. Awareness is not enough.

The Petrie-Flom Center is committed to moving beyond awareness, especially in our own programming, research, and collaborations, which we recognize as failing to embody values of diversity and inclusion as much as they should. To reflect that commitment, we will seek to amplify diverse voices in our collaborations and events in the coming year and in the years that follow. We also recognize that dismantling racism is an obligation of everyone, not just people of color. To contribute, the Center will seek ways to proactively expand our research agenda to include issues of equity, access, health disparities, and race.

We welcome input from our community of medical providers, patients, legal practitioners, industry leaders, bioethicists, and scholars about how the Center can best meet our endeavor to better incorporate racial justice in our work and to show that Black Lives Matter.

In solidarity,
I. Glenn Cohen and Carmel D. Shachar

Spotlight on Scholarship

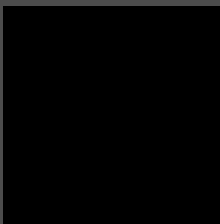


COVID-19, Mask Requirements, and Racial Discrimination

Black Americans risk being targeted by law enforcement, the employees of retail establishments, or their own neighbors for wearing masks. Such discrimination is uniquely offensive given that the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately harmed Black communities. Wearing a mask is particularly valuable in preventing the spread of the virus in communities where it is more prevalent, and yet doing so increases the risk of racial discrimination.

[Read more](#)

Selected Resources



Reading from *Bill of Health*

"What Two Neighborhoods in Chicago Show About Disparities During COVID-19," by Michael Atalla.

"Social Justice in COVID-19 Response: The Legal Issues We Have to Talk About," by Scott Burris and Wendy E. Parmet.

"Policy Roundup: Improving Maternal Health Outcomes for Black Women," by Alexa Richardson.

"COVID-19 is a Perfect Storm of Hardship for US Immigrant Communities," by Amanda M. Gutierrez, Jacob Hofstetter, and Mary Majumder.

"Why Race-Based Health Disparities Have Little to do With Genetics," by Jonathan Kahn.

"Ethnic Identity and Genomics Research: Toward Creating Culturally Sensitive Policies and Practices," by Erin Turbitt and Megan C Roberts.

"Ethical Concerns of DNA Databases used for Crime Control," by Aziza Ahmed.

"The Need to Improve Housing to Improve Health," by

Rebecca Friedman.

"Promoting Health Equity Through Health in all Policies Programs: A Health Law Perspective," by Peter D. Jacobson.

"There are millions of people who are living below subsistence': Black Panther Party Founder Bobby Seale as Public Health Activist," by Wendy S. Salkin.

"The School To Prison Pipeline Undermines the Dignity of Children and Also Society," by Michele Goodwin.



Scholarship

"Big Data Neglects Populations Most in Need of Medical and Public Health Research and Interventions," by Sarah E. Malanga, Jonathan D. Loe, Christopher T. Robertson (Academic Fellow Alumnus), and Kenneth S. Ramon in *Arizona Legal Studies Discussion Paper*.

"Criminal Justice or Public Health: A Comparison of the Representation of the Crack Cocaine and Opioid Epidemics in the Media," by Carmel Shachar (Executive Director), Tess Wise, Gali Katznelson (Student Fellow Alumna), and Andrea Louise Campbell in *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*.

"Diagnosing bias in data-driven algorithms for healthcare," by Jenna Wiens, W. Nicholson Price II (Academic Fellow Alumnus), and Michael W. Sjoding in *Nature Medicine*.



Events

"Incarcerated Populations and COVID-19: Public Health, Ethical, and Legal Concerns"

"Debt, Dignity, and Health Care: Guaranteeing Health Rights and Universal Health Coverage"

"Health Law Workshop: Kimani Paul-Emile," Americans on Drugs: Six Drugs, Three Regimes, and the Making of the American Drug User

"Health Law Workshop: Dayna Matthew," On Charlottesville.

"2019 Petrie-Flom Center Annual Conference: Consuming Genetics: Ethical and Legal Considerations of New Technologies" - Panel 5, Jonathan Kahn, "Precision Medicine and the Resurgence of Race in Genomic Medicine."

"Health Law Workshop: Craig Konnoth," Medical Civil Rights.

"Health Law Workshop: Khiara Bridges"

Selected Events and Opportunities

We choose a few upcoming opportunities to feature each week. To see [the full list, check our site](#). To post your own, [get in touch!](#)



EVENT: [How to Run a Hospital during a Pandemic: Hospital Administration Ethical and Legal Challenges in the Time of COVID-19, June 30, 2019](#)



[Call for Contributors: Bill of Health is Looking to Amplify BIPOC Voices](#)



[Now Hiring: Petrie-Flom Center Financial and Administrative Coordinator, Harvard Law School](#)



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[Call for Proposals: Viewing Health Justice Through the Lens of Public Health Crises, The Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy at Loyola University Chicago School of Law](#)