UW Medicine

OFFICE OF HEALTHCARE EQUITY

Office of Healthcare Equity

Foundational EDI Course: History of Race and Racism in Medicine & Science

Discussion Guide (for use after completing the course)

Discussion Guide

- 1. How does your definition of race influence how you see yourself, the world, and your identity today?
- 2. Based upon your definition of race, how do you connect with your co-workers, family/friends, and engage the UW as a system?
- 3. What is the relationship between racializing medicine and pathologizing race? How does racialized medicine impact the culture, medical care, and training approaches of UW Medicine?
- 4. How does past redlining continue to impact the educational accessibility of BIPOC children today?

Questions To Consider

What is Racialized Medicine?

Biological Determinancy

Racialized Medicine is the practice and belief by the scientific community that race can serve as a biological marker to determine health outcomes.

Is there utility?

Social Determinacy

Research and scholarship offers us the tools to find utility in using race in medicine to better contextualize social determinants of health, but that is the extent of it.

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Is there harm?

Pathologizing Race

Racialized medicine, in its biological determinant form, pathologizes race as the cause of diseases and fails to address the social determinants of health. This also stigmatizes and further marginalizes communities. It also moves further away from personalized care.

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Questions about this guide:

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- 5. In your department, do you notice any ways in which race continues to be given a biological status it does not deserve or pathologized? What does it look like and feel like? Have you discussed this with anyone else?
- 6. What is the definition of racialized medicine? What do you think about the specific example of BIDIL (The first African American Heart Drug)?
- 7. How do you think the introduction of BIDIL impacts the Black and Brown community? Pleas describe what you think the impact looks like.
- 8. Carl Linnaeus spoke about race hierarchy. What is the relationship between race hierarchy and the healthcare inequities that exists today against BIPOC communities?

Questions about this guide: