

Episode: *Author Interview: "Using Critical Pedagogy to Advance Antiracism in Health Professions Education"*

Guest: Chioma Onuoha

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript by: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:04] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Chioma Onuoha, a third-year medical student at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. She's here to discuss her article, coauthored with Drs Jennifer Tsai and Rohan Khazanichi, "*Using Critical Pedagogy to Advance Antiracism in Health Professions Education*," in the January 2024 issue of the Journal, [Critical Pedagogy in the Health Professions Education](#). Chioma, thank you so much for being on the podcast.

CHIOMA ONUOHA: Yeah, thanks so much for having me. [music fades]

[00:00:48] HOFF: So, to begin with, what is the main ethics point that you and your coauthors are making in your article?

ONUOHA: In this article we're really talking about the issues that currently exist within medical and health professions education when it comes to health equity and antiracism work. We're at this point where a lot of people don't get any education on these topics at all, or if they do, they're focused on these reductionist biomedical frameworks that are quote-unquote "race neutral" or are perpetuating problematic narratives. And so, really, the purpose and the ethical point in this article is to encourage educators and students to move past just this descriptive approach to health equity and antiracism and move towards education that is focused on encouraging action. And this idea of reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it is known as praxis and comes from the Pedagogy of the Oppressed. And the entirety of this article is really rooted on that framework of praxis and moving medical and health professions education towards encouraging students to learn with the goal of impacting and making a beneficial change upon the communities that they're working with.

[00:01:59] HOFF: And so, what do you see as the most important thing for your fellow health professions students and trainees to take from your article?

ONUOHA: I think the biggest thing from this article is to recognize that if we are to expect different outcomes, we need different methods. Up until this point, medicine hasn't really been focused on health equity or antiracism, so it's not surprising that the methods that we currently use don't quite cut it when it comes to educating people about these things and motivating them to move and act in a way that would help people and that actually makes a difference. So, I think we just have to view health equity and antiracism with the same kind of academic rigor and seriousness that we approach other topics within health care and recognize that that might need us to go a little bit outside of the lines and do things that aren't typically common within academic medicine or health professions in general.

[00:02:49] HOFF: And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn't have the time or the space to fully explore, what would that be?

ONUOHA: The biggest thing I would say that we didn't have time to write about but that is so important is that this kind of work cannot be done alone. It really is not something you can do in a silo. And if you're going to be dedicated to this, which I hope all of our readers who read this article

will be, you really do have to find a community of like-minded individuals who keep you motivated, who make it so that you still have hope and who make it fun and not just feel like work. It's really not something you can do alone, [theme music returns] and we have to support each other and lift each other up throughout the journey so that we stay the course.

[00:03:31] HOFF: Chioma, thank you so much for your time on the podcast today, and thanks to you and your coauthors for your contribution to the Journal this month.

ONUOHA: Absolutely. Thank you again for having me.

HOFF: To read the full article as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.