

Episode: *Author Interview: “How Should Health Care Respond to Threats Antimicrobial Resistance Poses to Workers?”*

Guest: Majd Alsoubani, MD

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:03] 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 Dr Majd Alsoubani, an attending physician and a member of the antimicrobial stewardship team in the Division of Geographic Medicine and Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine at Tufts Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. She's here to discuss her article, coauthored with Drs Maya Nadimpalli and Shira Doron, “*How Should Health Care Respond to Threats Antimicrobial Resistance Poses to Workers?*,” in the May 2024 issue of the Journal, [Antimicrobial Resistance](#). Dr Alsoubani, thank you so much for being on the podcast. [music fades]

DR MAJD ALSOUBANI: Thank you so much, Tim, for having me.

[00:00:54] HOFF: So, what's the main ethics point that you and your coauthors are making?

ALSOUBANI: I think the main point of this paper is to highlight the disproportionate impact of antimicrobial resistance in certain ethnic and racial minorities, not only in the community, but also potentially extending to healthcare workplace settings. So, we know that Black patients have increased risk of resistant bacteria compared to White patients. At the same time, health care workers who belong to racial or ethnic minority groups often hold jobs that could put them at increased risk for antimicrobial resistance. So, for example, research has shown that Black women have the highest likelihood of working in the long-term care sector and in nursing aide positions, which could expose them to certain tasks like bathing or feeding patients, which subsequently could increase their risk of antimicrobial resistance.

[00:01:49] HOFF: And so, what's the most important thing for health professions students and trainees specifically to take from your article?

ALSOUBANI: The most important takeaway is to understand that there are structural inequities that contribute to disparities in the impact of antimicrobial resistance on certain populations, and this could also affect those groups even in the health care sector.

[00:02:12] HOFF: And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn't have the time or space to fully explore, what would that be?

ALSOUBANI: In this paper, we tried to underscore the need for tailoring interventions to meet the specific needs and preferences of diverse populations. The one important point that I want to add is that in order to reach that goal, we really need to create collaborations between researchers and physicians. We need to kind of get them out of their labs and hospitals and try to collaborate with community organizations to really better understand the needs in order to help tailor those interventions. [theme music returns]

[00:02:49] HOFF: Dr Alsoubani, thank you so much again for your time on the podcast, and thanks to you and your coauthors for your contribution to the Journal this month.

ALSOUBANI: Thank you, Tim.

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*.