

Episode: *Author Interview: "How to Better Value EMS Clinicians as Key Care Team Members"*

Guest: Rozalina G. McCoy, MD, MS

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript by: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

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 format for accessing the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Dr Rozalina McCoy, a primary care physician, endocrinologist, and the Medical Director of the Mayo Clinic Ambulance Community Paramedic Service in Rochester, Minnesota. She's here to discuss her article, coauthored with Andrew Torres, *How to Better Value EMS Clinicians as Key Care Team Members*, in the September 2022 issue of *The Journal*, [What We Owe Health Workers Earning Low Wages](#). Dr McCoy, thank you so much for being on the podcast with me.  
[music fades]

DR ROZALINA MCCOY: Thank you so much. It's truly a pleasure to be here with you.

HOFF: So, what's the main ethics point that you and your coauthor are advancing in this article?

MCCOY: I think it's really important to be aware of class-based microaggressions in health care, particularly toward non-physician members of our clinical team, which can be achieved through ensuring mutual understanding, trust, and respect towards our team members. In this article, I partnered with Andrew Torres, a community paramedic that I work with closely to talk about the emergency medical services profession specifically. They contribute immensely to patient care, yet are too often unappreciated, unacknowledged, and even ignored. So, I think we use EMS as an example of really vital members of the clinical team, and I would encourage everybody in the audience to be aware of people on their clinical teams and to respect and value what they bring to the table.

HOFF: And so, what's the most important thing for health professions students and trainees at the beginnings of their careers to take from your article?

MCCOY: Yeah. I would really encourage them to get to know all members of their clinical team: who they are, what they do, and how they contribute to patient care. I think it's incredibly important to respect and value their contribution. Medicine at its best, it's a team endeavor, so it's always important to recognize what we all bring and continuously learn from each other as we go through this.

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

MCCOY: We can connect with members of our clinical team on many levels: personally, professionally, and academically. And for me, it has been always important to pause and

appreciate just how much I personally learn from the community paramedics that I work with. We all contribute and bring something important to patient care, and we learn from each other. I know that I learn a lot more from the community paramedics I work with than they do from me, and I continue to be inspired and motivated by all that they do. I would also really encourage other, all physicians to think outside the box as they think about clinical teams. It's not just the people in your office or your operating room, it's really everybody who comes together and helps in the delivery of patient care. So, we should be mindful of all those individuals and treat everyone with respect that they deserve. [theme music returns]

HOFF: Dr McCoy, thank you so much for being on the podcast, and thank you and your coauthor for your contribution to the Journal this month.

MCCOY: Yes, thank you so much.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of the September 2022 issue for free, visit our site, [JournalofEthics.org](https://www.journalofethics.org). We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.