Implicit Bias Matters

You are invited to a thought-provoking event sponsored by UCHhealth and the Center for Women’s Health Research. This program is held in collaboration with the University of Colorado Denver, the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and the National Behavioral Health Innovation Center.

Learning Objectives:
1. To define implicit bias.
2. To explain why implicit bias matters in health care and to mental health and women’s health in particular.
3. To describe strategies and techniques for mitigating implicit bias.

Agenda
5:15 p.m. Check-in and light dinner
6:00 p.m. Welcome and introductions
6:05 p.m. Defining and Demystifying Implicit Bias
- Brenda J. Allen, PhD
6:35 p.m. Derailed; A Hard Call® Story Exploring Mental Illness and Stigma
- Matt Wynia, MD
7:05 p.m. Can Technology help us Address Implicit Bias? Virtual Reality as a Tool for Building Empathy and Understanding
- Matt Vogl, MPH
7:35 p.m. Question and Answer session
8:00 p.m. Adjourn

Let’s Talk: Conversations About Women’s Health is a lecture series that educates women in our community on topics of health. We present evidence based information so that women have the information they need to make educated decisions about health for themselves and their families. Let’s Talk content is uniquely created and presented by a panel of nationally-renowned subject matter experts, physicians, and researchers.
Speakers

Brenda J. Allen, PhD
Vice Chancellor, Diversity and Inclusion, University of Colorado Denver and University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

*Defining and Demystifying Implicit Bias*

This presentation will address these questions: What is implicit bias? Why should we care about it? How and why does it occur? What can we do to counteract its consequences?

Brenda J. Allen is the Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus. She also is a Professor of Communication, and her scholarship focuses on organizational communication and diversity. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Dr. Allen was recruited in 1989 from Howard University in Washington, D.C. to the University of Colorado Boulder. In 2001, she joined the CU Denver faculty. During her 25+ years at CU, Dr. Allen has served in numerous leadership roles and has developed a track record for scholarship, teaching, and service in the area of diversity and inclusion. Among her publications is the groundbreaking book *Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity*. Dr. Allen enjoys listening to fiction audiobooks and bingeing on Netflix series.

Matthew Wynia, MD, MPH, FACP
Director, Center for Bioethics and Humanities, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

*Derailed: A Hard Call® Story Exploring Mental Illness and Stigma*

A serious mental illness throws Jeff’s life off track, but that’s just the tip of the iceberg. After all, his illness is treatable; it’s much harder to manage the stigma associated with his new diagnosis. When Jeff encounters stigma, he wants to face it down. On the one side is his integrity; on the other, millions of dollars, many jobs, and the very survival of his company. Should Jeff reveal the truth?

Matt Wynia is a physician specializing in internal medicine and infectious diseases. When he is not caring for patients, his career has focused on exploring challenges in health care ethics and health policy. Dr. Wynia came from the University of Chicago to lead the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in 2015. In Chicago, Dr. Wynia directed the Institute for Ethics at the American Medical Association for more than 15 years. He also founded the AMA’s Center for Patient Safety and was Director of Patient and Physician Engagement for the AMA’s Improving Health Outcomes team. Prior to attending med school, Dr. Wynia was a professional actor, with many Shakespeare credits under his belt. Secretly, Dr. Wynia always wanted to host a show, and now he is the host, along with producer Elaine Grant, of *Hard Call®,* a novel podcast exploring the toughest decisions we are forced to make about our health. *Hard Call: Derailed* is a 5-part podcast series on the ethical decisions confronting a patient with bipolar disorder, along with his family and the health professionals who care for him.

Matt Vogl, MPH
Executive Director, National Behavioral Health Innovation Center (NBHIC), University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

*Can Technology Help Us Address Implicit Bias? Virtual Reality as a Tool For Building Empathy and Understanding*

This presentation will address these questions: How is Virtual Reality (VR) emerging as a transformative tool in treatment, prevention, training and education? What research exists around the use of VR to build empathy and reduce bias? What are the potential practical applications for VR in this arena? i.e. how can we “put it to work?”

Matt has a passion for bold new ideas to take on mental health challenges, which was the driving force behind the creation of NBHIC. Before taking on leadership of the NBHIC startup, Matt served as Deputy Director of the Johnson Depression Center and managed program expansion for the Nurse-Family Partnership, an evidence-based maternal-child nurse home visiting program. Matt is past Board Chair for the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado and has served on the boards of the Rocky Mountain Research and Prevention Institute and the Colorado chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He recently was appointed to the State of Colorado Commission on Suicide Prevention. While Matt’s work and vision for a mentally healthy world is serious, he is also known for his clever wit and humor—exactly what you might expect from a guy who performed stand-up comedy for 10 years.