



Arsht Research on Ethics and Community Grant

Conscious and Subconscious Biases in Miami Trauma Care Providers: Do They Exist?

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Abstract

Trauma, including events resulting from intentional, interpersonal violence, affects vulnerable members of society disproportionately, including minority people of color (Hispanic or African American) who are economically disadvantaged. The trauma population is also becoming more obese, in keeping with national demographics. The Ryder Trauma Center (RTC) in Miami, Florida is one of the busiest Level I trauma centers in the country, with multiple, multidisciplinary care providers interacting with trauma patients throughout their recovery. It is unclear what attitudes or biases these care providers, including surgeons, nurses, social workers or trainees, may hold either consciously or subconsciously about the very patients they are caring for. We propose to measure both explicit and implicit attitudes of trauma care providers at the RTC using a well-validated computer-based test (Implicit Association Test). This is to explore the presence of any discriminatory attitudes that may exist based on race, social class or weight, and among whom, which may ultimately impact patient care.

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