

## **AMSUS 2020**

### **Proposal: 60-minute lecture**

#### Title:

Institutional Betrayal, Institutional Courage, and Environmental Exposure Concerns: A Primer for Federal Health Care Professionals

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#### One Paragraph Summary:

Addressing potential health effects from workplace and/or environmental hazardous exposures is an important competency for federal health care professionals. Service members and veterans present with a combination of medical, mental health and psychosocial conditions in the context of their military experiences and occupational exposure concerns.

Research shows that the impact of the hazardous exposures can be compounded by institutional factors, such as perceived breach of trust and betrayal. Because health care providers are often the first to respond to these concerns, recognizing the complexity of the institutional context of the hazardous exposures and knowing how to evaluate and communicate about these factors is essential.

In this session, participants will gain knowledge regarding moral injury, institutional betrayal, and institutional courage as applied to health care. Faculty will apply these concepts to corporate, medical, and military examples, including a focus on military veterans' airborne hazards and open burn pit exposure concerns.

The presentation will discuss how awareness of broad societal issues such as historical trauma, environmental racism and environmental justice, war related illnesses and injuries, and sexual trauma recovery can be harnessed to improve quality of care in local clinics and communities. Original qualitative data and a clinical case example will highlight competencies regarding institutional factors, with the aim of improving medical care for persons who experience such health and exposure concerns and increasing members' trust in the Defense Health Agency and/or the Veteran's Health Administration.

#### Objectives:

1. Participants will become familiar with the concepts of moral injury, institutional betrayal, and institutional courage.
2. Participants will recognize the impact of institutional concerns on service members'/veterans' health and their trust (or lack thereof) in their respective health care systems.
3. Participants will apply specific techniques to address institutional concerns for improved patient-provider communication in service members'/veterans' health care.

Track category:  
Clinical Care