**Health Literacy and Systemic Racism: Addressing Oppression through Clear Communication**

Presented by: Cliff Coleman, MD, MPH

Thursday, October 7, 2021 | 1 pm - 2 pm PST via Webex

**Program Objectives – The learner will be able to:**

- Describe racial and ethnic health literacy disparities
- Identify examples of health information inequities in clinical settings
- Describe the rationale for adhering to a “universal precautions” approach to health communication
- Discuss how failing to follow “universal precautions” for health information contributes to systemic racism

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Dr. Cliff Coleman is a national expert in the field of health literacy. His research and teaching focuses on improving health literacy and clear communication training for healthcare professionals. In 2010 and 2014 he was the principle investigator on two national consensus studies to identify a comprehensive set of health literacy educational competencies and prioritized clear communication practices for health professionals.

Cliff is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) School of Medicine, where he serves as Clinical Thread Director for education on health communication, professionalism, and ethics. In 2014, he developed and implemented the first known health professions curriculum which integrates health literacy teaching as a running thread throughout the pre-clinical training years. He also runs OHSU’s curriculum on culturally responsive care. In 2018 he received OHSU’s Excellence in Education Award for "outstanding efforts in leading educational endeavors, creating novel curriculum, and providing outstanding learning environments." He received the 2020 Institute for Healthcare Advancement’s Innovative Program Award "for teaching medical students about health literacy and 4 habits for patient-centered communication."

In July 2021 Cliff became the inaugural Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication within the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care. Cliff practices at a Federally Qualified Health Center clinic and attended on the OHSU inpatient Family Medicine service for 17 years. His clinical interests include healthcare for medically complex individuals and underserved populations.

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