



## 30TH ANNUAL SERIES

# DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Monthly Conference Series Dialogue No.204

**Friday, February 18, 2022, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

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Meeting ID: 917 1708 4951

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### **Improving Machine Learning: Equity, Diversity and U.S. Science**

Bettina Beech, Dr.P.H., University of Houston

It has become commonplace to observe, bemoan and criticize Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for their bias. But if these computational tools are to realize their full potential, they must both not merely worsen disparities – they must also reduce the kinds of inequity endemic in U.S. society, including its health care systems. This presentation features a review of the NIH's new, \$50 million "Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity," or AIM-AHEAD, program. The program is apparently the largest initiative ever to partner with under-represented communities to contribute scientific expertise, data and recruitment strategies to ensure the future is better than the past.\*

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Dr. Beech is chief population health officer at the University of Houston and one of several Principal Investigators on the AIM-AHEAD's leadership core. She is a public and population health scientist with experience in family-based chronic disease interventions among African Americans. Her work has examined the intergenerational transmission of behavioral, social, and environmental risks for cardiovascular and cardiometabolic diseases among African American children, adolescents, parents and grandparents.

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