

32nd ANNUAL SERIES

DIALOGUES IN RESEARCH ETHICS

Monthly Conference Series | Dialogue No. 211 Friday, January 26, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

HYBRID

Don Soffer Clinical Research Center, Room 1270A; a light lunch will be provided.

Online: Click here to register

Al, Prediction and Fairness in Clinical Action

William F. Parker, MD, PhD, University of Chicago

Healthcare systems increasingly use Al-generated algorithms to identify patients at high risk for important clinical outcomes. Multiple normative choices are embedded in this process, the first being the choice of threshold where the test counts as positive and triggers a clinical action. There are several mutually exclusive definitions of algorithmic fairness, and normative reasoning is essential to selecting the right concept for a specific clinical situation to avoid biased treatment against socially disadvantaged groups.

Dr. Parker is an assistant professor of medicine and public health sciences and an assistant director of the MacLean Center at the University of Chicago. He is a pulmonary and critical care physician, medical ethicist, and health services researcher who studies the allocation of scarce medical resources. In addition to co-directing the University of Chicago's ethics consult service, he runs an NIH and Greenwall Foundation-funded quantitative bioethics lab focused on absolute scarcity problems in which demand greatly exceeds supply and healthcare systems triage patients for treatment using algorithms. Dr. Parker's analysis has been featured in *The Hastings Center Report, Health Affairs, JAMA Health Forum, USA Today, The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*. He has been recognized with national young investigator awards from the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the American Thoracic Society.











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