

Dr. Franklin Shaffer, President and CEO

Fighting Stigma, Discrimination, and Xenophobia in the COVID-19 Era: Perspectives from Health Worker



Stigma against COVID-19 patients

- COVID-19 patients are being socially stigmatized due to public fear, rumors, and misinformation about the disease
- Blaming and shaming certain groups of people for a pandemic poses a threat to everyone
- Stigma harms people's health and well-being and can deprive individuals of necessary resources to care for themselves and families during pandemics
- Health workers, particularly nurses, have consistently cared for similarly stigmatized patients diagnosed with Leprosy, HIV-AIDS, and now COVID-19

Stigma against COVID-19 health workers

- Health workers on the front lines against COVID-19 face pathogen exposure, long working hours, psychological distress, fatigue, burnout, and stigma and discrimination
- Health workers who treated HIV-AIDS and Leprosy were similarly stigmatized due to misinformation and public fear
- Foreign-educated and foreign-trained health workers face stigmatization and xenophobia that has only been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic

Strategies for tackling stigma

Education

- Public education on the facts surrounding COVID-19 are necessary for curbing stigma of patients and health workers
- Self reflection of our own biases is key

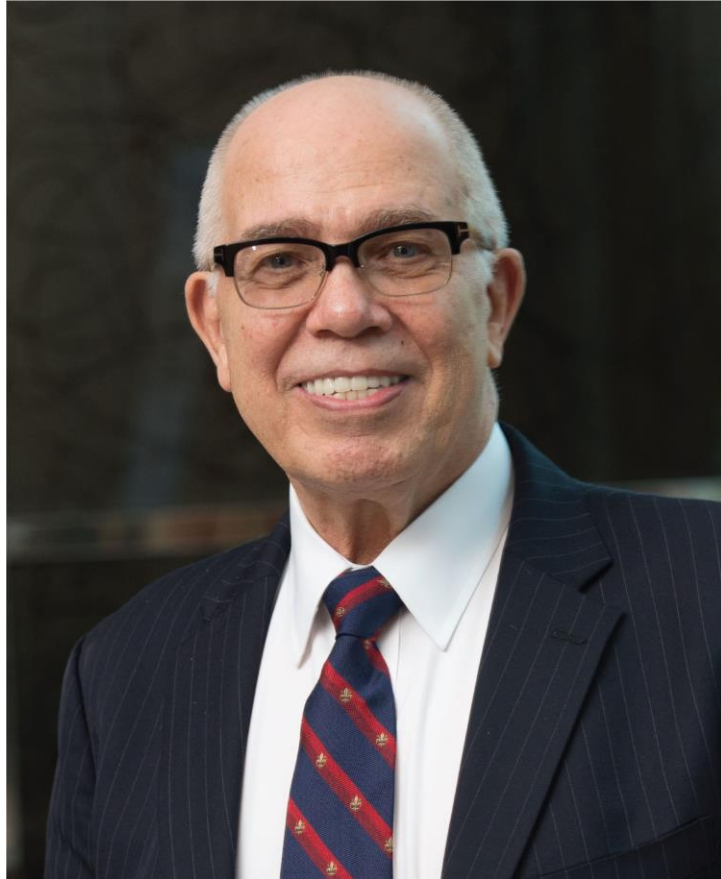
Advocacy

- Advocating for the ethical treatment and truths around foreign-educated health workers essential

Transnational Collaboration and Partnership

- Learning and sharing best practices from colleagues around the globe

THANK YOU



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