

## Abstract: 2020 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Showcase

### Baylor College of Medicine Anti-Human Trafficking Program

Speakers: Mollie Gordon & Melissa Torres

As the only program of its type in an academic medical center in the U.S., the BCM Anti-Human Trafficking Program is comprised of a diverse and interdisciplinary staff providing healthcare services, social services, research, education, and advocacy across medical fields and disciplines to identify and treat the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in Houston – the nation’s most diverse city. Our team works with patients who are often racial, ethnic, and gender minorities who also face the most egregious human rights violations. Having worked with hundreds of patients in this space, we work through the social determinants that impair our patients’ access to healthcare and health outcomes in partnering with municipal leaders, NGOs, and other healthcare institutions across the city. Our work in this space has identified that many of our patients are domestic victims of violence and minorities with significant social, psychiatric, and medical needs. Our peer-reviewed research and trainings have set the gold-standard for management and treatment of these patients and focus on issues such as health equity, race, cultural humility, and trauma-informed care. We see these social determinants as points of intervention and opportunities for us to address those needs which double as vulnerabilities to exploitation. Despite clinical care, our patients remain stigmatized due to histories including sex work, severe mental illness, homelessness, and involvement with law enforcement. In addition to these social stressors, race-related stress remains a chronic medical and psychiatric health risk. Our team advocates to ensure biopsychosocial needs are met despite barriers to care.