Children's Hospital of Philadelphia PolicyLab

Getting Proximate—Flipping the Mentorship Paradigm to Promote Health Equity

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In the racial reckoning of 2020, several U.S. health care organizations pledged to combat structural racism and reduce health inequity. Many health care leaders subsequently focused on interventions to provide patients from marginalized groups with education or assistance, such as food prescriptions, rides to appointments, or smoking-cessation counseling. But these approaches are fundamentally inadequate because they fail to address a key root cause of health inequities: the mindset of the privileged people who lead our institutions and the structurally unjust systems they design.

Journal:

The New England Journal of Medicine
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