Social Justice and Mental Health
Ruth Shim, MD, MPH & Sarah Vinson, MD

Level
Intro

CE
CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

Bio
Ruth Shim, MD, MPH is the Luke & Grace Kim Professor in Cultural Psychiatry and Professor of Clinical Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of California, Davis. She also serves as Associate Dean of Diverse and Inclusive Education at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. Ruth received an MPH in health policy from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and an MD from Emory University School of Medicine. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Scientific Advisory Council of Bring Change to Mind. She serves on the Research and Evaluation Committee of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission.

Ruth serves on the Editorial Boards of *JAMA Psychiatry*, *Psychiatric Services, Community Mental Health Journal,* and American Psychiatric Publishing and is co-editor of the books, *The Social Determinants of Mental Health*, and the recently published, *Social (In)Justice and Mental Health*. She is a former fellow of the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program, and an at-large member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders. In 2021, she was the recipient of a NAMI Exemplary Psychiatrist Award and the UC Davis Health Deans' Award for Excellence in Mentoring. Dr. Shim's provides clinical psychiatric care in the UC Davis Early Diagnosis and Preventative Treatment (EDAPT) Clinic.

Sarah Vinson, MD

Narrative
The relationship between social justice and mental health is multi-faceted, complex and has significant implications – not only for individual patients, but also for society. To understand social justice as it relates to mental health, one must consider the framework of the social determinants of mental health – the conditions into which we are born, grow, live, work and age – as they are most responsible for the health and mental health inequities that exist in society. Certain segments of our population (especially people with serious mental illnesses) disproportionately experience striking inequities in health outcomes. Furthermore, people who have serious mental illness have an increased vulnerability to the deep-rooted inequities in major systems such as criminal justice, child welfare and healthcare. This presentation aims to

introduce mental health practitioners to the concept of social justice and to the role of social injustice in perpetuating these inequities.

Learning Objectives
1) Define social justice, the social determinants of mental health and mental health inequities
2) Explain how social injustice contributes to mental health inequities
3) Describe the role of social injustice on the field of mental health