Pandemic Perspectives 2020 // A John F. Anderson Memorial Lecture

THE SCIENCE AND ETHICS OF DEVELOPING AND ALLOCATING COVID-19 VACCINES

William Petri MD PhD, Wade Hampton Frost Professor of Medicine and Vice Chair for Research, Department of Medicine, UVA

James F. Childress PhD, University Professor Emeritus and Hollingsworth Professor of Ethics Emeritus, UVA

Marcia Day Childress PhD, moderator

Hopes for controlling the Covid-19 pandemic and restoring socioeconomic activities rest in part on the prospect of a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2. If one or more vaccines now in development and testing prove safe and effective in coming months, they will still be too scarce to vaccinate everyone in the U.S. immediately, and so must be rationed. This Medical Center Hour explores the scientific promise and challenges of fast-track vaccine development and ethical debates about equitable vaccine allocation, with particular attention to the report, Framework for Equitable Allocation of Covid-19 Vaccine, issued 2 October 2020 by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Part of Medical Center Hour’s Pandemic Perspectives 2020 mini-series, UVA

Suggested resources:
4. Petri WA. How, and when, will we know that a COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective? The Conversation. Reprinted online in UVA Today, 23 Sept 2020: https://news.virginia.edu/content/how-and-when-will-we-know-covid-19-vaccine-safe-and-effective
**William A. Petri MD PhD** earned his MD and PhD at UVA, then completed an internal medicine residency at University Hospital of Cleveland and a clinical fellowship in infectious diseases at UVA. He joined the UVA faculty in medicine/infectious diseases in 1988. A practicing physician, inventor, entrepreneur, and teacher, Dr. Petri is now Wade Hampton Frost Professor of Medicine and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Medicine; he is also Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology and Professor of Pathology. He has been chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health. He maintains an active research program investigating immune mechanisms of defense against enteric (diarrheal) infections and, now, Covid-19, is a pioneer in the study of enteric infections and their consequences for children’s health, and a world leader in amebiasis research. He has been editor of *Infection and Immunity*. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (also a past president), the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the American College of Physicians. The recipient of the Commonwealth of Virginia’s Outstanding Faculty Award (2014), Dr. Petri was recognized as one of UVA’s Distinguished Scientists in 2016 and one of the Commonwealth’s Outstanding Scientists in 2017.

**James F. Childress PhD** is a graduate of Guilford College and Yale University. He is Professor Emeritus at the University of Virginia, where he was formerly University Professor, the John Allen Hollingsworth Professor of Ethics, and founding director of the Institute for Practical Ethics and Public Life. He was also Professor of Religious Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, Professor of Public Policy in the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, and Professor of Research in Medical Education in the School of Medicine. He received UVA’s highest honor, the Thomas Jefferson Award, in 2002. He continues to be a core faculty member of the Center for Health Humanities and Ethics in the School of Medicine. Prof. Childress is author of numerous articles and several books in biomedical ethics and other areas of ethics, including *Principles of Biomedical Ethics* (with Tom L. Beauchamp), the 8th edition/40th anniversary edition of which appeared in 2019 (and there are a dozen translations into other languages). His most recent book is *Public Bioethics: Principles and Problems* (2020). Prof. Childress has been actively involved in several national committees examining bioethics and public policy. He was vice chair of the national Task Force on Organ Transplantation, served on the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, and was appointed by President Clinton to the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine. Most recently, he served on the committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to develop a *Framework for Equitable Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine* (report released 2 Oct 2020).

Prof. Childress declared no personal/professional relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare goods and/or services. Dr. Petri disclosed interests in TechLab (consultant), Regeneron (funded investigator), and Syneos (Data Safety Monitoring Board). Medical Center Hour planning group members M.D. Childress PhD; R.J. Bonnie LLB; R. Carpenter DrNP; J.F. Childress PhD; M.F. Marshall PhD; J. Mutter MD MA; K. Reid PhD RN FNP-C CNL; L. Shepherd JD have no personal/professional relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare goods and/or services, while R. Dillingham MD MPH reports interests with Gilead and Warm Health Technology Inc.; UVA Office of Continuing Medical Education faculty and staff have no personal/professional financial relationships with commercial entities producing healthcare goods and/or services.

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### Learning objectives:

1. Consider the scientific promise and challenges of fast-track development of safe and effective Covid-19 vaccines.
2. Examine ethical debates around equitable vaccine allocation when supplies are scarce, as addressed in a new National Academies report.