Flipping the Script: #HomelessTeachIn

Panelists:
Shams DaBaron (personal Twitter: @homeless_hero)
Shamaya Morris (personal Twitter: @PoetzSoul)
Charmel Lucas (affiliated with @pthny)
Sarah Wilson (affiliated with @SafetyNetUJC)
How can healthcare workers better improve clinical interactions with people experiencing homelessness?

Avoid stereotypes and assumptions and respect patients' boundaries.

If patients do not want to share, do not threaten or demand information. Provide privacy when asking sensitive questions.

Actively seek education about homelessness and related issues. If you are able to, volunteer at a shelter or food pantry.
Other Key Notes

Sleep deprivation is a common experience due to sleeping on the streets, being in noisy shelters. This can have major physical and mental health ramifications.

Shelter policies that require residents to vacate the premises during the day and strict curfews cause people to sacrifice work, family time, and medical appointments.

Dehydration, especially during these hot summer months, can be deadly.

Lack of basic resources such as adequate food and bathroom access can lead to adverse health outcomes as well as emotional distress.

Experiencing homelessness as a parent is especially difficult. Parents come in all genders and need resources for supporting their children.
“We want you to understand that we are humans. We want you to treat us like any other patients” - Sarah Wilson