Achieving Health Equity
and Social Justice

Prevention is Primary: Strategies for Community Well-Being
Definitions

**Health Disparities** - "differences in health that are not only avoidable and unnecessary but in addition unjust and unfair"

**Health Equity** - "providing all people with fair opportunities to attain their full health potential to the extent possible"
Health Equity

Exists when individuals' "needs, rather than their social privileges, guide the distribution of opportunities for well-being"

2 types:

1. **Horizontal** - equal treatment for equal needs

2. **Vertical** - different levels of treatment for different needs, with more resources being used for those in the most need
Trajectory of Health Inequities

Environment → Exposures and Behaviors → Health care services → Injuries, illnesses, and inequities
Environmental Factors

1. **Opportunity**: racial justice and intergroup relationships; jobs and local ownership; education

2. **People**: social networks and trust; community engagement and efficacy; acceptable behaviors and attitudes

3. **Place**: what's sold and how it is promoted; look, feel, and safety; parks and open space; getting around; housing; air, water, and soil; arts and culture
Discussion Questions

• What environmental factors at Emory promote or prevent health equity?

• How does OHP promote health equity?

• How do we talk about health equity and social justice?