

Episode: *Author Interview: "How Should Clinicians Express Solidarity With Asylum Seekers at the US-Mexico Border?"*

Guest: Carlos Martinez, MPH

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript by: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative format for accessing the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Carlos Martinez, a PhD candidate in the joint UCFS/UCB PhD in Medical Anthropology program. He's here to discuss his article coauthored with Drs Lauren Carruth, Hannah Janeway, Laura Smith, Katharine Donato, Carlos Piñones Rivera, James Quesada, and Seth Holmes, [How Should Clinicians Express Solidarity With Asylum Seekers at the US-Mexico Border?](#), in the April 2022 issue of *The Journal*, [Health Equity in Latinx Communities](#). Carlos, thank you so much for joining me on the podcast.

CARLOS MARTINEZ: Thank you so much, Tim, for having me on.

HOFF: To begin with, what's the main ethics point that you and your coauthors are making in this article?

MARTINEZ: We put forward the idea of transnational solidarity as an ethic that is really important, particularly for clinicians, health workers who are working with migrants, particularly those located at the US-Mexico border during these last few years, especially, in which we've seen really the growth of migrants and asylum seekers who have been forced to really stay in encampments and in all kinds of precarious conditions along Mexican border cities across from the United States. And so, transnational solidarity really recognizes that really, the responsibility for caring for these migrants, in part, lies with US-based clinicians, given the longstanding role that the United States has played in producing some of the harmful conditions that have led to migrants actually currently being where they are.

HOFF: Mmhmm. And what do you see as the most important thing for health professions students and trainees to take from your article?

MARTINEZ: I think what we want to convey with the article is that ethical dilemmas will always emerge when providing care to migrants and certainly in the process of crossing borders that end up, particularly took shape amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, when many clinicians were of course, advised to not be crossing international borders.

HOFF: Sure.

MARTINEZ: And that's really the focus of our article. So, we think that, as we try to demonstrate in the article, that despite some of those ethical dilemmas, the responsibility for providing care does still lie with clinicians. And we provided the example of one organization, the Refugee Health Alliance, which really worked through some of those

important questions and tried to resolve those contradictions as best they could, but still landed on the importance of the role of US-based clinicians in providing critical care at a time of real need.

HOFF: Mmhmm. And finally, if you could add a point to your article that you didn't have the time or space to fully explore, what would that be?

MARTINEZ: I think the main other point that we'd want to, that we wished we could've addressed more was the role of education and how we can ensure, how we can create another generation of clinicians that are engaged in sort of transnational solidarity as an ethic and what that could look like within medical education. [theme music returns]

HOFF: Great. Well, Carlos, thank you so much for being on the podcast today and for you and your coauthors' contribution to the Journal.

MARTINEZ: Thank you so much, Tim.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of the April 2022 issue for free, visit our site, [JournalofEthics.org](https://www.journalofethics.org). We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.