



# Health, Hope, & Despair

## An Interdisciplinary Conference

Schedule for Thursday, September 8, 2022  
King's College, Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

---

8:45 a.m. – **Welcome**

---

9:00-10:15 a.m.

### **“On the Virtue of Hope and the Vice of Despair”**

**Aaron Cobb, Ph.D.**, Professor of Philosophy,  
Auburn University at Montgomery

*with a response from*

**Nicole Hoskins, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Theology,  
University of Scranton

#### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Define hope as a moral virtue: what it is and is not.
  - Define despair as a moral vice: what it is and is not.
  - Identify the obstacles to hope in our moment and the temptations to despair.
- 

10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### **“The Other Epidemic during the Pandemic: Diseases and Deaths of Despair”**

**Joel Shuman, Ph.D.**, Professor of Theology, King's College

*with a response from*

**Kristen Topolski**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer,  
New Roots, Inc., and Vice President, Willow Foundation

#### **Learning Objectives:**

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Describe the magnitude, demographics, and probable causes of the rise of deaths of despair in recent decades.
- Analyze how this “other epidemic” has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Assess measures that might be taken to counter the spike in midlife mortality and morbidity.

1:00-2:15 p.m.

## “The Body Politic and Personal and Public Health”

**Anita Sreedhar, M.D., MPH**, Montefiore Medical Center

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Discuss what the experience of the pandemic has revealed about the health of the body politic in the United States.
- Articulate the interplay between the health of the body politic and public health.
- Assess possible political and public health remedies.

2:45-4:15 p.m.

## “Beyond the Pandemic”

**Charlotte Collins, Ph.D.**, Division Chief,  
Center for Professionalism and Well-Being, Geisinger

**Rev. Kevin M. Correll, M.Div., MAPC, MACM, BCCRC**,  
Manager, Department of Pastoral Care, and Chaplain,  
Lehigh Valley Health Network

**Timothy Friel, M.D.**, Chair, Department of Medicine,  
Lehigh Valley Health Network

**Kris Rooney, M.D.**, Chief Wellness Officer,  
Lehigh Valley Health Network

**Tessy A. Thomas, D.O., MBE**, Assistant Professor of  
Pediatrics and Bioethics, Center for Translational Bioethics  
and Health Policy, Division of Pediatric Critical Care  
Medicine, Geisinger

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Review present and future wounds and woes of healthcare providers inflicted by the pandemic.
- Identify what healthcare providers need to heal from the experiences of the pandemic.
- Explore practices that healthcare systems might enact to meet providers' needs.

PRESENTED BY



**MOSES TAYLOR**  
FOUNDATION  
*Advancing Our Legacy of Health*

