



EPISODE FIVE **A Moral Obligation**

WITH KELECHI UWAEZUOKE

If you're a black Californian, your doctor probably doesn't look like you. That's because underrepresented minorities make up 40 percent of the state's population but only nine percent of its physicians. Dr. Kelechi Uwaezuoke is laser-focused on closing that gap. As assistant director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Partnerships at San Francisco State University, she is disrupting the lack of minority representation in healthcare. In fact, that's why she entered the public health field in the first place 20 years ago. Dive in with us as we explore how Dr. Uwaezuoke is changing the face of healing in the Golden State by changing the lives of minority and disadvantaged medical students.

THEMES & INSIGHTS

1. You have to recognize and acknowledge a problem before you can address it. When you find the problem, you have a moral obligation to disrupt it.
2. People are dying because of underrepresentation in healthcare. To address this problem, we must create a safe space for people to speak up, even if they don't know what to do next.
3. We need to have difficult conversations and confront the issues we've avoided for the last 50 years in order to address inequities in healthcare.
4. Representation matters, even if it doesn't affect you on a daily basis. We need to have conversations about it and be OK with facing discomfort.



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COMBUSTION QUOTES



"The lack of representation in the physician workforce poses a complex problem for the U.S. healthcare system."



"I found myself on this wild and crazy journey.... I started thinking more about how we can really address these (issues) not just person to person ... how do we really address community health, multiple people at a time?"



"Disruption is not a bad word. If you are in a situation that is not up to par with the vision, potential, and possibility, then you have to disrupt. It's a moral obligation to disrupt."



"It's hard to overcome what you refuse to face."

RESOURCES

[KELECHI'S THESIS](#)

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