Health Disparities in Covid-19: A Uniquely Endocrine Ethics Problem

More Americans have died from coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) than in World War 1, the Vietnam War, on 9/11, or in any of the post-9/11 wars to date. Current models show death rates expected to reach over 200,000 by September 2020, while mitigation efforts have failed to control the virus due to non-compliance. There are also many secondary deaths from chronic diseases that are overlooked due to surges and hospital capacity problems. COVID-19 has disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, but also patients with endocrine-related chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, and obesity. For these reasons, endocrine practitioners have additional ethical burdens to protect their at-risk patients. This presentation will review unique health disparities presented by COVID-19, and an emerging unique role and ethical duties for endocrinologists.