

SPECIAL SEMINAR

“TOOLS TO FIGHT A PANDEMIC: WHERE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENGINEERING COLLIDE WITH MEDICINE AND A MEDICALIZED SOCIETY”

Friday, October 13th, 2023
12:00 p.m.

1462 Clifton Road
Building
Room 230



**2023 Distinguished
Alumni of the Year Award
Winner**

MICHAEL MINA, MD, PHD

Chief Science Officer, eMed

**2014 Graduate of the Population
Biology, Ecology, and Evolution
Program**

The pandemic forced new biomedical and technological innovations at a pace never before seen – vaccines, treatments and diagnostics skyrocketed. However, a whole-of-society prioritization on individual medical outcomes, at the expense of optimizing for population-level outcomes, meant that these critical tools went underutilized, often by large margins, when they were needed most. Optimizing policy around individual medical outcomes instead of public health outcomes during a stated "Public Health Emergency" is both baked into our medicalized mindset and society, and came at great cost to lives, health and our economy. Future public health disasters require optimizing policy and regulatory decisions based on science backed public health and engineering approaches first, optimizing on individual-level medical outcomes is comfortable but rarely optimal in public health emergencies. This talk will discuss these issues, using examples from pandemic approaches to diagnostics and vaccines.



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