



PRESENTER BIO

VIRTUAL SUMMIT

November 7th, 2025

Leora Botnick is a Social Work Supervisor in NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi's Ambulatory Care. She is co-chair of the NYC Health + Hospitals Bioethics Council (as only the second non-physician to have this role) and Jacobi's Ethics Committee. She serves as one of the consultants in Jacobi's Clinical Ethics Consultation Service. Prior to coming to Jacobi, she was at NYC Health + Hospitals/ Lincoln where she started in their Cancer Center and ultimately supervised the Oncology and Palliative Care Services. She was part of the first group of social workers to be granted accreditation as an advanced hospice and palliative care social worker from NASW and the Social Work Hospice and Palliative Care Network. She completed the Montefiore Certificate Program in Bioethics and Medical Humanities and subsequently became the co-chair of Lincoln's Ethics Committee. She is a member of the Empire State Bioethics Consortium (ESBC) and recently chaired an ESBC workgroup addressing the involuntary removal of homeless people with mental illness. She participates in regular Clinical Ethics Consultation training run by NYC Health + Hospital's Office of Medical and Professional Affairs. She graduated from Brandeis University and received a BA in Psychology as well as in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies. She received her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania. She also has a private consulting business for advance care planning, medical decision making, etc.

Maria Fernanda Amado Cordova, LMSW is a bilingual clinical social worker supporting inpatients and families at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) in Surgery and End of Life transitions. Before coming to MSK, she worked in psycho-oncology in Mexico and Spain, providing emotional support through diagnosis, treatment, and end-of-life care. She is passionate about reducing disparities and providing equity in services. Maria completed her undergraduate studies in psychology at Anahuac University of Mexico City, earned her master's in Psycho-oncology at Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, graduated from New York University's Silver School of Social Work, and is a member of the NYU Zelda Foster Fellowship in Palliative and End of Life Care.

Nina Laing is a trained clinical social worker and clinical ethicist at the John J. Lynch Center for Ethics at MedStar Washington Hospital Center. She joined MedStar Washington Hospital Center in 2017, initially serving as both an ICU-based social worker and a palliative care social worker, where she also directed the Palliative Social Work Fellowship. Nina is deeply committed to enhancing patient care through the integrated perspectives of clinical ethics and palliative care, with particular interest in complex communication and health equity.