



For Immediate Release
Nov. 3, 2020

Contact: Robyn Bland
609.760.7430

Salus University President Talks Public Health During COVID-19 Pandemic



Salus University President Dr. Michael Mittelman (Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy, retired).

Elkins Park, Pa. — The Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS) recently asked Salus University President **Michael Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE**, former AFOS president, to share his research and perspectives as a public health educator during a webinar "Public Health Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic," hosted virtually by AFOS Oct. 16.

In his lecture, which was adapted from a continuing education (CE) event previously held by the University, Dr. Mittelman weighed in on public health lessons that can be scaled based on the

evolution of the coronavirus pandemic. It showed the lockdown of Wuhan, China, played a crucial part in halting the spread of the virus in other Chinese cities.

Topics discussed during the event also included past global pandemics, current statistics, the importance of genomics, impacts on healthcare delivery systems, implications for non-communicable diseases, and specific populations and social determinants of health. Research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also highlighted the need to promote the health and well-being of Black and Latino communities that have been greatly affected by the pandemic.

“The other thing that doesn’t get talked about a lot, but I think we have to really pay particularly close attention to as a society is that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected minority and underserved groups,” Dr. Mittelman said. “Thirty one percent of cases are Latino and almost 20 percent are Black Americans and 33 percent of those hospitalized are Black American. That’s unbelievably disproportional, since 13 percent of our population is Black American, and 18 percent are Latino. That’s something we need to be responsible for and we need to determine how to take appropriate action.”

The presentation also covered public health measures to reduce the spread of the virus, vaccines and testing.

Offered as a COPE (Council on Optometric Practitioner Education) accredited course, the Department of International and Continuing Education works in collaboration with the University’s Colleges to develop, promote and implement educational initiatives that improve healthcare worldwide.

For more information about continuing education events, visit salus.edu/CE.

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.