Pandemics and Vulnerable Populations

Leo Morales, MD, PhD
Professor, School of Medicine
“Medicine is a social science, and politics is nothing more than medicine on a grand scale.”

-Rudolf Virchow (1821-1902)
Conceptualizing Vulnerability – Social Ecological Model

- **Social/Community-Level Factors**
  - Healthcare system
  - Environment and built environment
  - Public transportation system
  - Social and community support programs
  - Public health systems
  - Communication systems and social networks
  - Marginalization and discrimination
  - Trust in government and institutions

- **Individual-Level Factors**
  - Age
  - Family structure
  - Language
  - Literacy
  - Chronic conditions
  - Physical and cognitive disabilities
  - Occupation, Employment & Income
  - Access to care & health insurance
  - Transportation
  - Housing security
  - Social and psychological well-being