Moral Resilience: Transforming Moral Distress

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Abstract
Lindsay J. Thompson, PhD, MA, and Sylvia Long-Tolbert, PhD, MBA, together with Co-Investigator Cynda Hylton Rushton, PhD, RN, FAAN, have been awarded funding by the JHU Exploration of Practical Ethics program for their project titled “Moral Resilience: Transforming Moral Distress.” Dr. Thompson is Associate Professor at the Carey Business School with a joint appointment in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Dr. Long-Tolbert is Assistant Professor of Marketing at the Carey School; Dr. Rushton is the Anne and George L. Bunting Professor of Clinical Ethics and Nursing in the School of Nursing, with a joint appointment in the Department of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine, and is core faculty in the Berman Institute of Bioethics. This project seeks to identify characteristics and behaviors of people who are morally resilient—able to sustain or recover moral wellbeing in the face of moral threats, distress, and challenges. By speaking to workers in different settings, the project will establish empirical evidence for a new, normative understanding of human moral capabilities in response to moral distress.