Program in Primary Care, Health and Society Video Transcript

**Describer:** Screen fades to Dr. Stephen Persell, a physician in the department of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics at Northwestern University.

**Dr. Persell:** So I’m one of the co-Principal Investigators of this program and as the Principal Investigator, my job will be to support the individual projects that we’re doing and also to aid in priority setting for future years and in the dissemination of our work. We need to prepare physicians and other healthcare professionals to address the social determinants of health if they’re going to be effective in their jobs in the 21st century. And just to underscore the important of this – if poverty were an illness it would be as big a determinant of whether people live or die as cancer or heart disease. And in the United States, right now adult living on the poorest end of the spectrum will die 10 to 14 years earlier than adults who are the wealthiest. So we want to prepare trainees to address economic, social, policy, linguistic and other barriers that our patients may face in achieving good health outcomes.

**Dr. Persell:** A specific project that we are working on right now is devising the method to measure the quality of care delivered by residents and to show Family Medicine and Internal Medicine residents both the level of care they’re providing and whether there are gaps in the care between different groups by language, socioeconomic status or race and ethnicity and with the hopes that showing them where those gaps exist will enable them to focus on those disparities and learn how to overcome them so that they are equipped to deliver high-quality equitable care that meets the needs of diverse populations of patients.

**Dr. Persell:** And so this project is just one example of how we’re testing and evaluating and then disseminating new curricula that help residents and medical students and potentially other health professional trainees learn to be well equipped to care for patients and the social determinants of health that shape their health outcomes.

**Describer:** screen fades to white, followed by the Northwestern University logo.