Maintaining and Improving Health for the 21st Century: 
Major Issues at Home and Abroad

Several members of the Class of 1962 went into health and healthcare-related fields after college. Although we cannot hear from all of them in one session, today we will hear from three who became physicians and have developed major interests and expertise in issues that have had major implications for our health, the health of our families in the future, and the health of people around the world.

To open the session, we will focus on the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been a major concern for all over the past couple of years. It has been a particular concern for older people like us. People our age account for a disproportionate percentage of deaths in this pandemic; and older people living together have been especially hard-hit. Suzanne Wright Fletcher and her husband live in a continuing care retirement community and will discuss how the threat of Covid-19 was managed.

Then we’ll turn to an issue that affects the health of people in the U.S. and around the world, keeps evolving, and needs constant attention – the health of workers and the safety of the workplace. David Wegman, who was the founding chair of the Department of Work Environment at the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Dean of its School of Health and Environment, will introduce us to a variety of active, important work-related issues.

Finally, we will turn to a major issue where the U.S. stands out from other developed countries. There continue to be millions of people here who do not have health insurance, despite the gains that have been achieved since passage of the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) in 2010. Oliver (Oli) Fein, is a health policy expert and was the president of Physicians for a National Health Program and a champion of “Medicare for All;” and he will speak about the future of achieving a single-payer national health insurance program for all Americans.

Please join us for these presentations followed by a period for open discussion.