

GRAND ROUNDS

Thursday, November 3, 2022

Location: Zoom (please [RSVP](#) for link)

4:30pm- 6:00pm

Intersectional Stigma Experiences Among People Who Inject Drugs: A Case Study of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention Inequities

Suzan Walters, PhD

People who inject drugs are disproportionately impacted by several health conditions, including HIV. Stigma (i.e., social devaluation and discrediting) related to drug use is a significant barrier to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among persons who inject drugs. Stigma translates into negative healthcare interactions and healthcare avoidance. Dr. Walters will draw upon multiple studies to demonstrate stigma experiences among persons who inject drugs living in rural and urban settings and how these experiences create barriers to healthcare. She will then present data on healthcare experiences at syringe service programs concluding that new care models should be developed to address healthcare gaps and inequities experienced by people who inject drugs.

Please RSVP [here](#) or to bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu



Dr. Suzan Walters is a Research Assistant Professor in the School of Global Public Health and an affiliated researcher at the [Center for Drug Use and HIV/HCV Research](#) and the [Center for Opioid Epidemiology and Policy](#) at New York University. She is also a [Visiting Professor](#) at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of San Francisco and a [Lifespan/Brown Criminal Justice fellow](#). She holds expertise in intersectional stigma, harm reduction, opioid and stimulant use, HIV prevention, and health equity. Dr. Walters is currently the principal investigator on a National Institutes of Health grant that explores how intersectional stigma experiences affect health outcomes among people who use drugs. She is also working on developing stigma reduction interventions to promote equity. Dr. Walters has worked as an ethnographer for the National HIV Behavioral Surveillance System, a program director for the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, and a research fellow for AIDS Foundation Chicago. Her work has been supported by the National Institutes for Health, Mosaic Economic Project, American Sociological Association, Sociologists for Women and Society, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Sociology AIDS Network, and Stony Brook University.