

# Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## *Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases*

### EMD Seminar Series

**Sandra A. Springer, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
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## **“The Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on New Infectious Disease Epidemics: A Call to Action”**

The current opioid use disorder (OUD) and non-opioid substance use epidemics in the United States have resulted in an increase in infections among persons who use drugs (PWUD) magnifying the morbidity and mortality associated with illicit substance use. Such infections that are rising related to illicit opioid and other drug use include hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), HIV, invasive bacterial and fungal infections including *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteremia, endocarditis, skin and soft tissue infections, and bone and joint infections among others. In fact fentanyl or heroin combined with stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine have led to new HIV outbreaks among PWUD throughout the country as well as increased overdose deaths. This population with co-occurring injection drug use (IDU)-related infections represents the most severely ill OUD patients, and an important opportunity to intervene, both to improve patients' outcomes, and to reduce the public health risk of infectious disease (ID) transmission. Dr. Springer will discuss the background of the opioid epidemic and rise of new infectious diseases in the U.S. and how increase in evidence-based interventions to treat OUD can reduce these infectious diseases and thus improve individual morbidity as well as public health.

12:00 PM Thursday, September 19, 2019

47 College Street, Room 106B

Host: A. Bei/G. Gonsalves/N. Grubaugh

