



cira

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University

CIRA International Visiting Scholar 2026 Seminar



Natalia Shumskaia
Public Foundation Den Sooluk
Nuru, Kyrgyzstan
International Visiting Scholar



Julia Rozanova
Yale School of Medicine
Yale Faculty Host



Luke Davis
Yale School of Public Health
Moderator

Join us in a seminar event featuring research presentations by CIRA International Visiting Scholars. This is a hybrid event, in-person at CIRA and virtually via Zoom. Lunch and networking will follow for in-person attendees.

In-person venue: CIRA Conference Room, 135 College St, Suite 200, 2nd floor, New Haven, CT 06510.



Thursday, April 30, 2026
11:30 am – 1:00 pm ET



**RSVP to attend in-person
by Monday, April 27th.**
[Click here](#)

**Register to attend virtually
via Zoom.**
[Click here](#)

Contact dini.harsono@yale.edu with questions about this event.

Organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (Trace Kershaw, PhD, Director).

OVERVIEW

The goal of the [International Visiting Scholar Program](#) is to support CIRA investigators engaged in HIV research in an international setting to bring an established or prospective research partner to CIRA and Yale for a short visit to work on collaborative HIV research endeavors, present on their current research and future projects, and network with CIRA's research community. The program prioritizes visiting scholars from a country in regions with the highest burden of HIV/AIDS.

Join us in a CIRA seminar event to hear about the international visiting scholars' research and collaboration with their Yale faculty hosts, and participate in the discussion and Q&A. We hope to see you [in-person at CIRA](#) or [virtually via Zoom](#).

Presentation: "HIV Prevention and Addiction Treatment Programs for Carceral and Community Populations in the Kyrgyz Republic: The Path from Outreach Worker to Researcher"

Natalia Shumskaia, PhD, Public Foundation Den Sooluk Nuru, Kyrgyzstan

Since 1996, Kyrgyzstan has seen an increase in sexually transmitted infections. The first HIV infection case in the Kyrgyz Republic was officially registered in 1996 among foreign citizens. In 1998, Doctors Without Borders invited Dr. Natalia Shumskaia to serve as an outreach worker and psychologist for a prevention program among sex workers and women who use drugs. In 2001, the number of new HIV cases increased significantly, associated with an outbreak among injection drug users (IDUs). In 2001, Dr. Shumskaia founded the public foundation "Podruga" aimed at implementing HIV prevention programs among key populations. Initial research included interviews and focus groups for planning the organization's activities. In 2005, Dr. Shumskaia became the head of the Kyrgyz branch of "AIDS Foundation East-West," researching the barriers to HIV testing and treatment for key populations. This work helped the Ministry of Health's implementation of multiple HIV prevention programs among key populations including expanding access to HIV testing, rapid HIV saliva tests, the introduction of modern HIV treatment drugs, providing IDUs with access to sterile equipment, and methadone maintenance therapy in both community and carceral healthcare settings. Since 2011, Dr. Shumskaia's organization has collaborated with Dr. Frederick Altice and colleagues from Yale University to study the prevalence of HIV and hepatitis among IDUs in the prison system and to expand methadone maintenance therapy in Kyrgyzstan. In 2019-2024, with Dr. Julia Rozanova and lived-prison-and-addiction-treatment-experience partners, our team developed and successfully piloted HOPE (Help OAT Prison Engagement) intervention involving group training sessions for prisoners. In 2025, an R01-funded full-scale HOPE RCT started in Kyrgyzstan's prisons.

CIRA INTERNATIONAL VISITING SCHOLAR

Natalia Shumskaia, PhD

Director, Public Foundation Den Sooluk Nuru, Kyrgyzstan

Dr. Shumskaia is a trained psychologist and a goal-oriented and highly motivated research manager with over 25 years of experience, with multiple projects focused on people who inject drugs (PWID) and people with HIV (PWH). She directs Public Foundation “Den Sooluk Nuru” (DSN) in Kyrgyzstan. From 2019 to 2022, she was the local principal investigator of a pilot trial in Kyrgyzstan, leading the development of a specialized program, HOPE (Help OAT Prison Engagement), to support linkage to opioid substitution therapy among prisoners with a history of heroin injection use, in collaboration with Dr. Julia Rozanova. The successful implementation of this trial and the resulting data-based report were highly praised by the prison service leadership. Dr. Shumskaia is currently MPI with Dr. Rozanova on a R01 study involving a full-scale randomized controlled trial of the HOPE intervention in Kyrgyz prisons that was launched in August 2025, with funding from the National Institutes of Health.

YALE FACULTY HOST

Julia Rozanova, PhD

Associate Research Scientist in Medicine (AIDS), Yale School of Medicine

Julia Rozanova received her PhD in Sociology of Aging from the University of Alberta and conducted postdoctoral research in social gerontology funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research at the Brown School of Public Health. At Yale, Dr. Rozanova’s work was shaped by mentors in urban ethnography, psychiatry of resilience, and HIV prevention and addiction treatment. Dr. Rozanova’s research aims to develop, test, and bring to scale effective bespoke interventions to improve clinical outcomes, longevity, and quality of life of older adults. Her current work focuses on management of multi-morbidity progression over the course of aging with HIV and addiction, in the community and prisons. Methodologically, Dr. Rozanova’s expertise is in clinical trials, implementation science, and qualitative designs. Dr. Rozanova has published 48 articles in peer-reviewed journals and six book chapters, given keynote talks, organized symposia at international academic conferences, and served as a consultant to policymakers in Kyrgyzstan, Ethiopia, and Canada. [More from Yale School of Medicine](#).

MODERATOR

Luke Davis, MD

Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Microbial Diseases) and of Medicine (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine), Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Luke Davis is a pulmonary and critical care physician and clinical epidemiologist using implementation science to find, treat, and prevent tuberculosis (TB) and HIV, two of the leading cause of death due to infection worldwide. Dr. Davis teaches and mentors students and directs a graduate program on implementation science at the Yale School of Public Health. He is also involved in several international research training programs focused on implementation science. He is also a Yale Medicine physician, and attends in the Medical Intensive Care Unit and the Winchester TB Clinic at Yale-New Haven Hospital, caring for patients and their families and teaching medical students, residents, and s. [More from Yale School of Public Health](#).