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Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University

CIRA Talk: "Developing a Chatbot to Promote HIV Testing and Prevention"

Join this virtual CIRA Talk for a research presentation followed by a discussion and a Q&A session with seminar audience.



Zhao Ni, PhD, BMedSci, RN
Yale School of Nursing
Speaker



Jeffrey Wickersham, PhD
Yale School of Medicine
Speaker

Moderator: Luke Davis, MD, MAS, Yale School of Public Health,
Yale School of Medicine, CIRA

Discussant: Marek Chawarski, PhD, Yale School of Medicine

Thursday, June 2, 2022

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Register via Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/3KKL3MI>

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

Organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA).
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Trace Kershaw, Ph.D., Principal Investigator.

“Developing a Chatbot to Promote HIV Testing and Prevention”

OVERVIEW

Malaysia has one of the fastest growing HIV epidemics among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in Southeast Asia. Surveillance data suggest over one in five (21.6%) MSM in Malaysia are living with HIV. Contributing to this epidemic is the low uptake of HIV testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis among Malaysian MSM. Technology-based approaches, such as chatbots, are innovative strategies for improving linkage to HIV testing and prevention services. In this session, we will introduce a culturally-tailored chatbot that was developed to increase HIV testing and prevention among MSM in Malaysia. The facilitators and barriers to MSM's acceptance of chatbots and their preferred features will be introduced.

SPEAKER

Zhao Ni, PhD, BMedSci, RN

Assistant Professor

Yale School of Nursing

Dr. Ni's research focuses on using mobile technologies to prevent cardiovascular disease and HIV/AIDS. He has conducted international research at the interface of chronic diseases and mHealth in the U.S., China, and Nepal. His current projects are focused on developing artificial intelligence chatbots to promote HIV testing and prevention in Malaysia among populations at high risk of HIV transmission.

Jeffrey Wickersham, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine (AIDS)

Yale School of Medicine

Jeffrey Wickersham is Assistant Professor of Medicine in the section of infectious diseases. His research is focused on improving HIV treatment and prevention outcomes among sexual and gender minorities, including transgender women, gay men, and bisexual men. Dr. Wickersham's research has focused on development of biomedical and behavioral interventions, including peer/patient navigation, implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention, development of artificial intelligence-based "chatbot" technology to improve uptake of HIV testing, and adaptation of mHealth applications for transgender women to scale-up HIV testing and linkage to PrEP services. Most of this research is being conducted in Southeast Asia, primarily at sites in Malaysia and Thailand.

DISCUSSANT

Marek Chawarski, PhD

Associate Professor of Psychiatry and of Emergency Medicine

Yale School of Medicine

Marek C. Chawarski, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Emergency Medicine at Yale. His research focuses on developing, adapting and evaluating interventions that are practicable and effective in resource constrained countries. He is as a Principal Investigator or co-investigator on studies evaluating pharmacological and psychosocial/behavioral treatments for a range of substance use problems and HIV prevention interventions. His collaborative international research in Malaysia and other countries makes use of clinical epidemiologic studies, implementation science and mixed methods qualitative research, and randomized clinical trials to identify current and emerging substance use problems and aims to better understand circumstances of people who use drugs (PWUD) to develop and evaluate behavioral interventions and medication treatments in these countries. He also works as an expert consultant for several international organizations including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

MODERATOR

Luke Davis, MD, MAS

Associate Professor of Epidemiology (Microbial Diseases) and of Medicine (Pulmonary)

Yale School of Public Health, Yale School of Medicine, CIRA

Luke Davis, MD, MAS is an epidemiologist and pulmonary/critical care physician whose research employs implementation science to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis (TB), the leading cause of infectious death in low-and middle-income countries. Dr. Davis serves as scientific advisor for the Center Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA)'s international research activities and as a member of CIRA's Implementation Science Advisory Committee. Dr. Davis is associate faculty member of the Center for Implementation and Prevention Science at the Yale School of Public Health.