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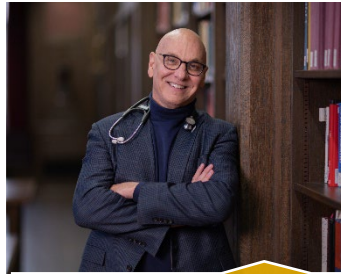
Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS  
at Yale University

## *CIRA International Visiting Fellow 2025 Seminar*



**Assel Terlikbayeva**

The Global Health Research Center of  
Central Asia, Kazakhstan  
*International Visiting Fellow*



**Frederick L. Altice**  
Yale School of Medicine  
*Yale Faculty Host*



**Luke Davis**  
Yale School of Public Health  
*Moderator*

Join us in a seminar featuring a research presentation by a CIRA International Visiting Fellow and an interactive discussion and Q&A.

This is a hybrid event, in-person at CIRA and virtually via Zoom.  
Lunch and networking will follow the seminar for in-person attendees.

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

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025  
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET**

**RSVP to attend in-person  
by Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>.  
[Click here](#)**

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

Contact [dini.harsono@yale.edu](mailto:dini.harsono@yale.edu) with questions about this event.

This seminar is organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA) at Yale University (P30MH062294, PI: Trace Kershaw, PhD).

## OVERVIEW

CIRA is hosting a seminar featuring a presentation by a CIRA International Visiting Fellow on HIV-related research in Kazakhstan. Join us to hear about the fellow's research and collaboration with their Yale faculty host, and participate in an interactive discussion and Q&A.

The primary purpose of the International Visiting Fellow 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 research plans, and network with CIRA's research community. The program prioritizes visiting fellows from a country in regions with the highest burden of HIV/AIDS.

## AGENDA

### **"Kazakhstan and Central Asia: Syndemics and Health Challenges in Transition"**

Speaker – CIRA International Visiting Fellow: Assel Terlikbayeva, The Global Health Research Center of Central Asia, Kazakhstan

Yale faculty host: Frederick L. Altice, Yale School of Medicine

Moderator: Luke Davis, Yale School of Public Health

## PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

This presentation will explore the evolving public health landscape in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, a region at the intersection of migration, social transformation, and shifting geopolitical dynamics. Drawing on over a decade of work at the Global Health Research Center of Central Asia (GHRCCA), the talk will highlight how overlapping epidemics—HIV, TB, HCV, mental health disorders, and substance use—interact with structural inequities such as stigma, poverty, and limited access to services.

The syndemic framework will serve as a lens to examine key health challenges facing youth and marginalized populations, including rising mental health burdens and the effects of cross-border labor migration. Through examples from community-based research, the presentation will showcase participatory, peer-led models and digital innovations aimed at expanding access to testing, treatment, and care.

Case studies will include recent work on HIV self-testing, stigma reduction, and integrated services for people who inject drugs, sex workers, and LGBTQ+ individuals. The presentation will conclude with reflections on regional collaboration and opportunities to build more resilient, inclusive health systems in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

## **SPEAKER – CIRA INTERNATIONAL VISITING FELLOW**

**Assel Terlikbayeva, MD, MSSW, MPH**

**Regional Director**

**The Global Health Research Center of Central Asia**

**Kazakhstan**

Dr. Assel Terlikbayeva is the Regional Director of the Global Health Research Center of Central Asia and an Adjunct Research Scientist at Columbia University School of Social Work. She has over 20 years of experience conducting research on HIV, substance use, mental health, and gender-based violence in Central Asia. As a site principal investigator and co-investigator, Dr. Terlikbayeva has led multiple NIH-funded studies, securing over \$30 million in research funding for the region. Her work focuses on designing and evaluating behavioral and biomedical interventions to improve health outcomes among key populations. She has conducted groundbreaking studies on harm reduction, HIV prevention, and treatment adherence, contributing to evidence-based strategies for addressing public health challenges. She has authored more than 70 peer-reviewed publications and continues to advance research that informs policy and intervention programs. Her work bridges research, practice, and policy to drive sustainable health solutions.

## **YALE FACULTY HOST**

**Frederick Lewis Altice, MD, MA**

**Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and of Epidemiology (Microbial Diseases)**

**Yale School of Medicine**

Frederick (Rick) L. Altice is a professor of Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health and is a clinician, clinical epidemiologist, intervention and implementation science researcher at Yale University School of Medicine and School of Public Health. Dr. Altice's primary research focuses on interventions and implementation science at the interface between infectious diseases and addiction and he has conducted research in several global health settings. He also has a number of projects working in the criminal justice system, including transitional programs addressing infectious diseases, medications for opioid use disorder (methadone, buprenorphine, extended release naltrexone), mental illness, homelessness and social instability. Specific topics include alcohol, opioid, stimulant and nicotine use disorders on HIV treatment outcomes, HIV and addiction treatment, interface with the criminal justice system, and pharmacokinetic drug interactions between treatment for substance use disorders and antiretroviral and tuberculosis therapy. At a basic level, his research focuses on clinical epidemiology, especially in key populations at risk for HIV (e.g., MSM, TGW, PWID, prisoners, sex workers) and development, adaptation and evaluation of biomedical and behavioral interventions to improve treatment outcomes. His research, however, has evolved and included development and testing of mobile technologies (mHealth) to intervene with key populations to promote health outcomes. His research is especially concentrated in health services research techniques with a focus on implementation science, seeking to introduce and scale-up evidence-based interventions in numerous contexts. His work has emerged primarily with a global health focus with funded research projects internationally in Malaysia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, and Indonesia.

## **MODERATOR**

**Luke Davis, MD, MAS**

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

**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 direct 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 fellows.