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Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University

CIRA Talk: "Interrupting HIV stigma in the household using home HIV testing offers in South Africa and Uganda"

Join us on Zoom for a presentation followed by a Q&A session with seminar audience.



Luke Davis, MD, MAS
Yale School of Public Health
Speaker



Mari Armstrong-Hough, MPH, PhD
NYU School of Global Public Health
Speaker

Moderator: E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS, Yale School of Medicine

Discussant: Sheela Shenoi, MD, MPH, Yale School of Medicine

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Register via Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/3oVmfu5>

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

Organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA).
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“Interrupting HIV stigma in the household using home HIV testing offers in South Africa and Uganda”

OVERVIEW

With widespread access to high-quality HIV treatment, awareness of HIV status remains an important barrier to control of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa. The awareness gap is especially critical for key populations such as men and close contacts of TB patients. Household testing by lay health workers offers a proven approach for reaching such populations. However, rates of test acceptance remain unacceptably low among key populations. Stigma related to both HIV and TB contribute to low uptake, and may be reinforced by social interactions at the household level. Social and behavioral science research on individual decision-making in group contexts suggests opportunities to interrupt social interactions that may reproduce stigma. This talk will focus on a social-behavioral intervention that seeks to mitigate HIV-related stigma during offers of home-based HIV testing in South Africa and Uganda. The intervention aims to "re-norm" HIV testing in the home by (1) optimizing the order of test invitations to establish testing as the normative choice, (2) framing testing as a prosocial behavior, and (3) offering a less invasive oral test. We hypothesized that this approach would reduce perceived stigma and improve uptake of testing. In this talk, we will share preliminary data on this novel approach to offering home HIV testing in households undergoing contact investigation for TB, and on its effects on test uptake and perceived stigma.

SPEAKERS

Luke Davis, MD, MAS

Associate Professor, Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Luke Davis is an epidemiologist and pulmonary/critical care physician and Associate Professor at the Yale School of Public Health and the Yale School of Medicine. He leads an international TB and HIV research and training program focused on improving delivery of evidence-based interventions in community and clinic settings in high-burden countries.

Mari Armstrong-Hough, MPH, PhD

Assistant Professor, NYU School of Global Public Health

Mari Armstrong-Hough is a medical sociologist and epidemiologist of respiratory disease. Combining training in both disciplines, her work develops and evaluates interventions to increase early case-finding, status awareness, and linkage to care in high-burden settings. She has published on predictors of evaluation for TB among high-risk groups, novel approaches to active case-finding for TB and HIV, the ways that providers and patients imagine and communicate risk for respiratory infection, and the availability of essential medicines in settings with double burdens of infectious and non-communicable disease. Before moving to NYU, Dr. Armstrong-Hough was an Associate Research Scientist in Epidemiology in the Department of Epidemiology of Microbial Diseases at Yale.