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Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University

CIRA Talk: "Lessons Learned from Using the Data to Care Approach for Improving the HIV Care Continuum in Connecticut"

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



Merceditas Villanueva, MD
Yale School of Medicine
Speaker



E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS
Yale School of Medicine
Yale School of Public Health
CIRA
Moderator

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Register via Zoom:
<https://bit.ly/3fR2VI9>

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

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“Lessons Learned from Using the Data to Care Approach for Improving the HIV Care Continuum in Connecticut”

OVERVIEW

Data to Care (D2C) is a strategy using public health surveillance data to identify and re-engage out-of-care persons with HIV (PWH). Through a CDC-funded effort (2016-2018), Connecticut (CT) was one of 3 sites to participate in Project CoRECT (Cooperative Re-engagement Clinical Trial), an RCT that evaluated the D2C approach using DPH-employed Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) for re-engagement in care. The multi-site data showed that the DIS intervention resulted in significantly higher re-engagement at 90 days post-randomization compared to the standard of care (SOC); however, retention in care and HIV viral suppression at 12 months post randomization was not statistically different between DIS and SOC. In CT, re-engagement in care at 90 days by any means (DIS or SOC) was significantly associated with retention in care at 12 months. This suggests that DIS can serve as a useful tool for improving the HIV Care Continuum, but other interventions are needed to consolidate re-engagement gains.

Other lessons learned from the D2C approach which included a data reconciliation process between Health Department and clinics: (1) Surveillance based estimates of out-of-care in the Continuum are overestimates and refining the definition of out-of-care can help prioritize public health resources, (2) Designing and sustaining a D2C program can be challenging, and (3) Optimizing the partnership between clinics and Health Department can be the subject of further research.

SPEAKER

Merceditas Villanueva, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine (AIDS), Yale School of Medicine

Dr. Villanueva is Director of the HIV/AIDS Program and Associate Professor of Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. She obtained her undergraduate degree at Harvard University, MD at Washington University, completed Internal Medicine Residency at Duke University and ID fellowship at Yale. After fellowship, she worked at Waterbury Hospital as Chief of Infectious Diseases. During this time, she established the Ryan White-funded HIV clinic which worked with community-based AIDS organizations. After recruitment back to Yale, she has worked to develop HIV educational curricula for medical providers including Yale housestaff and community providers throughout CT. She serves as the Principal Investigator for the New Haven Ryan White HIV Continuum, a collaboration between different clinics and community organizations which promotes service coordination to improve quality of care for HIV patients. Her research interests focus on optimizing models of care that build on partnerships between clinicians, public health and community partners.

MODERATOR

E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS

Associate Professor of Medicine (General Medicine) and of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Yale Schools of Medicine and Public Health

Director, Clinical and Health Services Research Core, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS

E. Jennifer Edelman, MD, MHS is an Associate Professor of Medicine and Public Health. Certified as an internist, HIV specialist and in Addiction Medicine, she serves as an HIV provider and the physician consultant in the Addiction Medicine Treatment Program at the Yale-New Haven Hospital HIV Clinic. Her research focuses on optimizing HIV prevention and treatment in the context of substance use, including opioid, alcohol and tobacco use. To this end and applying a range of methodologies, she leads and collaborates on NIH-funded projects to evaluate novel and implement evidence-based addiction treatment in medical settings, especially HIV treatment settings. In addition, her work has focused on understanding harms associated with opioid use among people with HIV. She collaborates with community-based and public health partners to promote HIV prevention, including use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). She mentors trainees, including post-doctoral fellows and public health students, and is Associate Director of the Research on Addiction Medicine Scholars (RAMS) Program. She regularly serves on NIH grant review committees and is on the editorial board of several peer-reviewed journals.