



THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL & THE AFRICAN HIV, INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND GLOBAL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AFRI-HIGH IRI) HUB

C O R D I A L L Y I N V I T E Y O U T O A

MINI SYMPOSIUM AND PANEL DISCUSSION



**TUESDAY. 16TH
APRIL 2024**

14H00 – 15H30

 [CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#) 

The UKZN African HIV, Infectious Diseases and Global Health Implementation Research Institute (Afri-HIGH IRI) Hub will be celebrating its launch in Durban. The hub aims to establish a mentored training programme in Implementation Research hosted by UKZN and the University of Zambia in collaboration with the existing HIGH IRI based at Washington University in St. Louis (WUSTL). Faculty members from the hub will be sharing their experience in Implementation Science and the insights that this provides for our local context.

  [YOUTUBE: CLICK HERE](#)  

14H00 – 14H05	WELCOME AND OVERVIEW OF AFRI-HIGH IRI	PROFESSOR MOSA MOSHABELA (UKZN)
14H05 – 14H35	PROMISES AND PITFALLS OF IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE – LESSONS FROM THE US HIV RESPONSE	PROFESSOR WHITNEY IRIE, (BOSTON UNIVERSITY)
14H35 – 14H45	Q&A AND DISCUSSION	
14H45 – 15H15	PANEL DISCUSSION: IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE – A CATALYST FOR CHANGE: SUCCESS STORIES FROM THE FIELD	PROFESSORS CAROLYN AUDET (VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY), THOMAS ODENY (WUSTL), AALOKE MODY (WUSTL) AND RADHIKA SUDARARAJAN (WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE)
15H15 – 15H25	Q&A AND DISCUSSION	
15H25 – 15H30	CLOSING REMARKS	PROFESSOR MOSA MOSHABELA

Enquiries: thakurpersads@ukzn.ac.za

INSPIRING GREATNESS

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



DR. WHITNEY IRIE

Dr. Whitney Irie is an assistant professor at Boston College's School of Social Work, lecturer on Population Medicine in the Department of Population Medicine at Harvard Medical School and research faculty at the Fenway Institute in Boston Massachusetts. Dr Irie's primary research focuses on equitable access and effective implementation of biomedical HIV prevention strategies such as preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for Black Women in the United States.

Dr Irie utilizes implementation science to evaluate the effectiveness of evidence-based interventions designed to improve HIV prevention care provision in diverse clinical settings that serve Black women.

DR. CAROLYN AUDET

Dr. Audet is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and the Institute for Global Health at Vanderbilt University and an Honorary Associate Professor at MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), in the School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, at University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Dr. Audet's focuses on three main lines of research: 1) male partner engagement in HIV care and treatment of their pregnant wives/partners to increase uptake of testing and treatment while promoting empathy and support, 2) collaboration with traditional healers and traditional birth attendants to increase testing, linkage, and treatment adherence among people living with HIV, and 3) changing health care policy to ensure traditional healers have access to the personal prevention equipment they need.



DR. AALOKE MODY

Aaloke Mody, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Department of Medicine at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine. He is a physician with training in HIV, infectious diseases, implementation science, and epidemiologic methods. Aaloke's overarching research interests are in utilizing implementation science and epidemiologic methods to better understand how to deliver high-quality and person-centered HIV care in routine practice in low- and middle-country settings. His work has specifically focused on health system strategies to improve engagement and re-engagement into care and optimize the person-centeredness of provider behaviors, and he has specific interests in extending this knowledge to improve care for non-communicable diseases as well.

DR. RADHIKA SUDARARAJAN

Radhika Sundararajan, M.D., Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Weill Cornell Center for Global Health. As an Anthropologist and physician-scientist, Dr. Sundararajan's work seeks to improve uptake of evidence-based health services in low-resource settings through mobilization of community laypersons. Dr. Sundararajan conducted hybrid effectiveness-implementation trials in East Africa which showed that traditional healers could effectively increase uptake of point-of-care HIV testing among adults of unknown HIV serostatus. She currently leads an NIH-funded R01 study evaluating the integration of traditional healer-delivered support into the HIV continuum of care (MH132440). Through use of social science and implementation science methods, Dr. Sundararajan's work seeks to develop and implement health services that are embraced by the communities they intend to serve.



DR. THOMAS ODENY

Dr. Thomas Odeny is a physician-epidemiologist with clinical and research interests in global oncology, implementation science in the global response to cancer and HIV/AIDS and the use of technological innovations to support cancer and HIV prevention, care, and treatment efforts. He is the Principal Investigator on an American Cancer Society grant that will build a novel, comprehensive hospital-based cancer registry in western Kenya to better understand the pathogenesis and prognosis of Kaposi sarcoma-associated herpesvirus-associated diseases globally. He was also recently awarded a Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials: Career Development Award, where he will investigate new treatment and prevention interventions for cancer in PLHIV, while improving diversity in clinical trials. He has served as a co-investigator on multiple NIH studies in Kenya that utilized implementation science to promote engagement in the HIV care cascade, and the use of technological innovations to support HIV prevention and treatment efforts. As such, Dr. Odeny is interested in leveraging his expertise in implementation science to the growing academic field of global oncology.