

DIALOGUES in DIVERSITY

A Webinar Series on the EDI Implications of COVID-19

Dialogues in Diversity is a series of conversations among leading academics, EDI practitioners and social justice advocates whose work reflects the realities of COVID-19 and the challenges we now face. It will provide an interactive and engaging space to support the critical analysis necessary to successfully address the social, economic and cultural inequities, now exacerbated by COVID-19.



ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

Health Inequity, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Allyship during COVID-19

At the best of times, structural discrimination worsens inequalities surrounding access to healthcare and treatment. In the COVID-19 context, disparities in access to privileges - such as affordable healthcare, safe and adequate housing, technology, food security and the ability to effectively social distancing - have been sharpened.

The webinar will examine how an effective response to COVID-19 must consider barriers to access and equity, generally; and how these inequities impact health outcomes, for various communities.



July 23, 2020 @ 2pm

REGISTER 



Dr. Anna Banerji

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Dr. Melissa S. Creary

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Health Management and Policy
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Dr. Roberta K. Timothy

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Social & Behavioural Health Sciences
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
The University of Toronto

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Health Inequity, Discrimination, Xenophobia, Allyship and COVID-19

Despite outpourings of goodwill and communal responses occasioned by the current COVID-19 pandemic, the assertion that We're All in This Together - though well-intentioned - inadvertently masks the very real inequities that exist between various groups; and the resilience each is able to enjoy in response to the challenges of the virus' spread.

An examination of the history of pandemics provides ample evidence that marginalized communities are always disproportionately negatively impacted by these events, as they face unique barriers to access requisite resources.

In our current COVID-19 context, disparities in access to privileges such as safe healthcare, the ability to work from home, job security, health status, technology and social resources are sharpened.

But we are all only as safe and healthy as those members of our community who are most at risk.

In this regard, equally important as the safety measures we are encouraged to observe in response to the virus are advocacy efforts for the communities and individuals most vulnerable among us: the elderly, those with pre-existing health conditions as well as those from communities that have traditionally been marginalized, including racialized, Indigenous, immigrant and low-income communities

Discussions in this theme, presented over two 90-minute webinars, will explore in **Part 1**:

1. how historic and contemporary inequities in socio-cultural, economic and health contexts have resulted in the existence of co-morbidities, which make certain communities more susceptible to be infected with and affected by the virus;
2. disparities in access to care and current levels of infections and mortality rates;
3. the research implications of COVID-19, and the necessity of provisions to ensure that special efforts and outreach strategies are employed to include groups most at risk of severe outcomes in research efforts and treatment strategies.

Discussions in **Part 2** will be focused on:

1. the experience of vulnerable communities during COVID-19, including but not limited to:
 - Racialized Communities
 - Indigenous Communities
 - Low-Income Communities
 - Sexual Minorities (LGBTQ community)
 - Neuro diverse Community
 - Persons with Disabilities
2. the need for effective allyship and advocacy in treating with the discrimination and xenophobia that has become prevalent.

ARE WE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER?

Health Inequity, Discrimination, Xenophobia, Allyship and COVID-19



Dr Anna Banerji (O.Ont MD MPH FRCPC DTM&H) is an associate professor at DLSPH and a pediatric infectious and tropical disease specialist with an MPH in International Health from Harvard School of Public Health. She is currently the chair of the Indigenous Health Conference and the North American Refugee Health Conference. She has travelled around the world and has been involved in crisis management in various capacities.

Dr. Banerji came back to Toronto in 2003 and worked as an AMOH in response to SARS. In 2010 she worked in Haiti as the chief of pediatrics with the Canadian Red Cross, and in 2016 created a clinic at hotel in response to the arrival of a large number of Syrian refugees arriving to Canada. She has been studying lower respiratory tract infections in Inuit children for 25 years.

Dr. Banerji has received several awards including the promising graduate from Harvard School of Public Health, the Order of Ontario in 2012, and in 2019 the Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce Award for her advocacy with Indigenous children.



Dr. Lily Cho brings to her portfolio a commitment to finding ways to connect LA&PS with communities locally and globally. As a first-generation scholar with a research and teaching interest in diaspora and culture, she understands the power of culture to bring together communities across a range of different experiences and histories. She is also an associate professor in the Department of English where teaches courses on the short story, Canadian literature, and postcolonial theory.

Her research has led to books on Chinese restaurants and the relationship between human rights and creative expression. Her current research looks at Chinese head tax certificates and the use of documents to create noncitizens. As Associate Dean, she supports students, faculty, and community members on initiatives that benefit both the community and the university.



Dr. Melissa Creary is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy in the School of Public Health. She received her PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies (focusing on Health, History, and Culture) at the Graduate Institute for the Liberal Arts (ILA) and Masters in Public Health at Emory University. She served as a health scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Blood Disorders for nine years, where she helped create the first national program and data collection system for sickle cell disease (SCD) at the agency.

Dr. Creary's research and teaching interests broadly include how science, culture, and policy intersect. Through this lens and using historical and ethnographic methods, she investigates how national policy for SCD is influenced by race and other notions of belonging. Her research also interrogates how inclusion and knowledge production are at odds with structural barriers.

In her most recent project, she analyzes how equity-based scientific and public health policies are incongruent to the very justice they are trying to produce. She has been published in *Social Science and Medicine*, *Genetics in Medicine*, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, and the *Huffington Post*.



Dr. Roberta K. Timothy is an Assistant Professor in the Teaching Stream, and is the new Director of Health Promotion at Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. Specializing in the areas of intersectionality and ethics in health work; health and race; transnational Indigenous health; and anti-oppression/anti-colonial approaches to mental health.

Dr. Timothy has worked for over 30 years in community health working on resisting anti-Black racism and intersectional violence strategies.

Dr. Timothy is also co-founder and consultant at Continuing Healing Consultants where she implements and teaches her intersectional mental health model "Anti-Oppression Psychotherapy".

She is an interdisciplinary scholar, health practitioner, and political scientist who examines global health and ethics from a critical trauma-informed decolonizing framework.



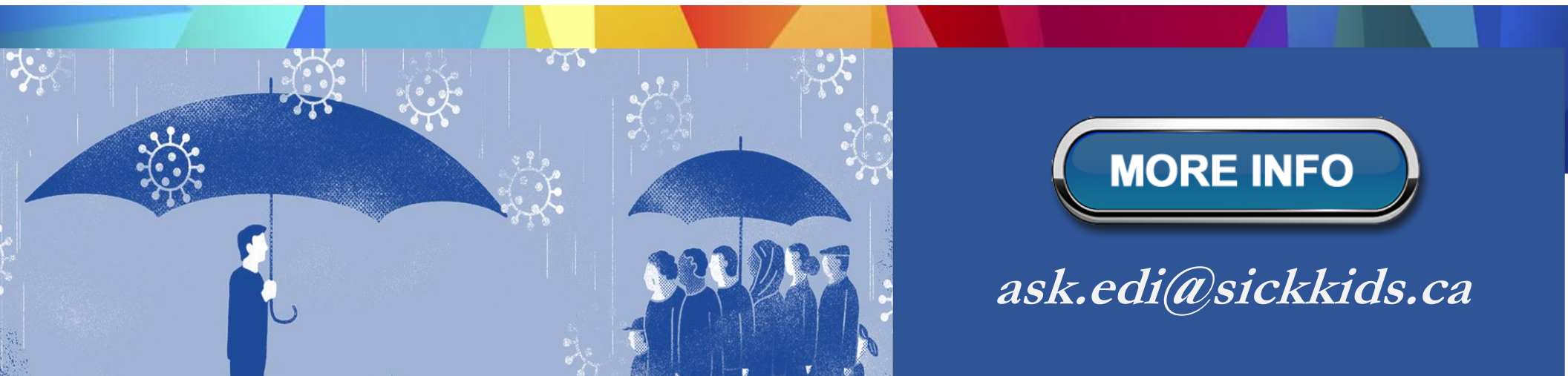
Dr. Michael Salter is Chief of Research at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), a Senior Scientist in the Program in Neurosciences & Mental Health, and a Professor of Physiology at the University of Toronto.

Salter received an MD degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1982 and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Physiology from McGill in 1987. After post-doctoral training at Toronto Western and at Mt. Sinai hospitals, he joined the Research Institute of SickKids in 1990.

From 1999 to 2009 Salter was the founding Director of the University of Toronto Centre for the Study of Pain. Salter's main research focus is on synaptic physiology, in particular in relation to pain, and he has done ground-breaking work that has led to new paradigms about neuroplasticity and about how synaptic transmission in the central nervous system is regulated by biochemical processes within neurons and by glial-neuronal interactions.

His discoveries have broad implications for the control of cell-cell communication throughout the nervous system and his work has regularly appeared in elite journals including Nature, Science, Cell, Nature Medicine and Neuron.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has received numerous awards, including the John Charles Polanyi Prize in Physiology or Medicine, the Distinguished Career Investigator Award of the Canadian Pain Society, and was an International Research Scholar of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.



MORE INFO

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