

Implementation Science in Global Health:

Maximizing Impact in an Imperfect World

Speaker Profiles



Gregory A. Aarons, PhD, MA.

Dr. Aarons, a clinical and organizational psychologist, is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), a faculty member in the UCSD/San Diego State University Joint Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology,

Director of the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center, and Co-Director of the Center for Organizational Research on Implementation and Leadership. Dr. Aarons' research, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), focuses on identifying and improving system, organizational and individual factors that impact successful implementation and sustainment of evidence-based practices and quality of care in health care and public-sector practice settings. Dr. Aarons is Principal Investigator of a recently completed NIMH-funded study of a statewide evidence-based practice implementation in the Oklahoma child welfare system and a CDC-funded study that developed a novel implementation approach that uses a collaborative process to support appropriate adaptation of evidence-based practice and system and organizational characteristics during implementation throughout the state of California. Dr. Aarons' current grants include an NIMH-funded project focusing on how to effectively implement an evidence-based HIV preventive intervention among high-risk women in Mexico, using an interagency collaborative approach to scaling up evidence-based practice across an entire service system, working across two states and 87 counties to examine the interaction of policy and organizational capacity factors in long-term sustainment of evidence-based practice, developing practical measures of organization leadership and climate, and developing leadership and organizational change strategies to

support evidence-based practice implementation. Dr. Aarons' most current work focuses on improving organizational context and training managers and supervisors to become effective leaders, to create a positive implementation climate, and to successfully lead evidence-based practice implementation in their teams and organizations.



Bryan Weiner, PhD, MA.

Dr. Weiner is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Deputy Director for Research and Director of the Program on Healthcare Organization Research at the Cecil G. Sheps Center

for Health Services Research. He serves as Principal Investigator for the Cancer Care Quality Training Program, a multidisciplinary predoctoral and postdoctoral training program in cancer care quality research funded by the National Cancer Institute, and Principal Investigator for the Coordinating Center of the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network, a research network for disseminating evidence-based cancer prevention and control in community and clinical settings, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Weiner's research focuses on the adoption, implementation and sustainability of innovations in health care delivery and other organizational settings. Over the past 17 years, he has studied a wide range of innovations, including quality improvement practices, care management practices, patient safety practices, clinical information systems, collaborative service delivery models and evidence-based practices in diabetes, hypertension and cancer.



Pierre M. Barker, MD. Dr. Barker is Senior Vice President at the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). He is responsible for IHI's large-scale health systems improvement initiatives outside the U.S. Working closely with partners in government and the nongovernmental sector, IHI has an expanding portfolio to

improve the reliability and scale-up of effective health programs in Africa, Australasia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. In addition to advising governments and large organizations on quality improvement strategies, IHI uses the science of improvement to promote better outcomes in the areas of patient safety, population health, patient-centered care, and cost and quality of care. Dr. Barker attended medical school in South Africa and trained in pediatrics in the U.K. and U.S. Before joining IHI, he was Medical Director of the University of North Carolina Children's Hospital clinics and was responsible for leading systemwide initiatives on improving access to care and chronic disease management. A renowned authority on improving health systems, Dr. Barker initially served at IHI as the in-country Director of South Africa Projects and then as head of programs in low- and middle-income countries. He retains a position of Clinical Professor in Maternal and Child Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Gillings School of Global Public Health and advises the World Health Organization on health systems strengthening and redesign of HIV care and infant feeding guidelines.



Gina Dallabetta, MD. Dr. Dallabetta is a Senior Program Officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in Integrated Delivery/HIV. She currently manages a portfolio of grants in HIV prevention research and impact evaluation, HIV epidemiology, HIV prevention costing, improved routine HIV data, and

evaluation and documentation of the Avahan project, a large HIV prevention intervention in India, where she worked for five years. Prior to joining the foundation in 2005, she was at FHI 360 working on global HIV projects and the AIDSCAP and IMPACT projects funded by the U.S. Agency for International

Development. She oversaw programs in sexually transmitted infections, behavior change communication, sex work, injection drug use, workplace programs, uniform services, orphans and vulnerable children, and program links with care and treatment in more than 40 countries. Before joining FHI 360 in 1992, she was the field director for a cohort study in Malawi of HIV infection in mothers and their children that was funded by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Dallabetta has been involved in international programs for sexually transmitted infection (STI) and HIV prevention for more than 20 years. She graduated from Johns Hopkins University as a Doctor of Internal Medicine with a subspecialty in infectious diseases and was a Mellon Fellow in clinical epidemiology. She also holds a bachelor of science degree in chemistry and chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has published widely on STIs and HIV in international settings.



Laura Guay, MD. Dr. Guay serves a dual appointment as Vice President for Research at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and Research Professor at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. Dr. Guay received her medical degree from George

Washington University in 1985 and completed a pediatrics residency at Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Guay was a visiting lecturer at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, from 1988 to 1991 and then returned to CWRU to complete a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases. She worked on HIV-related research in women and children in Uganda for 20 years with CWRU and then Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine before joining the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Foundation and George Washington University. Her previous research focused on identifying interventions to reduce the rate of HIV transmission in breastfeeding infants and on the testing of an HIV vaccine in infants. Her current work focuses on how to translate key scientific breakthroughs in HIV prevention and treatment in women and children into the field in settings with limited resources and infrastructure.



Theresa Hoke, PhD, MPH.

Dr. Hoke serves as Director of Health Services Research at FHI 360. She has 20 years of experience conducting applied research to maximize the effectiveness of public health interventions. At FHI 360, she leads teams conducting implementation

research to strengthen family planning and HIV/AIDS service delivery in resource-limited settings. She specializes in conducting mixed-method studies to test approaches for integrating family planning services into health and non-health services and delivering an expanded range of contraceptive options. She has conducted studies in Kenya, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe to support development of strategies to strengthen contraceptive services for women with HIV. Dr. Hoke earned her doctoral degree from the Department of Health Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). She holds a master's degree in public health, specializing in maternal and child health, also from UNC.



Zeina Maalouf-Manasseh, PhD, MS.

Dr. Maalouf-Manasseh is a nutrition research specialist with FHI 360's Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) project, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Dr. Maalouf-Manasseh manages a portfolio of research trials

and activities on the treatment and prevention of malnutrition, also serving as the project's lead advisor on technical issues related to specialized foods and food safety. She has worked on several maternal and child nutrition research projects in the U.S. and around the world, with a focus on infant feeding. She also has several years of experience working in food security and nutrition programs. She has a doctoral degree in international and community nutrition from the University of California, Davis and a master's degree in food policy and applied nutrition from Tufts University.



Kirsty Newman, PhD. Dr. Newman is Head of the Evidence into Action team at the U.K. Department for International Development. Her team supports policymakers within the department and in the global south to access and use research evidence to inform policy decisions. Dr. Newman originally trained

as a biological scientist and has a doctoral degree in infectious disease immunology from the University of Edinburgh. Since leaving academia, she has worked for the Wellcome Trust, the U.K. Parliament and the International Network for Availability of Scientific Publications implementing research and research usage capacity-building programs, mainly in Africa. She is interested in research use and evidence-informed policy and writes a blog concerning these issues at kirstyevidence.wordpress.com.



Kate Ramsey, MPH. Ms. Ramsey is Senior Research Officer with the Averting Maternal Death and Disability (AMDD) program at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. Her main research interests are organizational theory and its application to improving health service delivery. She

is currently working on a study in Tanzania exploring the prevalence and drivers of disrespectful and abusive care experienced by women delivering infants in public health facilities and approaches to improve the quality of interpersonal care. She also provides technical assistance for Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care assessments, including efforts to improve the transition from data to implementation. She was based at Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for three years as a Columbia University investigator on several health system intervention and implementation studies to improve maternal and newborn health service delivery. For example, she was a Co-Investigator for the Connect Project, a study on the impact of formally trained and paid community health workers on maternal, newborn and child health outcomes. Previously, she worked for UNFPA as the global coordinator of the Campaign to End Fistula, providing technical support in the design and implementation of maternal health programs in 45 countries in Africa and Asia. She is currently studying for a doctoral degree in public health and holds a master's degree in public health from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.



Laura Reichenbach, PhD, MPA.

Dr. Reichenbach is Senior Associate and Deputy Director for Research for the EVIDENCE Project, a Population Council implementation science project on family planning and reproductive health funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Prior to

joining the Population Council, she was Social Scientist and Director of the Center for Reproductive Health at icddr, b in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Her research and publications have addressed a range of reproductive health issues, including family planning and unintended pregnancy, maternal health, cervical cancer, and sexually transmitted infections and HIV. She has also worked on issues of gender and the health workforce, knowledge translation and the role of evidence in priority setting and policymaking. Dr. Reichenbach has experience conducting research in a variety of geographic settings, with particular experience in South Asia, where she spent more than 10 years working in Bangladesh and Pakistan. Previously, she worked with the Population Council office in Pakistan for several years. Dr. Reichenbach received her master's degree in public administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and her doctoral degree from the Harvard School of Public Health.



Patricia Stephenson, ScD.

Dr. Stephenson trained as a nurse, then received her doctoral degree in public health from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. She served on the faculty of the University of Washington, School of Public Health and as a visiting professor

at the University of Gothenburg Medical School and the Nordic School of Public Health in Sweden. She worked extensively with

UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the World Bank as a consultant in the design of population-based surveys and research. Since coming to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Global Health in 1998, she served in the Office of Health, Infectious Diseases and Nutrition, and in the Office of Population and Reproductive Health. In this capacity, Dr. Stephenson designed and managed global programs in health and research, and worked in all USAID regions assisting Missions in the design and evaluation of programs to improve the health of women and children. Among her other duties, she currently serves as the Agency Acting Research Coordinator for the USAID Global Development Lab. She is the lead author of the USAID Research Policy and Scientific Collections Policy. She lives in West Virginia and runs a working farm.



Cynthia Vinson, PhD, MPA.

Dr. Vinson is the Acting Deputy Director for Implementation Science in the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at the National Cancer Institute. She works on building and sustaining the field of implementation science in order

to enhance the integration of evidence-based guidelines, programs and policies for cancer control in public health and clinical practice. She is responsible for working both within the National Cancer Institute and with other agencies and organizations at the international, national, state and local level to translate research funded by DCCPS into practice. She received her doctoral degree in public administration and health policy at George Washington University and her master's degree in public administration/international development from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.