

# Research Seminar Series

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Thursday October 29, 2009, 11:00am

## Addressing Intimate Partner Violence by Health Promoting Settings: A Case of Computer-assisted 'Screening' in Family Practice

Farah Ahmad, MBBS, MPH, PhD

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Associate Scientist, Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital

### Seminar Description:

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a major public health issue with serious health consequences, particularly among women. Yet, victims of violence often remain 'invisible' during their multiple visits to health care settings. A collective opportunity to intervene is lost contributing to victims' social exclusion through failure to act. Several calls exist for the re-orientation of health services towards health promotion and care beyond diseases. Recent research demonstrates that interactive computer-assisted 'screening' in family practice setting can enable patients to disclose and assist providers to offer needed care and referrals. Program for IPV 'screening', identification, management and referral is a complex intervention that should include multiple components operating at multiple levels incorporating provider, program, community, organization, and policy. Simultaneous action on societal causes is needed to improve social and economic living conditions of vulnerable groups.

### Guest Speaker Biography:

Farah Ahmad is an Assistant Professor in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Associate Scientist at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital. Dr. Ahmad is interested in understanding, differentiating and changing 'generative mechanisms' at the roots of unequal agent-agent and agent-structure relations determining societal health and well being. Using critical social science perspective, she aims to address health inequities linked to gender, ethnicity and migration. Her program of research takes a "settings" approach to promote health specifically among marginalized groups, including victims of violence. She is particularly interested in re-orienting health services and creating supportive community environments for groups experiencing or vulnerable to social exclusion. She holds several grants as primary and team investigator, including CIHR funded Centre on Violence, Gender and Mental Health. Dr. Ahmad completed her medical training at Punjab University and earned master's at Harvard University and doctorate at the University of Toronto in public health sciences, followed by post-doctorate at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health. She held CIHR fellowships during her doctorate and post-doctorate research.



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