



New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Annual Progress Report

May 15, 2024 • 10:00 am – 2:00 pm



New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Annual Progress Report

Agenda

Opening Remarks	10:00 am – 10:30 am
Joseph Kerwin, Director, AIDS Institute	
Tina Kim, MSc, Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights of the New York State Department of Health	
Dr. Ashwin Vasani, MD, PhD, Commissioner of Health, City of New York	
Keynote	10:30 am – 11:00 am
Rachael Fleurence, MSc, PhD	
Senior Advisor to The White House on the National Plan for Hepatitis C Elimination	
Progress Towards Hepatitis C Elimination	11:00 am – 12:00 pm
New York State	
• New York State Elimination Metrics Update	
Larissa Wilberschied, MS	
Epidemiology and Surveillance Program Manager, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology, AIDS Institute	
• Updates on New York State Programs, Policy, and Significant Accomplishments	
Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS	
Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology, AIDS Institute	
New York City	
• New York City Elimination Metrics Update	
Holly Anger, MPH	
Senior Surveillance and Research Scientist, Viral Hepatitis Program	
Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV and STI, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	
• Updates on New York City Programs, Policy, and Significant Accomplishments	
Marie P Bresnahan, MPH	
Director, Training, Policy and Administration, Viral Hepatitis Program	
Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV and STI, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	

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Break 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm

Innovative and Promising Practices Breakout Session 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Breakout 1: Opioid treatment programs, an opportunity to increase access to hepatitis C services

To achieve elimination in New York State, hepatitis C prevention, testing and treatment must be more accessible to people who use drugs. Opioid treatment programs are uniquely positioned to reduce access related barriers to hepatitis C services, including patient education and screening, medication delivery and storage, and treatment adherence. This session will review promising practices and lessons learned from three opioid treatment programs.

- Hepatitis C Elimination Campaign in a Hospital-Based Opioid Treatment Program
Julia Hunter, MD, MPH, FASAM and Jennifer Hatton, United Health Services
- Universal Access to Hepatitis C Treatment in an Opioid Treatment Program
Sara Lorenz Taki, MD and Ashley Magnussen, CRPA, CASAC-T, Greenwich House
- Building Capacities in Opioid Treatment Programs for Hepatitis C Treatment Services and Care Management Supports
Ana Ventuneac, PhD and Anthony Mcleod, START Treatment and Recovery Centers, Inc.

Breakout 2: Promising practices for hepatitis C screening and linkage to care in correctional settings

Nearly one-third of Americans with hepatitis C spend at least part of the year in a carceral facility. People who are incarcerated often have low rates of engagement with healthcare despite higher rates of significant health and behavioral health needs. Local jails and alternatives to incarceration programs are uniquely positioned to facilitate screening and address barriers to linkage to care for people with hepatitis C. This session will share lessons learned and promising practices for developing hepatitis C services in correctional settings.

- Implementing Opt-out Hepatitis C Testing in a County Jail
Antonie Hiemer, PhD, MS, RN, CLNC, Madison County Sheriff Department
- Collaboration with Local County Jails to Screen and Link to Care People with Hepatitis C
Ashley Sears, LPN, Hudson Headwaters Health Network
- Improving Linkage to Hepatitis C Care from Alternatives to Incarceration Programs
Lindsey Riback, MPH, Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center

Breakout 3: Innovative strategies to identify and link people with hepatitis C to care and treatment

Barriers remain at each step in the hepatitis C cascade of care from screening to linkage to treatment to assessment for cure. This session will explore innovative approaches to identifying barriers and implementing solutions to achieve universal hepatitis C screening and increase access to curative treatment.

- Data Analysis of Hepatitis C Testing and Treatment to Meet Elimination Goals
Dr. Aarathi Nagaraja, MD, CPH, Mary Correa, and Aldonza Milian, Sun River Health
- Utilizing Telehealth for Hepatitis C Treatment within a Syringe Exchange Program
Miraf Kassew, BS, Lauren Estby, MSW, and Brian Hennessey, MPH, Housing Works
- Community Health Worker Facilitated Hepatitis C Telehealth Model
Reginald Idlett, REACH Program, Mount Sinai Hospital

Closing Remarks 1:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Dr. Shashi N Kapadia
Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences, Weil Cornell Medical College

Closing 1:50 pm – 2:00 pm

Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS
Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology, AIDS Institute

Speakers



Joseph Kerwin

Director, AIDS Institute – New York State Department of Health

Effective March 16, 2023, Mr. Joseph Kerwin has been appointed Director of the AIDS Institute. Prior to serving as Director, Mr. Kerwin was a Deputy Director within the AIDS Institute for four years. His portfolio as a Deputy Director progressively expanded over the past four years to include oversight of the AIDS Institute’s Health Care Programs, Uninsured Care Program, Medicaid Programs and Health Care Financing. Mr. Kerwin has been with the AIDS Institute for more than ten years. Prior to joining the AIDS Institute, Joseph was the Executive Director of AIDS Services at Catholic Charities and the Program Administrator of the AIDS Program and Division of HIV Medicine at Albany Medical Center.

Mr. Kerwin is responsible for the day-to-day decision making and operations of the AIDS Institute and has represented the AIDS Institute within the DOH, across state agencies and New York State. Priority efforts have focused on the integration of health equity principles to advance ending the epidemics of HIV, Hepatitis C, Congenital Syphilis, and opioid overdose, advancing LGBTQ+ health and wellness, and leading in many areas of the state’s outbreak responses including COVID-19 and mpox.



Tina Kim, MSc

Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights of the New York State Department of Health

Tina Kim is the Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights (OHEHR) at the New York State Department of Health. Tina oversees day-to-day operations and is responsible for developing, shaping, and implementing policies and programs advancing health equity and related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). OHEHR leads New York State Department of Health’s commitment and strategy to be a diverse, anti-racist, equitable and inclusive organization.

Tina formerly served as Assistant Secretary for Health for the State of New York. Within the Governor’s State Operations Office, Tina developed and implemented cross-cutting, statewide public health and health care initiatives and strategies. Before joining state service, Tina was Chief of Staff for the Deputy Executive Director leading the nation’s largest COVID-19 testing and contact tracing operation. She also served as Senior Advisor for Health Care Delivery in the New York City Mayor’s Office. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Tina helped design and launch NYC’s Guaranteed Care initiative, which includes the NYC Care health care program for the uninsured. She also designed initiatives involving cross-agency collaboration, most notably the Asthma-Free Bronx program to address pediatric asthma in the Bronx.

Tina has worked in policy roles for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, the Gates Foundation, Asian and Pacific Islander Health Forum and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Tina holds a Master’s of Science in Public Health degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ashwin Vasan, MD, PhD **44th Commissioner of Health, City of New York**

Dr. Ashwin Vasan is the 44th Health Commissioner of New York City. He is a practicing primary care physician, epidemiologist and public health expert with nearly 20 years of experience working to improve physical and mental health, social welfare and public policy outcomes for marginalized populations in New York City, nationally and globally.

In his role as Commissioner since early 2022, Dr. Vasan has reshaped the city's public health system to focus on addressing the main drivers of declining life expectancy in the post-COVID emergency era, including overdoses, chronic and diet-related diseases, birth inequities, climate change, and gun violence, while simultaneously strengthening the Health Department's emergency response-readiness capacities. Throughout this work, he has brought in a unique, unparalleled focus to combating the mental health crisis, releasing a comprehensive citywide mental health plan addressing the second pandemic – a crisis of mental health plaguing youth, vulnerable New Yorkers with severe mental illness, and those impacted by the overdose epidemic. Dr. Vasan has concurrently led several other key health priorities, such as the launch of HealthyNYC, a campaign to reverse the downward trend in life expectancy, launch of TeenSpace among other social media efforts to combat the negative impact of social media on kids' mental health. He also led the ongoing response to COVID-19 as the first American jurisdiction to kickstart vaccination efforts, combatting the 2022 mpox outbreak and pioneering readiness and response to the first case of polio in the US in a decade. Under his leadership, the city also took charge on protecting reproductive rights by launching the NYC Abortion Access Hub, connecting people from New York and nationwide to providers and becoming the first jurisdiction in the US to offer free medication abortions in its clinics. Recently, under his leadership, the Health Department launched a historic debt relief initiative to purchase and cancel medical debt for half a million New Yorkers.

Having begun his career in global health working at Partners in Health and the HIV Department of the World Health Organization, he most recently served as the President and CEO of Fountain House, a US-based mental health nonprofit. He currently serves as faculty at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Vasan received his BA in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles; his ScM in Epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health; his MD from the University of Michigan; and his PhD in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He completed his clinical training in internal medicine-primary care at New York Presbyterian Hospital.





Dr. Rachael L. Fleurence, PhD, MSc
Senior Advisor, National Institutes of Health

Dr. Fleurence is a Senior Advisor to Dr. Francis Collins at the National Institutes of Health where her work is focused on launching a national initiative to eliminate Hepatitis C. Previously, Dr. Fleurence served as a senior health policy advisor in the Biden-Harris White House. Prior to her role at the White House, Dr. Fleurence served as Senior Advisor to the NIH Director at the NIH. As part of the federal response to COVID-19, Dr. Fleurence led the novel “Say Yes! Covid Test”. This program was the first of its kind in to provide free rapid antigen tests to over 7 million Americans. Dr. Fleurence served on the White House Pandemic Testing Board policy group, and the White House Office of Science Technology Policy (OSTP) Pandemic Innovation Task Force in 2021-2022. In 2021 and 2022, Dr. Fleurence was a recipient of three NIH Director’s Award for exceptional dedication and innovation in advancing COVID-19 testing and diagnostics efforts. In 2022, Dr. Fleurence was a recipient of the Health and Human Services Secretary’s award for Distinguished Service.

Prior to her role at the White House and NIH, Dr. Fleurence served as the Executive Director of the National Evaluation System for health Technology Coordinating Center (NESTcc), and served as the Program Director for PCORnet at the US Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Dr. Fleurence received a BA from Cambridge University (United Kingdom), an MA in business management from ESSEC-Paris (France), and an MSc in health economics and PhD in health sciences, both from the University of York (United Kingdom).



Larissa Wilberschied, MS
**Program Manager, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and
Epidemiology, AIDS Institute – New York State Department of Health**

Larissa Wilberschied, MS, is a Program Manager in the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology. She has 20+ years of experience in public health: including hepatitis C, tuberculosis, HIV, substance use, and communicable disease epidemiology. She was a member of the New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Surveillance, Data, and Metrics Workgroup and is involved with the development and tracking of the primary hepatitis C elimination metrics.

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Colleen Flanigan, RN, MS

Director, Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology AIDS Institute – New York State Department of Health

Colleen Flanigan currently serves as the Director of the Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology at the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. Ms. Flanigan has been involved in hepatitis C related work for two decades. She directs the hepatitis C programmatic and policy work and the hepatitis B and C surveillance activities for New York State. Ms. Flanigan is also responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Plan. Ms. Flanigan holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Master's degree in Nursing.



Holly Anger, MPH

Senior Surveillance and Research Scientist, Viral Hepatitis Program Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV and STI, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Holly Anger is a Senior Surveillance and Research Scientist at the New York City Department of Health where she conducts and oversees analysis projects related to the epidemiology of hepatitis B and C. She has over 18 years of experience working in public health in both international and domestic settings. Holly received her Master's in Public Health from Columbia University and is currently a 4th year PhD student in Epidemiology at the CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy.



Marie P Bresnahan, MPH

Director of Training, Policy and Administration, Viral Hepatitis Program, Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV and STI, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Marie Bresnahan has worked in the Viral Hepatitis Program at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene since 2014. She works on viral hepatitis policy issues, she leads training initiatives and supports administrative activities in the program. Before that, she led Project INSPRIRE which was a CMS-funded Health Care Innovation Award designed to implement an innovative care model for hepatitis C. Marie worked previously at the American Liver Foundation and was a founding member of the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR). Her prior experience includes working at the Advisory Board Company, the U.S Fund for UNICEF and at Covenant House. Marie has a Master's in Public Health from the City University of New York, Graduate School of Public Health and Public Policy and an undergraduate degree from Russell Sage College.

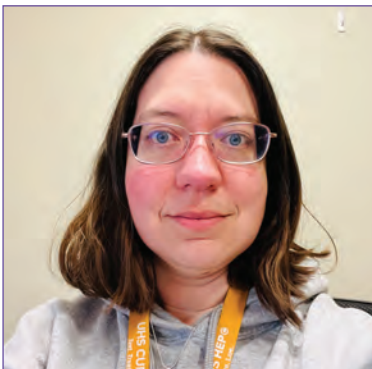


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Julia Hunter, MD, MPH, FASAM
Medical Director, Addiction Medicine
Binghamton General Hospital
United Health Services Hospitals, Inc.

Dr. Hunter is the Medical Director of Addiction Medicine at United Health Services Hospitals, Inc. She strives to improve the care for people who use substances by transforming evidence and guidelines into sustainable, patient-centered programs. She is pleased to participate in the American Society of Addiction Medicine's Board Exam Study Tool Subcommittee, the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute Substance Use Guidelines Committee, the New York State Advisory Group on Hepatitis C Treatment Among People Who Inject Drugs, and the New York State Department of Health's Buprenorphine Working Group.



Jennifer Hatton, United Health Services
Jennifer Hatton, BSN, RN, CARN
Nursing Coordinator for Outpatient Behavioral Health, United
Health Services Hospitals, Inc.

Jennifer Hatton, BSN, RN, CARN is the Nursing Coordinator for United Health Services Outpatient Behavioral Health and serves as Program Coordinator for the Hepatitis C treatment program at the UHS MAT Clinic. She received her certification in addictions nursing in 2015, and has focused on utilizing data analytics to improve the care provided to persons with substance use disorders.



Sara Lorenz Taki, MD
Chief Medical Officer, Greenwich House

Sara Lorenz Taki, MD, is chief medical officer of Greenwich House and director of Greenwich House Center for Healing's hepatitis C treatment program. She is board-certified in addiction medicine and internal medicine and sits on the Medical and Clinical Advisory Panels for the New York Office of Addiction Supports and Services (OASAS). She has treated patients with opioid use disorder and hepatitis C in opioid treatment programs for over 15 years.

Ashley Magnussen CRPA, CASAC-T
Certified Recovery Peer Advocate, Greenwich House

Ashley Magnussen CRPA, CASAC-T is a certified recovery peer advocate who specializes in patient engagement in hepatitis C treatment at Greenwich House Center for Healing. She is born and raised in Broad Channel, Queens. She is a mother of two girls. She is most passionate about the community she serves and will do anything possible to make sure their voices are heard.



Ana Ventuneac, PhD
Vice President of Research and Evaluation,
START Treatment & Recovery Centers

Ana Ventuneac, PhD is Vice President of Research and Evaluation at START Treatment & Recovery Centers where she leads research on integrated services for infectious diseases and substance use disorders in an outpatient treatment program for opioid use disorders. Dr. Ventuneac has a broad background in public health and health services research. Her current research addresses three primary areas: 1) structural drivers of healthcare disparities and inequities in prevention services, treatment access, and health outcomes; 2) community voices in diffusion of biomedical and technological innovations for improved health outcomes; and 3) implementation science research for the adoption and sustainability of empirically based interventions in healthcare settings.



Anthony McLeod
Program Manager, START Treatment & Recovery Centers

Anthony McLeod is Program Manager at START Treatment & Recovery Centers where he leads three priority projects in addressing access-related barriers to highly effective medications to eliminate Hepatitis C in communities most impacted by the opioid crisis and hepatitis C infection. In collaboration with Dr. Andrew Talal, University at Buffalo, with funding from PCORI, he contributed to the development of a facilitated telemedicine model to integrate treatment services for hepatitis C with treatment for opioid use disorder. Additionally, with funding from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Viral Hepatitis Program, he established capacities for integrated HCV treatment onsite at START to promote low-barrier access to treatment services. Currently, with funding from the AIDS Institute, New York State Department of Health, he leads a team of patient health navigators to expand prevention and treatment services for viral hepatitis.



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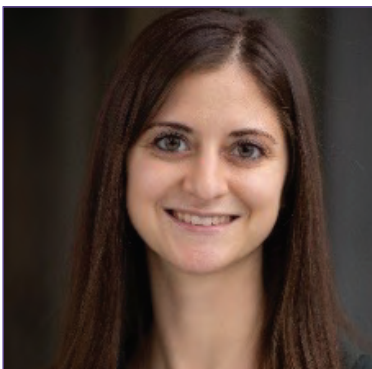
Antonie Hiemer, PhD, MS, RN, CLNC
Madison County Sheriff Department

Antonie Hiemer has served as the Supervising Jail Nurse at Madison County Sheriff Department since 2018. She has been instrumental in establishing an opt-out hepatitis C testing pilot program within the jail. She obtained her PhD in Education, Curriculum and Teaching from North Central University, after completing a certificate of advanced study in nursing education and a master's degree in nursing administration at the State University of New Yorks Polytechnic Institute.



Ashley Sears, LPN
Hepatitis C Program Manager,
Hudson Headwaters Health Network

Ashley Sears, LPN has been with Hudson Headwaters Health Network for twelve years as a Nurse then Care Manager and most recently has spent the last two years as the Program Manager for the Hepatitis C Care and Treatment Program. Ashley enjoys this position as it allows her to both continue to work directly with patients assisting them through their treatment journey while developing program management skills. Ashley has a passion for the treatment of hepatitis C and was involved in Hudson Headwaters Health Network's early efforts to identify and treat patients living with hepatitis C before taking on the opportunity to build the comprehensive program we have today.



Lindsey Riback, MPH
Senior Research Coordinator,
Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore

Lindsey Riback, MPH is a Senior Research Coordinator at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York. Her research focuses on hepatitis C and HIV prevention efforts among individuals with substance use disorder and criminal legal system involvement with projects in New York City, South Carolina and Kenya. Ms. Riback completed her MPH at the University at Albany, SUNY after completing research practicums in Monrovia, Liberia and at the New York State Department of Health's AIDS Institute.

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Aarathi Nagaraja, MD, CPH
Quality Medical Director of HIV and Hepatitis Programs,
Sun River Health

Dr. Nagaraja (Dr. N) is the Quality Medical Director of HIV and Hepatitis Programs at Sun River Health, a large FQHC that covers Hudson Valley, Long Island and NYC. She is an Infectious Disease physician who provides HIV, hepatitis B/C care, and Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder within an integrated primary care model at Sun River Health. She works closely with her care teams to oversee the quality of the HIV and Hepatitis programs at Sun River Health. She is also the co-chair for New York State Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning group.



Aldonza Milian
AVP Grant Funded Services,
Sun River Health

Mrs. Aldonza Milian oversees Sun River Health HIV Care Management and Prevention Programs. Mrs. Milian has over 20 years of experience working in human service. Specialty areas include providing supportive counseling, crisis intervention, and working in collaboration with treatment clinical teams and community resources.



Mary Correa, MS M-CASAC
Senior Director,
Sun River Health

Mary Correa, MS M-CASAC is the Senior Director at Sun River Health, a FQHC that covers Hudson Valley, Long Island and NYC. She provides management of the Hepatitis C Care and Treatment, Innovative Models of Care, NYC Advancing Health Equity Retention Adherence and Prep Programs at Sunriver Health.



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Miraf Kasew, BS
**Program Manager of the Hepatitis C Care and Treatment Program,
Housing Works**

Miraf Kasew (she/her) earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from St. John's University. After completing her studies, she began seeking employment that would allow her to address health disparities in BIPOC communities. In April 2021, she joined Housing Works as a PrEP/Hep C Patient Navigator. In this role, she assisted clients in accessing PrEP care and supported clients undergoing hepatitis C treatment. In June 2022, Miraf was promoted to Program Manager of the Hepatitis C Care and Treatment Program, where she now oversees the hepatitis C program across the Housing Works health centers and Harm Reduction sites.



Lauren Estby, MSW
**Vice President for Prevention Services,
Housing Works**

Lauren Estby (she/her) holds the position of Vice President for Prevention Services at Housing Works, where she provides strategic guidance and fiscal oversight across a wide spectrum of programs. Her portfolio encompasses a comprehensive range of prevention and care management services, including the agency's biomedical prevention and navigation services, youth and prevention services, housing placement and assistance unit, and Health Home care management services. With over a decade of dedicated service at Housing Works, Lauren leverages her expertise as a licensed social worker to address the multifaceted needs of underserved communities in New York City. Lauren's academic background includes a Master's of Science in Social Work and Public Policy from Columbia University, earned in 2005, and a Bachelor's of Social Work degree from New York University.



Brian Hennessey, MPH
**Managing Director for Biomedical Prevention
and Navigation Services,
Housing Works**

Brian Hennessey (he/him) joined Housing Works in 2018 as the lead of the agency's HIV prevention programming. As the Managing Director for Biomedical Prevention and Navigation Services, he oversees the PrEP/PEP and hepatitis C programs. Earlier in his career, Brian has held various positions in the healthcare and social service fields, focusing on the needs of underserved communities. He holds a Master's of Public Health degree from the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy.

Reggie Idlett

**Clinical Research Coordinator / Community Outreach Worker
Respectful & Equitable Access to Comprehensive Healthcare
(REACH) Program**

**Division of General Internal Medicine
Mount Sinai Medical Center**

Reggie Idlett is a public health professional with 10 years of experience in community organizing, research and health education. Reggie completed his AS in Biology at CUNY Kingsborough College and is studying Public Health at CUNY Hunter College. He's worked to leverage his lived experience with hepatitis C and passion for health equity to build collaborations with our partner agencies and our patients.



Dr. Shashi N Kapadia

**Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences,
Weill Cornell Medical College**

Shashi Kapadia, MD is an infectious diseases physician and an Assistant Professor of Medicine and of Population Health Sciences at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. He provides clinical care for patients with HIV, viral hepatitis, and general infectious diseases; and also attends on the addiction medicine consultation service. He completed medical school and residency training at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark NJ, and then went on to complete a fellowship in infectious diseases and an additional residency program in public health and preventive medicine, both at Weill Cornell. His clinical and research efforts are focused on equitable treatment access for people with hepatitis C, HIV, and substance use disorders. He has published research to develop and evaluate innovative, patient-centered care delivery models for hepatitis C, and understand the factors that would promote their implementation.

