

## **CARDET-YCAS Autumn Courses**

### **Social Determinants across the Continuum of Cancer Control and Prevention**

#### **SYLLABUS**

**October 12-13, 2016**

**Instructor: Beth A. Jones, PhD, MPH**  
**Yale School of Public Health**

**Asst. Director, Diversity & Health Equity for Yale Cancer Center**  
**Director, Smilow Cancer Hospital Screening & Prevention Program**

#### **Course Description**

Cancer Control and Prevention requires a flexible approach that accounts for the diversity within the target population. Interpreted broadly, diversity within any society may reflect differences in ancestry, immigration status, race/ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender, sexual identity, and religious affiliation. Although diversity within a society is critical to its economic and cultural vibrancy, it can represent a challenge to a one-size-fits-all approach to health care and public health approaches.

This course will address the major social and cross-cutting determinants of health as they impact cancer control and prevention. The goal is to understand how social determinants impact cancer incidence, cancer prevention (primary and secondary) and cancer outcomes. This course will cover state-of-the-science information, taken primarily from journal articles, and will cover a broad range of topics including cross-cutting determinants and their impact on cancer as well as important conditions that predispose to later disease (e.g., obesity). Emphasis is placed on developing a working knowledge of the key concepts that guide the evolving field of cancer disparities research and the application of standard epidemiological research methods including study design, measurement, and causal inference to the published literature on cancer disparities. We will also consider important elimination strategies

#### **Course Objectives**

- Understand how to use the available data to identify disparities across groups
- Identify the major social determinants and the mechanisms by which they influence cancer outcomes across the cancer care continuum (prevention, screening, and treatment)
- Critically evaluate studies that address cancer disparities
- Identify workable approaches for the identification / evaluation of cancer disparities in a specific health care system with potential elimination strategies.

#### **Readings**

Readings are taken from leading journals, books and other public health documents, as available on-line. There will be daily reading assignments to be supplemented with in class lectures and discussion. Learning objective 4 will be achieved through an independent study to be completed by the end of the course.

## Requirements (grade %)

**Class Participation (25%):** As this class employs a seminar format, active participation and thoughtful discussion of the material is expected at every meeting. It is critical that all assigned materials be read before class. Students are expected to arrive ready to discuss, listen, and to take an active role in discussion of the assigned material. As the quality of our discussion requires that each member of the class be actively engaged in the discussion, I ask that laptop computers be used only for course related activities during class time.

### Homework Assignments (25%):

A guided reading discussion guide will be due each day (Pass/Fail). This will facilitate the general discussion.

### Final Paper and presentation (50%):

This project will be the culminating experience of the course. This will require independent study of a specific cancer disparities issue within a real health care system. Identification of key social determinants (drivers), underlying mechanisms, data and/or research needs, and where supported, elimination strategies will be presented as a White paper. This will be due November 1, 2016.

## Beth A. Jones, PhD, MPH

Beth A. Jones, PhD, MPH is a Research Scientist and Lecturer at the Yale School of Public Health, Assistant Director for Diversity and Health Equity for Yale Cancer Center, Program Director of Smilow Center for Cancer Screening & Prevention, and Director of Yale CURE: Engaging Youth in Cancer Research. Trained as a cancer epidemiologist, Dr. Jones' research has addressed racial/ethnic disparities in cancer outcomes and cancer screening. She teaches a graduate level (MPH) course on Health Disparities by Race and Socioeconomic Status. She is now in her 9th year as a publicly elected member (and Vice Chair) of the Board of Education in her local public school district.

	General Topic	Specific Topics	Student Assignments
<b>DAY 1</b>			
<b>Class 1</b>	Cross-cutting Determinants 1: Race/ethnicity / Socioeconomic Status	<b>A.</b> Using Data to Identify Cancer Disparities <b>B.</b> Socioeconomic Status versus Race: Fundamentals <b>C.</b> Social Determinants: Conceptual / Theoretical Framework	<b>Discuss Final Project</b> <b>Assigned Readings:</b> 1) Braveman P, Egerter S, Williams DR 2) Link BG and Phelen JC
<b>Class 2</b>	Deconstructing Cancer Disparities	<b>A.</b> Breast Cancer <b>B.</b> Diverse Geographic Ancestry	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> 3) Iqbal, Javaid 4) Stern MC, Fejerman L, Das R 5) Newman, L. A. ( <i>for reference</i> )
<b>DAY 2</b>			
<b>Class 3</b>	Cross-Cutting Determinants 2: Discrimination / Access to Care	<b>A.</b> Discrimination / Segregation / Place <b>B.</b> Access to Care / health literacy/ language	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> 6) Williams, D.R., & Mohammed, S.A 7) Jacobs Elizabeth A
<b>Class 4</b>	Disparities and Cancer Control Continuum	<b>A.</b> Etiology <b>B.</b> Lifestyle <b>C.</b> Screening <b>D.</b> Treatment	<b>Assigned Readings:</b> 8) Turner, D. P. 9) Park, Song-Yi 10) Cote, Michele L
<b>Due 11/1/16</b>	<b>Final Projects</b>	<b>Real World Cancer Disparities</b>  <b>Challenges / Approaches / Solutions</b>	