



Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health
SEMINAR SERIES
Fall 2009

Alix Adrien

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Using HIV surveillance data for public health action. Lessons learnt from Pakistan.

Monday, 23 November, 2009
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Purvis Hall, 1020 Pine Ave. West, Room 25

ALL ARE WELCOME
- Refreshments to follow -



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Abstract:

Public health surveillance is an essential tool to plan and implement public health actions targeted at specific populations. Surveillance for HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI) is complicated by the fact that the highest rates typically occur among marginalised and stigmatised populations such as men having sex with men, sex workers, and injection drug users.

In Pakistan, there is limited knowledge on the extent and types of risk behaviour in populations at increased risk for HIV. For the past five years, a Canadian consortium has been working with the Ministry of Health to implement and support a national second generation HIV surveillance system (SGS). Characterizing the personal and societal factors that shape individual and population vulnerability to HIV infection is a critical early activity of SGS at the national and regional level and can inform planning of HIV prevention activities at the local level.

In this talk Dr. Adrien discusses the political, administrative and operational challenges of keeping HIV surveillance activities focused where it will have the most impact. He also discusses how the HIV surveillance system in Pakistan has been used to enhance micro planning for HIV prevention at the local level and how it has proved effective as an ***early warning system***.

Bio:

Dr. Adrien is a board certified Community Medicine specialist at the Montreal Public Health Department. He is also assistant professor at McGill University's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and at Université de Montréal's Département de médecine sociale et préventive. Dr Adrien is a director and the current president of ProAction: Partners of Community Health, a firm that provides consultancy services in epidemiology, project design, management and evaluation.

Dr Adrien received his BSc from the Department Sciences biologiques at Université de Montréal, and MSc from the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McGill University. Dr. Adrien is a medical graduate of McGill University.

Dr Adrien has led HIV-related behavioural research and surveillance projects in Canada, Haiti, Morocco, India, and Pakistan, favouring participatory approaches in the design and implementation. Dr Adrien is a founding member of Groupe d'action pour la prévention de la transmission du VIH et l'éradication du sida (GAP-VIES) a community based AIDS organization serving the Haitian community in Quebec. He is also the former project director of the CIDA-funded McGill HIV Information Education and Communication Project in Haiti, which undertook national level surveys on HIV-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour.

Between 1998 and 2007, Dr Adrien was the Director of the Community Medicine Residency Program, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University and currently serves as the Vice-President of the Specialty Committee in Community Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.



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November

30 November 2009

Seminar postponed – new date TBA

December

7 December 2009

Robert Deardon, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Guelph.
Topic: *Individual-level models of infectious disease spread.*