

Internal Medicine Expert Witness #2001

Publications, presentations, and references available upon request.

Contact Dora:

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EDUCATION

1992 – 1996 **Bachelor of Science** (Molecular Biology and Biotechnology)

McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario,

Canada 1996 – 1998 **Master of Science** (Physiology –
Neuroscience)

University Of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada 2004 – 2008 **Doctor of
Medicine** (Combined MD/MPH degree program)

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, USA 2004 – 2008 **Master of
Public Health** (International Health track)
Tulane University, New Orleans, LA,
USA

CLINICAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS

2008 – 2009 **Internal Medicine – Internship**

Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC,

USA 2009 – 2011 **Internal Medicine – Residency**

Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC,

USA 2015 **Board Certification in Addiction Medicine**

EMPLOYMENT/RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019 – Present **URBAN RECOVERY NYC**, Brooklyn, NY, USA

DIRECTOR OF ADDICTION MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT

- Revised and streamlined admissions protocols
- Implemented state addiction rules and regulations into current operations
- Admitted new patients with various substance use disorders and co-occurring mental illness
- Led didactics on various health topics for staff and patients
- Spoke locally, nationally and internationally about addiction- and other health-related topics

2017 – 2019 **NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**, New York

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, KINGSBORO ADDICTION TREATMENT CENTER (BROOKLYN, NY)

- Coordinated and streamlined admissions/intake process
- Reviewed medical and nursing protocols/policies (detox, first aid, infection control)
- Led monthly Physician Meetings
- Led regular staff educational programs

2016 – 2017 **NEW YORK CITY HEALTH + HOSPITALS**, New York, NY, USA

CHIEF OF ADDICTION MEDICINE, CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Led efforts in, and expansion of, substance use treatment and recovery services including the **opioid treatment** (“KEEP”) and **behavioral therapy** (A Road Not Taken) programs
- Collaborated in an **interdisciplinary** manner with multiple services: Medicine, Mental Health, Nursing, Pharmacy, Transitional Health/Reentry Team, Dept of Correction (DOC)
- Created and implemented widespread **addiction education and training curriculum** to clinical and non-clinical staff, as well as DOC staff
- Collaborated with **academic, health care, government and community partners** to collectively address the opioid epidemic
- Strategized effective substance use policies and programs to address prevention, treatment and maintenance in recovery at **city, state and national** levels (including monthly “RxStat” meetings with the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area [HIDTA] task force)

2011 – 2016 **BOSTON HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAM**, Boston, MA, USA

STAFF PHYSICIAN, ADDICTION SPECIALIST

- Treated **acute and chronic medical conditions** of Boston’s homeless population in context of complex psychosocial setting
- Provided **primary care** at various outpatient settings including hospitals, homeless shelter- based clinics and a **medical respite** facility (Barbara McInnis House)
- Facilitated access to various social services, e.g. housing, legal, disability income
- Received specialized training in **addiction medicine, buprenorphine**

(Suboxone) prescribing, chronic pain management, **mindfulness** practices, **trauma-informed care**, **motivational interviewing**, and management of aggressive behavior

- Supervised nurse practitioners and physician assistants

- Mentored medical students and residents

- Co-Chaired the **Wellness Committee**: implemented multiple programs to reduce obesity (e.g. trained AmeriCorps volunteers to run weekly Nutrition Support “Healthy Me” groups; coordinated high-veg, low-carb meals with respite chef; initiated weekly Mindfulness groups; worked with BMC Demo Kitchen chef, Tracey Burg)

2011 – 2016 MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL, Boston, MA, USA

MGH SITE MEDICAL

DIRECTOR

- Provided outpatient medical care to homeless population at MGH

- Organized and led regular site meetings; **facilitated communication** between MGH Medical Walk-In Unit and BHCHP; facilitated communication with MGH Emergency Department to optimize care for **‘high utilizer’** homeless patients

- Interacted closely with the **inpatient Addiction Consult Team**, as well as the Bridge Clinic and Recovery Coaches in order to provide high-quality care to patients using substances

- Attended at **Bigelow Teaching Service**: supervised medicine house staff and Harvard medical students while overseeing care of high-volume ward of complex patients

- Participated regularly in educational programs including weekly General Medicine Division **Grand Rounds** and Stoeckle Center Schwartz Primary Care discussions

- **Mentored** medical students, residents, **supervised** nurse practitioners, physician assistants

MGH MEDICAL WALK-IN UNIT PHYSICIAN

- Provided acute care in high-volume urgent care setting

2008 – 2011 DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER, Durham, NC, USA

DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES; ADVISOR: JOHN PERFECT, M.D.

- *Cryptococcus Retrospective Study*: evaluation of treatment and outcomes in patients with cryptococcus infection with HIV or organ transplantation

1999 – 2004 **ASTRAZENECA PHARMACEUTICALS**, Waltham, MA & Wilmington, DE, USA

- *Cancer*: Used molecular and cellular biology and computational modeling to better understand mechanism of lung cancer agent, Iressa™, to design better inhibitors of the pathway, to tailor future therapy (patient stratification) and to design more effective drugs; Conducted research exchange in Sweden to learn project-related technologies
- *Alzheimer Disease*: Isolated hippocampal and cortical neurons from fetal rats, stained cells and performed toxicity assays to study effects of microglia-secreted Neurotoxin,

1996 – 1998 **UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**, Toronto, ON, Canada

Master's Project - DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY (NEUROSCIENCE)

"Stroke-in-a-Dish": *in vitro* model of microglial activation and ischemic stroke

- Microglia, the immune cells of the brain, are implicated in several neurologic diseases (stroke, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease)

Summer 1995 **HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN**, Toronto, ON, Canada

Student Research Project – DEPARTMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH, Advisor Dr. Marlene Rabinovitch

- Investigated role of elastase in rats with monocrotaline-induced pulmonary hypertension

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2011 – 2016 **Instructor of Medicine**, Faculty of Medicine, Harvard Medical School 2011 – 2016 **Instructor of Medicine**, Division of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine 2017 – Present **Clinical Assistant Professor**, Department of Population Health, NYU School of Medicine

CLINICAL AFFILIATIONS

2011 – 2016 **Clinical Associate**, Division of General Internal Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital 2011 – 2016 **Internal Medicine Physician**, Department of Medicine, Boston Medical Center 2017 – Present **Clinical Assistant Professor**, Department of Population Health, NYU Langone Health

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2012-2016 **The Healer's Art**, Harvard Medical School

- Highly innovative course enabling medical students to preserve their sense of meaning and calling, and bring humanity to their work as healers

- Co-facilitated small-group discussion and

reflections 2012-2016 **Introduction to Clinical Nutrition**, Harvard Medical School

- Focuses on role of nutrition in maintaining health and preventing and treating disease, and utilizing this knowledge as a lifelong practice

- Co-facilitated small-group discussion and

presentations May 2014 **American Healthcare System**, Northeastern University

- Guest lecturer, "Public Health and Public

Service" Sept 2015 **Nutrition and Public Health**, Harvard University

- Guest lecturer, "Health Care and Homelessness, Addiction and

Nutrition" April 2016 **Capstone Course: Preparing for Internship**, Harvard Medical School

- Guest lecturer, "Vulnerable Populations" 2017-Present **Primary Care**

Addiction Series, NYU School of Medicine

- Provided addiction and correctional medicine training to NYU primary

care residents April 2019 **Grand Rounds**, University of Wisconsin Department of Medicine

- Invited Speaker, "[Battle Behind Bars: Addiction, Incarceration and Evidence-Based Treatment](#)"

EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

March 2017 **New York State Supreme Court**

Court testimony regarding Opioid Treatment Protocols at NYC jails including Rikers Island

May 2018 **Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maryland**

Expert report for client with trauma and opioid addiction facing federal felony charges

April 2019 **Office of the Attorney General for the State of Vermont**

Expert report for the Vermont Board of Medical Practice

March 2019 **Devlin Law, Portland, Oregon**

Expert report regarding a patient overdose death at a detox facility

SELECTED INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

June 2017 ***Battle Behind Bars: Impact of the Opioid Epidemic on the Incarcerated Population and Strategies to Address It***,

Opioid Crisis Conference, Pittsburgh

July 2017 ***Ethical Aspects of Addiction***, NYU Division of Medical Ethics, New York

February 2018 ***From Pain to Purpose: Understanding the Opioid Addiction & Strategies to Remedy It***,

Agents of Change Summit, San Diego

March 2018 ***The Opioid Crisis: How Did We Get Here & How Do We Get Out?***, Distinguished Lecture

Series, Florida Hospital, Orlando

May 2018 ***Opioids, Addiction and Jail: Training for Lawyers***, National Association for Criminal Defense

Lawyers, Las Vegas

August 2018 ***From Hurt to Hope: The Intersection of Addiction & Trauma, and the Path to Recovery***,

National Conference on Alcohol and Addiction Disorders, Anaheim, CA

March 2019 ***Covering Jails: Addiction Behind Bars*** [Webinar], The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, CA

April 2019 ***Agony and Ecstasy: Understanding Addiction, Why it Happens & Effective Strategies to***

Address It, 42nd Annual Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse, Des Moines, IA

April 2019 ***"I Can't Take It Anymore": The Urgent Need for Comprehensive & Compassionate***

Addiction Care in the U.S., Tuerk Conference on Mental Health & Addiction Treatment, Baltimore, MD

October 2019 ***Heroin and Healing: How My Patients Transformed the Way I Provide Care, Power of***

Storytelling conference, Bucharest, Romania

January 2020 ***Addiction and Incarceration: A Workshop for Journalists Covering Jails***, The Poynter

Institute, Dallas, TX

January 2020 ***Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine for Drug Court Professionals***, American Society of

Addiction Medicine & National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Atlanta, GA

February 2020 ***Harm Reduction Strategies and Opioid Addiction***, Agents of Change Summit, San Diego, CA

SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS

2019 **Community Service Award, Caron Treatment Centers**

Research and community advocacy and education recognition 2018 **Distinguished Lectures Series Speaker, Florida Hospital**

Helping Florida address opioid addiction in their communities 2016 **Dean's Community Service Award, Harvard Medical School**

Dedication and commitment to the health of Boston's homeless men and women 2015 **House of Representatives, Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Recognition for Serving the Commonwealth through Advocacy and Art 2015 **Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare**

Nominated for Compassionate Caregiver Award 2014 **Massachusetts Medical Society – Committee on Women in Medicine**

Named to Women Physician Leadership 2014

Honor Roll 2014 **Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare**

Nominated for Compassionate Caregiver Award 2014 **Diversity and Community Partnership, Harvard Medical School** Nominated for Excellence

in Mentoring Award

MEDIA COVERAGE – TELEVISION

2014 **Boston Herald Radio, *Doctor's Call***. "Tobacco use and Lung cancer"
2015 **Wall Street Journal**, "Adventure Travel with Serious Illness" 2015
Boston Globe, "Company Aiming to Treat Hangovers Using IV Drips" 2015
CNN, "Exercise as Medicine" 2016 **WCVB-ABC Boston**, "Brush up on Food
Safety for Memorial Day" 2017 **The Charlie Rose Show**, "Opioid Addiction"
2018 **WNET/THIRTEEN METROFOCUS**, "Opioid Battle in New York City" 2018 **DR.
OZ**, "Why Treatment is Crucial to Overcome Addiction" 2019 **Tamron Hall
Show**, "Rapper Juice WRLD Overdose Death" 2019 **Tamron Hall Show**,
"Surviving Drug Addiction" 2020 **MSNBC with Craig Melvin**, "Mental Health
and Coronavirus" 2020 **MSNBC with Craig Melvin**, "Testing, Immunity and
Coronavirus" 2020 **MSNBC Morning Joe**, "Hydroxychloroquine and Vaccine
Development" 2020 **MSNBC with Chris Jansing**, "Sports and COVID-19"

DOCUMENTARY FILM COVERAGE

2018 ***THE FACES OF THE OPIOID CRISIS***, produced by Refinery29 (featuring me and my patient, Brian)
2019 ***UNTITLED OPIOID DOCUMENTARY***, produced by Google/YouTube (release date 2020)

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXPERIENCE

July 1996 **Mother Teresa Missionaries of Charity**, Kolkata, India

Assisted nuns at *Shishu Bhavan* (home for children) in caring for orphans (feeding, bathing, medication administration) during difficult conditions of monsoon season.

Feb. 2006 **El Hospital Amistad Mexico Nicaragua**, Ticuantepe, Nicaragua

Member of Tulane Medical Mission Team to assist local physicians, educate local communities about Dengue fever, and help rebuild homes Jan. 2007 **All India Institute of Medical Sciences**, New Delhi and Ballabgar, India

Clinical and public health work. Treated patients with a diverse illnesses (meningococemia, SLE with pulmonary hemorrhage, lymphatic filariasis); assisted surgeons in O.R. April 2010 **Franciscan Church Saint Alexandre Chapel**, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Provided medical relief to ~150 earthquake victims in large urban clinic.

SELECT CLINICAL & SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS, TRAININGS

2012 **Dr Benson Henry's Mind and Body Medicine**, Harvard Medical School 2012 **Clinical Teaching Development seminar series**, MGH (Oct-Dec 2013) 2014 **Society for General Internal Medicine**, Boston, USA (poster judge) 2014 **Treating Obesity**, Harvard Medical School and MGH, Boston, USA 2015 **Harvard Health Equity and Leadership Conference**, Boston, MA* 2015 **MGH Winickoff Scholars Presentations**, Boston, MA* 2016 **Manager**

Enhancement Program, NYC Health + Hospitals, New York, NY 2017 **Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)**, NYC Health + Hospitals, New York, NY 2017 **New York Society of Addiction Medicine**, New York, NY 2018 **National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit**, Atlanta, GA* 2018 **The Atlantic PULSE: Summit on Health Care**, Boston, MA* 2019 **ASAM Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine**, Tampa, FL* 2020 **NYSAM Addiction Medicine Updates**, New York, NY

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PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2004 – Present **American College of Physicians** 2005 – 2015 **American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin** 2011 – 2016 **Indian Medical Association of New England** 2011 – 2018 **Massachusetts Medical Society** 2016 – Present **Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance use & Addiction** 2017 – Present **American Society of Addiction Medicine**

SELECT COMMUNITY SERVICE

2009 **Ovarian Cancer 5k Walk and Run**, Raleigh, NC, USA 2010 **Fundraiser: American Heart Association and Haiti Medical Relief**, Raleigh, NC [organizer] 2012 **“Sox for Socks” Fundraiser for Boston’s Homeless Population**, Boston, MA 2013 **“Cultivating Humanism II: Medicine & the Arts”**, Cambridge, MA 2014 **120th Boston Marathon**, Medical Tent Volunteer, Boston, MA 2015 **NYC HOPE 2017 Homeless Census**, Volunteer, New York, NY 2019 **NYC Medical Reserve Corps**, Medical Volunteer, New York, NY