



Biomedical Informatics Grand Rounds
Wednesday, November 30th, 2022 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Social Work Practice and Health Equity

Dr. George S Leibowitz, PhD, LICSW

Director | PhD Program in Social Welfare

Professor | Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare

Professor | Stony Brook University School of Nursing

Professor of Psychiatry | Stony Brook University Renaissance School of Medicine

Professor (visiting faculty) | Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) School of Health Systems Studies, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

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Bio: Dr George S Leibowitz is Full Professor and Doctoral Program Director at Stony Brook University's (SBU) School of Social Welfare (SSW) with cross-appointments in the Department of Psychiatry and School of Nursing. He has been working as an interdisciplinary researcher and implementation scientist focused on the assessment and treatment of behavioral health, trauma and etiological models of victimization, integrated behavioral health, health disparities, and community-engaged research with underrepresented groups. He is also working nationally with social work scholars on artificial intelligence (AI) and its intersection with practice. For much of Dr. Leibowitz's Stony Brook career he has been working as part of interprofessional teams focused on AI driven opioid epidemic research and projects that utilize big data which include Family and Population Medicine, Computer Science, Public Health, and Biomedical Informatics to investigate geographic and sociodemographic differences in opioid poisoning. He is currently Principal Investigator for HRSA grant focused on building an integrated and resilient healthcare workforce. He is also cluster leader/PI for SBU for a Patient-Centered Research Outcomes Institute grant investigating whether integration of evidence-supported Behavioral Health (BH) and primary care services, compared to simple co-location of providers, improve patient-centered outcomes. Finally, he is the lead for The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Network for NIH CTSA Translational Science (CENTS) module with the aim of enhancing trusting relationships between researchers, patients, and community members.

Abstract: Artificial Intelligence holds tremendous potential to improve the health equity and well-being in marginalized communities and underrepresented groups. There are also ethical and social implications of algorithms that can perpetuate bias and inequity. Objectives of this presentation include an overview of AI, and interdisciplinary clinical research using AI and Machine Learning (ML), with new algorithms that could reduce health disparities. Social work scholars are committed to data science and AI literacy to address pressing social justice issues and advancing knowledge and practices that can enhance agency and resilience, promote future thinking, and improve behavioral health interventions.

Educational Objects: Upon completion, participants should be able to:

- Define artificial Intelligence and machine learning/deep learning.
- Describe the ethical challenges of AI-driven healthcare and addressing bias and disparities in AI.
- Review exemplars of AI interventions and geospatial analysis focused on addictions including opioid use disorders and behavioral health.
- Discuss AI Applications in Social Work practice, such as improving access to justice.

Disclosure Statement: The faculty and planners have no relevant financial relationship with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing health care products used by or on patients.

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