

Available Project

***Title:** Trauma-informed, resilience-based telehealth intervention for improving HIV prevention and HCV care for persons who inject drugs in the Deep South

***Major Goals:** The career development objective of this K01 is to obtain the comprehensive mentored training necessary to develop expertise in improving HIV prevention, HCV care and MOUD for PWID in the Deep South through telehealth interventions. It is supported by the highly productive research environment at the University of Georgia and a team of accomplished researchers in HIV and HCV prevention and care, MOUD, trauma-informed care, resilience-based stigma reduction, and telehealth intervention development and implementation. This mentored training experience will provide expertise in behavioral intervention development; adaptation of existing evidence-based interventions; telehealth intervention development and implementation; theater testing methods; randomized trial designs; analytic techniques for assessing intervention feasibility, fidelity, acceptability, usability, and efficacy. Training outcomes are linked to three specific aims. In Aim 1, I will assess the perceptions of PWID and healthcare providers and policymakers to identify barriers and facilitators to PrEP, HCV care and MOUD uptake in the context of intersecting stigma. Using these findings in Aim 2, I will develop a theory-driven, multi-component telehealth intervention to improve HIV prevention, HCV care and MOUD uptake among PWID with 6 bi-weekly sessions. In Aim 3, I will evaluate the feasibility, acceptability, and usability of the telehealth intervention with a randomized pilot trial with 50 PWID living in the rural Deep South. This project is responsive to the NIDA priorities of trauma research, prevention services, and social determinants of health to optimize HIV prevention and HCV care continua among PWID in the Deep South.

***Status of Project:**

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Primary Place of Performance: University of Georgia

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