This week I want to highlight the next Science Cafe speaker and encourage you to Zoom in and listen!

Addressing Health Disparities in the 21st Century: Thinking Further Upstream

The traditional framework for improving the health of a community by promoting physical activity, healthy eating and tobacco regulations is not yielding the results hoped for by public health professionals. A significant reason for this is that health outcomes are not determined purely by individual behavior but rather by social, political and economic structures. A “life-course” perspective is required to understand health. Professor Ernesto Moralez (Public Health, St. Lawrence University) will discuss how factors such as poverty, housing, food insecurity and a lack of educational opportunity — the social determinants of health — are crucial drivers of health (and health disparities) in the U.S. and how they contribute to the development and treatment of chronic illness, as well as health inequities. Moralez will also discuss the heavy burden the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on complex patients (individuals dealing with more than one health condition) and give a summary of the potential community-level “aftershocks” of COVID-19. In addition, he will share preliminary results of his findings on how community health workers can be the change agents in community healthcare efforts, particularly in low-income, low-access areas.

Connect to the Zoom link from the Science Cafe website

Related Reading:

Social Determinants of Health: Healthy People 2030
A data-driven project of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and The Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion to promote, strengthen, and evaluate the nation’s efforts to improve the health and well-being of all people.

Health Disparities and Strategies Reports : Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
Since 2011, the CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Reports (CHDIR) and the Strategies for Reducing Health Disparities reports have highlighted effective public health programs that have reduced disparities.

Social Determinants of Health : Know What Affects Health
CDC resources for social determinants of health data, research, tools for action, programs, and policy.

A Framework for Educating Health Professionals to Address the Social Determinants of Health
A report from the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. A high-level framework aimed at generating more effective strategies for improving health and health care for underserved populations.

NIH National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
NIMHD invests in research and fosters collaborations and partnerships to promote and support evidence-based science to inform practice and policy. Its programs and initiatives provide a leading edge in enhancing the scientific knowledge base and designing interventions to improve health outcomes to reduce and ultimately lead to the elimination of health disparities.

Books on health disparity and inequity you can read from the Clarkson Libraries.

Read previous Weekly Notes on other topics.