DRUG USE IN UPSTATE NEW YORK:
STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE AND REDUCING THE HARMs

#EndOverdoseUpstate
Drug Use in Upstate New York: Strategies for Change and Reducing the Harms

Friday, May 11, 2018

9:00 - 9:30AM / Registration (Tillman Lobby, University Union)
Breakfast (Old Union Hall)

9:30 - 9:45AM / Welcome and Framing (Mandela Room)

- Laura Bronstein, Dean, College of Community and Public Affairs; Executive Director, Institute for Justice and Well-Being Binghamton University
- Kassandra Frederique, New York State Policy Director, Drug Policy Alliance

9:45 - 10:15AM / More than Opioids: The Social Determinants of Drug Overdose and Related Despair in the U.S. and New York State

Shannon M. Monnat, Associate Professor, Syracuse University

This keynote will explore the broader context of rural environments and small cities. This presentation will summarize recent trends in drug mortality rates and related deaths of despair (i.e., suicide, alcohol) across the U.S. and New York State, highlight large differences in rates across different types of communities, and describe relationships between structural conditions (e.g., economic, social, infrastructural) and mortality rates.

10:15 - 11:15AM / Identifying the Problems and Gaps in Services

Moderator - Benita Roth, Binghamton University

- Emily Haner, New York State Department of Health
- Holly Hagan, New York University
- John Barry, Southern Tier AIDS Program
- Tracie Gardner, Legal Action Center
- Lauren Jones, Vera Institute
- Carmela Pirich, Addiction Center of Broome County

This session will include a brief overview of the epidemiological data to help explain what is known and unknown about drug use in Central New York, the Finger Lakes, and the Southern Tier (e.g., who is using, what drugs are being used, trends over time, geographical distribution of use). Following the epidemiological overview, local experts will address treatment and harm reduction options in the surrounding communities. They will also identify service gaps in the current landscape for people on the continuum of change- from those who would like to work towards abstinence-based recovery to those who are still engaged in active drug use.
11:15 - 11:30AM / BREAK

11:30 - 12:45PM / CREATIVE STRATEGIES AND BEST PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING DRUG USE IN RURAL SETTINGS

MODERATOR - Stewart Auyash, Ithaca College

- Jamie Favaro, NEXT Distro
- Mary Isaak, Addiction Center of Broome County
- Pam Lynch, Harm Reduction Michigan
- Emma Roberts, Harm Reduction Coalition
- Ross Sullivan, Upstate University Hospital
- Jess Tilley, New England User’s Union
- Justine Waldman, REACH Medical

This session will include a panel of experts from the region and around the country discussing strategies to tailor prevention, harm reduction and treatment interventions to rural settings. Topics will include, among others, delivery of Medication Assisted Treatment, syringe exchange, drug user outreach, mobile health and social services, and housing supports.

12:45 - 1:30PM / LUNCH PROVIDED (Old Union Hall)

1:30 - 2:30PM / CHANGING LOCAL POLICY: HOW TO NAVIGATE UPSTATE POLITICS (Mandela Room)

MODERATOR - Kassandra Frederique, Drug Policy Alliance

- Brian Briggs, Southern Tier AIDS Program
- Travis Brooks, Ithaca Plan Coordinator
- Rebecca Kaufman, Broome County Department of Health
- Alexis Pleus, TruthPharm
- Kevin Revier, Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier
- Peter Volkmann, Chatham Police Department

This panel will discuss concrete strategies for building bipartisan support for local change. Panelists will discuss local policy that can advance the health and wellness of people who use drugs, how to work across the aisle, engaging your local elected and appointed officials, and successful campaigns for change.

2:30 - 2:45PM / BREAK (Old Union Hall)

Coffee, Tea, and Snacks Provided

2:45 - 3:45PM / FACILITATED REGIONAL BREAKOUTS (Old Union Hall)

Attendees will be asked to identify problems and resources specific to their region, including drug use patterns, gaps in services, and effective strategies in the current response. They will also reflect upon presentations from earlier in the morning and which approaches may be feasible in their own communities.
3:45 - 5:00PM / MEET THE EXPERTS: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSION
(Rooms 102 and 103)

This session will provide technical assistance to regional delegations and attendees who want to move forward with lessons they have learned from the conference. Experts will sit at tables and workshop with groups to talk through the distinct circumstances of the represented NY communities. Technical assistance supports will include experts in the following areas:

**MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION** – Which actions can I take at the local level?
- Keith Brown, Katal Center for Health, Equity, and Justice
- Kassandra Frederique, Drug Policy Alliance

**MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT** – How can medical providers be more responsive to people who use drugs?
- Ross Sullivan, Upstate University Hospital
- Justine Waldman, REACH Medical

**SYRINGE EXCHANGE** – How do I increase access to naloxone and sterile syringes in my community?
- Emma Roberts, Harm Reduction Coalition
- Jamie Favaro, NEXTDistro

**ORGANIZING FAMILIES** – Channeling your frustrations, pain, and grief to impact change.
- Alexis Pleus, TruthPharm

**LAW ENFORCEMENT** – What can law enforcement do to help?
- Peter Volkmann, Chatham Police Department

**TREATMENT/DETOX** – How to find and/or increase treatment?
- Carmela Pirich, Addiction Center of Broome County

**PREVENTION** – What does effective public education and prevention look like?
- Jill Alford-Hammitt, Ascension
- Sasha Simon, Drug Policy Alliance

**HOUSING** – What role should housing play in supporting people who use drugs?
- Rebecca Rathmell, Southern Tier Homeless Coalition

5:00 - 5:30PM / CLOSING: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? (Mandela Room)
Jill Alford-Hammitt is the manager of the Lourdes Student Assistance Program and the Alcohol & Drug Education Prevention Team. Ms. Alford-Hammitt has worked in human services since 1990. She began work at Lourdes in 1998, as a case manager for teen parents, and has served on the Board of Directors of RISE and STAP. Ms. Alford-Hammitt started working in substance abuse prevention in 2002 and she is committed to educating youth and the community on substance use and the disease of addiction. Since 2014 she has worked with community and school groups in four counties to host panel presentations for the purpose of raising awareness about opiate abuse and reducing the stigma of addiction. Ms. Alford-Hammitt is a member of the Broome Opioid Abuse Council, and the chairperson of the Community Education Workgroup of BOAC.

Stewart Auyash is Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Physical Education at Ithaca College. He studies and teaches public health policy, public health communication, media representations of public health and illness, health and human rights, and the social determinants of health and illness. He conducts workshops and health, human rights, and new media. He has also presented about US health policy, the war on drugs, and the opioid epidemic.

John Barry is a University of Chicago graduate with an M. A. in Social Service Administration and is a licensed social worker. He has more than 25 years of experience in the fields of HIV, substance use treatment and mental health in direct service and supervisory roles with both adults and children. He is currently the Executive Director of the Southern Tier AIDS Program a position he has held since 2008. He taught as an adjunct instructor at Binghamton University for 7 years.

Brian Briggs has been a syringe exchange peer since 2007 and has saved countless lives. He has done everything from coaching hockey to running a night club. He has presented at conferences and participated on panels to share his experiences as a syringe exchange peer. He tells it like it is.

Travis Brooks serves as the Deputy Director at the Greater Ithaca Activities Center which provides the immediate neighborhood and greater Ithaca area multicultural, educational, and recreational programs focused on social and individual development, particularly for youth and teens. Additionally, Travis serves as Co-Interim Project Manager for Ithaca’s Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Program and runs Ithaca’s chapter of My Brother’s Keeper, an initiative launched by President Obama to address opportunity gaps faced by young people of color. Travis played an instrumental role in the development of the Ithaca Plan, serving on the Law Enforcement Pillar of the Municipal Drug Policy Committee convened by Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick.
Keith Brown, MPH is the Director of Health and Harm Reduction at the Katal Center for Health, Equity and Justice. He joined Katal in May 2016 as Project Director of the Albany Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) initiative in Albany, NY. As the Director of Health and Harm Reduction, he serves as an expert in Medicaid, health, case management, and harm reduction, assisting municipalities through the country in developing strategies addressing public health and public safety. Keith holds a Master’s in Public Health from SUNY Albany and a BA in Community Mental Health from SUNY Buffalo. He is a member of the Alpha Gamma Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. At the local level, Keith is a member of Albany County’s Opioid Task Force and sits on the board of the Albany County Coalition on Homelessness.

@KeithBrownPH

Jamie Favaro is the Founder of NEXT (Needle EXchange Technology). NEXT is a web and mail-based harm reduction platform combining the concept of telehealth with traditional syringe exchange. Jamie was the Founding Executive Director of Washington Heights CORNER Project and Coordinator for the Injection Drug Users Health Alliance. When not working on NEXT, Jamie is the Senior Advisor for Strategy and Special Projects at Harm Reduction Coalition.

@NEXTDistro

Kassandra Frederique is New York State Director at the Drug Policy Alliance (DPA). Frederique previously ran the day-to-day operations of the statewide campaign to end New York’s racially biased marijuana arrests, which cut the number of NYC marijuana arrests in half. In addition to working for policy solutions to reduce the harms associated with drug use, Frederique works with communities throughout the state to address and resolve the collateral consequences of the War on Drugs – state violence. As a co-author of Blueprint for a Public Health and Safety Approach to Drug Policy and as technical advisor to Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick’s The Ithaca Plan, Frederique cultivates and mobilizes powerful coalitions in communities devastated by drug misuse and drug criminalization to develop municipal strategies to foster healthier and safer communities. Frederique’s professional focus includes building a reparative justice framework that positions Black and Latinx leaders to create solutions that not only end and repair the harms of the drug war but also create accountability structures between policymakers and people who use drugs. A native New Yorker, Frederique holds a M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University and earned a B.S. in Industrial Labor Relations at Cornell University.

@kassandra_Fred
As the Legal Action Center’s first Associate Director, **Tracie Gardner** plays a leading role in the overall growth of the organization and creating strategic partnerships that will support LAC’s mission. As a senior member of the policy team, Tracie spearheads major initiatives to advance the Center’s federal and state priorities. In addition, she also plays a key role as part of agency management in staff development, administration, fundraising and strategic planning. Tracie has worked more than 25 years in the public health, public policy and not-for-profit fields as a policy advocate, trainer and lobbyist. She has led advocacy campaigns that won substantial increases in funding for substance use, HIV and alternatives to incarceration and reentry services, landmark HIV confidentiality and testing legislation, and landmark criminal justice reforms. From 2015-2017, Tracie served as the Assistant Secretary of Health for New York State, where she oversaw the state’s mental hygiene agencies, including, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, the Office of Mental Health, the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs. Prior to her appointment by the Cuomo Administration, Tracie was a key member of the Legal Action Center for over fourteen years, serving as LAC’s Co-Director of Policy. In this role she conducted and coordinated the Center’s New York State public policy advocacy in the areas of substance use disorders, criminal justice and HIV/AIDS. Tracie focused on special projects to promote Medicaid enrollment and health care access for the justice-involved population in the Office of Health Insurance Programs at the State Department of Health. Tracie received a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College.

[@TracieMGardner](https://twitter.com/TracieMGardner)

**Holly Hagan, PhD**, is a Professor at NYU College of Nursing, and Co-director of the NIDA Center for Drug Use and HIV Research. Dr. Hagan trained as an infectious disease epidemiologist, and her research has addressed the etiology, epidemiology, natural history, prevention and treatment of blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections in key populations in general and among people who use drugs (PWUD) in particular. Dr. Hagan is a member of the WHO Global Burden of Disease Study Diseases and Injuries Group, she served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on the Prevention and Control of Viral Hepatitis in the United States, and has been an advisor to the US Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, and the Canadian Institutes of Health on national programs to detect, diagnose and treat HCV infections. She is currently Chair of the Steering Committee for the NIH/CDC/SAMHSA/Appalachian Regional Commission Rural Opioid Initiative.

**Emily Haner** is a program evaluator in the Bureau of Occupational Health and Injury Prevention in the New York State Department of Health. She currently serves as a lead evaluator for the Prescription Drug Overdose Program Prevention for States project on several opioid prevention initiatives, including buprenorphine expansion initiatives and opioid data and surveillance activities. Before transitioning to her current role, Ms. Haner conducted research and program evaluation on a variety of environmental health issues, including Legionnaires Disease in healthcare facilities and community cluster coordination and response between partner agencies. She has experience in both qualitative and quantitative program evaluation. Ms. Haner is a graduate of the University at Albany School of Public Health with a Master’s in Public Health concentrating in epidemiology.
Lauren Jones is a lawyer with the Vera Institute of Justice’s Greater Justice New York Project, where she works to end mass incarceration in New York State and create a fairer justice system. She leads Vera’s work on designing the Manhattan Criminal Court Resource Center, which reimagines misdemeanor justice and seeks to provide stability in people’s lives by connecting them to benefits, healthcare, employment, and more. Before joining Vera in 2017, Lauren was the Civil Rights National Counsel at the Anti-Defamation League. There, she led the League’s advocacy and developed its policies on a wide range of civil rights issues, including ending mass incarceration and dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline. A graduate of NYU and NYU School of Law, Lauren began her legal career as a family defense lawyer at the Center for Family Representation.

Rebecca Kaufman is the Director of Public Health for Broome County. She received her Masters of Science in Community Health from State University of New York College at Cortland. She started her career at Lourdes Youth Services as a Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist. Next, she joined the Tioga County Health Department where she worked five and a half years in a variety of roles ending as the Deputy Director of Public Health. As part of her role in Broome County, she serves as the Broome Opioid Awareness Council (BOAC) Coordinator. Growing up in Upstate New York, Rebecca has seen this opioid epidemic affect her family, friends and classmates. She feels we need to come together as a community in all sectors to truly save lives. Rebecca was born and raised in Endwell, NY where she still lives with her family today.

Pam Lynch LMSW, CAADC has 22 years’ experience working in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders, and their co-morbidities. Lynch was involved in starting the first syringe access programs in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Grand Rapids, Michigan in the late 1990s. She left Michigan for a stint at Chicago Recovery Alliance, and then Preventive Health Project, in Times Square, and St. Anne’s Corner of Harm Reduction in the Bronx. She testified for the establishment of exchange programs in both Newark, and Paterson, NJ, in 2008. Lynch now teaches Master's level social work classes for Grand Valley State University, as an adjunct professor, while co-directing Harm Reduction Michigan, a small community based organization providing harm reduction resources, and syringe access services throughout the state of Michigan.

Shannon Monnat is the Lerner Chair for Public Health Promotion and Associate Professor of Sociology in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She is also a Senior Research Associate in the Center for Policy Research at SU, a Fellow at the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. Dr. Monnat's recent research includes demographic and epidemiological studies of geographic variation in opioid abuse and other “diseases and deaths of despair”. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed academic journal articles, book chapters, research briefs, and reports, and has presented more than 90 scientific papers to national and international academic, policymaker, and public audiences. Her research has been funded by several foundations and agencies, including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, USDA, National Institute of Justice, and Institute for New Economic Thinking. Dr. Monnat received an Associate’s degree from Jefferson Community College (Watertown, NY) in 1998, a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the State University of New York at Oswego in 2000, and a PhD in Sociology from the University at Albany (SUNY) in 2008. She is a native of Lowville, NY. (Twitter handle: @smonnat)
Carmela Pirich completed her master’s program at Adelphi University’s school of social work in 1996, focusing on social work in health, mental health, and chemical dependency services. She spent the next several years focusing on treating adults with addictions, adolescents with addictions and their families and program development. After moving to Maryland in 1998, she worked for the Medstar Corporation handling urgent psychiatric care in a partial hospitalization, locked unit inpatient setting, and conducting emergency room psychiatric consultations. As she also had an interest in process improvement, marketing, and finance, she began attending the University of Baltimore’s Merrick School of Business in 1999, studying for a Master’s in Business Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Management. She was thrilled to be hired as a team-member at the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital’s Department of Psychiatry as an emergency psychiatric consultant. Ms. Pirich was grateful for the opportunity to work with the high-achieving and dedicated emergency room staff at Hopkins. After graduating with her MBA, Ms. Pirich began working at Amerigroup as a financial analyst and found ways to integrate business administration with her social work skill set. In 2008, Ms. Pirich was hired as the Executive Director at the Addiction Center of Broome County and left Maryland to work in Broome County. In the time that she has been at ACBC, the agency has been able to implement many new evidence-based programs, and enhance integrated dual disorder treatment. She has been an adjunct for the MSW program at Binghamton University since the fall of 2010, giving instruction on Evidence-Based Practice in Mental Health and several other graduate level courses. She also teaches at BCC in the psychology department. She loves working on special projects, like grant writing and became a living kidney donor in July of 2016.

Alexis Pleus is the Executive Director of Truth Pharm which she founded in 2015. She’s a structural engineer of 27 years turned advocate and grassroots organizer after losing her oldest of three sons, Jeff to an overdose in August of 2014. Truth Pharm works to raise awareness, reduce the stigma, create programs and advocate for policy change to reduce the harms caused by substance use. Alexis was named NYS Recovery Advocate of the Year by Friends of Recovery NY in 2017, is selected to be the recipient of this year’s Citizen Action’s Phoenix Award, is an educator for the community, a comfort to families and a fierce advocate for those impacted by substance use, criminalization and addiction.

@TruthPharm

Rebecca Rathmell currently serves as the CoC Coordinator for the Southern Tier Homeless Coalition (CoC NY-511). Active within the local homeless services sector since 2007, Rebecca previously conducted performance management of contracted services for Broome County’s Departments of Social Services and Mental Health and has held direct service, development, and program management roles within Adult Congregate Care Level 2 and Permanent Supportive Housing settings. Guided by a commitment to individual worth, Rebecca is a persistent and passionate advocate for increased access to housing for extremely low-income and vulnerable populations.
Kevin Revier is a PhD candidate in sociology at the State University of New York at Binghamton. His research draws on drug war policing and harm reduction during the contemporary opioid crisis in rural upstate New York. Merging qualitative research with activist aims, he works with anti-mass incarceration group Justice and Unity for the Southern Tier (JUST) and advocacy organization Truth Pharm. Kevin has published in a collaborative book on recent shifts in social control in upstate New York called After Prisons? Freedom, Decarceration, and Justice Disinvestment. He has also published in Crime, Media, Culture and Critical Criminology.

Emma Roberts has worked for the Harm Reduction Coalition as training consultant since 2009 and in 2014 was hired on as full-time staff. Today, Emma is the Director of Capacity Building Services. Her focus is to provide technical assistance and support to programs promoting syringe access, drug user health, Hepatitis C services and overdose prevention. Originally from the UK, Emma started her career in community development work in 1990. She became involved in Harm Reduction work in 1996 when the National Health Service funded one of the first syringes exchanges in the North of England in the corner of the community center she worked at. Since then Emma has gone on to manage and lead various community based programs including Getaway Girls, a Young Women’s charity for 7 years. She landed in New York in 2008 where she has coordinated a syringe exchange program and mobile health program providing medical and dental services to vulnerable street based and homeless populations in the city operating across South Bronx, Harlem and parts of Brooklyn.

Benita Roth is Professor of Sociology, History, and Women’s Studies at Binghamton University, and author of the 2017 book The Life and Death of ACT UP/LA: Anti-AIDS Activism in Los Angeles from the 1980s to the 2000s. She is an intersectional feminist scholar who explores inequalities and social protest dynamics, and is co-director of BU’s Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. Her current work focuses on grassroots responses to the opioid epidemic, and, she has been working with the harm reduction group Truth Pharm (truthpharm.org) for the past 18 months to reduce the stigma of opioid addiction and bring resources to individuals in recovery.

Sasha Simon is the Safety First Program Manager for the Drug Policy Alliance, based in New York. In this role, she manages the development and evaluation of Safety First, DPA’s comprehensive, harm reduction-based drug education curriculum for high school students. Sasha has spent over a decade teaching, researching and developing evidence-based health programs and policies for adolescents, specifically in the field of sexual health. She advocates for the application of best practices learned from comprehensive sex education to be applied to the development and institutionalization of comprehensive drug education. Sasha supports high school educators, administrators, parents, students and external evaluators with the goal of making Safety First a nationally viable curriculum. Sasha earned her Master’s in Public Health at Columbia University, specializing in Sociomedical Sciences.
Ross Sullivan completed his medical school education at SUNY Upstate Medical University. After, he entered and finished a residency in Emergency Medicine at the same hospital. Dr. Sullivan then completed a medical toxicology fellowship at the SUNY Upstate Poison Control Center and SUNY Upstate Emergency Department. Dr. Sullivan is also board certified in Addiction Medicine. Dr. Sullivan is currently the medical director of medical toxicology and the fellowship director of the medical toxicology fellowship at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, NY. He also is the director of the Upstate Emergency Medicine Opioid Bridge Clinic, as well as the medical director for Syracuse Behavioral Health. Dr. Sullivan currently is: a member of the Medical Advisory Panel to OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Service); member of the New York DOH buprenorphine work group, and Emergency Medicine consultant SAMHSA.

Jess Tilley has been working in harm reduction for two decades. She was introduced to harm reduction in 1996 and has since dedicated her life to the movement. She firmly believes harm reduction saved her life and participates in her community by giving back what she has received. Her school of harm reduction incorporates love and acceptance of others no matter where they are in their journey. Over the past decade she has worked to organize the New England Drug Users Union, which has multiple chapters all over the northeast. She has occupied and explored many roles in typical non-profit structures, and her passion remains front line activism. Currently she is working to discover and educate drug-using leaders in the disciplines of outreach, community building, advocacy for basic human rights and nuances of human connection. She calls her school of harm reduction HRH413, providing trainings to service agencies in the true meaning of harm reduction. Urgently, she heads the NEUU SIF Task Force. She hopes to be second or third, not first.

Sheila Vakharia is the Policy Manager of the Office of Academic Engagement for the Drug Policy Alliance. In that role, she helps DPA staff and others understand a range of drug policy issues while also responding to new studies with critiques and analysis. Additionally, she is responsible for cultivating relationships with researchers from a wide range of disciplines aligned with DPA’s policy interests and working to mobilize academics in service of DPA policy campaigns. Dr. Vakharia’s research and teaching interests include harm reduction therapy, drug policy reform, drug user stigma, overdose and overdose prevention, and social work education. Sheila is on the Board of HAMS Harm Reduction Network and is a member of the Harm Reduction Therapy Research Group. Dr. Vakharia earned her doctorate at Florida International University’s School of Social Work. She received her Master’s in Social Work from Binghamton University and a Post-Master’s Certificate in the Addictions from New York University.
Peter Volkman began his law enforcement career in 1986 as a patrol officer for the Ossining, N.Y. Police Department. In 1994, he became a Clinical Director with the Hudson Valley Critical Incident Stress Management Team and provided psychological support services for police officers, firefighters, and E.M.S. workers. Upon retirement from the Ossining Police Department in 2006, Volkman became a firefighter with Stuyvesant Fire Company. He was later a commander in the Stockport, New York, Police Department before assuming his current role as the Chief of the Chatham Police Department. As Chief, he has built a reputation based upon community engagement. He has created policy initiatives including the “Your Cop” program, which has police officers meet and stay in regular contact with residents of assigned neighborhoods, and the “Chatham Cares 4 U” (C.C.4.U.) Initiative, which provides transportation and treatment for residents suffering from opioid addiction. Volkman holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Mercy College, a M.S.W. from Fordham University, and is a certified E.M.T. He is an active member of the Stuyvesant, Volunteer Fire Company and has appeared in numerous media outlets including Dateline N.B.C., Discovery Channel, and M.S.N.B.C.

Justine Waldman is a board certified Emergency Medicine Physician. For 15 years she has practiced emergency medicine in Ithaca, NY. Her interest in medicine has always been driven by access to care and health equity issues. In 2005, she spearheaded the opening of the Ithaca Free Clinic, a volunteer multidisciplinary clinic open to the uninsured. In 2014, she was part of the Harm Reduction Team that gave recommendations for the Ithaca Plan: A Public Health and Safety Approach to Drugs and Drug Policy. Since her involvement on that team, she has focused most of her work on Drug User Health. In December of 2016, she began providing medical services at the first Health Hub at a Syringe Exchange Program in New York state at the Southern Tier Aids Program in Ithaca. At the Health Hub, Dr. Waldman provides Opiate Replacement Therapy, Hepatitis C treatment, and acute care to People Who Use Drugs. She is currently the Medical Director of Reach Medical in Ithaca, NY, a medical practice offering Opiate Replacement Therapy and medical care to People Who Use Drugs. Reach Medical is the first project under The REACH Project, a non profit providing Respectful Equitable Access to Compassionate Health, of which Dr. Waldman is the President of the Board of Directors.