

FAMILY PLANNING MINI-SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Keynote Speaker: Win Brown, PhD, MS

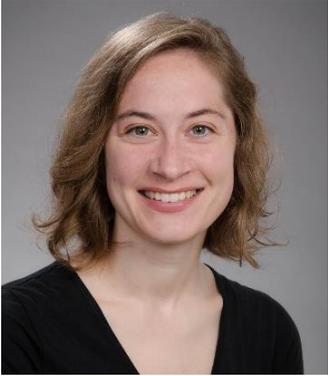
Trained as a social demographer, Win Brown has worked since the early 1980s in a variety of applied public health settings, mostly in the developing world. He spent nine years as a full faculty member at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health, where he taught and advised cohorts of MPH and PhD students, many of whom have succeeded in international public health and academic careers. In his current position as Senior Program Officer for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Family Planning Strategy, he is responsible for conceptualizing, funding, and managing grants that contribute to the global measurement agenda in family planning and reproductive health.



Jane Cover, PhD, MPH is a social science researcher with nearly 15 years of experience working in global health, focusing on improving access to contraceptive technologies and strengthening health systems in low-resource settings. As a research manager in the reproductive health division at PATH, she oversees studies that examine the feasibility, acceptability and impact of introducing a next generation injectable contraception. She is the principal investigator for five studies focused on self-injection of subcutaneous DMPA, including the first study of self-injection in the context of sub Saharan Africa. She has also conducted research related to HPV vaccine introduction in Vietnam and Uganda, the appeal of pericoital contraception in Uganda and is beginning a new study examining PrEP (pre exposure prophylaxis) adherence for HIV prevention among adolescent girls and young women in Kenya. Dr. Cover has a PhD in sociology from the University of Washington, and an MPH from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. She has lived and worked extensively in sub Saharan Africa.



Maria Pyra, MEd, MPH, PhDc is an epidemiologist focused on women's reproductive health. She received her MPH from the University of Illinois at Chicago and worked at the Women's Interagency HIV Study before coming to the University of Washington for her dissertation. Her research interests include HIV/STI prevention, hormonal contraception, and vaginal microbiota.



Elizabeth Harrington, MD is a Senior Fellow in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Division of Family Planning at the University of Washington. In collaboration with colleagues in Kenya and the UW Department of Global Health, her fellowship research focuses on the implementation and evaluation of a mHealth SMS intervention to support postpartum family planning use among women and couples in Kenya. Dr. Harrington is currently co-PI of a community-based study investigating the social context of unmet need for family planning among adolescent women in western Kenya. This mixed-methods study employs qualitative interviews and social network analysis to gain insight into how adolescents conceptualize “need” for contraception and pregnancy intendedness, and how they are influenced by the social environment. Her research interests center on the gendered and socio-cultural aspects of reproductive health and decision-making, reproductive health service delivery and quality, and (un)safe abortion.



Alison Roxby MD, MSc received her MD degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master's in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has worked in 5 different African countries to improve access to HIV care, promote family planning, and prevent HIV transmission. She completed an infectious disease fellowship at University of Washington, completing research in Kenya as a Fogarty Fellow. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Global Health, and holds an R21 award from NIAID to research effects of contraception on the vaginal microbiome, and an R01 award to study sexually transmitted infections and reproductive health in a cohort of adolescent girls in Kenya. She is an investigator with the Nairobi, Kenya site of the Male Contraception Clinical Trials Network. She maintains a clinical practice seeing adult HIV patients at Madison Clinic, and at Roosevelt Virology Clinic.



Jennifer Unger, MD, MPH is an Assistant Professor, Obstetrician-Gynecologist and clinical researcher focusing on the utilization of novel technologies and behavioral interventions to improve global maternal child health and family planning. With collaborators from computer science and global health at the University of Washington and University of Nairobi, Dr. Unger designed Mobile WACH (Mobile Solutions for Women's and Children's Health), a unique mobile platform harnessing the capability of the computer-human interaction to send and receive personalized, tailored and novel messaging with pregnant and post-partum women in Kenya. She has done reproductive health research and programmatic work in Mexico, Nicaragua and in Kenya. She has clinical expertise in maternal health and family planning as well as design of mHealth behavioral interventions to impact reproductive health. Dr. Unger is Associate Director of the UW Global WACH and co-instructor of the Global Perspectives in Reproductive Health course at the University of Washington.



Sarah Prager, MD, MAS is a UW associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is the director of the Family Planning Division and Family Planning Fellowship. She is board certified with the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Prager provides the full spectrum of general obstetrics and gynecologic care. Her special clinical focus is in family planning, helping women navigate their needs around abortion, contraception and miscarriage. She believes in working with women to provide them with the safest, most effective solution to their healthcare wants and needs.



Renee Heffron, PhD, MPH is an Assistant Professor of Global Health and Epidemiology at the University of Washington. Her research focuses on HIV prevention in sub-Saharan Africa and intersections with reproductive health. She has been particularly focused on antiretroviral-based HIV prevention interventions, ART and PrEP, and utilizing a variety of methods from the fields of clinical epidemiology and implementation science to study their use and delivery. For this work, Dr. Heffron collaborates extensively with colleagues in Kenya and Uganda. She is also very engaged in global and local research to understand the place for HIV prevention among people affected by HIV who desire children and how pregnancy can be an opportunity to promote HIV prevention. Additionally, Dr. Heffron is involved in multiple epidemiologic studies of hormonal contraceptives and their effect on HIV acquisition and interaction with antiretrovirals used for HIV treatment and prevention. Her methodologic toolkit ranges from traditional clinical epidemiology to techniques in causal inference as well as qualitative research and implementation science.