

Research Centre Seminar Series

Nick Hulbert-Williams,

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When :

Tuesday, February 23
12:00—13:00

Where :

Auditorium A
(Room B-309, basement)
St-Mary's Hospital center
3830 Lacombe Avenue, Montreal

A light lunch will be served

Everyone is welcomed !

What do we really know about the broad impact of cancer ?

Special considerations for minority demographic groups

Abstract : The psychological impact of cancer is now widely acknowledged; this marks great steps forward in response to the global drive towards research and clinical innovation within psychosocial oncology over recent decades. However, much of our knowledge is based on research conducted with a very specific sub-sample of patients and there is an important question to be asked about how representative these cancer-related experiences are. This seminar will focus on two important groups of cancer patient: those with an intellectual disability (ID) and those with a minority sexual identity (MSI). Our research has demonstrated that whilst the needs of those with an ID are similar to other cancer groups, they are often more challenging to meet. Additionally, care staff aren't always prepared and confident to manage complex and interacting cancer and ID care needs. In a separate study, we have found that the cancer experiences of those identifying with MSI are significantly poorer than in heterosexual patients, and that these could have profound consequences on their longer-term psychological adjustment and perceptions of care. I will conclude by advocating for more research to address the equality and diversity gap in psychosocial oncology knowledge and practice.

About the speaker : Nick Hulbert-Williams is a Coaching Psychologist and Professor of Behavioural Medicine at the University of Chester (UK) where he Directs the Chester Research Unit for the Psychology of Health. Nick is a contextual behavioural scientist and he is especially interested in the application of Relational Frame Theory in the development of effective psychological interventions for use in psychological coaching and healthcare. As a core theme of his work, Nick has been researching the psychological impact of cancer diagnosis and treatment, and the consequences for both patients and their family members. He was Chair of the British Psychosocial Oncology Society from 2010-2014, is a member of the UK National Cancer Research Institute Psychosocial Oncology and Survivorship Clinical Studies Group and is Chair of the International Psycho-Oncology Society Research Committee. He is a member a UK Charitable Trust dedicated to providing holistic psychosocial care to those affected by cancer.

St. Mary's has a strong commitment towards the education of the hospital's staff, of its patients, and of the neighbouring community. The Research Centre hosts bi-weekly seminars open to everyone.