



Investigator Spotlight

Kinna Thakarar, DO, MPH

"I'm hoping the results of the study will help inform policy, which is really the point of doing this -- helping the community..."

"Getting the patient perspective on substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic... I think their voice is really important... to figure out how we get the services that are needed where they're needed."

Background

- Assistant Professor of Medicine, Infectious Disease, Maine Medical Center
- Board Certification in Addiction Medicine, Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine
- Attending Physician, Infectious Disease, InterMed
- Participant, Northern New England Clinical Translational Research Network (NNE-CTR)

Research

Research Interests

- Infectious diseases
- Addiction medicine
- Substance use disorders
- Vulnerable populations
- Rural Health

Research Goals

- To reduce infectious diseases associated with injection drug use by assessing patients' knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding safe injection techniques and identifying factors predicting syringe services program use and other harm reduction services
- To inform future interventions and improve access to these services in northern New England and rural communities

NNE-CTR Network

Participation

- Received Round 2 Pilot funding in 2018
- Used Research Navigation services for assistance with research design, database development, and data analysis
- Used Rural Health Research and Delivery Core to identify research assistants to support rural sites

Benefits

"I've done multidisciplinary studies but this is my first time doing a prospective study and leading it and working with different sites... If I can prove I can manage a multi-site project as a PI, that will put me in a good position to apply for funding through SAMHSA, NIDA or PCORI."

"It's been a great way to connect to infectious disease docs in different areas of Maine and northern New England." — Dr. Kinna Thakarar

Learn more

The NNE-CTR Network leverages and coordinates regional resources to conduct collaborative clinical and translation research and disseminate findings to improve both health and healthcare delivery in our region. To learn more or join the NNE-CTR Network, visit: <http://nne-ctr.net/>

This work is supported by the NIH CTR grant (NNE-CTR): U54GM115516