

The Program to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis in Haiti:

The Role of Drug Donations, Community Perceptions, and Access to Health Care

Nanette Barkey
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NOVEMBER

2

12:00 to 1:00

Iowa City Public Library . Meeting Room A



Elephantiasis is a disfiguring and stigmatizing disease but it can be eliminated in a population if everyone takes a drug once a year for five to seven years. The drug manufacturer donates the medication and the Gates Foundation, among others, supports efforts to distribute it to people in endemic areas. The formula to wipe out lymphatic Filariasis (elephantiasis) appears simple, but on the ground there are myriad issues as a well-designed public health program bumps up against real people. This talk places the LF program into the larger contexts of the Haitian health care system, American involvement in Haiti, and global programs to eliminate tropical diseases. Haiti is a complex environment for health projects, but the difficulties encountered there cut across countries and diseases, revealing deeper issues facing global health programs around the world.

Nanette Barkey is in Community and Behavioral Health and the Global Health Studies Program at the University of Iowa. She does research on maternal and child health, the long-term health effects of war, and health disparities in populations of African origin. Professor Barkey studied the lymphatic Filariasis project in Leogane, Haiti in the spring of 2009 and developed intervention strategies that are currently being evaluated.



Free and Open to the Public. Refreshments will be served!

This event is sponsored by University of Iowa International Programs, Iowa City Public Library and the Stanley-UI Foundation Support Organization.

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