

SYMPOSIUM ON IMMIGRATION AND ALTERNATIVE HEALING SYSTEMS

Organized by the Immigration and Health Initiative (IAHI)

**Urban Public Health Program, The School of the Health Sciences, The Schools of the Health Professions
Hunter College of the City University of New York**

Dr. Sana Loue Keynote Speaker

Dr. Sana Loue is a Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the School of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University, and the director of the Center for Minority Public Health. She serves as the editor of the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, formerly titled the *Journal of Immigrant Health*. Dr. Loue's areas of research focus on HIV-related risk among underserved and marginalized populations, family violence, and forensic epidemiology. She holds doctoral degrees in epidemiology and medical anthropology, as well as a law degree.

Objectives of the presentation

- Identify barriers to the delivery of care for immigrants
- Identify the elements of culturally competent healthcare
- Identify alternative mechanisms for the delivery of care and elements of that care for immigrant communities

Abstract: Health Care for Immigrants: A Consideration of Delivery and Content

Immigrants face significant barriers in their attempts to access adequate healthcare. Some of these obstacles relate to the mechanisms of delivery, while others relate to the content of the health message. Discussion focuses on the integration of nontraditional mechanisms and components for the delivery of care. Empirical data from a qualitative study of the context of HIV risk among Puerto Rican women with diagnoses of severe mental illness are utilized as a case study. Spirituality emerges as a key factor to be considered in the implementation of health promotion-disease prevention programs, suggesting that collaborative relationships should be forged with clergy and other spiritual advisors in order to facilitate acceptance of behavior change messages to improve health.