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Speaker: **Marcel Yotebieng, Albert Einstein College of Medicine**

Topic: **Achieving Universal Healthcare Coverage in Sub-Saharan Africa Without Compromising on Quality: Lessons from Scaling Up HIV Care Services**

Date: **Thursday, October 8th, 2020**

Time: **12:00 - 1:30 PM (EST)**

Place: **Zoom Webinar: [Register Here](#)**

All Are Welcome!

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Yotebieng is Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY. He started his professional career as physician in Cameroon before moving to US. He holds additional degrees in Maternal and Child Health (MPH) and in Epidemiology/Biostatistics (PhD), both from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Over the past two decades, he has worked in multiple countries in sub-Saharan Africa as clinician, public health practitioner, and researcher. Between 2009 and 2013, he lived in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where he developed an extensive research portfolio focused on HIV and Tuberculosis prevention, care, and treatment outcomes mostly among women of reproductive age and children. He has served as PI or Co-PI for numerous grants funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Gates Foundation, the World Health Organization, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. His work has informed international guidelines on management and treatment of HIV in children or DRC national guidelines on Tuberculosis management. He has served as member of the scientific committee that advises the National TB Program in the DR Congo on guidelines since 2011. More importantly, he also served on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee on Improving the Quality of Health Care Globally. He currently leads a large trial using data driven continuous quality improvement interventions to optimize long-term outcomes of ART in women who initiate lifelong therapy because of pregnancy in DRC, and co-lead with Drs. Kathryn Anastos and Denis Nash the Central Africa International Database to Evaluate AIDS. His areas of research include: Implementation research, Program evaluation, Clinical trials, HIV prevention, including the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT), HIV care and treatment, Tuberculosis, and Maternal and child health.

ABOUT THE TALK

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines universal healthcare coverage (UHC) as “ensuring that all people have access to needed health services (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation) of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship”. It is a global priority highlighted in Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals which seeks to “ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages”. Driven by efforts to scale up infectious disease services, sub-Sahara Africa experienced the fastest growth in the UHC service coverage index, a composite index of 14 indicators which measures availability and capacity of essential health service in domains from reproductive and child health to non-communicable diseases, from 2000-2017. However, the Region still has the lowest health service coverage globally. With inadequate basic infrastructures, human resource gaps, general poor quality of services, and low trust in health practitioners and medical authorities, universal access to basic health services in sub-Sahara Africa is a challenge and whether it can be achieved without compromising on quality remain to be shown. I will use lessons learnt from scaling up HIV services on the continent to illustrate the challenge and discuss potential approaches to address the challenge.