



UC Center Sacramento

“Fewer Hospitalizations, More Health: Widening Gaps in Unnecessary Hospitalizations During COVID-19”

Wednesday, October 13th

12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on October 12th to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, October 11th at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

Dr. Sarkisian will present work done by her team and others examining the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and response on racial/ethnic disparities in unnecessary hospitalizations. Though it is widely appreciated that many people tragically missed out on important healthcare during the pandemic/lockdown, what is generally less appreciated is that pandemic-driven declines in health care utilization were not all bad: unnecessary and harmful medical care also declined dramatically during the pandemic and lockdown. Unfortunately, as Dr. Sarkisian’s team has shown, this “upside” to the more judicious use of healthcare does not appear to have been evenly distributed, with non-Latino whites being the most likely to benefit from avoiding unnecessary and potentially harmful hospitalizations. What can we learn from these historic changes in care in order to improve health and decrease racial/ethnic disparities moving forward?



Dr. Catherine Sarkisian MD, MSHS is a Professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA/Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research, and Staff Physician at the Greater Los Angeles VA Healthcare System. She is Director of the recently-launched UCLA Value-Based Care Research Consortium. She is also Director of Los Angeles Community Academic Partnership for Research in Aging (L.A. CAPRA), an NIH funded partnership between UCLA and The City and County of Los Angeles Area Agencies on Aging to support research on sustainable programs to improve quality of life of under-resourced seniors. Recently her research has increasingly focused on health system interventions to reduce low-value care; she was Principal Investigator on an American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation-funded project to implement Choosing Wisely™ interventions at L.A. County Department of Health Services and she is a Co-Investigator on the NIH/NIA-funded U.S. Deprescribing Research Network (USDeN), supporting research to reduce unnecessary medications. She is Director of the NIH/NIA-funded Resource Center for Minority Aging Research/Center for Healthcare Improvement of Minority Elders (RCMAR/CHIME) Community Liaison Core and Co-Leader of the UCLA Clinical and Translational Science Institute Special Populations Program. She received her A.B. Degree (with Honors) in Philosophy from Princeton University, her M.D. from University of California San Francisco, and an MSHS in Health Services from the UCLA (now Fielding) School of Public Health.

For questions contact Brooke Miller-Jacobs at (916) 445-5161 or uccs-talks@ucdavis.edu

The views and opinions expressed during this lecture are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of UCCS.