



# York eHealth Alliance Lecture Series

Faculty of Health



## eHealth Innovations to Address Health Inequities: A Case of Computer-assisted health-assessment in Primary Care

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Health, Nursing and Environmental studies  
Building, HNES 402

**Abstract:** Equity in health care access is a key social determinant of population health. Fostering equity mechanisms is more salient today than ever before due to the challenges of economic recession and changing demographics. A *forward looking* approach is to embrace eHealth innovations for community empowerment. One such example is the use of interactive computer-assisted health-assessments in primary care for prevention and health promotion. Dr. Ahmad will present her program of research on eHealth for psychosocial healthcare re-orientation at the critical intersections of gender, ethnicity and migration. This action research grounded in principles of social science includes quantitative and qualitative studies with inner city women, refugees and healthcare providers. Her recent research demonstrates that interactive computer-assisted assessments can enable patients to disclose socially stigmatized issues (e.g., partner violence, compromised mental health) and assist providers to offer needed care and referrals. The potential to develop integrated care models will be highlighted as an important pathway for simultaneous actions on the multiple health determinants that improve life conditions.

**Biography:** Farah Ahmad is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health, School of Health Policy and Management. She is also affiliated with the Centre for Research on Inner City Health, St. Michael's Hospital as Associate Scientist, and with the CIHR Strategic Training Initiatives on Health Research on Health, Care, Place and Technology as a Mentor. Dr. Ahmad completed her medical training at Punjab University and earned master's at Harvard University and doctorate at the University of Toronto in public health sciences with specialization in health promotion and disease prevention. She held several prestigious fellowships, including awards from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research during her doctorate and post-doctorate.