

# 2021-2022 Assistant Professor Excellence (APeX) Speaker Series

## "Examining the cultural and community contexts to address opioid misuse and OUD in Black communities"

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

12:15 - 1:15 pm

via Microsoft Teams

*Dr. Lauren Gilbert*

Assistant Professor

Department of Health Systems &  
Population Health Sciences

College of Medicine



While Black Americans have similar rates of opioid misuse as national rates, Black Americans in urban areas have seen the sharpest rise in opioid drug death rates, with the biggest rise from synthetic opioids. Disparities in access, utilization, retention, and recovery outcomes for Black patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) have been well-documented. The overall goal of my research program is to improve quality and equity in the prevention strategies and access to treatment in Black communities. In order to achieve this health equity goal, I will develop a culturally centered program from the results and synthesis of multiple projects that illuminate the opioid crisis in Black communities through a Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) framework. This research centers the priorities of the Black communities by engaging them in research to address and alleviate the burden of opioid misuse in a culturally responsive and respectful manner.

### Speaker Biography

Dr. Lauren R. Gilbert, PhD, MPH is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the University of Houston College of Medicine and the Humana Integrated Health System Sciences Institute. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Florida. She is passionate about working with communities to identify the unique health issues and collaborating to support their solutions to achieve health equity. With community-based participatory research (CBPR) as guiding framework, Dr. Gilbert examines health disparities of underserved and rural communities through a sociological lens. She is interested in examining substance abuse prevention and treatment disparities to develop community-based interventions and strategies.

*The Assistant Professor Excellence Lecture Series (APeX) is intended to showcase the breadth and depth of groundbreaking research, scholarship, and creative activity being undertaken by UH early career faculty across disciplines, as well as to offer opportunities for cross-disciplinary networking.*



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