

Prevention Science and the Professionalization of Prevention Practice



Please join prevention researcher Dr. Zili Sloboda for an overview of her work and facilitated questions led by Drs. Caryn Blitz and Maria Monroe-DeVita, chairs of the Policy/Funder Network of Expertise. Dr. Sloboda will be discussing the growing effort to professionalize the prevention workforce, progress that has been made, and recommendations for future work.

Date: May 8th, 2023

Time: 9-10:30am PT/12-1:30pm ET

Location: Zoom, register [here](#)

Speaker:



Dr. Zili Sloboda

Zili Sloboda, ScD. was trained in medical sociology at New York University and in mental health and epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her research has focused on substance use epidemiology, services research, and the evaluation of treatment and prevention programs. Her current focus is on workforce development in the area of prevention and the relationship between training and the implementation of evidence-based prevention interventions and policies. She has served on the faculties of Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, the University of Illinois School of Public Health, and until 2009, The University of Akron. Prior to this last position, Dr. Sloboda worked for twelve years at the National Institute on Drug Abuse in several capacities, finally as the Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research. This Division's focus was on the development and support of national research programs in HIV/AIDS epidemiology and prevention and drug abuse epidemiology and prevention and at the time had the responsibility for several large national epidemiological and treatment data systems. While at NIDA she and her staff organized the International Epidemiology Work Group and the International HIV Prevention Network. She was a founder of the U.S. and E.U. Societies for Prevention Research and is well-published in the area of drug abuse epidemiology and substance use prevention. Her most recent contribution to the prevention science literature is from the Springer Publishers Series, *Advancing the Science of Prevention*. Currently in this Series are: Sloboda, Z. & Petras, H. (Eds.). (2014). *Defining Prevention Science*; Bosworth, L.K. (Ed.) (2015). *Prevention Science in School Setting*; Teasdale, B. & Bradley, M. (2017). *Preventing Crime and Violence*; and Sloboda, Z., Petras, H., Robertson, E.B., & Hingson, R. (Eds.) (2019). *Prevention of Substance Use*.

Presentation Description:

Sociologists delineate 5 key elements of a profession versus categories of other occupations: having a recognized science-based body of knowledge, skills, and competencies, establishing the authority to define the problems addressed by the profession and their treatment, putting in place sanctions regarding admittance to and training of its members, setting out codes of ethics and standards of behavior of professionals when carrying out their work, and, creating a culture that includes institutions to carry out the work of the professionals. With the international recognition of the science that supports prevention, there have been concerted efforts to professionalize the field of substance use prevention practice in several areas. Key to this movement has been the establishment of both the U.S. Society for Prevention Research and the EU Society for Prevention Research that defined and championed prevention science. Several European and U.S. governmental bodies have developed curriculum and credentialing resources as well. These efforts establish guidelines for prevention knowledge, competencies, skills, and resources accelerating progress towards defining the profession of prevention. Finally, several universities across the world have begun to offer programs in prevention science at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The aim of the session is to present the progress made in these areas and to make recommendations as to how to move forward towards professionalization of prevention practice.