

Biomedical and Health Informatics Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

Health Sciences, Room T-739

Ali Mokdad, Ph.D.

Professor of Global Health

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

University of Washington, Seattle

“Health Disparities in Cardiovascular Diseases in the United States”

Disparities in health outcomes, health determinants, and access and quality of healthcare are an ongoing policy priority in the United States. Dr. Ali Mokdad’s presentation will cover disparities across multiple domains for a wide range of chronic conditions with a focus on cardiovascular diseases. Disparities are not getting smaller over time and in some cases appear to be increasing. Beyond the large and persistent race/ethnicity disparities at the national level, there is compelling evidence that within these groups there are huge disparities across communities within the US. Tracking and analyzing the disparities for race/ethnicity groups across counties or local communities requires detailed measurements for at least four critical domains: health outcomes, health risk factors, health services, and socio-economic context. Several different pieces of information must be captured within each of these domains. Dr. Mokdad will present a new proposed methodology for tracking disparities in the US.

Ali Mokdad, PhD, is Professor of [Global Health](#) at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington and leads the survey and surveillance activities at the Institute. He received his BS in Biostatistics from the American University of Beirut and his PhD in quantitative epidemiology from Emory University.

Prior to joining IHME, Dr. Mokdad worked at the CDC, starting his career there in 1990. He served in numerous positions with the International Health Program; the Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity; the National Immunization Program; and the National Center for Chronic Diseases Prevention and Promotion where he was Chief of the Behavioral Surveillance Branch.

Dr. Mokdad also managed and directed the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), the world’s largest standardized telephone survey, which enables the CDC, state health departments, and other health and education agencies to monitor risk behaviors related to the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States.

Dr. Mokdad has published more than 250 articles and numerous reports. He has received several awards including the Global Health Achievement for his work in Banda Aceh after the Tsunami, the Department of Health and Human Services Honor Award for his work on flu monitoring, and the Shepard award for outstanding scientific contribution to public health for his work on BRFSS.