SPEAKER BIOS
A Conversation About Innovations in Monitoring Population Health

David Lee, M.D., M.S.

Dr. David Lee is on faculty in the Departments of Emergency Medicine and Population Health at the New York University (NYU) School of Medicine. Prior to his arrival at NYU, he attended Harvard University and the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. After training to become an emergency physician at NYU, he became a fellow at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania, where he obtained an M.S. in health policy research and started his academic career in health services research. He currently leads the Health Geographics Research Initiative at the NYU School of Medicine, which is a group of faculty focused on using geospatial analysis to identify the health needs of communities with the highest burden of disease.

Dr. Lee's research uses big data in the form of large scale administrative claims databases and geospatial analysis (GIS) to analyze patterns of health care use among millions of emergency department users. His current research pursuits include studying diabetes among urban minority communities. Through an NIH-funded study, he will be comparing hot versus cold spots of poor glycemic control to identify neighborhood-level factors that explain why certain communities have better or worse diabetic health than others. In addition, he is studying how to improve rural health surveillance by using emergency claims data and novel geographic methods through a grant from NYSHealth. Dr. Lee looks forward to the day when the combination of big data and geographic analysis transforms our health care system into one that provides more than just health care, but delivers health.

Lorna Thorpe, Ph.D, M.P.H.

Lorna Thorpe is Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Epidemiology Division at the NYU School of Medicine in the Department of Population Health. Her current research focuses on the intersection between epidemiology and policy, mostly with respect to chronic disease prevention and management and improving modern forms of public health surveillance. She is currently co-principal investigator of a large citywide health examination survey (NYC HANES) that aims to evaluate a number of municipal health policies launched in the past decade, as well as validate the use of electronic health records for population health surveillance purposes. She is also co-principal investigator of the NYU-CUNY Prevention Research Center funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a Center aimed at reducing cardiovascular disease disparities through evaluation of innovative community-clinical linkage initiatives in low-income communities. Dr. Thorpe is on the Board of Directors for the American College of Epidemiology (ACE) and is the Chair-elect for the ACE Policy Committee. She has served on Institute of Medicine committees and as an advisor to the CDC on population health surveillance issues.

Prior to her arrival to CUNY School of Public Health in 2009, Dr. Thorpe spent 8 years at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, serving as Deputy Commissioner of Epidemiology for the last 5 years. Dr. Thorpe began her applied research career as a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer in international tuberculosis control. Dr. Thorpe completed her Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, her M.P.H. at University of Michigan, and her B.A. at Johns Hopkins University. Prior to completing her Ph.D., she lived and worked in Asia (China, Indonesia) for more than 5 years, focusing on designing and evaluating family planning and HV/AIDS program. Dr. Thorpe has published widely on both chronic and infectious disease topics.