

# SUTER SCIENCE SEMINARS 2021-22

## Cervical Cancer as a Cancer of Disparities: Innovative Technology on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua for Health Equity Through a Community-based Participatory Process

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**Wednesday, April 6, 2022**

**4 p.m. • Science Center, room 106**

*Though highly preventable, about 85% of the burden of cervical cancer persists in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Caused by high-risk genotypes of the Human Papillomavirus (hrHPV), cervical cancer can be prevented through: 1) safe and effective vaccination, 2) screening for hrHPV, and 3) effective treatment of pre-cancerous/cancerous lesions. In the Summer of 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) committed to a cervical cancer elimination strategy, with specific targets to be reached by 2030. These strategies can only be successful at the intersection of innovative technology and community-based participatory processes, in order to work toward health equity. I will present the case study of a long-term collaboration for cervical cancer control on the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.*

Emma Mitchell, PhD, RN is an Associate Professor and Director of Global Initiatives at the University of Virginia School of Nursing. She completed her BSN at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and earned her PhD in Nursing Science at UVa. Her scholarship centers on cervical cancer as a cancer of disparities. In collaboration with long-term community partners both in far Southwest Virginia and in Nicaragua and Honduras, Mitchell has researched integration of innovative technology to increase access to cervical cancer screening and treatment, exploring both the uptake of the HPV vaccine, as well as the feasibility and acceptability of the HPV self-collection test. She is an avid knitter, and most recent projects incorporate documenting the impact of climate change through fiber arts.



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