



Come and join us!

## Sugar and the Blues in African American Communities: What Can We Learn From This Comorbidity?

Levitt Room

April 30, 2013

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



Marked health disparities in diabetes and depression have been identified in the literature among Blacks. Yet few research studies focus on the comorbidity between the two and how social services are utilized to manage health. This presentation will provide an overview of how to understand and describe illness perceptions in persons identified as having comorbid depression and diabetes. Understandings of illness and how perceptions affect social service utilization and chronic disease management will also be discussed.

**Dr. Julia F. Hastings** is assistant professor in the Schools of Public Health and Social Welfare at the University at Albany, SUNY. Globally, her research interests cover health and mental health disparities among ethnic minority populations, African American mental health, welfare participation dynamics, and ethnic minority women's health issues. Her research projects focus on the interrelationships between race, mental health outcomes, health conditions, risk and protective factors, and poverty. Dr. Hastings has published on culturally competent research methods within African American communities, welfare participation, depression, and body weight. Her research grant portfolio includes funding from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities, NIMH, the Ford Foundation, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.