NIA IMPACT COLLABORATORY
TRANSFORMING DEMENTIA CARE

Investigator Spotlight

Rupak Datta, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor, Section of Infectious Diseases
Yale School of Medicine

"This award will provide me with necessary training in stakeholder engagement, health equity, and information systems to design an antibiotic stewardship intervention that can be embedded in home-based primary care programs in a pragmatic manner to improve health outcomes for people living with dementia."

Rupak Datta, MD, PhD, is an assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine and an assistant hospital epidemiologist at the Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System. At Yale, he entered the American Board of Internal Medicine Physician-Scientist Research Pathway and completed his fellowship in infectious diseases. Dr. Datta's dissertation research focused on quantifying the burden and transmission potential of multidrug-resistant organisms across statewide healthcare facilities. His current research focuses on infection prevention and antibiotic stewardship in older adults. His areas of interest include hospital epidemiology, antibiotic resistance, and quality improvement.

Antibiotic Stewardship in Homebound People Living with Dementia

Homebound people living with dementia (PLWD) have high risk for infection. Little is known about antibiotic prescriptions in homebound PLWD and how patients and care partners are engaged in decisions regarding treatment of infection. There is a need to study antibiotic prescribing in homebound PLWD to reduce harm such as antibiotic resistance, one of the greatest health threats of the 21st century. Homebound PLWD in the Veteran's Affairs (VA) healthcare system often receive home-based primary care (HBPC). Evidence suggests that a physician peer-to-peer comparison plus education intervention may be suitable for an embedded pragmatic clinical trial involving HBPC programs as the unit of analysis. However, the extent to which key stakeholders are engaged in such an intervention is unclear, and there is limited evidence from underrepresented groups. This Career Development Award will provide Dr. Datta with training in stakeholder engagement, VA information systems, and methodological approaches to promote health equity. This training will support the following **Specific Aims**: (1) To assess the feasibility of identifying antibiotic prescriptions among PLWD who receive HBPC and the diagnosis for which an antibiotic is prescribed using VA administrative data, and (2) To obtain qualitative data from key stakeholders regarding the acceptability of an intervention and adaptations that may be necessary for underrepresented groups. This award will support a pilot study of an intervention that aims to reduce the public health threat of antibiotic resistance and will integrate principles of stakeholder engagement and health equity into the design of an embedded pragmatic clinical trial for homebound PLWD.