

Psychiatry Grand Rounds

WCM Department of Psychiatry

Psychology CE Announcement



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Psychiatry

BUILDING A LEARNING HEALTH SYSTEM FOR FIRST-EPIISODE PSYCHOSIS: THE STEP PROGRAM

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Live: Uris Auditorium

Zoom:

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Meeting ID: 928 1203 6154

Password: 12345

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October 22, 2025



11 AM - 12 PM



Live Online, Live In-Person

ABSTRACT

This presentation will use the history of the STEP program at New Haven to illustrate the development of a first-episode service, an early detection intervention and its subsequent evolution into a population health based approach that has since used a learning health system framework to disseminate best practice and facilitate research. While focused on the journey of ideas that is of broader relevance to early intervention for schizophrenia, some discussion of the contingent political-economic realities that influenced the specific trajectory of this program will also be included.

SPEAKER

Vinod H. Srihari scholarly focus is on improving the outcomes of early course schizophrenia spectrum disorders. His research interests span the translational continuum from studies of etiology and pathophysiology to interventions on clinical samples, to service level innovations. As Director of the STEP Program, he leads activities that connect this research to the missions of delivering a model service (the STEP Clinic), disseminating clinical best practices (via Learning Health Networks), education and workforce development and influencing policies that support the public health mission of early Intervention for schizophrenia spectrum disorders. In his curricular work, he has led the development and implementation of an Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) based approach to enabling psychiatrists in training to ask, access, appraise and apply the best available scientific evidence to their practice and to audit the health of the populations they are responsible for. Dr. Srihari also consults with academic and non-academic healthcare systems that seek to initiate or refine early intervention services for recent onset or 'first-episode' psychosis.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the current evidence base supporting early intervention services for schizophrenia spectrum disorders.
2. Explain the application and benefits of a population health approach in designing mental health services.
3. Discuss the role of learning health systems as a framework for dissemination and implementation of best practices

REFERENCES

1. Sykes, L. a. Y., Levine, N., Tayfur, S. N., Gibbs-Dean, T., Hazan, H., Imetovski, S., James, J., Karmani, S., Mathis, W. S., Markovich, P., Purushothaman, D., Riley, S., Tek, C., Veillette, C., Cahill, J. D., Giard, J., Marracino, A., Barrette, K., Bozak, S., . . . Srihari, V. H. (2025). The STEP Learning Collaborative: A statewide Learning Healthcare System (LHS) for first episode psychosis. *Schizophrenia Research*, 278, 96–108. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2025.03.029>
2. Srihari, V. H., Jani, A., & Gray, M. (2016). Early intervention for psychotic disorders. *JAMA Psychiatry*, 73(2), 101. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2015.2821>
3. Srihari, V. H., & Keshavan, M. S. (2022). Early Intervention services for schizophrenia: Looking back and looking ahead. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 48(3), 544–550. <https://doi.org/10.1093/schbul/sbac024>

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