

# Racism as a Social Determinant of Health for Indigenous Peoples

Dr. Charlotte Loppie



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness



BC PATIENT SAFETY  
& QUALITY COUNCIL  
Working Together. Accelerating Improvement.

# Interacting in WebEx

The screenshot displays the WebEx meeting interface. On the left, a whiteboard contains a list of tools. On the right, the 'Participants' and 'Chat' panels are visible. Several elements are highlighted with orange boxes: the Pointer and Text tool icons in the top toolbar; the Raise Hand, Yes, and No icons in the bottom toolbar; the Audio button in the bottom toolbar; and the Chat input area at the bottom right.

Webex Tools:

1. Pointer →
2. Raise Hand 🙋
3. Yes ✓ / No ✗
4. Text tool
5. Chat

Participants: Speaking: Panelist: 1 BCPSQC - 2 (Host, me) Attendee: 0

Audio

Chat

Send to: All Participants

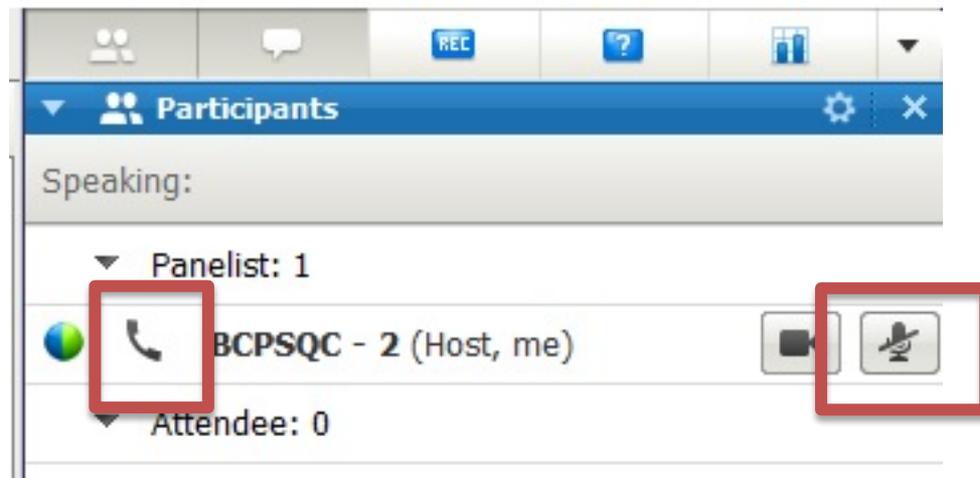
Select a participant in the Send to menu first, type chat message, and send... Send



# WebEx Audio

Look for the phone icon beside your name:

- Enables you to easily mute/unmute line
- Promotes more effective discussion



# WebEx Audio

If there is NO phone icon beside your name:

1. Stay on WebEx. Hang up telephone

2. Pop-up window will appear

– If not, click on “Audio” button



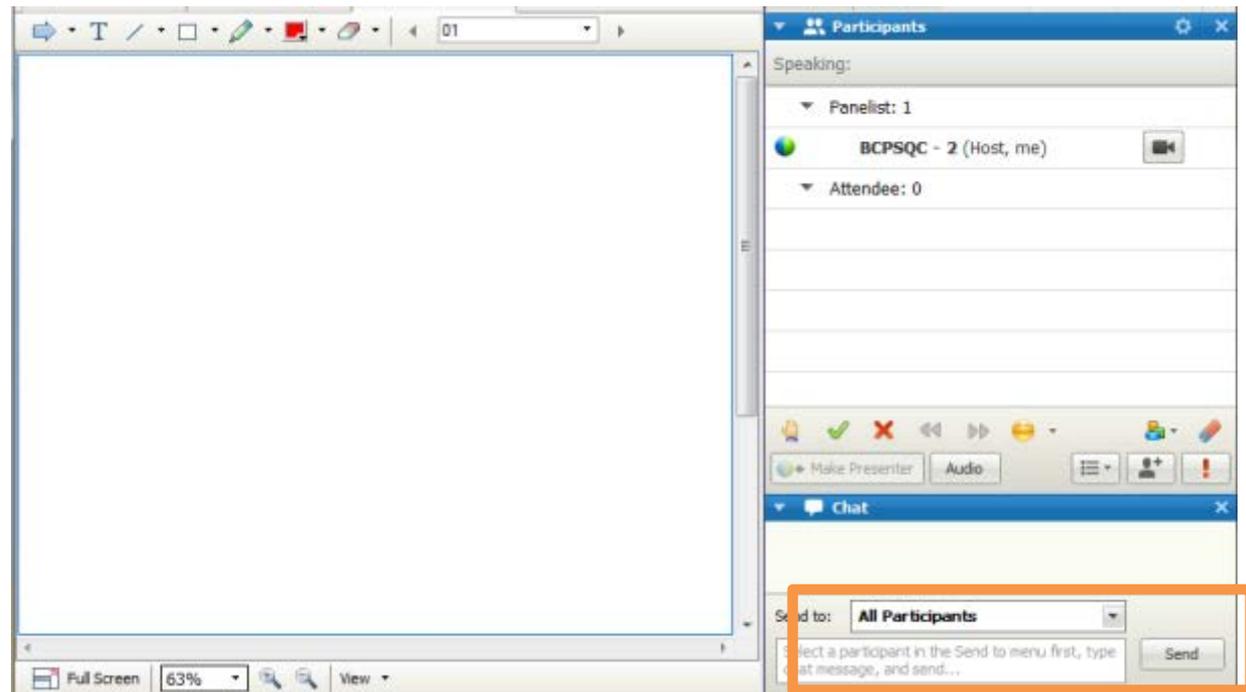
3. Pop-up window displays the dial-in details

4. If possible, **do NOT use** the “Use Computer Headset” option



# WebEx Chat

- We invite you to introduce yourself in the chat panel (all participants)
- Let us know your name and where you are from!



# We Are Recording!

- This session is being recorded



# Slides and Recording

- The link to the recording and slides will be distributed via e-mail to all participants and posted on the FNHA and Council sites



# Twitter

- Hashtags:
  - #culturalhumility
  - #itstartswithme
- Twitter Handles:
  - @FNHA
  - @BCPSQC



# Sensitive Subject Matter

- Due to the sensitive subject matter and stories shared during the webinar sessions participants may become triggered. Please ensure you have prepared a support system for yourself in advance in which you may have easy access to. This could mean an Elder, trusted mentor/family/friend, Counsellor and/or crisis contact number.
- If you need support please do not hesitate to call the toll free crisis line here in the province of BC (1-800-588-8717). Or if you prefer, have a number prepared in advance locally.



# Opening Prayer



# Racism as a Social Determinant of Health for Indigenous Peoples

**Dr. Charlotte Loppie**

Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria, Director of the Centre for Indigenous Research and Community-Led Engagement (CIRCLE), Editor of the International Journal of Indigenous Health.



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# Introductions



Dr. Charlotte Loppie

©AN©

Act For the better Regulation of  
The Indian Trade, by Impowering  
...  
benefit and behoof of the Publick...

# RACISM AS A SOCIAL DETERMINANT OF HEALTH FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Preamble

Whereas It has been found by experience  
That The Indian Trade as formerly carried on by  
Private Traders, has been prejudicial, and tended  
much to the great damage and detriment of this Province,  
To Prevent which inconveniencies for the future, Be it

Enacted

Enacted by His Excellency John Lord Carteret Brittain, and  
rest of the true and absolute Lords and Proprietors of Carolina,  
with the advice and consent of the rest of the Members of the  
General Assembly, now met at Charles Town for that part of the  
said Province that lieth South and West of Cape Fear, and by the  
Authority of the same, That Coll: George Logan, Coll: James  
Moore, Ralph Ford, Esq: Coll: John Barnwell, & J: Charles  
Kitt, Be, and they are hereby nominated Commissioners  
to order, direct and manage the Trade with the Indians, in  
amity with this Province, for the benefit and behoof of them.

That  
The Commissioners  
here named, etc.  
to manage the  
Trade with the  
Indians, for the  
benefit and behoof  
of the Publick...

they are to meet  
in three days  
after the date  
of this  
act, and to continue  
all the power  
and authority  
given  
them by this act.

Charlotte Loppie PhD  
Centre for Indigenous Health and Community-Led Engagement  
(CIRCLE)  
University of Victoria

# HONORING THE SONGEES, ESQUIMALT AND WSANEC PEOPLES



# HONOURING MY FAMILY



**“We perceive reality in terms of the categories we have learned to impose on it, and we actively shape ourselves and others to conform to the images we have created”**

(HUNTER COLLECTIVE, 1983)

# RACE AND RACIALIZATION

1. A social construction of human difference typically based on characteristics such as skin colour, hair texture, and facial features.
1. The practice of assigning a racial identity to a person or group of people (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2013)

# RACISM

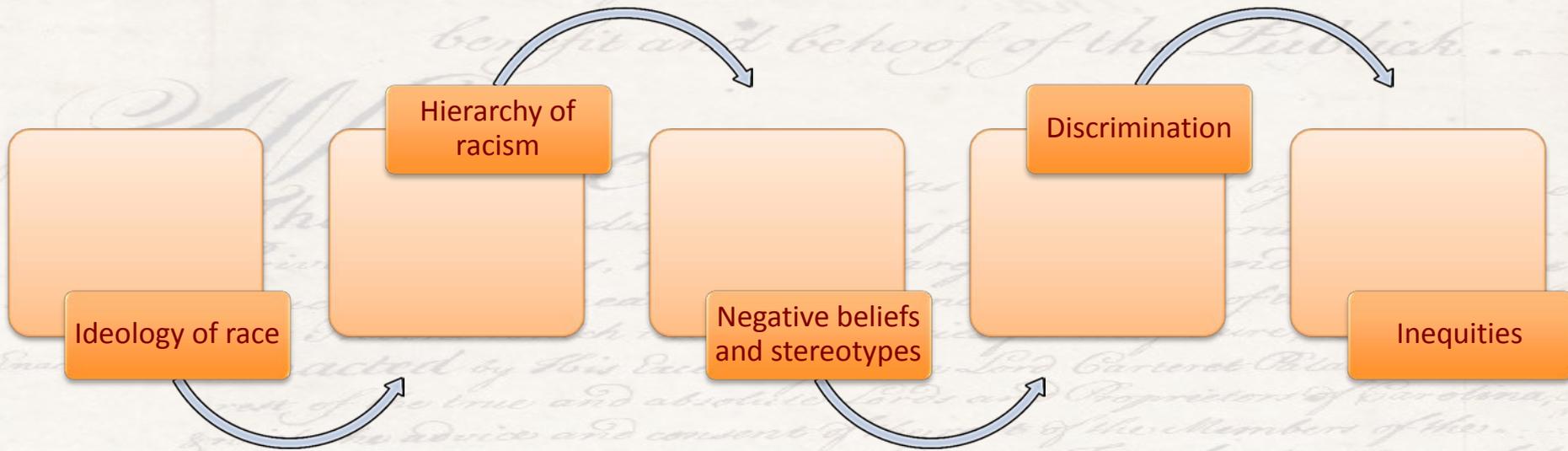
An attitude or behaviour based on the erroneous belief that 'race' produces inherent cognitive, moral and behavioural traits, often involving the belief that one's own race is superior to others.

(Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2013a).

# RACISM

- ❑ Hatred, fear or intolerance of those racialized differently than oneself.
- ❑ A policy, system of government, etc., based on or fostering a doctrine of race-based discrimination. (Dictionary.com, n.d.)

# TRAJECTORY OF RACISM

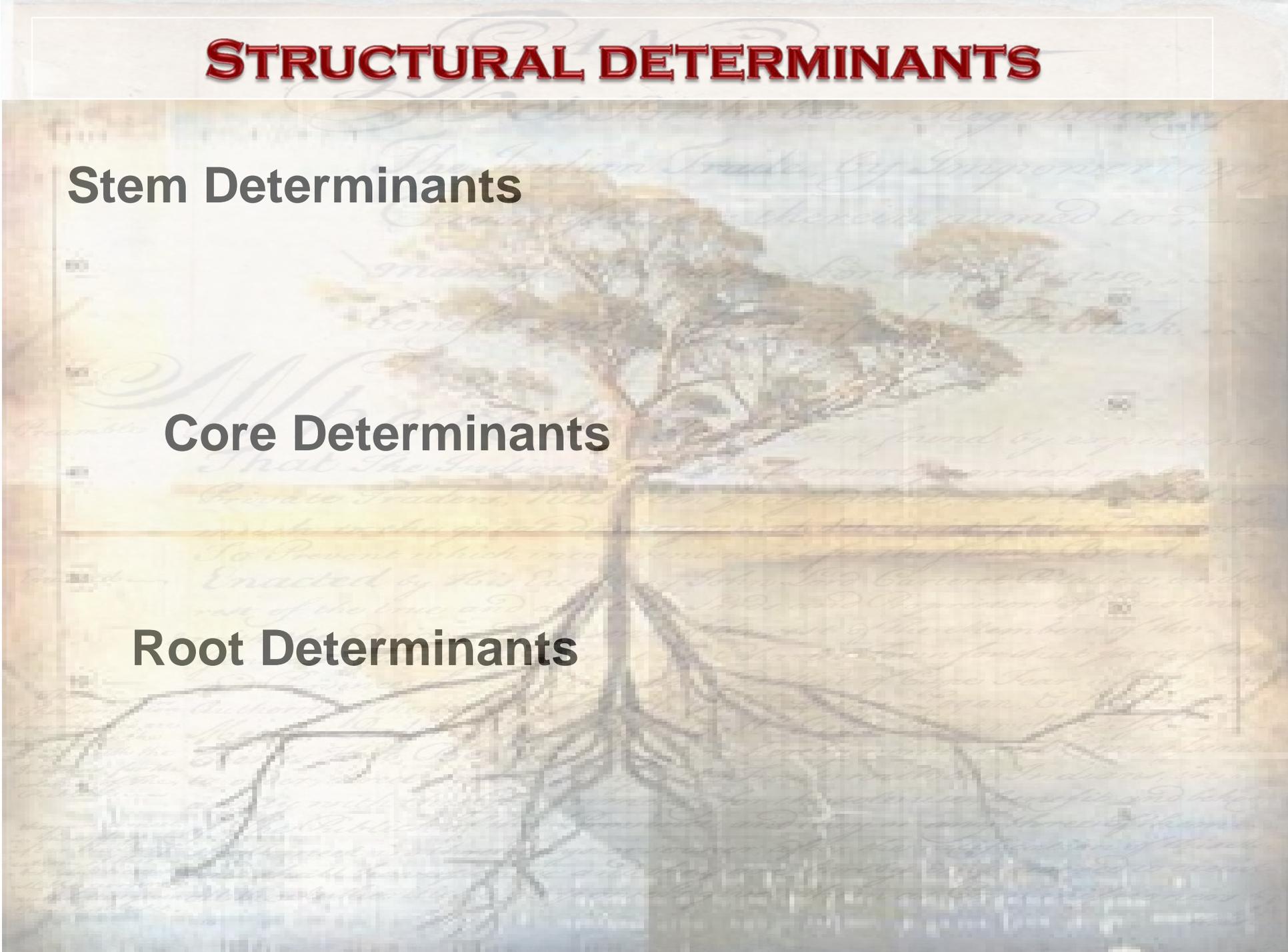


# STRUCTURAL DETERMINANTS

**Stem Determinants**

**Core Determinants**

**Root Determinants**



## Individual

1. Lack of basic knowledge about our shared history
2. Assumptions about why current issues exist.
3. Negative attitude towards Indigenous peoples.
4. Discriminatory behaviours in personal, social and work environments.

## Political

1. Desire to colonize and oppress for resources.
2. Justify colonization – racist beliefs.
3. Oppressive policies to sustain colonial rule.
4. Perpetuation of racist beliefs and mis-tory.



# STRUCTURAL RACISM

- ❑ Discrimination is not always expressed in overt ways (e.g., slavery, genocide)
- ❑ It can take forms that present power inequalities as neutral and natural.

©AN©

Act For the better Regulation of  
The Indian Trade, by Impowering  
Commissioners therein named to

# THE ISSUE: ANTI-INDIGENOUS RACISM IN HEALTH CARE

Preamble

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That The Indian Trade as formerly carried on by  
Private Traders, has been prejudicial, and tended  
much to the great damage and detriment of this Province,  
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General Assembly, now met at Charles Town for that part of the  
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Authority of the same, That Coll: George Logan, Coll: James

That  
The Commission  
here named, are  
to manage the  
Trade with the  
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Publick.

Moore, Ralph Ford, Esq: Coll: John Barnwell, & Col:  
Charles Kite, Be, and they are hereby nominated Commissioners  
to order, direct and manage the Trade with the Indians, in  
amity with this Government, for the sole use, benefit and behoof  
of The Publick of this Province, and they or any three of them  
shall meet in three days or sooner, after the ratification of this Act  
and shall have power and they are hereby impowered to execute  
all their authorities and powers given them as Commissioners by

they are to meet  
in three days  
after the ratifi-  
cation of this  
Act, and to execute  
all the powers &  
authorities given  
them by this Act.

# SYSTEMIC AND RELATIONAL

- Longer wait times
  - for folks like Brian Sinclair who died after waiting 34 hours
- Fewer referral to specialists
- Fewer pain medication prescriptions
- Disrespectful treatment that demeans, diminishes or disempowers the cultural identity and well-being of an individual
  - Impacts access

# STRUCTURAL RACISM

Historical, social and political institutions and processes that create, practice and reinforce systemic and relational racism.

- ❑ Location and condition of Indigenous communities
- ❑ Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals
- ❑ Policies (NIHB, jurisdictional sandtraps)
- ❑ Pathologizing research (i.e. evidence)
  - ❑ “Evidence” based practice

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

**Epistemic**      *Whose knowledge has power?*

**Structural**      *Exclusion and marginalization?*

**Colourblind**      *“I don’t see colour.”*  
*“Just treat everyone the same.”*

**Relational**      *Is there mutual respect?*

**Embodied**      *Do you “feel” equal?*

# ADDRESSING THE ISSUE

- Cultural safety/Anti-racist training
- Increased Indigenous representation
- Community based and driven care
- Anti-discrimination/reconciliation policies?
- **First Nations Health Authority !!!!**

A circular arrangement of many hands reaching towards the center, symbolizing unity and gratitude. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, light blue background with a soft sunburst effect in the center. The hands are of various sizes and orientations, creating a sense of diverse participation.

**MANY THANKS**

# Questions/Discussion





Webinar: August 2, 2017 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

***PERSONAL STORIES OF EXPERIENCE  
WITH THE HEALTH SYSTEM***



# Survey

