Destigmatizing Considerations: Preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Promoting Women's Wellness

Research about preventing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is advancing across the globe. We now have research about the many levels of prevention - on awareness building approaches, on safe and respectful conversations about alcohol use with pregnant women, and on holistic support services for pregnant women and new mothers' experiences alcohol problems and other health and social concerns.

Through the Preventing FASD, Promoting Women's Wellness virtual seminar series, we hope to make it possible for all countries to have access to what is known about preventing alcohol use in pregnancy. The goal of the series is to:

- provide service providers and leaders across the globe with access to FASD prevention research to inform their work;
- link researchers who are studying topics pertinent to FASD prevention; and,
- share examples of evidence on FASD prevention in an accessible way.

In this seminar:

This seminar is the first in a five-part series. In this video, Dr. Patrick Corrigan and Dr. John Aspler describe stigma and its implications.

Dr. Patrick Corrigan is a psychology professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology and principal investigator at the National Consortium on Stigma and Empowerment in the United States. In this seminar, he shares his research on the impacts of stigma surrounding FASD and women's alcohol use.

Dr. John Aspler has a PhD in neuroscience/ethics. His presentation provides an overview of several components of his research focused on stigma, including:
- What Canadians know about FASD, alcohol and pregnancy;
- What stakeholders think about FASD coverage in Canada; and
- How to address stigma associated with both FASD and alcohol use in pregnancy.

Dr. Nancy Poole facilitates the seminar, describing linkages to FASD prevention. Their research demonstrates the importance of understanding and reducing the stigma women experience as a key FASD prevention strategy.