

# Evidence to Impact Speaker Series

Tuesday April 23rd | 12pm-1pm, Lunch Provided | 040 Trent Hall

## **Mental Health Needs of Obstetric Fistula Patients in Mali: How evidence from an IntraHealth program influenced national policy**

*In 2016/2017, IntraHealth conducted seven fistula repair campaigns throughout Mali. As part of the clinical intake prior to repair, patients were administered a brief questionnaire to assess their mental health status and experiences of trauma. This descriptive study has already influenced Mali's policy on mental health care for obstetric fistula patients.*

**Dr. Cheick Touré** has been IntraHealth's Mali country Director since 2003. He is a global health leader with more than 20 years of experience managing health systems strengthening and service delivery projects funded by USAID, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Royal Dutch Embassy. Recently, he managed the USAID Fistula Treatment and Prevention Project. This project trained 25 surgeons who performed more than 1,240 repair surgeries for Malian women.



**Dr. Melissa Watt** is an associate professor of the practice of global health and the director of graduate studies at DGHI. Her research focuses on understanding and addressing gender-specific health issues in sub-Saharan Africa, with specific attention to HIV, substance use, and mental health, and the application of mixed methods to understand health behavior and develop culturally salient interventions.