

Join Us to Hear About

- **Biological basis for addiction** what causes a vulnerability for addiction? what happens to our brains when we become addicted?
- **Treatment for addiction**
- **Prevention** what can we do to protect our youth?
- **How to help a loved one** What can we do to help a loved one struggling with addiction?
- **Social impact of use** How does it affect the family? What impacts does this have on the community?

Hosted By Dr. Parvathy Kanthasamy
Vasantham – A Tamil Wellness
Centre

Join us on Sept. 17, 2020 at 7pm on Zoom
Meeting ID: 918 584 6813



Questions or Concerns?
Call: 416-847-4172
Email: vasantham@live.ca

The Tamil Community's Silent Killer

Our Battle with Drug Overdose

Join us on September 17, 2020
from 7-9pm on Zoom. Everyone
is welcome to listen, share, ask
questions & discuss

Meeting ID: 918 584 6813

The Growing Problem



The number of deaths by drug overdose have significantly increased within the GTA. Within a 9-day time frame, 16 people had died due to drug overdose. The Tamil community has also been hit hard by overdose related deaths. COVID-19 has brought a hidden challenge to Toronto: overdose calls to paramedics are much greater since the months prior to the current pandemic. Since March 2020, death by overdose has increased by 85%.*

This growing issue shies away from the topic of discussion in the Canadian Tamil community. This online discussion aims to raise awareness, spread evidence-based information and hear what the community has to say about drug-overdose related deaths.

We are losing lives. This is not just a family concern, it's a concern of the community.

Speakers



Dr. Ramanathan Lambotharan



Dr. Lambotharan is a general physician who has started an organization for educating Tamil youth on the Tamil culture. He has extensive knowledge on the effects on addiction & mental health amongst the community.

Vibusha Krishnantharajah



Vibusha Krishnantharajah is an Ontario registered social worker. Vibusha has been working in the mental health sector for the past 10 years. Vibusha currently works as an inpatient mental health social worker and an emergency room crisis worker.

Dr. Senthuran Gunaratnam



Dr. Senthuran Gunaratnam is a Staff Psychiatrist at the Scarborough Health Network (SHN). In addition, Dr. Gunaratnam practices as a Physician Lead with the Community-Liaison program at Durham Mental Health Services (DMHS). Furthermore, Dr. Gunaratnam is a Lecturer with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto (UofT) while also representing SHN for the Medical Education Committee.