Suicide by Firearm in the United States: A Collaborative Path for Prevention

Suicide remains a leading cause of death in the United States, with over half of suicide deaths by firearm; suicides also account for approximately half of all firearm deaths. Reducing access to firearms during times of suicide risk can prevent death, given the short time frame between decision and action in suicide attempts and the high lethality of firearms. Firearm injury prevention remains a politically sensitive topic, but there are evidence-based, acceptable approaches for firearm suicide prevention. Dr. Betz will describe the scientific rationale for these approaches and provide examples of innovative collaborations in diverse settings, including military populations and partnerships with firearm retailers.