

## **BROOKE ELLISON, PHD**

Dr. Ellison joins Dr. Vidal as one of the co-directors of the Behavioral and Community Health track. Dr. Ellison's work focuses on the social construction of public policy, specifically stem cell policy, leadership development, and applied bioethics. Receiving her undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 2000, and her master's degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2004, Dr. Ellison completed her PhD in sociology from Stony Brook University in 2012. Her dissertation focused on the construction of stem cell research policy in the US, UK, Germany, and China. The events of Dr. Ellison's life have been widely covered in various media. Paralyzed from her neck down due to an accident as a child, Dr. Ellison published a personal memoir, *Miracles Happen*, which was subsequently made into a movie, entitled *The Brooke Ellison Story*, directed by Christopher Reeve.

In November of 2006, Dr. Ellison ran for the New York State Senate, focusing on the issues of healthcare, education, and stem cell research. In 2007, Dr. Ellison received two gubernatorial appointments to serve on the New York State Spinal Cord Injury Research Board and the Empire State Stem Cell Research Board, the latter of which oversees New York's \$600 million stem cell research program.

In her capacity as a faculty member at Stony Brook University, Dr. Ellison serves as the Director of Education and Ethics at the Stony Brook University Stem Cell Facility. In 2012, working with university colleagues, she co-founded the organization, VENTure Think Tank. This organization is designed to provide policy and technological solutions for challenges faced by ventilator users and their families. In addition, Dr. Ellison is the Associate Director of the Stony Brook University Center for Community Engagement and Leadership Development, which is an interdepartmental collaboration designed to bring community members and organizations into the research process.