



North American Refugee Health Conference: Health Means the World to Us

Sheraton Fallsview | Niagara Falls | September 11-13, 2025

Preliminary Program Agenda

September 11 - 13, 2025 | Times are in Eastern Daylight Time

Sheraton Fallsview Hotel | Niagara Falls

Thursday September 11, 2025

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 07:00 - 08:00 Registration & Breakfast | | |
| 08:00 – 08:15 | Welcome Remarks and Indigenous Blessing Fabien Lengelle Director General, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) | |
| | Plenary Sessions | Main Plenary Room |
| 08:15 - 08:45 | PAHO, the Push/Pull factors for Latin America | |
| 08:45 - 09:45 | World Health Organization (WHO) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) | |
| 09:45 - 10:45 | The Hague, Human Rights Payam Akhavan , LLB, LLM SJD, O.Ont. FRSC <i>Human Rights Lawyer: Member of the Court of Arbitration at the Hague, Special Advisor on Genocide to the Prosecutor or the International Criminal Court</i> | |
| 10:45 – 11:15 Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing | | |
| 11:15 – 12:15 | Concurrent Workshops (see below for information) | Breakout Rooms |
| 12:15 – 01:15 Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing | | |
| 01:15 – 02:15 | Concurrent Oral Abstracts (see below for information) | Breakout Rooms |
| 02:15 – 02:45 Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing | | |
| 02:45 – 03:45 | Concurrent Sessions | Breakout Rooms |
| | Concurrent Session 1: Caring for the Uninsured Paul Caulford , MD <i>Family Physician; Founder, The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care</i> | |
| | Concurrent Session 2: Reflections and Lessons Learnt from the Afghan Resettlement Program Umashanie Reddy <i>Director, National GAR Resettlement Assistance Program & Afghan Refugee Resettlement</i> Fariborz Birjandian <i>Chief Executive Officer · Calgary Catholic Immigration Society</i> | |
| | Concurrent Session 3: Beyond Health Advocacy, Towards Solidarity: Lessons from Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Work in Medicine and Public Health Yipeng Ge , MPH, MD CCFP <i>Primary Care Physician, Public Health Practitioner</i> | |



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Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre

Francesca Albanese

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied

Palestinian Territories

03:45 – 04:00 *Transition Time*

Plenary Session

Main Plenary Room

04:00 – 05:00 **Refugee Stories**

Nhial Deng

*Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation of South Sudan*

Friday September 12, 2025

07:00 - 08:00 **Registration & Breakfast**

08:00 – 08:15 Welcome Remarks

Plenary Sessions

Main Plenary Room

08:15 - 09:15 **Invisibilized: LGBTIQ+ Refugee Health**

Gabriel Schirvar, MA (*Global Public Health*)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

09:15 - 10:15 **Mental Health of Refugee Children**

Rachel Kronick, MD

*Researcher, Child Psychiatrist, Co-Director Child
Psychiatry Services, Jewish General Hospital; Child
Consultant, Cultural Consultation Service*

10:15 – 10:45 **Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing**

10:45 – 11:45 Concurrent Workshops (see below for information)

Breakout Rooms

11:45 – 12:45 **Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing**

12:45 – 01:45 Concurrent Oral Abstracts (see below for information)

Breakout Rooms

01:45 – 02:15 **Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing**

02:15 – 03:15 Concurrent Sessions

Breakout Rooms

Concurrent Session 1: **Climate Change and the Most
Vulnerable**

Carmen Logie, PhD

*Professor, Canada Research Chair in Global Health
Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations,
University of Toronto*

Concurrent Session 2: **Working with an Interpreter**

Grace Egan

*Director, Language Services and Digital Strategies,
Access. Alliance*

Concurrent Session 3: **Understanding Palestine and the
Middle East**

Michael Lynk, LLB, LLM

*Associate Professor of Law, University of Western
Ontario; Former United Nations Special Rapporteur for
the human rights situation in the Palestinian Territories*



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| | <i>occupied since 1967</i> | |
| 03:15 – 03:30 | <i>Transition Time</i> | |
| | Plenary Session | Main Plenary Room |
| 03:30 – 04:30 | Racism and Refugees Rageshri Dhairyawan , MBBS, FRCP, BSc, MSc, Dip GUM, Dip HIV, DFSRH NHS Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV Medicine; Author, <i>Unheard: The Medical Practice of Silencing</i> | |

Saturday September 13, 2025

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 07:00 - 08:00 | Registration & Breakfast | |
| 08:00 – 08:15 | Welcome Remarks | |
| | Plenary Sessions | Main Plenary Room |
| 08:15 - 09:15 | Women's Health Shatha Elnakib , PhD, MPH Assistant Scientist, International Health, Center for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health (CHH) | |
| 09:15 - 10:15 | Detention Issues in Australia and America Barri Phatarfod , MD Physician, Antenatal Shared Care Program, Royal Hospital for Women, Australia | |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing | |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | Concurrent Workshops (see below for information) | Breakout Rooms |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | Concurrent Sessions | Breakout Rooms |
| | Concurrent Session 1: How to Handle a Mental Health Crisis for the Non-Psychiatrist Clare Pain , MD, MSc, FRCPC, DSc (Hons) Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto; Psychiatrist, Mount Sinai Hospital; Consultant, Canadian Center for Victims of Torture for Refugee Mental Health; Co-lead, Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC) | |
| | Concurrent Session 2: To Be Confirmed | |
| 11:45 – 12:45 | Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing | |
| 12:45 – 01:45 | Concurrent Oral Abstracts (see below for information) | Breakout Rooms |
| 01:45 – 02:15 | Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing | |
| | Plenary Session | Main Plenary Room |
| 02:15 – 03:15 | Closing Plenary Francesca Albanese United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories | |
| 03:15 – 03:30 | Closing Remarks | |

Honouring Their Voices: Informing Mental Health and Substance Use Care for Refugee Youth of African Descent in Nova Scotia (9)

Ifeyinwa Mbakogu, PhD

Associate Professor DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Abstract Authors: Ifeyinwa Mbakogu1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Dalhousie University

This workshop focuses on refugee youth of African Descent in Nova Scotia and their experiences with mental health and substance use services. It explores barriers to care, adjustment challenges, and healing journeys, emphasizing the need for equitable, culturally responsive MHSU service delivery informed by youth narratives and professional collaboration.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify barriers refugee youth of African Descent face in accessing culturally responsive mental health and substance use services.
- Understand their healing experiences and the impact of structural inequalities on care.
- Develop strategies for equitable MHSU service delivery informed by youth narratives and recommendations for diverse professionals.

Diabetes in Black Individuals of African Caribbean Ancestry (ACB) aged 18-39 Years in Toronto: Cultural Relativity of Measurement and Risk Assessment (23)

Akm Alamgir, PhD

Director, Organizational Knowledge and Learning Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Abstract Authors: Akm Alamgir1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Though disproportionately vulnerable to Diabetes, young Black Canadians are less screened. Access Alliance completed the study with 272 participants. The study found that 1.5% of participants had diabetes, 9.2% had prediabetes, and 44.9% were at risk of developing diabetes. HbA1c is found more sensitive and acceptable measure than OGTT.

Learning Objectives:

- The PC providers, clinic managers, dietitians, and diabetes practitioners/educators will learn the prevalence of diabetes and pre-diabetes among ACB residents aged 18-39.
- Learn the risk factors for diabetes among ethnic minorities.
- Learn the measurement paradox with HbA1c for the ACB population.

Healthcare Workers Organizing to Support Newly Arriving People: Lessons Learned (44)

Marc Shi, MD, MSc

Marc Shi: Primary Care Physician; Shobana Ramasamy: Primary Care Physician; Isabelle Sillo: Medical

Student; Elizabeth Kolod: Primary Care Physician Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Abstract Authors: Marc Shi¹, Shobana Ramasamy², Isabelle Sillo³, Betty Kolod⁴

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, 2Bellevue Hospital/NYU, 3Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, 4Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Departments of Medicine & Environmental Medicine and Climate Science

In this workshop, we will be presenting on the social and political climate around and response to newly arriving people in New York City. We will be sharing and collaborating on different strategies healthcare workers can implement in and outside of their workplace for immigrant justice.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the political response to newly arriving people in a large urban context as it relates to shelter and housing
- Explore avenues by which healthcare workers can organize for newly arrived peoples within and outside of their professional roles
- Develop tools to pursue healthcare worker advocacy within participants' local contexts

How REAC! is drawing lessons from success: new ways of collaborating can support marginalized migrants' health (61)

Lara Gautier, PhD

Associate Professor; PhD Candidate; Community Mobilisation Coordinator; Research Project Manager; Université de Montréal

Abstract Authors: Lara Gautier¹, Muzhgan Haydary², Laila Mahmoudi¹, Carly Jackson³, Shinjini Mondal³, Erica Di Ruggiero³, May Massijeh⁴

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Université de Montréal, 2Montreal City Mission, 3University of Toronto, 4Health Access Thorncliffe Park

During COVID-19, public and community-based organizations worked across sector lines in supporting the wellbeing of refugees. The crisis context pushed for new forms of cross-sectoral collaboration. We will share our analysis of these new collaborations, their success and challenges, and highlight recommendations from the perspectives of service providers and refugees.

Learning Objectives:

- Share critical reflections from the REAC! research team, including insights from migrant user representatives with lived refugee experience.
- Present key takeaways from community partners to inform future policy and practice in cross-sectoral collaboration.
- Propose promising avenues for future research on refugee well-being and service coordination during crisis contexts.

The Invisible Stakeholder: How to Utilize Interpreters Ethically In Service Provision Settings (65)

Kamil Khan, MPA

Refugee Service Provider Ethnic Support Council, UNHCR

Abstract Authors: Kamil Khan^{1, 2}

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Ethnic Support Council, ²UNHCR

The “Invisible” Stakeholder is a workshop that highlights the expansive role of interpreters and guides service workers on how to ethically navigate the client-interpreter-provider relationship. If you use interpretation services in your profession to serve your patients or clients, you don't want to miss this workshop.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an interpreter-friendly organizational landscape that factors in cultural and trauma considerations of the service provider-interpreter-client relationship.
- Gain cultural and linguistical understanding of the refugee clients while identifying limitations of interpreters as cultural brokers.
- Add standard operating procedures that include interpreter protections in organizational and institutional bylaws.

Stories of Resilience: Navigating Health, Settlement, and Belonging Among Syrian and Ukrainian Refugee Women (80)

Areej Al-Hamad, PhD

All the presenting authors are Researcher/Nurses. Toronto Metropolitan University

Abstract Authors: Yasin M. Yasin¹, Kateryna Metersky², Rezwana Rahman², Areej Al-Hamad²

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹University of New Brunswick, ²Toronto Metropolitan University

Through interactive engagement, participants will have an understanding of the healthcare and settlement challenges faced by refugee women. They will gain strategies for enhancing culturally responsive services that is informed by arts-based research methods and will be equipped to improve policy advocacy and programs tailored to refugee women's unique needs.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key healthcare, housing, and resettlement challenges faced by refugee women in Canada.
- Analyze the potential of arts-based research methods in understanding refugee experiences.
- Apply insights from refugee narratives to inform culturally responsive service provision and policy improvements.

Co-creating a cultural adaptation of services for and with youth identifying as refugees, im-migrants, racialized and/or belonging to a cultural minority group: an experiential workshop (107)

Myriam Richard, PhD(c)

Postdoctoral fellow ENAP and IU-SHERPA

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

11:15 – 12:15 pm THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Abstract Authors: Myriam Richard^{1, 2}, Pauline Rudaz¹, Ksenia Burobina³, Mónica Ruiz-Casares⁴, Naïma Bentayeb^{1, 2, 5}

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹ENAP, ²IU SHERPA, ³Université de Montreal, ⁴Toronto Metropolitan University, ⁵McGill University

This workshop builds on an ongoing process evaluation of co-creation circles involving youth, family members/community leaders, practitioners/managers as well as researchers. It presents the basic components of the co-creation approach, the main challenges and facilitators of a co-creation process and evaluation, and allows participants to experiment the co-creation circles formula.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the key components of the co-creation circles approach, including its core concepts and methods.
- Recognize the main challenges and facilitators involved in implementing and evaluating a co-creation process.
- Gain hands-on experience by participating in a co-creation circle to explore its practical application.

Disability Issues in Refugees

[Ali Abdiwahab](#)

Information coming soon

Latin - American Health and Migration

[Eduardo Vides](#)

Information coming soon

A pilot group mental health intervention for LGBTQ asylum seekers (12)

Samara Fox, MD, JD, MPH

psychiatrist, Massachusetts General Hospital Asylum Clinic at the Center for Global Health

Abstract Authors: Samara Fox¹, John Pachankis², Emily Mellen³

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1MGH Asylum Clinic, 2Yale School of Public Health, 3Harvard University, Department of Psychology

A time-limited group therapy intervention was designed to address the mental health needs of LGBTQ asylum seekers. The pilot intervention focused on developing emotion regulation skills drawn from CBT, DBT and ACT. Issues of anti-LGBTQ stigma, social isolation, trauma, and immigration-related stress were also addressed and discussed by group members.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn about the particular mental health vulnerabilities and strengths of LGBTQ asylum seekers
- Participants will learn about qualitative research methods for designing and evaluating a group mental health intervention.
- Participants will learn about the benefits and challenges of conducting group skills-based therapy with LGBTQ asylum seekers.

Breaking Barriers: Addressing Health Communication Challenges Faced by Refugees with Disabilities in the U.S. Healthcare System (17)

Mustafa Rfat, MSW MPA

Social Work student, Washington University in St Louis

Abstract Authors: Mustafa Rfat¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Washington University in St Louis

This presentation explores the critical health communication barriers faced by refugees with disabilities in the U.S., including inadequate interpretation services and cultural misunderstandings. Using qualitative findings, it highlights actionable solutions such as improved interpreter training and culturally inclusive policies to enhance equitable healthcare access for this vulnerable population.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key health communication barriers affecting refugees with disabilities in the U.S., including inadequate interpretation services and cultural misunderstandings.
- Analyze qualitative findings that illustrate how these barriers impact equitable access to healthcare.
- Evaluate actionable solutions—such as improved interpreter training and culturally inclusive policies—to enhance health equity for this population.

Advancing health equity through cancer information and support services in Canada: a report on communities that are underserved (29)

Apiramy Jeyapalan, BSc, MPH

Senior Policy Analyst, Canadian Cancer Society

Abstract Authors: Apiramy Jeyapalan¹, Elizabeth Holmes¹, Tracy Torchetti¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Canadian Cancer Society

The Canadian Cancer Society's (CCS) underserved communities report identifies communities that face barriers to accessing cancer information and support. CCS has currently identified 10 communities that are underserved. The project's aim was to understand gaps, barriers and challenges faced by these communities and outline opportunities and tactics to address them.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the ten underserved communities recognized by the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) as facing barriers to accessing cancer information and support.
- Describe the key gaps, barriers, and challenges these communities encounter in accessing equitable cancer care and resources.
- Outline strategic opportunities and actionable tactics to improve access and support for underserved populations affected by cancer.

Resettlement experiences of Syrian Refugees in Canada: Results from a multi-site study (41)

Bharati Sethi, PhD

Associate Professor and a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Care Work, Ethnicity, Race and Aging, Trent University

Abstract Authors: Bharati Sethi¹, Sepali Guruge²

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Trent University, ²Toronto Metropolitan University

This collaborative, qualitative study aimed to understand whether and how Canada's three refugee sponsorship programs could be improved and to identify ways to improve refugee (re)settlement. Findings from the focus groups with 61 Syrian refugees in Toronto and London reveal the advantages and challenges of each sponsorship program during (re)settlement.

Learning Objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the three refugee resettlement programs.
- Compare the challenges and advantages of the sponsorship programs in Toronto and London, ON.
- Understand the barriers refugees face postmigration and how to foster refugee resettlement.

Help Seeking Behaviours of Refugee And Non-refugee Background Youth: A Mixed Methods Investigation from Three Countries (42)

Tahereh Ziaian, PhD

Professor in Psychology, University of South Australia

CONCURRENT ORAL ABSTRACTS

1:15 – 2:15 pm THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Abstract Authors: Tahereh Ziaian¹, Teresa Puvimanasinghe¹, Martha Augoustinos², Adrian Esterman¹, Emily Miller¹, Nancy Arthur¹, Mirsia Bunjaku³, Effat Ghassemi⁴, Tara Pir⁵

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1University of South Australia, 2University of Adelaide, 3Australian Migrant Resource Centre, 4Newcomer Centre of Peel (NCP), 5IMCES

A significant percentage of youth had not accessed any help. Collaborative community education can provide opportunities for youth and families to better understand local systems and contribute to reducing stigma around service access and utilisation.

Learning Objectives:

- Investigate mental health outcomes and help seeking behaviours of refugee and non-refugee youth from Australia, Canada and USA,
- Compare the mental health of refugees with migrants in Australia and with other Western countries

How On-going Violence in Origin Countries Affects Wellbeing: A Qualitative Study of South Sudanese Refugees in Canada and the UK (47)

Emily LeRoux-Rutledge, PhD

Assistant Professor in Social Psychology, University of the West of England

Abstract Authors: Emily LeRoux-Rutledge¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1University of the West of England

This research presentation demonstrates how on-going violence in origin countries affects the wellbeing of refugees in Canada and the UK. It explores the impacts of remote, on-going violence on individual mental health, interpersonal relationships, and community cohesion, emphasizing the need for mental health interventions that integrate knowledge of current events.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the impacts of ongoing violence in origin countries on individual mental health.
- Recognize impacts on interpersonal relationships and community cohesion.
- Consider strategies for integrating knowledge of current events into mental health interventions for refugees.

Pre-migration Factors as Predictors of Social Inclusion and Stress Among Syrian Refugees in Canada (57)

Hania Amir, HBSc

Master's Student, York University

Abstract Authors: Hania Amir¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1York University

Using data from a longitudinal study of Syrian refugees resettled in Canada (N=1665), this study investigates the role of pre-migration histories in shaping experiences of social inclusion, and explores any subsequent influences on perceived stress.

Learning Objectives:

- Examine how pre-migration histories influence experiences of social inclusion among Syrian refugees resettled in Canada.
- Analyze the relationship between social inclusion and levels of perceived stress within this population.
- Interpret findings from a longitudinal dataset (N=1665) to inform policies and interventions that support refugee well-being and integration.

Adapting and Enduring: Using AI and Dietary Intake to Understand Chronic Disease and Type 2 Diabetes Dynamics Among Refugees in the Midwest (60)

Falah Rashoka, PhD, RN, MPH, MS, CPH

Assistant Professor, Creighton University College of Nursing

Abstract Authors: Falah Rashoka1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Creighton University College of Nursing

This session explores the role of AI in analyzing dietary patterns among Middle Eastern refugees in Nebraska to understand chronic disease management. Findings highlight socio-economic and cultural factors influencing health outcomes. The study emphasizes tailored community-based interventions to improve nutrition, prevent chronic diseases, and reduce health disparities in refugee populations.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key socio-economic and cultural factors influencing chronic disease development among Middle Eastern refugees in Nebraska.
- Analyze dietary patterns using AI to understand their impact on chronic disease management and prevention.
- Evaluate community-based intervention strategies to improve health outcomes and reduce disparities.

Learning from the experiences of Ukraine refugees in Canada - an initiative to train qualitative researchers and conduct pilot interviews with refugees in Canada (64)

Susan Law, PhD

Researcher, University of Toronto

Abstract Authors: Susan Law1, Kenneth Southall2, Alona Lypovsky3, Joel Montanez3, Ilja Ormel4, Darya Naumova5, Lorraine Smith6

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1University of Toronto, 2Centre de Recherche - Institut universitaire de Gériatrie de Montréal, 3Bishop's University, 4St. Mary's Research Centre, 5McGill University, 6University of Sydney

Our multidisciplinary team, including lived experience of fleeing the war in Ukraine, designed and delivered a training workshop for qualitative researchers in preparation for interviewing refugees. We then recruited five Ukrainian refugees for a pilot study of their experiences of transition and health needs after resettlement in Canada.

Learning Objectives:

CONCURRENT ORAL ABSTRACTS

1:15 – 2:15 pm THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

- Learn and reflect on findings of a pilot study of Ukraine refugee experiences of transition and settlement in Canada, including their healthcare needs and experiences along this journey
- Learn about an approach to training qualitative researchers in preparation for conducting interviews with Ukraine refugees

Social determinants of mental health for young people from refugee backgrounds: A cross-sectional analysis of Australian Census and linked administrative data (89)

Michaela Hynie

York University

Abstract Authors: Anna Ziersch¹, Xuchun Liu¹, Michaela Hynie², Shahid Ullah¹, Lillian Mwanri³, Emily Miller¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Flinders University, ²York University, ³Torrens University

Drawing on Australian Census and administrative data, this study finds time in Australia, English proficiency, access to mental health services, family member/s with a mental health condition, and being non-dependent family members as social determinants of mental health. For some, gender, religion and region of origin were also significant.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key social determinants of mental health for refugee youth.
- Consider how these might be relevant to mental health prevention, early intervention and treatment for refugee youth.

Pathways to Quality Mental Health Care (110)

Michaela Keogh

Program Manager, Prevention & Promotion, Mental Health Commission of Canada

Abstract Authors: Nitika Rewari¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Mental Health Commission of Canada

The Quality Mental Health Care Framework and its subsequent Implementation Toolkit supports healthcare organizations in defining quality mental health care and the essential dimensions that encompass its provisions, while providing concrete case studies, resources, and guides on how to embed quality care that puts the patient first.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand and describe what quality care looks like and means for their organization
- Identify key elements associated with quality mental health care
- Identify how to start embedding the Framework, its dimensions, and the implementation toolkit.

Trauma Informed Approach for Working with Child and Youth Survivors of War and Torture (11)

Ana Ulloa

Canadian Cente for Victims of Torture

Zastid Perea

Canadian Cente for Victims of Torture

Abstract Authors: Nadia Umadat Umadat1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Canadian Cente for Victims of Torture

This workshop will present the complexities faced by youth refugee war/torture survivors, as evidenced by representatives of the Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture. Participants will learn more about the experiences of survivors, recognize barriers to engagement and identify practical strategies for support from an anti-oppressive and holistic framework.

Learning Objectives:

- The learning objectives of the workshop aims to introduce participants to the work of CCVT
- Gain a more comprehensive knowledge about the experiences of survivors
- Recognize barriers to engagement and offer practical strategies for support from an anti-oppressive and holistic framework.

Innovations Improving Refugee Health: IOM Vaccine App and Vaccine Access Contact Center (14)

Alexander Klosovsky, MD

Global Health Assessment Coordinator, International Organization for Migration

Abstract Authors: Alex klosovsky1, Farah Hassan1, Jason Dela Pena1, Patricka chulamokha1, Glib Bortnikov1, Svitlana Batsokina1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1International Organization for Migration

International organization for immigration supports Refugees and migrants with unique challenges and through its innovative solutions, the vaccine App and Vaccine Access Contact Center aims to reduce digital divide, increase access to immunization, strengthen health security for refugee and migrant populations and improve health of populations on the move

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the purpose and functions of the IOM Vaccine App and Vaccine Access Contact Center (VACC) in improving health access for refugees and migrants.
- Analyze how these digital innovations address the digital divide and improve immunization access among mobile populations.
- Understand the role of technology in strengthening health security and promoting equitable healthcare for refugee and migrant communities.

Refugee Protection and Settlement in Canada (26)

Teresa Dremetsikas, MD

Manager, Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

Abstract Authors: Teresa Dremetsikas¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Canadian Center for Victims of Torture

This presentation will explore an integrated approach to refugee protection, emphasizing the critical role of community engagement. It will examine key international instruments that safeguard the rights of refugees, with particular attention to the protection of women and children. Additionally, the session will underscore the importance of self-awareness regarding personal biases and highlight strategic advocacy methods for effectively supporting vulnerable populations.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify best practices and holistic approaches for caregivers and service providers working with vulnerable refugee populations, particularly women and children.
- Enhance understanding of international legal instruments that protect refugee rights, with a focus on public education and advocacy.
- Reflect on personal biases and integrate shared experiences from service providers to strengthen strategic and community-based advocacy efforts.

Equitable Healthcare and Well-being Service/Programs for Newcomers, Refugees, and Non-status Torontonians by Access Alliance-A Toronto Community Health Centre Model (67)

Cliff Ledwos, MA

Cliff- Executive Director; Akm- Director, Research; Rejwan- Associate ED; Grace- Director, Language Services and Digital Strategy Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Abstract Authors: Cliff Ledwos¹, Akm Alamgir¹, Rejwan Karim¹, Grace Eagan¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Access Alliance serves newcomers, refugees, and other equity-deserving residents of Toronto. The Non-insured Walk-in Clinic, programs for the LGBTQ+ community, refugee clinics at hotels, and community programs serve equity-deserving residents. We generate evidence through community-based research and evaluation and provide a full range of language services through translation and interpretation.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about access, engagement, attachment, and equity-driven programs/services for refugees at CHCs.
- Community-based research on refugees, newcomers, and other equity-deserving immigrants and language services for them.
- Clinical service for refugees, non-status people and other vulnerable people.

Understanding the health impacts of immigration detention on asylum seekers and refugees (73)

Letizia Maria Affaticati, MD

Consultant Psychiatrist, Affiliate Researcher at Monash University

Bafreen Sherif MA, PhD Candidate

Clinical Pharmacist, Monash University

Suresh Sundram

Chair and Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Monash University; Director of Research, Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University; Azienda Socio-Sanitaria Territoriale Rhodense

Abstract Authors: Letizia Maria Affaticati^{1, 2}, Bafreen Sherif^{1, 3}, Suresh Sundram^{1, 3, 4}

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Monash University, 2Azienda Socio-Sanitaria Territoriale Rhodense, 3Cabrini Outreach, Asylum Seeker and Refugee Health Hub, 4Monash Health

This session will explore the impact of immigration detention on the physical and mental health of asylum seekers and refugees. It will provide a comprehensive review of the global literature, present findings from a mixed-methods study on Australian immigration detention, and explore strategies to mitigate harm and support recovery.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the physical and mental health impacts of immigration detention globally.
- Understand the long-term health consequences of Australia's policy of mandatory and indefinite immigration detention.
- Propose policy and clinical interventions to reduce psychiatric harm and promote recovery.

No Health Without Status: The Fight for Equitable HIV Care for Uninsured People (121)

Sarah Inson, RN, BScN, PDTN

Registered Nurse, Clinic Lead Blue Door Clinic located at Casey House

Abstract Authors: Sarah Inson¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Blue Door Clinic located at Casey House

For many refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants, healthcare is a privilege, not a right. Blue Door Clinic is Canada's only HIV clinic for uninsured individuals, providing life-saving care while advocating for systemic change. This session explores BDC's model, systemic barriers, and advocacy strategies to ensure healthcare is a human right.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the impact of exclusionary healthcare policies on uninsured people living with HIV.
- Explore BDC's advocacy-driven care model as a framework for addressing systemic barriers.
- Identify effective advocacy strategies for improving healthcare access for uninsured populations.

Work Up of Parasites in Refugees

Andrea Boggild, MSc MD DTMH FRCPC DipABLM Professor (Associate)

Medical Director, Tropical Disease Unit, Toronto General Hospital; Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto

Information coming soon

Tuberculosis in Newcomers

Sahar Zohni

Information coming soon

From Toothaches to Toothpaste: How to help people with oral health problems and how to prevent oral disease (39)

Jennifer Nguyen, DDS

Dentist Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry

Abstract Authors: Sanjukta Mohanta¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry

This engaging presentation will teach participants how to identify oral health emergencies and how to manage them. You will learn about where to refer refugees and newcomers with oral health needs. You will learn the best evidence based methods for oral health care so you can promote optimal oral health.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify oral health emergencies
- Learn how to help people with oral health concerns
- Explain ways to improve oral health

Mutual Aid-Medical Collaboration to Support Im/Migrants and Newcomers – PART 1 (38)

Nathaniel Kratz, MD

Assistant Professor Columbia University

Abstract Authors: Nathaniel Kratz¹, Yajaira Saavedra², Reba Lichtenstein³, Kate Sugarman⁴

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Columbia University, ²La Morada, ³Bushwick Ayuda Mutua, ⁴Doctors For Camp Closure

This panel discussion explores the intersection of mutual aid and medical care in supporting migrants and refugees. Experts will share insights on how these relationship-based collaborations can improve health outcomes, address systemic inequities, and provide culturally competent care, while discussing challenges and best practices for building sustainable partnerships.

Learning Objectives:

- Define mutual aid and describe its role in healthcare delivery for marginalized populations, particularly migrants and refugees.
- Identify opportunities and challenges in forming mutual aid-medical collaborations, focused on barriers and fostering sustainable partnerships.
- Apply best practices from case studies to create and sustain productive mutual aid-medical collaborations.

Towards Sustainable Reintegration: Factors Shaping the Return of Liberian Refugees from Ghana (10)

Eric Gyampoh, PhD in Migration Studies and MA in Population Studies

Research Fellow / Social Research Consultant, University College of Management Studies, Accra Ghana

Abstract Authors: Eric Gyampoh¹, Abena Okyerewa Siaw¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Institution

The motivations for return lie within complex political and socio-cultural factors. Reintegration success varies, with major challenges identified as economic instability, property, psychological trauma, and insufficient support networks. These findings suggest critical policy directions, including partnerships for sustainable development, expanded skills training, and programs to foster social cohesion

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the complex political and socio-cultural motivations influencing Liberian refugees' decisions to return from Ghana after extended displacement.
- Identify the major challenges to successful reintegration, including economic instability, psychological trauma, property issues, and limited support networks.
- Discuss policy implications and opportunities such as sustainable development partnerships, expanded skills training, and social cohesion programs to support reintegration efforts.

Migrants in turbulence times - Staying Awake - Journey to the land of Paradise (16)

Richard Osei Bonsu

Researcher/Project Coordinator, University of Ghana, Center for Migration Studies

Abstract Authors: RICHARD OSEI BONSU¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹University of Ghana, Center for Migration Studies

In wake of recent migration and its related disadvantages in host countries in the lives of the freshly arrival of migrants, The difficulties they encounter through forced deportation, and how they reform their life through re-integrated empowering skill programs to sustain their livelihood back in their communities.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the challenges faced by newly arrived migrants, including the impact of forced deportation on their lives and well-being.
- Examine the role of reintegration and empowerment programs in supporting deported migrants' return and livelihood sustainability.
- Evaluate how skill-building initiatives contribute to migrants' resilience and socio-economic reintegration in their home communities.

Telehealth Utilization Among Immigrant and Refugee Populations: A Scoping Review (22)

Saleema Allana, PhD, RN

Assistant Professor-Global Health, University of Western Ontario

Abstract Authors: Saleema Allana¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹University of Western Ontario

This scoping review examined the existing literature on immigrants' and refugees' use of culturally-tailored telehealth services. Drawing on the study findings, we will develop recommendations to culturally, linguistically, and contextually tailor telehealth interventions, addressing the unique needs of immigrants and refugees and enhancing their health outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the characteristics of the studies undertaken on the utilization of telehealth by immigrants and refugees
- Understand the cultural and contextual tailoring of the telehealth interventions to enable culturally sensitive care and effective utilization by immigrants and refugees

Healthcare Service Needs for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Residents with Precarious Immigration Status in Canada. (24)

Akm Alamgir, PhD, MPhil, MBBS

Director, Organizational Knowledge and Learning: Adjunct Professor, York University, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Abstract Authors: Akm Alamgir1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Refugees experience social disparities, food insecurity, social exclusion, and resettlement stressors compounded by trust issues, cultural recognition, and linguistic barriers. They have a higher prevalence of chronic diseases and mental health issues like mood disorders, anxiety, depression, and PTSD. They experience substantial barriers to healthcare access and suboptimal healthcare outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the healthcare challenges and service needs of refugees and individuals with precarious immigration status, including social and structural determinants affecting their health.
- Interpret relevant data and actively engage in discussions to better understand the health disparities faced by these populations.
- Propose evidence-informed, practice-based solutions to improve healthcare access and outcomes for equity-deserving communities.

Addressing Refugees and Other Migrant Populations in National Adaptation Strategies: A Critical Assessment and Future Pathways (25)

Mariam Farooq, Mariam Farooq; HBA & MPH Candidate (degree would be conferred by conference date). Leanne Lacap; HBSc

Mariam Farooq; MPH Candidate and Research Assistant at CAMH. Leanne Lacap; Research Analyst at CAMH., University of Toronto, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Abstract Authors: Mariam Farooq1, Leanne Lacap1, Kwame McKenzie2, Mariya Bezgrebelna1, Sean Kidd1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, 2Wellesley Institute

This presentation examines how national adaptation plans in high-income countries, including the U.S., Canada, Australia, and the U.K, address refugee and other migrant health needs amid climate change. It

identifies existing gaps and proposes strategies to enhance health equity for refugees/migrants within these frameworks.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze the extent to which national adaptation plans in HICs address the health needs of refugees/migrant populations.
- Identify the unique vulnerabilities refugees/migrants face due to climate change and the gaps in current adaptation strategies.
- Learn potential actionable recommendations to enhance health equity for refugees/migrants within national climate adaptation frameworks.

Mental Health Issues Affecting Refugee Youth in Canada who Experienced Family Loss and Separation in their Country of Origin (49)

Ezza Jalil, MPH, HBSc

Researcher, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Abstract Authors: Ezza Jalil¹, Akm Alamgir¹, Marco Campana¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

This presentation will explore the mental health challenges faced by unaccompanied refugee youth in Canada, highlighting coping strategies and the vital role of social support. It will also offer actionable insights on improving support services and advocating for policy changes to better meet the needs of these vulnerable youth.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the mental health challenges faced by unaccompanied refugee youth in Canada.
- Explore effective coping mechanisms and the role of social support in managing refugee youth mental health.
- Identify strategies for improving support services and advocating for policy changes to address the needs of separated refugee youth.

A promising health training program for Rohingya refugee women in Bangladesh (55)

Bree Akesson

Wilfrid Laurier University

Abstract Authors: Nada Alnaji¹, Bree Akesson¹, Ashley Stewart-Tufescu²

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Wilfrid Laurier University, ²University of Manitoba

The Hope Foundation's Health Assistant Training program trains Rohingya women to support maternal healthcare in their community. Our study found the program has the potential to improve health, empower women, and strengthen community resilience. With strong community acceptance, the HAT program could serve as a model for other humanitarian settings.

Learning Objectives:

- Assess the acceptance and perceived benefits of the Health Assistant Training (HAT) program for young Rohingya women and their community.

- Analyze the impact of the HAT program on healthcare access, women's empowerment, and community resilience.
- Evaluate the potential for scaling the HAT program as a replicable model in humanitarian settings.

Addressing the mental health needs of African Refugees in Canada: An Afrocentric Approach (58)

Massah Tarawalley, MSW

University of Windsor

Abstract Authors: Massah Tarawalley¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹University of Windsor

This presentation will highlight the necessity of culturally based interventions, such as the Afrocentric approach, to effectively tackle the mental health and settlement challenges faced by refugees and newcomers, especially within Black and Indigenous communities.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the importance of culturally grounded interventions in addressing mental health and settlement challenges among refugees and newcomers.
- Describe the principles and benefits of the Afrocentric approach in supporting the well-being of Black and Indigenous communities.
- Assess how culturally relevant frameworks can be applied to improve mental health outcomes and integration experiences for equity-deserving populations.

National asylum clinic perspectives' on the Asylum Medicine Training Initiative (AMTI) (68)

Sara Snyder, PsyD, MPH, MA

Clinical Psychologist and Researcher, Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School

Marcelina Kubica, BS

Medical Student, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Eleanor Emery, MD

Physician and Clinic Co-Director, Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School

Abstract Authors: Marcelina Kubica¹, Yaathika Yaathika², Kaitlyn Sbrolini³, Maha Kazmi⁴, Eleanor Emery⁵, Triveni Defries⁶, C. Nicholas Cuneo¹, Tessa Wilson⁷, Sara Snyder⁵

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, ²CUNY School of Medicine, ³Stony Brook School of Medicine, ⁴University of California, Davis School of Medicine, ⁵Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Medical School, ⁶UCSF Health, ⁷Physicians for Human Rights

Asylum clinics (ACs) support immigration hearings through forensic medical and psychological evaluations (FME), documenting torture and persecution. Due to clinic capacity limits, Asylum Medicine Training Initiative (AMTI) launched a peer-reviewed virtual curriculum to certify FME education. Our study evaluated AMTI awareness and its potential as a training tool for ACs.

Learning Objectives:

- Gain awareness of the AMTI curriculum as a tool for training forensic medical and mental health (FMEs) evaluators
- Understand the current uptake and use of the AMTI curriculum in asylum clinics nationwide
- Summarize possible improvements for the AMTI curriculum's future directions

Trauma, Healing, and Resilience: Examining Adverse Childhood Experiences and Support Systems Among Afghan Refugees in North America (71)

Nangyalai Attal, *The University of Massachusetts Amherst*

Ajmal Khuram, *University of Hiroshima*

Abstract Authors: Nangyalai Attal¹, Ajmal Khuram², Ian Barron¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1The University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2University of Hiroshima

The study highlights the cyclical nature of violence in conflict zones and the barriers to recovery, such as inadequate translation services, complex healthcare systems, and cultural disparities. The research offers valuable insights for supporting not only Afghan refugees but also other displaced populations fleeing conflict and resettling in North America.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the cyclical nature of violence in conflict zones and its long-term impacts on displaced populations.
- Identify key barriers to recovery for refugees, including language access, healthcare system complexity, and cultural disparities.
- Apply insights from the experiences of Afghan refugees to inform supportive practices and policies for other conflict-affected resettled populations in North America.

Rethinking empowerment through the lens of power: A systematic review and qualitative meta-synthesis on the experience of asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors (75)

Tevfik Bayram, MD, MPH, PhD candidate

Medical Doctor, researcher, School of Public Health, University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada; Centre de Recherche en Santé Publique (CReSP), QC, Canada

Abstract Authors: Tevfik Bayram¹, Lara Gautier², Katherine L. Frohlich³

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1School of Public Health, University of Montreal, QC, Canada; Centre de Recherche en Santé Publique (CReSP), QC, Canada, 2Département de gestion, d'évaluation et de politique de santé, École de Santé Publique de l'Université de Montréal; Centre de Recherche

This study explores how power dynamics impact the empowerment of asylum-seeking UMs, who face vulnerabilities as immigrants and minors without parental support. Through a meta-synthesis of qualitative studies from North America and Europe, it examines the effects of compulsory, institutional, structural, and productive power on UMs' ability to make choices.

Learning Objectives:

- Analyze how various forms of power—compulsory, institutional, structural, and productive—affect the agency and empowerment of asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors (UMs).

- Evaluate the role of power in shaping UMs' vulnerabilities and capacities for choice within North American and European contexts.
- Explore opportunities to transform disempowering structures and contribute to re-politicized, equity-oriented health promotion initiatives.

Examining the Inclusion of Distress Migrants and Refugees in Ecuador's Health Systems Through a Human Rights Lens (90)

Mariana Pinto-Alvarez, Daniel Lopez-Cevallos MPH PhD
Doctor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Abstract Authors: Daniel Lopez-Cevallos¹, Mariana Pinto-Alvarez¹, Irene Torres²

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹University of Massachusetts Amherst, ²Funcación Octaedro

This session examines Ecuador's health policies for distress migrants, highlighting legal protections, systemic barriers, and resource redistribution. Findings reveal gaps between policy and implementation, limiting access to care. The discussion explores legal actions, structural inequalities, and strategies for improving equitable health access through policy coordination and evidence-based decision-making.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand distress migrants, their challenges, and the significance of health as a human right
- Analyze Ecuador's policies on migrant health access, focusing on legal protections, systemic barriers, resource redistribution, and structural inequalities

Access to a Primary Care Autism Assessment Program for Children with Non-English Language Preference (100)

Stanley Weinberger, MD, MS
Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Physician, UVM Children's Hospital

Abstract Authors: Stanley Weinberger¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹UVM Children's Hospital

This session will examine some of the barriers to screening and assessing for autism spectrum disorders in families with non-English language preference. We will also examine strategies to increase equity in screening, including the use of a primary care autism assessment program for families with diversity including non-English language preference.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify barriers to screening and assessing for autism spectrum disorders in families with non-English language preference.
- Examine the use of a primary care autism assessment program for families with diversity including non-English language preference.

Building Safety with Trauma-informed Simple Stretching and Breathing: Tools for Trauma-recovery, Pain Management, and Self-care (6)

Yael Calhoun, MA, MS, E-RYT

Executive Director GreenTREE Yoga; Author, GreenTREE Yoga; www.greentreeyoga.org

Abstract Authors: Yael Calhoun¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹GreenTREE Yoga, 501c3 nonprofit

An interactive and experiential workshop to learn simple science-based tools to support clients/patients in using simple trauma-informed tools for stress and pain management. Many FREE support material to use and share. Ideas to make any programs and workspace more trauma-informed. Includes many tools for self-care. Be informed and be inspired.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn simple science to inspire using body-based tools to support clients/patients managing stress and pain.
- Learn simple ways to make programs/workspace more trauma-informed.
- Learn to share FREE support materials for clients/patients/self-care and obtain links for these materials to share (many MP4s, MP3s, and handouts).

Virtual Emergency Department care experiences of equity-deserving populations (27)

Courtney Kupka, MHE, BSc

Research and Evaluation Coordinator, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Akm Alamgir

Director, Organizational Knowledge and Learning, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Abstract Authors: Akm Alamgir¹, Courtney Kupka¹, Justin Hall², Sander Hitzig²

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services, ²Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

This study examined experiences of patients from equity-deserving populations accessing a Virtual Emergency Department in Toronto. Participants appreciated the socially and culturally safe environment compared to in-person care however, noted virtual care could not fully replace it. Increased outreach to these communities is needed for better service awareness and access.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the unique challenges and barriers that EDPs face when accessing VMC.
- Learn how VMC can offer culturally safe alternatives to in-person care for EDPs, focusing on patient and family caregiver experiences.
- Identify strategies for improving outreach and increasing awareness of virtual healthcare services among EDPs.

Community Agencies Collaborating to Support Newcomer/Refugee Mental Health & Trauma (36)

Brenton Diaz, MSW, RSW

Director of Services, Canadian Mental Health Association York Region; Coordinator & Therapist, Newcomer Health and Wellbeing Program (Trauma); Manager of People and Teams at the Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe Cedar Centre

Abstract Authors: Brenton Diaz¹, Kylee Goldman², Nadia Ahmed²

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Cedar Centre, ²Canadian Mental Health Association of York Region and South Simcoe

This workshop will showcase successful strategies and practices from a collaboration between a mental health agency, a trauma care organization, and settlement services. Participants will explore ways to enhance support for newcomers and refugees in their communities through effective cross-agency partnerships and innovative approaches.

Learning Objectives:

- Learning models for partnership between community agencies to provide a holistic service for newcomers/refugees, including medical, psychological and family supports.
- Understanding stigma regarding mental health for newcomer/refugees, and learning best practices on how to reduce stigma.
- Understanding how to address mental health and trauma respectfully through the cultures of newcomers/refugees.

Healthcare on the Move: Lessons from the Canadian Red Cross and the Road Ahead (52)

Puspita Hossain, MD, MPH, PhD (Candidate)

Researcher Canadian Red Cross

Abstract Authors: Puspita Hossain¹, Ilja Ormel¹, Faiza Rab¹, Salim Sohani¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Canadian Red Cross

The workshop explores how humanitarian organizations can sustain healthcare services for displaced populations amid increasing conflict. It will identify strategies for strengthening collaboration with governments, local actors, and health systems, ensuring continuity, and overcoming logistical barriers. The session includes group discussions, presentations, and Q&A to share best practices and strategies.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify strategies for conducting health vulnerability assessments and devise service packages for the affected population.
- Propose practical strategies for improving collaboration between humanitarian organizations, local health systems, and governments.
- Develop actionable policy and advocacy recommendations to promote the health rights of displaced communities in complex contexts.

Two Steps Back: The Fight for Healthcare Access for Uninsured People in Ontario (122)

Sarah Ionson, RN, BScN, PDTN

Registered Nurse Health Network for Uninsured Clients (HNUC)

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

10:45 – 11:45 am SATURDAY SEPTMEBER 13, 2025

Abstract Authors: Sarah Ionson¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Health Network for Uninsured Clients (HNUC)

Ontario's rollback of healthcare coverage for uninsured residents has worsened health disparities for refugees, migrants, and other vulnerable populations. This session unpacks HNUC's latest report, explores real-world advocacy efforts supporting uninsured patients, and equips participants with strategies to push for policy change and healthcare access for all.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the impact of Ontario's healthcare rollback on uninsured individuals, with a focus on provincial insurance exclusions for Canadian-born infants
- Identify policy advocacy strategies to address systemic barriers in healthcare access and engage in collective action

International Organization for Migration (IOM) Initiatives on LGBTQI+ Inclusion and Protection

Information coming soon

Tropical Dermatology

Information coming soon

Challenges with Patients with HIV and Blood Borne Infections

Information coming soon

Mutual Aid-Medical Collaboration to Support Im/Migrants and Newcomers – PART 2 (38)

Nathaniel Kratz, MD

Assistant Professor Columbia University

Abstract Authors: Nathaniel Kratz¹, Yajaira Saavedra², Reba Lichtenstein³, Kate Sugarman⁴

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Columbia University, 2La Morada, 3Bushwick Ayuda Mutua, 4Doctors For Camp Closure

This panel discussion explores the intersection of mutual aid and medical care in supporting migrants and refugees. Experts will share insights on how these relationship-based collaborations can improve health outcomes, address systemic inequities, and provide culturally competent care, while discussing challenges and best practices for building sustainable partnerships.

Learning Objectives:

- Define mutual aid and describe its role in healthcare delivery for marginalized populations, particularly migrants and refugees.
- Identify opportunities and challenges in forming mutual aid-medical collaborations, focused on barriers and fostering sustainable partnerships.
- Apply best practices from case studies to create and sustain productive mutual aid-medical collaborations.

Healing & Thriving: A Comprehensive Mind, Body, and Community Wellbeing Program for Refugees & Immigrants (78)

Deborah Young, PhD, Ed.S

Executive Director, Professor/researcher, BA, Program Director and Finance Officer. Empowering Communities Globally, Community College of Denver, University of Colorado Colorado Spring

Abstract Authors: Deborah Young¹, Irina Karic², Edis Cardoza³

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Executive Director - Professor/researcher, 2Program Quality and Development, 3Fatherhood Program Supervisor, Finance Officer

The Empowering Communities 5-Step Program offers holistic, comprehensive support focusing on education, workforce integration, and health and wellbeing. ECG provides a community-led culturally/linguistically responsive approach to promote healing and long-term success, offering bridging opportunities while preserving their culture and language, and overcoming challenges across various life sectors.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the program's culturally/linguistically responsive approach strengthens protective factors at the individual, family, and community levels, while influencing policies and service systems.
- Demonstrate effective strategies through case studies for implementing the program across different settings and advocating for systemic changes that enhance support for refugee and immigrant populations.

Abnormal normalcy: Intergenerational Trauma among Bosnian Americans (8)

Ajlina Karamehic-Muratovic, PhD

Associate Professor, Saint Louis University

Abstract Authors: Ajlina Karamehic-Muratovic1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1St Louis University

This presentation explores the impact of war trauma experienced by first-generation Bosnian refugees, who fled the 1992-1995 Bosnian genocide and resettled in the U.S., on second-generation Bosnian Americans.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the impact that parents' trauma has on second-generation Bosnian American youth growing up in the US today.
- Understand how the traumatic inheritance of trauma shapes the identity of Bosnian American youth.

Identifying Refugees' Challenges in Navigating the Canadian Healthcare System: A Case Study from Fredericton, New Brunswick (30)

Vahid Salehi, Vahid Salehi (Ph.D.); Alexis McGill (Ph.D.)

Vahid Salehi (Postdoctoral Fellow); Alexis McGill (Assistant Professor), University of New Brunswick

Abstract Authors: Vahid Salehi1, Alexis McGill1

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1University of New Brunswick

This study models the healthcare delivery system for refugees in Fredericton, NB. The findings inform care practices, system-level decision-making, and policy development. Knowledge users gain critical insights into the care delivery system to enhance care processes, health system navigation, and healthcare outcomes for this population.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the complexity of the current Canadian healthcare system for refugees.
- Navigate the current healthcare system through patient journey mapping.
- Identify refugees' challenges in accessing care and service delivery in the current healthcare system.

Resilience Mechanisms and Coping Strategies for Forcibly Displaced Youth Experiencing Social Isolation. (33)**Akm Alamgir**, PhD, MPhil, MBBS*Director and Adjunct Professor, Access Alliance, MHCS; York University**Abstract Authors: Akm Alamgir¹**Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services*

Forcibly displaced youth experience trauma, distrust, deprivation, and exploitation during their journey as a asylum seeker. The stress is more complex when they feel isolated during the journey or at host country. Developing resilience in them is influenced by multiple factors of different levels and dimensions- personal, societal, and systemic.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the lived experiences of forcibly displaced and separated refugee youth, including the trauma, isolation, and exploitation they face.
- Critically evaluate existing individualistic models of resilience for refugee youth, identifying their gaps and limitations.
- Explore a holistic, multi-dimensional model of resilience that incorporates personal, societal, and systemic factors influencing refugee youth well-being.

Integrating Cultural Health Navigators into Hospital Systems: A Pathway to Equitable Healthcare for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations (35)**Ehiremen (Ehi) Adesua Azugbene**, Ph.D. MPH, CHES*Assistant Professor in Maternal and Child Health Research College of Public Health Solutions Arizona State University, Arizona State University - Phoenix, AZ**Abstract Authors: Ehiremen (Ehi) Adesua Azugbene, PhD, MPH, CHES¹, Jeanne F. Nizigiyimana, MSW, MA², Roseanne Schuster, PhD³**Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Arizona State Univesity-College of Health Solutions, ²Center For Refugee and Global Health-Refugee Women's Health Clinic Valleywise Health Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ, ³School of Human Evolution and Social Change Arizona State University*

The abstract delineates the Cultural Health Navigator (CHN) model implementation within hospital settings to improve care coordination for diverse populations. It describes the integration of CHNs into healthcare workflows, their role in bridging cultural and linguistic gaps, and the policy landscape that supports the sustainability and scalability of CHN programs.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the role of Cultural Health Navigators in facilitating culturally and linguistically tailored care.
- Describe the integration of CHN programs into healthcare workflows to improve care coordination and patient outcomes.
- Advocate for Medicaid reimbursement mechanisms as a strategy for sustaining and scaling CHN programs in hospital settings.

Refugee Older Adults' Use of the Internet and Social Media for Transnational Healthcare: A Scoping Review (46)

Cristina Catallo, RN, PhD

Associate Professor, Registered Nurse, Associate Professor, Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Faculty of Community Services, Toronto Metropolitan University

Abstract Authors: Cristina Catallo¹, Sepali Guruge¹, Jordana Salma², Kateryna Metersky¹, Yasin Yasin³, Areej Al-Hamad¹, Lu Wang¹, Hasina Amanzai¹, Zhixi Zhuang¹, Lixia Yang¹, Vathsala Illesinghe¹, Samantha Pejic¹, Alanna DeFry¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Toronto Metropolitan University, 2Univeristy of Alberta, 3University of New Brunswick

We conducted a scoping review to understand the range and nature of social media use among refugee older adults to engage in THPs for information, education, prevention and promotion, diagnosis, and treatment of acute/chronic disease.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the range and nature of social media use among refugee older adults to engage with traditional health practices (THPs) for health information, education, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of acute and chronic diseases.
- Recognize variations in digital technology access, usage, and literacy among refugee older adults globally, and their implications for health engagement.

So as not to feel alone: Motivations and barriers for pregnancy loss support among displaced Syrian refugee families living in Lebanon (48)

Bree Akesson, Bree Akesson, LMSW, MPH, RSW, PhD; Karen Frensch, MSc

Bree Akesson, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Global Adversity and Wellbeing; Karen Frensch, Research Manager, Global Adversity and Wellbeing Research Group, Wilfrid Laurier University

Abstract Authors: Bree Akesson¹, Karen Frensch¹, Nada Alnaji¹, Fatmanur Delioglu¹, Alhasnaa Keftaro¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Wilfrid Laurier University

Pregnancy loss affects over 15% of refugee families, yet remains under-researched, especially in displacement contexts. This study explores Syrian refugees' experiences of pregnancy loss in Lebanon, highlighting the critical role of support systems. Findings reveal motivations and barriers to seeking support, offering actionable insights to improve care for grieving families.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the experiences of pregnancy loss among refugee families and how these losses are layered upon other losses
- Identify mechanisms of support that can help or hinder the healing process of families who have experienced pregnancy loss
- Apply the research findings to current practice and policy guidelines

PRENA-E-COUT study: Evaluation of the experience and cost of prenatal care among pregnant women with precarious migratory status in Quebec (53)

Laila Mahmoudi, Laila Mahmoudi MPH, Marie Dorey MD, Lara Gautier PhD

Laila Mahmoudi PhD(c), Marie Dorey MD, Lara Gautier Researcher, School of Public Health - University of Montreal

Abstract Authors: Laila Mahmoudi¹, Marie Dorey¹, Lara Gautier¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹School of Public Health - University of Montreal

This participatory study examines the prenatal care experiences and trajectories of pregnant women with precarious immigration status in Quebec, many of whom lack public health insurance. Through interviews and thematic analysis, the research identifies barriers to accessing care and aims to develop recommendations that improve access and reduce health inequities.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the challenges faced by pregnant women with precarious immigration status in accessing prenatal care.
- Identify key policy recommendations for improving access and reducing inequalities in maternal healthcare for this population.

Caring in Crisis: Family dynamics and child wellbeing in Rohingya refugee camps (54)

Bree Akesson, Bree Akesson, PhD; Ashley Stewart-Tufescu, PhD; Karen Frensch, MSc; Cindy Sousa, PhD
Bree Akesson, Associate Professor; Ashley Stewart-Tufescu, Assistant Professor; Karen Frensch, Research Manager; Cindy Sousa, Full Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University

Abstract Authors: Bree Akesson¹, Ashley Stewart-Tufescu², Karen Frensch¹, Cindy Sousa³

Abstract Author Affiliations: ¹Wilfrid Laurier University, ²University of Manitoba, ³Bryn Mawr College

Rohingya refugee families living in Bangladesh face immense challenges during the perinatal period, from food insecurity to emotional stress and shifting family roles. This paper reports on data from 32 Rohingya refugee families uncovering three factors impacting displaced families: family dynamics, psycho-emotional impact, and resource allocation.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the challenges faced by Rohingya refugee families during the perinatal period, including shifting family dynamics, resource constraints, and psycho-emotional impacts of displacement.
- Identify strategies for designing holistic interventions that address the interconnected needs of parents and children in crisis-affected contexts to enhance family wellbeing and developmental outcomes.

Hardship, health, and hope: How social determinants of health shape Rohingya mothers' caregiving (56)

Cindy Sousa, Cindy Sousa, PhD; Bree Akesson, PhD; Ashley-Stewart-Tufescu, PhD; Karen Frensch, MSc
Cindy Sousa, Full Professor; Bree Akesson, Associate Professor; Ashley-Stewart-Tufescu, Assistant Professor; Karen Frensch, Research Manager, Bryn Mawr College

Abstract Authors: Cindy Sousa¹, Bree Akesson², Ashley Stewart-Tufescu³, Karen Frensch²

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Bryn Mawr College, 2Wilfrid Laurier University, 3University of Manitoba

Using data from 32 Rohingya mothers in southern Bangladesh, in the work presented here, we describe their pressing challenges, including lack of food, healthcare, space, and education. In so doing, we provide critical junctures for interventions that would support the health and wellbeing of refugee mothers and children alike.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key challenges for Rohingya mothers displaced in Bangladesh refugee camps.
- Develop critical interventions that would support Rohingya mothers' critical caregiving practices within a setting of displacement

Non-institutional Health Navigators Open the Door to health and social services for refugees and immigrants (76)

Kasia Filaber, Kasia Filaber, MHSc; Rosanra Yoon, PhD, NP

Kasia Filaber, Manager, Health Initiatives (Open Door Program) Access Alliance Multicultural Health & Community Services; Rosanra Yoon, Evaluation Researcher, Mid-West Toronto OHT, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Community Services, TMU, Access Alliance Multicultural Health and Community Services

Abstract Authors: Kasia Filaber¹, Rosanra (Rosie) Yoon²

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1Access Alliance MHCS, 2Toronto Metropolitan University

Building on the success of a community connected and partner driven strategy that was born during the height of the pandemic, "Open-Door/ Porte Ouverte" was born as both a concept and service delivery model which serves to strengthen pathways for Health Navigators to connect refugees to the care they need.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will learn about:
- Successful approaches to support access to care and resources for refugees and new immigrants
- How Health Navigators roles can be structured and supported to allow for effective outreach to refugee and immigrant communities to improve their health outcomes.

Resourceful Aging Among Migrants and Refugees: A Holistic Approach to Integration and Well-Being (81)

Areej Al-Hamad, Areej Al-Hamad, PhD, Yasin M. Yasin ,PhD, Kateryna Metersky, PhD and Rezwana Rahman, MScN.

ALL AUTHORS ARE RESEARCHERS AND NURSES., Toronto Metropolitan University

Abstract Authors: Areej Al-Hamad¹, Yasin Yasin², Kateryna Metersky¹, Rezwana Rahman¹

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This session explores resourceful aging as a model for supporting older migrants and refugees in Canada. Using concept analysis and empirical research, we highlight strategies that promote resilience, social

integration, and holistic well-being. Participants will gain practical insights to inform healthcare, policy, and community-based interventions for aging migrant populations.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the key challenges older migrants and refugees face in accessing healthcare and social services.
- Analyze the concept of resourceful aging and its implications for nursing and policy development.
- Apply holistic nursing approaches to improve culturally competent care and support systems for aging migrants.

Engaging in sex work for survival: A systematic review on the mental health needs of refugee women from conflict regions (88)

Kateryna Metersky, Dr. Kateryna Metersky, BScN, RN, MN, PhD; Valerie Tan, BScN, RN, MN
Dr. Kateryna Metersky, Assistant Professor of Nursing; Valerie Tan, Research Assistant, Toronto Metropolitan University

Abstract Authors: Kateryna Metersky¹, Valerie Tan¹, Kristina Tsvygun¹

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This systematic review explores “How does engaging in sex work for survival affect the mental health and well-being of refugee women from conflict regions?” A better understanding of the multi-dimensional risks that this population faces can enhance social, economic, and mental health supports, and improve relevant health policies and programming.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify impact of sex work on mental health and well-being of refugee women from conflict regions.
- Analyze key factors contributing to mental health disparities among refugee women who engage in survival sex work.
- Discuss effective strategies, policies, and interventions that can mitigate the mental health challenges faced by this population.

Preying on vulnerability: A document analysis of online sex work recruitment of Ukrainian displaced women in Canada (91)

Kateryna Metersky, BScN, RN, MN, PhD
Assistant Professor, Toronto Metropolitan University

Abstract Authors: Kateryna Metersky¹, Areej Al-Hamad¹, Asmaa Ahmed¹, Kristina Tsvygun¹, Valerie Tan¹

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This session examines recruitment tactics in online job advertisements related to sex-work, that target displaced Ukrainian women in Canada, and discusses how they contribute to exploitative employment. Learning objectives include examining how language perpetuates gendered exploitation and evaluating the role of digital platforms in amplifying vulnerabilities for displaced Ukrainian women.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe how language in job advertisements perpetuates gendered exploitation targeting displaced Ukrainian women.
- Outline the recruitment strategies employed in job advertisements targeting displaced Ukrainian women and their contribution to exploitative labor practices.
- Evaluate the role of social media in amplifying the vulnerability of displaced Ukrainian women to exploitative employment opportunities.

Food Insecurity and Social Connection of Nicaraguan Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Costa Rica: a Qualitative Study (108)

Keren Herrán, BS

Researcher, University of South Carolina

Abstract Authors: Keren Herrán¹, Edward Frongillo¹, Tatiana Martínez-Jaikel², Hala Ghattas¹, Leila Larson¹

Abstract Author Affiliations: 1University of South Carolina, 2University of Costa Rica

Information from this session can: 1) inform how civil society can strengthen and avoid undermining existent social connections on which refugees and asylum seekers rely for acquiring food, and 2) further elucidate why and how refugees and asylum seekers are excluded from supportive social connections to inform interventions and policy.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the structure, function, and quality of social connections among Nicaraguan refugees and asylum seekers in Costa Rica.
- Analyze how local places and events in Costa Rica impact these social connections.
- Identify the factors influencing where Nicaraguan refugees and asylum seekers obtain food.

Impact of Language Barrier and Delay Before Interpreter Services on Pediatric Hospitalization (114)

Lydia Saad, MD

Resident physician (will be a graduated pediatrician and a SCAN fellow at the time of the conference), Université Laval, Faculté de médecine, Département de pédiatrie; CHUL et Centre mère-enfant Soleil

Abstract Authors: Lydia Saad¹, Marlène Thibault¹, Élodie April¹, Narcisse Singbo²

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This study explores the impact of delayed professional interpreter access on pediatric hospital stay. Results show a moderate positive correlation between the time before interpreter arrival (TBPIB) and hospital stay length. Longer TBPIBs were associated with extended stays, highlighting the importance of timely interpreter services for reducing length of hospitalization.

Learning Objectives:

- Recognize the importance of early interpreter requests during pediatric hospitalization to reduce length of stay in cases of significant language barriers.

CONCURRENT ORAL ABSTRACTS

12:45 – 1:45 pm SATURDAY SEPTMEBER 13, 2025

- Reflect on the roles and accessibility of both formal and informal interpreter services within clinical settings.