



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

07:30 – 08:30	Registration & Breakfast	
08:30 – 08:45	Welcome Remarks and Indigenous Blessing	
	Plenary Sessions	Main Plenary Room
08:45 – 09:45	Unheard Voices Rageshri Dhairyan , 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>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
09:45 – 10:45	The Unmet Health Needs of Migrants from Latin America: The Need for Human Rights-Based and Equity Approaches Olger Gonzalez J.D., Advisor on Human Rights, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
10:45 – 11:15	Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
11:15 – 12:15	Workshops (60 minutes total: 45 minutes interactive presentation and 15 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
11:15 – 12:15	Honouring Their Voices: Informing Mental Health and Substance Use Care for Refugee Youth of African Descent in Nova Scotia (9) Ifeyinwa Mbakogu, Irene Maeri	Breakout Room 1
11:15 – 12:15	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	Breakout Room 2
11:15 – 12:15	Healthcare Workers Organizing to Support Newly Arriving People: Lessons Learned (44) Marc Shi, Shobana Ramasamy, Isabelle Sillo	Breakout Room 3
11:15 – 12:15	How REAC! is drawing lessons from success: new ways of collaborating can support marginalized migrants' health (61) Lara Gautier, Laila Mahmoudi, Muzhgan Haydari, May Massijeh	Breakout Room 4
11:15 – 12:15	Stories of Resilience: Navigating Health, Settlement, and Belonging Among Syrian and Ukrainian Refugee Women (80) Areej Al- Hamad, Kateryna Metersky, Rezwana Rahman	Breakout Room 5
11:15 – 12:15	Virtual Emergency Department care experiences of equity-deserving populations Courtney Kupka	Breakout Room 6



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11:15 – 12:15	Understanding the health impacts of immigration detention on asylum seekers and refugees (73) Letizia M. Affaticati , Bafreen Sherif , Suresh Sundram	Breakout Room 7
11:15 – 12:15	Healthcare on the Move: Lessons from the Canadian Red Cross and the Road Ahead Puspita Hossain	Breakout Room 8
12:15 – 01:00	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
01:00 – 01:45	Oral Abstracts (Each presentation is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
Presentation 1	Building Strength in Community: The Role of Social Resilience in Supporting the Mental Health of Venezuelan Migrant Women in Manabí, Ecuador Maegan McConnell	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 2	Pathways to Quality Mental Health Care (110) Michaela Keogh	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 3	Refugee Older Adults' Use of the Internet and Social Media for Transnational Healthcare: A Scoping Review (46) Cristina Catallo	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 1	Breaking Barriers: Addressing Health Communication Challenges Faced by Refugees with Disabilities in the U.S. Healthcare System (17) Mustafa Rfat	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 2	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	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 1	Help Seeking Behaviours of Refugee And Non-refugee Background Youth: A Mixed Methods Investigation from Three Countries (42) Tahereh Ziaian	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 2	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	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 3	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	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 1	Resettlement experiences of Syrian Refugees in Canada: Results from a multi-site study (41) Bharati Sethi	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 2	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	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 3	Pre-migration Factors as Predictors of Social Inclusion and Stress Among Syrian Refugees in Canada (57) Hania Amir	Breakout Room 4
1:45 – 2:00	Transition Time	



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	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
2:00 – 2:45	In Conversation with Dr. Gabor Maté (Virtual) Gabor Maté, MD <i>Internationally renowned physician, Order of Canada recipient expert in addictions and trauma, and bestselling author of five books including In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction</i> Anna Banerji, O.Ont., MD, MPH, FRCPC, FAAP, DTM&H CTropMed <i>2024 Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada Executive Director, North American Refugee Health Conference Inc.</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
2:45 – 3:00	Transition Time	
3:00 – 4:00	Concurrent Sessions	Breakout Rooms
3:00 – 4:00	Concurrent Session 1: Caring for the Uninsured Paul Caulford, MD <i>Family Physician; Founder, The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care</i>	Breakout Room 1
3:00 – 4:00	Concurrent Session 2: Reflections and Lessons Learnt from the Afghan Resettlement Program Umashanie Reddy <i>Manager of the Resettlement Assistance Program National Coordinating Body</i> Fariborz Birjandian (Virtual) <i>Chief Executive Officer · Calgary Catholic Immigration Society</i>	Breakout Room 2
3:00 – 4:00	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 Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre</i>	Breakout Room 3
4:00 – 4:10	Transition Time	
	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
4:10 – 5:10	Refugee Stories Nhial Deng – South Sudan <i>Award-Winning Youth Advocate, Community Organizer, and Storyteller</i> Ali Abdiwahab Adan <i>Journalist and Disability Advocate, Uganda</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor



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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	International Organization on Migration: The Interwoven Fabric in Refugee Health Naing Zaw Htun Myint , MBBS, MPH Patricka Chulamokha	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
09:15 - 10:15	Mental Health of Refugee Children Rachel Kronick , MD <i>Researcher, Child Psychiatrist, Co-Director Child Psychiatry Services, Jewish General Hospital; Child Consultant, Cultural Consultation Service</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
10:15 - 10:45	Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
10:45 - 11:45	Workshops (60 minutes total: 45 minutes interactive presentation and 15 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
10:45 - 11:45	Trauma Informed Approach for Working with Child and Youth Survivors of War and Torture (11) Ana Ulloa	Breakout Room 1
10:45 - 11:45	Innovations Improving Refugee Health: IOM Vaccine App and Vaccine Access Contact Center (14) Alex Klosovsky , Farah Amin , Jason dela Peña , Patricka Chulamokha , Glib Bortnikov , Svitlana Batsokina	Breakout Room 2
10:45 - 11:45	Refugee Protection and Settlement in Canada (26) Teresa Dremetsikas	Breakout Room 3
10:45 - 11:45	Equitable Healthcare and Well-being Service/Programs for Newcomers, Refugees, and Non-status Torontonians by Access Alliance-A Toronto Community Health Centre Model (67) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 4
10:45 - 11:45	No Health Without Status: The Fight for Equitable HIV Care for Uninsured People (121) Sarah Ionson	Breakout Room 5
10:45 - 11:45	Tuberculosis in newcomers Sahar Zohni	Breakout Room 6
10:45 - 11:45	Oral Health Matters in Refugee Health: Steps for Dental Disease Screening and Management (39) Jennifer N. Seo	Breakout Room 7
10:45 - 11:45	International Organization for Migration on LGBTI issues Gabriel Schirvar	Breakout Room 8
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	



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12:45 – 1:45	Oral Abstracts (Each presentation is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
Presentation 1	Healthcare Service Needs for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Residents with Precarious Immigration Status in Canada (24) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 2	Telehealth Utilization Among Immigrant and Refugee Populations: A Scoping Review (22) Saleema Allana	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 3	A promising health training program for Rohingya refugee women in Bangladesh (55) Bree Akesson , Ashley Stewart-Tufescu	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 1	Addressing Refugees and Other Migrant Populations in National Adaptation Strategies: A Critical Assessment and Future Pathways (25) Mariam Farooq , Leanne Lacap	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 2	National asylum clinic perspectives' on the Asylum Medicine Training Initiative (AMTI) (68) Marcelina Kubica , Sara Snyder	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 3	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	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 4	Examining the Inclusion of Distress Migrants and Refugees in Ecuador's Health Systems Through a Human Rights Lens (90) Daniel López-Cevallos	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 1	Mental Health Issues Affecting Refugee Youth in Canada who Experienced Family Loss and Separation in their Country of Origin (49) Ezza Jalil	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 2	Access to a Primary Care Autism Assessment Program for Children with Non-English Language Preference (100) Stanley Weinberger	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 1	Towards Sustainable Reintegration: Factors Shaping the Return of Liberian Refugees from Ghana (10) Eric Gyampoh	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 2	Migrants in turbulence times - Staying Awake - Journey to the land of Paradise (16) Richard Osei Bonsu Leander	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 3	Addressing the mental health needs of African Refugees in Canada: An Afrocentric Approach (58) Massah Tarawalley	Breakout Room 4
1:45 – 2:15	Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	



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2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Sessions	Breakout Rooms
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 1: Language Access: How Communicating Comfortably and Effectively Optimizes Health System Performance Grace Eagan <i>Director, Language Services and Digital Strategies, Access. Alliance</i>	Breakout Room 1
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 2: Pathways to Peace in the Middle East Michael Lynk, LLB, LLM <i>Professor Emeritus of Law at Western University; Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	Breakout Room 2
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 3: How to Handle a Mental Health Crisis for the Non-Psychiatrist Clare Pain, MD, MSc, FRCPC, DSc (Hons) <i>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)</i>	Breakout Room 3
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 4: Work Up of Tropical Medicine in Refugees Greg Hawley, MD, CCFP <i>Tropical Medicine Fellow, Tropical Disease Unit, Toronto General Hospital Family Physician, HQ Health Hub and Casey House Hospital</i>	Breakout Room 4
3:15 – 3:30	Transition Time	
	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
3:30 – 4:30	Unlocking the Heart of Childhood Trauma: Paediatric PTSD in Today's Context Gili Adler Nevo, MD <i>Michael Garron Hospital Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic Assistant Professor, the University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
4:30 – 5:30	From War Zones to the Hague: The Pursuit of International Justice Payam Akhavan, LLB, LLM SJD, O.Ont. FRSC <i>Barrister, Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, London, UK; Human Rights Chair, Massey College, University of Toronto; former UN prosecutor at The Hague</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor



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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 <i>Assistant Scientist, International Health, Center for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health (CHH)</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
09:15 - 10:15	Panel: Issues in Canada, Australia, and America Audrey Macklin <i>Professor of Law and Chair in Human Rights, University of Toronto</i> Barri Phatarfod , MD <i>Doctors for Refugees, Sydney Australia, Detention</i> Joseph Nwadiuko , MD, PhD <i>Division of Hospital Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
10:15 - 10:45	Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
10:45 - 11:45	Workshops (60 minutes total: 45 minutes interactive presentation and 15 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
10:45 - 11:45	The Invisible Stakeholder: How to Utilize Interpreters Ethically In Service Provision Settings (65) Kamil Khan	Breakout Room 1
10:45 - 11:45	Community Agencies Collaborating to Support Newcomer/Refugee Mental Health & Trauma (36) Kylee Goldman, Brenton Diaz	Breakout Room 2
10:45 - 11:45	Two Steps Back: The Fight for Healthcare Access for Uninsured People in Ontario (122) Sarah Ionsen	Breakout Room 3
10:45 - 11:45	The Importance of Network Navigators Sahar Zohni	Breakout Room 4
10:45 - 11:45	Challenges with patients with HIV and blood borne infections Rageshri Dhairyawan , MBBS, FRCP, BSc, MSc, Dip GUM, Dip HIV, DFSRH	Breakout Room 5
10:45 - 11:45	Mutual Aid-Medical Collaboration to Support Im/Migrants and Newcomers (38) Nathaniel Kratz, Rebecca Lichtenstein, Yajaira Saavedra, Kate Sugarman	Breakout Room 6
10:45 - 11:45	Healing & Thriving: A Comprehensive Mind, Body, and Community Wellbeing Program for Refugees & Immigrants (78) Edis Cardoza, Deborah Young	Breakout Room 7
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	



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12:45 – 1:45	Oral Abstracts (Each presentation is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
Presentation 1	Home Away from Home: Displaced Ukrainian Women's Homestay Stories with their Canadian Hosts in Toronto Areej Al- Hamad , Kateryna Metersky	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 2	Food Insecurity and Social Connection of Nicaraguan Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Costa Rica: A Qualitative Study (108) Keren Herrán	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 1	Identifying Refugees' Challenges in Navigating the Canadian Healthcare System: A Case Study from Fredericton, New Brunswick (30) Vahid Salehi , Alexis McGill	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 2	Integrating Cultural Health Navigators into Hospital Systems: A Pathway to Equitable Healthcare for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations (35) Ehiremen Adesua Azugbene , Jeanne F. Nizigiyimana	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 3	Non-institutional Health Navigators Open the Door to health and social services for refugees and immigrants (76) Kasia Filaber , Rosanra (Rosie) Yoon	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 4	Impact of Language Barrier and Delay Before Interpreter Services on Pediatric Hospitalization (114) Lydia Saad	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 1	Abnormal normalcy: Intergenerational Trauma among Bosnian Americans (8) Ajlina Karamehić-Muratović	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 2	Trauma, Healing, and Resilience: Examining Adverse Childhood Experiences and Support Systems Among Afghan Refugees in North America (71) Nangyalai Attal , Ajmal Khuram	
Presentation 3	Resilience Mechanisms and Coping Strategies for Forcibly Displaced Youth Experiencing Social Isolation (33) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 4	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 , Lara Gautier	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 1	"So as not to feel alone": Motivations and barriers for pregnancy loss support among displaced Syrian refugee families living in Lebanon (48) Bree Akesson , Karen Frensch	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 2	Caring in Crisis: Family dynamics and child wellbeing in Rohingya refugee camps (54) Bree Akesson , Ashley Stewart-Tufescu , Karen Frensch	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 3	Preying on vulnerability: A document analysis of online sex work recruitment of Ukrainian displaced women in Canada (91) Kateryna Metersky , Kristina Tsvygun	Breakout Room 4



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Presentation 4	Engaging in sex work for survival: A systematic review on the mental health needs of refugee women from conflict regions (88) Kateryna Metersky, Kristina Tsvygun	Breakout Room 4
1:45 – 2:15	Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Sessions	Breakout Rooms
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 1: Climate Change and the Most Vulnerable Carmen Logie , PhD <i>Professor, Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations, University of Toronto</i>	Breakout Room 1
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 2 Panel: Latin- American Health and Migration Eduardo Vides , MD <i>MPH Director, Multi-Sectoral Expertise Group MSEG</i> Tracy Maulfair <i>LL.B Representative in Canada, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHRC</i> Julian Prieto , PhD <i>Pennsylvania University (Virtual)</i> Olger Gonzalez <i>J.D., Advisor on Human Rights, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)</i>	Breakout Room 2
2:15 – 3:15	Concurrent Session 3: Addressing the Mental Health Needs for Victims of Torture Teresa Dremetsikas , MD <i>Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture</i> Jayne Fleming <i>Esq., Human Rights Lawyer and Partner at Reed Smith LLP</i>	Breakout Room 3
3:15 – 4:15	Plenary Session Closing Plenary (Virtual) Francesca Albanese <i>United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	Main Plenary Room Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
4:15 – 4:30	Closing Remarks Anna Banerji , O.Ont., MD, MPH, FRCPC, FAAP, DTM&H CTropMed <i>2024 Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada Executive Director, North American Refugee Health Conference Inc</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor