



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

07:00 - 08:00	Registration & Breakfast	
08:00 – 08:15	Welcome Remarks and Indigenous Blessing	
	Plenary Sessions	Main Plenary Room
08:15 - 08:45	Director General, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)	
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, LL.M. 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	Breakout Rooms
12:15 – 01:15	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
01:15 – 02:15	Concurrent Oral Abstracts	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 Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre</i> Francesca Albanese	



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*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

Breakout Rooms

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

12:45 – 01:45 Concurrent Oral Abstracts

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: **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*

Concurrent Session 4: **Understanding Palestine and the
Middle East**



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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 occupied since 1967

03:15 – 03:30 Transition Time

Plenary Session

Main Plenary Room

03:30 – 04:30 **Racism and Refugees**

Rageshri Dhairyanan, MBBS, FRCP, BSc, MSc, Dip GUM, Dip HIV, DFSRH

NHS Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV Medicine; Author, Unheard: The Medical Practice of Silencing

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 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 Defined**

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

12:45 – 01:45 Concurrent Oral Abstracts

Breakout Rooms

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

Plenary Session

Main Plenary Room

02:15 – 03:15 Closing Plenary (TBC)

03:15 – 03:30 Closing Remarks