

Asylum Medical Evaluations: An Interactive Training for Physicians

Saturday, October 29, 2022

Scaife Hall, Room 522

3550 Terrace Street, Pittsburgh PA 15261

Overview

The Pitt Med Human Rights Clinic is a partnership between the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and School of Law that serves asylum-seekers/refugees from across the world who have experienced physical and/or psychiatric trauma. By documenting the physical and psychological sequelae of human rights abuses and submitting a medical-legal affidavit to court, physicians and students can make a difference in whether these individuals are granted asylum or other relief from deportation. Our aim is to train physicians on how to conduct these evaluations from a medical and psychiatric perspective, and how to write medical-legal affidavits for our clients' use in court.

Learning Objectives

Medical Knowledge Base:

- Evaluate for illnesses in the asylum-seeker/refugee population in the Pittsburgh community
- Practice effective leadership and consultation methods
- Understand the dynamic interaction between trauma and mental/physical health
- Understand the different presentations of mental/physical illness across cultural beliefs
- Understand barriers to treatment, including lack of stable housing, insurance, community supports, etc

Person-Centered Care:

- Collaborate with a Pitt-based medical and legal team to provide comprehensive medical/psychiatric assessments for asylum-seekers living in the community.
- Provide trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive care.
- Improve competence in identifying medical/psychiatric conditions in a patient population with diverse medical comorbidities and psychosocial factors.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

- Demonstrate cultural sensitivity and awareness of challenges faced by the asylum-seeker/refugee population
- Communicate effectively with Pitt Med Human Rights Clinic staff before, during, and after completing assessments

Professionalism:

- Understand the nuances specific to the varied populations and settings served in community psychiatry
- Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity, and honesty
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' diversity of gender, age, culture, race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation
- Adjust role behavior according to circumstances

Practice Based Learning and Improvement:

- Recognize and integrate principles for creating collaborative interdisciplinary relationships within and outside of healthcare

System-Based Practice:

- Understand how system-based care plays a role in evaluating and supporting asylum-seekers/refugee patients in an urban setting
- Implement practices and guidelines informed by available scientific evidence
- Effectively assess and navigate system policies and politics

Agenda:

8:30am-10:00 Forensic Mental Health Evaluations for Immigrants Fleeing Torture and Persecution

Speaker: *Dr. Shawn Sidhu, MD*

Associate Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program Director

University of California San Diego, San Diego CA

10:00-10:15 - Break

10:15am-11:45 The Medical Evaluation: History and Physical Exam in the Setting of Torture and Abuse

Speaker: *Amy Labar MD MS*

PGY-2, UPMC Internal Medicine

Advisor, Pitt Med Human Rights Clinic

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA

11:45-12:00 - Break

12:00-12:30 Asylum Basics for Physicians

Speaker: *Sheila Velez Martinez*

Jack and Lovell Olender Professor of Asylum Refugee and Immigrant Law

Director of Clinical Programs

Director of the Immigration Law Clinic

Director of the Low Income Tax Payer Clinic

Advisor, Pitt Med Human Rights Clinic

University of Pittsburgh School of Law, Pittsburgh, PA

12:30 – 1:00pm **Pitt Med Human Rights Clinic**

Speakers: Swetha Jasti, Emily In, Nikita Patel

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh PA

1:00pm **Adjournment**

Accreditation & Credit Designation

In support of improving patient care, the University of Pittsburgh is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Physician (CME)

The University of Pittsburgh designates this live activity for a maximum of 4.0 *AMA PRA Category I Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Other health care professionals will receive a certificate of attendance confirming the number of contact hours commensurate with the extent of participation in this activity.

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