



A program of the Center for Health Humanities and Ethics  
University of Virginia School of Medicine

Provided by the University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing

Wednesday, 07 September 2022

12:00-1:00 p.m. (EST)

**In Person at Pinn Hall Conference Center Auditorium**

**Zoom Webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83476598449>**

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## **Working with Refugee Populations: How do We Optimize Their Welcome?**

Larry Merkel, MD, PhD (Speaker)

Director of Outreach, Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences, University of Virginia

Fern R. Hauck, MD, MS, FAAFP (Panelist)

Director, International Family Medicine Clinic, UVA Department of Family Medicine

Mirna Dickey, M.Ed., LPC (Panelist)

International Rescue Committee

Justin Mutter, MD, MSc (Moderator)

Director of Health Humanities Programs, UVA Center for Health Humanities & Ethics

Although the United States has often been a haven for immigrants fleeing war, famine and other adverse circumstances, until the end of World War II, when the United States admitted Jews fleeing Nazi Germany, we did not have a legal category of refugee status. Subsequent to World War II, there has been considerable controversy about which populations should receive refugee status and the attendant services that assignment provides. There was a preference for white Europeans, making it more difficult to assign refugee status to non-Europeans and people of color. UVA psychiatrist and anthropologist Dr. Larry Merkel will discuss the politicization of refugee status and the diversity of refugee resettlement experiences. Some refugees encounter medical and/or mental health challenges in their journey to making a new life and require more intensive community services. Dr. Fern Hauck and Mirna Dickey will discuss the ways in which local organizations such as the UVA International Family Medicine Clinic and the International Rescue Committee meet the special needs of such refugees and some of the innovative strategies used by area caregivers to assist refugees affected by trauma.

*(Co-presented with Welcoming Greater Charlottesville)*

### **Accreditation & Designation Statements**



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**Disclosure(s):**

The following speakers and planning committee have no personal or professional financial relationships with a commercial entity producing healthcare goods and/or services. Speakers: Larry Merkel, MD, PhD; Fern Hauck, MD, MS; and Mirna Dickey; Planning Committee: Jim Childress, PhD; Marcia Childress, PhD; R.J. Bonnie, LLB; R. Carpenter, DrNP; Mary Faith Marshall, PhD; Justin Mutter, MD, MSc; Kathryn Reid, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC, CNL; Lois Shepherd, JD.

**Disclosure of faculty financial affiliations:**

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**Larry Merkel, MD, PhD**, is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences and Director of Outreach for the department. He graduated from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, subsequently completed a residency in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Merkel was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar and a Senior Fellow at The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Care Economics at the University of Pennsylvania. He later received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. While at the University of Pennsylvania, he was director of the Student Mental Health Center and specialized in working with international and minority students. He was also coordinator of the Transcultural Psychiatry Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Refugee Mental Health Center. He joined the Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia in 1990. Until 2012 he was Director of Psychiatric Medicine and Specialty Care Core of the Southeastern Mental Health Research Center at UVA. He is presently the Director of Outreach in the Department of Psychiatry and NBS and has expanded telepsychiatry to provide mental health care to rural SW Virginia and other parts of the state. Also in this position, he directs the department's ECHO programs, the psychiatry branch of the International Family Medicine Clinic, the Global Mental Health Track, the Guatemala Initiative, and several other programs working with marginalized populations in Charlottesville.

**Fern R. Hauck, MD, MS**, is the Spencer P. Bass, MD, Twenty-First Century Professor of Family Medicine and Professor of Public Health Sciences at the UVA School of Medicine. Dr. Hauck's medical degree is from St. Louis University School of Medicine and her residency training was conducted at the Maine-Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency. She received postgraduate research training through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Family Practice Faculty Development and Research Fellowship at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, where she was also awarded a Master of Science degree. She received additional epidemiologic and policy education in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's EIS (Epidemic Intelligence Service) Program, and as Senior Scholar in Residence at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Center for Primary

Care Research. Dr. Hauck has a longstanding interest in refugee health and global health. She founded the UVA International Family Medicine Clinic (IFMC) within the Department of Family Medicine in 2002.. Dr. Hauck has also engaged students and residents in refugee oriented research and quality improvement projects. In addition, she has developed a student elective and a comprehensive residency curriculum in refugee healthcare, and was cofounder of the Global Health Leadership Track, which now includes 10 UVA residency programs. Dr. Hauck is a member of the Virginia Office of New Americans Advisory Board, whose purpose is to advise the Governor, cabinet members, and the General Assembly on strategies to improve state policies and programs to support the economic, linguistic, and civic integration of new Americans throughout the Commonwealth.

**Mirna Dickey, M.Ed, LPC**, has worked for the International Rescue Committee in Charlottesville since the summer of 2000. She is currently a caseworker in the Intensive Case Management program, serving predominantly clients with special medical and mental health needs. A native of the former Yugoslavia, Mirna came to the United States (not as a refugee) in 1991. She holds a M.Ed. in counseling from the University of Virginia and a M.A. in musicology from Indiana University. She is a licensed professional counselor.



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