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

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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)

Course Description: The Medical Center Hour is the School of Medicine’s biweekly public forum on medicine and society. Produced by the Center for Health Humanities and Ethics, the series includes History of the Health Sciences Lectures co-presented with Historical Collections in the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library. The series is also home to several other annual lectures of the Schools of Medicine and Nursing.

Target Audience: Physicians, Nurses, other Health professionals, students, and the public

Desired Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Discuss expert-level content of current, sometimes controversial issues in health, ethics, and society that directly affects interprofessional clinical practice
- Apply of knowledge and skills across medicine and allied humanities and sciences related to interdisciplinary and Interprofessional approaches to issues and problem solving
- Utilize multiple perspectives such as social, historical, cultural, ethical, legal, religious/spiritual, and artistic to view their influence on medicine, clinical practice, and the health of the public
- Transfer knowledge into community-based and clinical approaches to health improvement, utilizing the health humanities and ethics through their exploration in these learning sessions
Accreditation & Designation Statements

In support of improving patient care, the University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing 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.

The University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing awards 1 contact hour for nurses who participate in this educational activity and complete the post activity evaluation.

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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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All individuals involved in the development and delivery of content for an accredited CE/IPCE activity are expected to disclose relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies occurring within the past 24 months (such as grants or research support, employee, consultant, stock holder, member of speakers bureau, etc.). The University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing employ appropriate mechanisms to resolve potential conflicts of interest and ensure the educational design reflects content validity, scientific rigor and balance for participants. Questions about specific strategies can be directed to the University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

The faculty, staff, CE Advisory Committee and planning committee engaged in the development and/or peer review of this CE/IPCE activity in the Joint Accreditation CE Office of the School of Medicine and School of Nursing have no financial affiliations to disclose.

Disclosure of discussion of non-FDA approved uses for pharmaceutical products and/or medical devices

As a Joint Accreditation provider, the University of Virginia School of Medicine and School of Nursing, requires that all faculty presenters identify and disclose any off-label or experimental uses for pharmaceutical and medical device products. It is recommended that each clinician fully review all the available data on new products or procedures prior to clinical use.

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.

At the end of the conference
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2. Click on the “Learning Portal” button and select “CE Certificate”.
3. Sign in with your email and password or create an account if you are a new user.
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5. Complete the evaluation and click “Done”.
6. Certificate Preparation; indicate the number of credits you wish to claim for attending this activity. Click “Submit”.
7. Click “Print Certificate” or you can access later by visiting our website, Click “Learning Portal”, Sign in at the top of the page and click “Credit History & Past Certificate”.
8. For problems, contact the CME office at uvacme@virginia.edu

PLEASE NOTE: The post activity evaluation will only be available for a 30 day period. Credit will not be issued after the evaluation period has closed.

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