



University
of
Pittsburgh

School
of
Medicine

Office
of
Medical
Education

www.omed.pitt.edu

412.648.8714

Adoption and Foster Care Mini-Elective

Spring 2019

<u>Course Dates:</u>	April 2, 9, 16, 23 Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 PM
<u>Maximum Students:</u>	15
<u>Class Year:</u>	MS1
<u>Course Director:</u>	Marianne Novy, Ph.D.
<u>Contact Information:</u>	Marianne Novy, Ph.D. mnovy@pitt.edu
<u>Registration:</u>	Betsy Nero, Office of Medical Education betsy@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:

This course will deal with health care, medical and mental health needs, and developmental issues in adoptive and foster families. A family where (some of) the children arrived in another way than birth to the parents may deal with lack of medical history, a past of trauma and neglect, questions about secrecy and stigma, and identity issues, sometimes complicated by racial or national difference. This course will help pediatricians and doctors in family practice provide support before and after children's arrival and through their growth, and will help other doctors when their patients are adoptees (approximately 5% of the US population) or were formerly cared for by foster families. It will provide viewpoints from professionals, adoptees, and adoptive parents, using guest speakers and a documentary film. There will be a lot of time for discussion and Q and A.

Objectives:

1. To help develop clinical skills for working with a large and often misunderstood minority.
2. To develop greater understanding of adoption and foster care in biological, psychological, and social context
3. To gain awareness of community, print, and electronic resources, for further understanding and referral to patients

Requirements:

Attendance at all four sessions and submission of a one-paragraph email response to the faculty shortly after at least one of the first three sessions.

Pre-Requisites:

None. If there is room, students from other health profession schools may be accepted

COURSE OUTLINE

Adoption and Foster Care

Location/Times

TBD

7:30-9:30 PM

Course Director(s):

Marianne Novy, Ph.D, adoptee

Participating Faculty:

Kelly Ryan-Schmidt, L.C. S. W., director of in-home therapeutic services at Three Rivers Adoption Council

Sarah Springer, M.D., author of articles about adoption, pediatrician with many adopted children in her practice.

Course Objectives:

1. To help develop clinical skills for working with a large and often misunderstood minority.
2. To develop greater understanding of adoption and foster care in their biological, psychological, and social context
3. To gain awareness of community, print, and electronic resources, for further understanding and referral to patients

Texts: No books but occasionally handouts will be used

Week One – April 2, 2019

Visitor: Sarah Springer, M.D.

Overview of medical, mental health, developmental issues for children in adoptive families, foster care, kinship care; language

Week Two – April 9, 2019

Medical issues, including mental health; effects of neglect and trauma; new arrival and first year issues; visitor Kelly Ryan-Schmidt

Week Three – April 16, 2019

Developmental and social issues, including racial identity and issues faced by transracial adoptees/families, changing understanding of adoption at different ages, school issues, issues about medical history, searching, etc; documentary film, *Off and Running*, about teenage transracial adoptee; visitor Liana Maneese, transracial adoptee, and others

Week Four – April 23, 2019

Summary/wrap-up: successes and long-term needs after growing up in adoption/foster care/kinship care; panel with adopted adults (including Lori Jakiela) and adoptive parents

Course Requirements: Attendance at all four sessions and submission of a one-paragraph email response to the faculty after at least one of the early sessions.