Intimate Partner Violence:  
A Look Across the Lifespan  
Mini-Elective  
Spring 2018

Course Dates: January 9, 16, 23, and 30  
Tuesdays, 6:00—8:00 PM

Maximum Students: 15-20

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

Course Director: Raquel A. Buranosky, MD, MPH  
Associate Professor of Medicine  
Associate Director, Internal Medicine Residency Pgm  
Medical Director, Pittsburgh Women’s Center and Shelter Clinic

Contact Information: Raquel A. Buranosky, MD, MPH  
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Registration: Betsy Nero, Office of Medical Education  
betsy@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:  
The course will be a 4 week course focusing on understanding the dynamics of intimate partner violence, how to identify it and how to intervene in the following populations:

- Teen Dating Violence - Adolescents and Young Adults  
- Intimate Partner Violence and Pregnancy  
- Intimate Partner Violence in the Elderly and the Disabled

Speakers are experts in these areas. The sessions will be interactive, providing evidence as well as tools to apply to patient care.

Course Objectives:
1. Be able to identify signs and symptoms of intimate partner violence in different age groups  
2. Understand interventions that can prevent further violence  
3. Develop comfort with conversations with patients regarding intimate partner violence  
4. To identify ways that culture and socioeconomic status may affect the way that IPV presents itself in a certain population.  
5. To practice screening for IPV and talking to women about safety planning.

Requirements:  
Attend and participate in all 4 lecture/skill building workshops.
Course Outline

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Course Director:
Raquel A. Buranosky, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Medicine
Associate Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Medical Director, Pittsburgh Women’s Center and Shelter Clinic

Location:
All sessions, Scaife Hall Rooms 422 A&B

Session 1: What it’s like to be me.
January 9, 2018
Raquel Burnosky, MD, MPH
The first session is designed to introduce students to the classic power and control relationship that defines IPV. What types of women get abused? What types of men batter women? Why can’t women just leave if the relationship is hurtful? This session will focus on the lives of women who are stuck in an abusive relationship. We will explore how the abusive relationship is detrimental to her health and how she decides to leave her partner. This session will contain an interactive game called “Staying and Leaving” that will highlight why some women stay with their abusers, why some women leave their abusers, and even why some women keep returning to an abusive relationship after trying to leave. Importantly, we will discuss the role of the physician in screening for IPV and how to refer women to advocates. The structure of shelters and logistics of protection from abuse orders will be discussed.

Session 2: IPV and Pregnancy
January 16, 2018
Judy Chang, MD, MPH
This session will focus on how IPV changes throughout the course of a pregnancy, including the months leading up to that pregnancy and those that follow. We will discuss how to screen for IPV in this unique population. Additionally, we will learn about the unique challenges faced by this population including things like negotiating birth control usage, and increased risk for unintended pregnancy and multiple abortions. We will role-play to practice screening and to practice informing the mother about unique risks IPV can impose on her pregnancy like increased risk for low birth weight infants, pre-term delivery, neonatal death, and reduced breast-feeding postpartum.

Session 3: IPV in the Elderly and Disabled
January 23, 2018
Peter Bulova, MD
The last session will concentrate on the elderly and disabled population. Caregiver stress is often viewed as a primary cause of this type of abuse of IPV among elderly couples or adult children with their elderly parents. However, is this really the case, or are the same dynamics of power and control that are so prevalent in all other IPV, also at play here? In this session we will also discuss the impact of disabilities on the power and control dynamic and how that affects a woman’s risk for being in an abusive relationship. Again, we will focus on skill building techniques specific to counseling and screening the elderly and/or disabled for IPV.

Session 4: Teen Dating Violence – Adolescents and Young Adults
January 30, 2018
Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD
Session two will focus on teen dating violence – including adolescent and young adult relationships. Today’s youth are particularly at risk for electronic forms of abuse in addition to physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last for an entire lifetime making it important to identify young women in these unhealthy relationships. Educating young patients about healthy relationships and safe contraceptive options is an essential component of adolescent counseling. This session will focus on skill building techniques specific to counseling and screening adolescents for IPV.