Intimate Partner Violence:
Stories Across a Lifespan
Mini-Elective
Spring 2015

Course Dates: January 20, 27, February 10, 17
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
buranoskyr@upmc.edu

Registration: Betsy Nero, Office of Medical Education
betsy@medschool.pitt.edu

Description:
This four session mini-elective course is designed to give medical students a fundamental understanding of intimate partner violence (IPV) and develop screening, interviewing, and safety planning skills. This course is designed to be interactive – including short lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on practice with mock interviews. IPV is defined as violence occurring between two individuals in a close relationship. It is a pattern of coercive control including physical abuse, sexual abuse, reproductive coercion, emotional abuse, financial control, intimidation, and isolation from friends and family. IPV affects millions of individuals worldwide, is one of the leading causes of injury women, and affects women of all ages, cultures, races, occupations, and income levels. The goal of this course is to break down stereotypes and misconceptions about IPV and increase student comfort in screening and counseling. The course will travel throughout a lifespan focusing on three major categories of women that are affected by IPV: adolescents, pregnant women, and the elderly/disabled.

Courses will focus on:
• Awareness and understanding of IPV in each subpopulation (30 minutes)
• Demonstration illustrating screening techniques in each subpopulation (15 minutes)
• Skill-building Workshop (45 minutes)
Remember: it’s never too late to intervene!

Course Objectives:
1. Awareness of who is affected by IPV and how to recognize and screen for IPV in any patient interaction.
2. To become more familiar with the resources available to victims of IPV and how to inform patients on how to access those resources.
3. To know and appreciate the importance of the general physical, emotional, and monetary considerations for each age group of women.

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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

Intimate Partner Violence: Stories Across a Lifespan

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

Course Objectives:
- Identify the components of sexual health and explain its importance in a complete medical history.
- Discuss strategies to approach talking about sexual health and practice taking a sexual history on a mock-patient.
- Define the concepts of sexuality, gender identity, gender spectrum, and sexual orientation.
- Appreciate the importance of sexuality throughout the lifespan and explain the sexual health needs and concerns of adolescent and elderly patients.
- Identify ways in which culture or religion might affect a patient’s sexual health.
- Understand psychiatry’s current view of sexual identity, sexual disorders, and psychiatric comorbidities in sexual minority populations.

Location:
All sessions, Scaife Hall Rooms 502 & 503

Session 1: What it’s like to be me.
January 20, 2015
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: Teen Dating Violence – Adolescents and Young Adults
January 27, 2015
Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD and Heather McCauley, ScD

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.

Session 3: IPV and Pregnancy
February 10, 2015
Judy Chang, MD, MPH
This session will focus in 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 4: IPV in the Elderly and Disabled**

February 17, 2015

Peter Bulova, MD and Hollis Day, MD, MS

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.