



Professional Enrichment Course

University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
Office of Medical Education

Course Name: Refugee Health

Enrollment Period:	Fall 2023
Course Dates:	Wednesday 9/6, Thursday 9/7, and Friday 9/8 (5:30-7pm) - Lecture and Discussion Sessions October/November – 1 individually scheduled shadowing session October/November – 1 individually scheduled volunteer session
Student Max:	15 students
Class Year:	MS1 and MS2
Course Director:	Thuy Bui, MD (buit@upmc.edu)
Student Administrator:	Haley Fitzgerald (hnf6@pitt.edu)
Location:	502/503 Scaife Hall
Registration:	Via Amp Up – Registration open date will be announced via email
Course Description:	Pittsburgh is home to over 26,000 foreign-born residents and 4,500 refugees who have resettled in the last decade. The refugee population in Pittsburgh includes members from Bhutan, Burma, Somalia, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Syria. As these refugees reside permanently in the U.S., they face unique health challenges such as psychological trauma from conflict and displacement, language and cultural barriers, and understanding of the U.S. healthcare system. Through a mix of lecture/discussion sessions and hands-on experiences, this course introduces medical students to the basic health requirements of refugees living in Pittsburgh and brings awareness to some of their access barriers and available resources.

Objectives:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the health and cultural profiles of key refugee groups in Pittsburgh, focusing on current health needs and priority health conditions 2. Recognize health care access and challenges refugees face navigating the US healthcare system and access community resources to help refugees overcome barriers to care 3. Identify various health and social services agencies that are involved in resettling refugees 4. Describe the common physical and psychological issues affecting refugees such as PTSD and how these are affected by resettlement
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Communicate effectively with patients from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, including the use of interpreters 6. Develop interpersonal skills and a deeper understanding of refugee patients by having in-person experiences with members of the refugee population
Pre-Requisites:	None
Requirements:	Attend all sessions and complete a brief reading/video assignment for each session
Texts:	Pre-session assignments will be linked in a follow-up email.

Overview:

Session 1: Dr. Thuy Bui - Overview of Refugee Health Services in Pittsburgh/Healthcare for Asylum Seekers (Wednesday 9/6)

Students will be given a brief overview of refugee health in Pittsburgh and the many unique factors to consider in caring for these patients. We will have a discussion of healthcare for asylum seekers, healthcare exams for asylees, and asylum clinic initiatives at the University of Pittsburgh. Students will watch several short videos prior to this session, and part of the discussion will center around these videos.

Session 2: Dr. Andrea Fox - Challenges in Caring for Immigrants and Refugees (Thursday 9/7)

Students will have the opportunity to hear from Dr. Andrea Fox, medical director of the Squirrel Hill Health Center, about the unique challenges of the refugee population in Pittsburgh. Topics discussed will include interpreter use, cultural sensitivity, and providing refugee patients with appropriate resources for mental, emotional, and community needs.

Session 3: ISAC Representative - Refugee Transition Period: Beyond Healthcare (Friday 9/8)

ISAC (Immigrant Services and Connections) is an immigrant support organization that has an array of services from legal to housing to employment etc. They strive to 1) help immigrants and refugees living in Allegheny County with barriers of language and/or culture overcome the challenges of connecting to existing services, programs, resources, and communities, 2) educate Allegheny County service providers about immigrant and refugee populations in our region, their needs and rights regarding culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and 3) support and strengthen the region's ethnic communities. A guest speaker from ISAC will be detailing what refugee families experience during the transition period, and talking about the challenges in overcoming different social determinants of health beyond health care access.

Session 4: Navigating Healthcare for Refugee Population (Individual scheduling TBD, October/November)

Students will have an opportunity to go to the Squirrel Hill Health Center (SHHC) to talk to healthcare providers for the refugee population and learn about common themes in working with refugee patients (Dr. Weinkle). Students will also be able to shadow one of the healthcare providers at SHHC to gain a further insight on the unique challenges and health issues that refugees face in navigating the healthcare system in the United States.

Session 5: SHIM After-School Program Volunteering (individual scheduling TBD, month of October/November)

Students will have the opportunity to interact with and teach children of refugee families during an afterschool program. Students will apply their knowledge, collaborating in teams of 3 to 4 to present a health related workshop to 6-12th grade students. An activity guide with different workshop ideas to select from will be available.