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University of Ottawa

SUMMER INSTITUTE IN REFUGEE HEALTH

*Call for Applications*

**Reception House – 204 Boteler Street, Ottawa, Ontario**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Application Deadline: Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 11:59pm**

The Catholic Centre for Immigrants and the University of Ottawa are proud to host the 2016 National Summer Institute in Refugee Health, presented by the WHO Collaborating Centre on Technology Assessment and Health Equity and the Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health. This exciting one-week leadership program is designed for medical students and international medical graduates seeking valuable experience in cross cultural communication skills, PTSD and medical expertise, and leading community service learning programs.

Since 2004, physicians from the Department of Family Medicine and University of Ottawa medical students have played a key role in developing and delivering health advocacy for refugees arriving at the Maison Sophia Reception House in Ottawa. This transitional residential facility operated by the Catholic Centre for Immigrants has hosted thousands of refugee families that have arrived from Chad, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, Iraq, Bhutan, the Thai/Myanmar border, and most recently, Syria. Infectious diseases, malnutrition, physical and/or emotional trauma are notably some of the health conditions experienced by refugees in their host country where they've had little to no access to health care. Upon arrival to Canada, refugees encounter barriers to health care due to poor health literacy skills, the need for interpreters, and poor understanding of the health care system. Thus, it is crucial that health care professionals and trainees are equipped with the cultural competence and understanding both necessary to address the complex health care needs of refugees.

**Objectives:**

- Receive training from Toronto psychiatrist Dr. Morton Beiser, Ryerson University in Narrative Exposure Therapy (NET) an effective, low-intensity intervention for refugee children and youth affected by PTSD
- Engage in leadership workshops: Dr. Kevin Pottie, Dr. Doug Gruner, Dr. David Ponka, and Heather Thomson, national and international experts in refugee health and MSF.
- Learn excellent cultural competency and communication skills, increase your global understanding of current world issues, and gain leadership, health promotion and advocacy skills
- Gain valuable tools to become leaders in refugee health by learning how to operate community service learning programs with refugees, as well as how to build new NET programs.

Partnering organizations include the Canadian Medical Association, the Ontario College of Family Physicians, Médecins Sans Frontières Canada, Department of Family Medicine University of Ottawa and the WHO Collaborating Centre at the Bruyère Research Institute, University of Ottawa.

Applications include a CV, as well as a one-page letter of intent describing why you wish to attend and how you would benefit from the Institute. Only 24 student leaders from across Canada will be selected to participate.

To apply, or to request more information, please contact Matt or Nora ([nora.ahmad@uottawa.ca](mailto:nora.ahmad@uottawa.ca); [matt.driedger@uottawa.ca](mailto:matt.driedger@uottawa.ca)) or visit the Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health (CCIRH) at [www.ccirhken.ca](http://www.ccirhken.ca).