



**North American Refugee Health Conference:
Health Means the World to Us**
Sheraton Fallsview | Niagara Falls | September 11-13, 2025

Preliminary Program Agenda

September 11 - 13, 2025 | Times are in Eastern Daylight Time
Sheraton Fallsview Hotel | Niagara Falls

Thursday September 11, 2025

08:00 - 09:00	Registration & Breakfast	
09:00 – 09:15	Welcome Remarks and Indigenous Blessing	
	Plenary Sessions	Main Plenary Room
09:15 - 09:45	The Hague, Human Rights Payam Akhavan , LLB, LLM SJD, O.Ont. FRSC <i>Human Rights Chair, Massey College, University of Toronto.</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
09:45 - 10:45	The Push/Pull Factors for Latin America Olger Gonzales Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
10:45 – 11:15	Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
11:15 – 12:15	Workshops (60 minutes total: 45 minutes interactive presentation and 15 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
11:15 – 12:15	Honouring Their Voices: Informing Mental Health and Substance Use Care for Refugee Youth of African Descent in Nova Scotia (9) Ifeyinwa Mbakogu, Irene Maeri	Breakout Room 1
11:15 – 12:15	Diabetes in Black Individuals of African Caribbean Ancestry (ACB) aged 18-39 Years in Toronto: Cultural Relativity of Measurement and Risk Assessment (23) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 2
11:15 – 12:15	Healthcare Workers Organizing to Support Newly Arriving People: Lessons Learned (44) Marc Shi, Shobana Ramasamy, Isabelle Sillo	Breakout Room 3
11:15 – 12:15	How REAC! is drawing lessons from success: new ways of collaborating can support marginalized migrants' health (61) Lara Gautier, Laila Mahmoudi, Muzhgan Haydary, May Massijeh	Breakout Room 4
11:15 – 12:15	Stories of Resilience: Navigating Health, Settlement, and Belonging Among Syrian and Ukrainian Refugee Women (80) Areej Al- Hamad, Yasin M.Yasin, Kateryna Metersky, Rezwana	Breakout Room 5
11:15 – 12:15	Virtual Emergency Department care experiences of equity-deserving populations Courtney Kupka	Breakout Room 6
11:15 – 12:15	Understanding the health impacts of immigration detention on asylum seekers and refugees (73) Letizia M. Affaticati, Bafreen Sherif, Suresh Sundram	Breakout Room 7



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11:15 – 12:15	Healthcare on the Move: Lessons from the Canadian Red Cross and the Road Ahead Puspita Hossain	Breakout Room 8
12:15 – 01:00	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
01:00 – 01:45	Oral Abstracts (Each presentation is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
Presentation 1	Building Strength in Community: The Role of Social Resilience in Supporting the Mental Health of Venezuelan Migrant Women in Manabí, Ecuador Maegan McConnell	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 2	Pathways to Quality Mental Health Care (110) Michaela Keogh	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 1	Breaking Barriers: Addressing Health Communication Challenges Faced by Refugees with Disabilities in the U.S. Healthcare System (17) Mustafa Rfat	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 2	Adapting and Enduring: Using AI and Dietary Intake to Understand Chronic Disease and Type 2 Diabetes Dynamics Among Refugees in the Midwest (60) Falah Rashoka	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 1	Help Seeking Behaviours of Refugee And Non-refugee Background Youth: A Mixed Methods Investigation from Three Countries (42) Tahereh Ziaian	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 2	Learning from the experiences of Ukraine refugees in Canada - an initiative to train qualitative researchers and conduct pilot interviews with refugees in Canada (64) Susan Law	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 3	Social determinants of mental health for young people from refugee backgrounds: A cross-sectional analysis of Australian Census and linked administrative data (89) Michaela Hynie	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 1	Resettlement experiences of Syrian Refugees in Canada: Results from a multi-site study (41) Bharati Sethi	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 2	How On-going Violence in Origin Countries Affects Wellbeing: A Qualitative Study of South Sudanese Refugees in Canada and the UK (47) Emily LeRoux-Rutledge	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 3	Pre-migration Factors as Predictors of Social Inclusion and Stress Among Syrian Refugees in Canada (57) Hania Amir	Breakout Room 4
1:45 – 2:00	<i>Transition Time</i>	



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	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
02:00 – 02:45	<p>In Conversation with Dr. Gabor Maté Gabor Maté, MD <i>Internationally renowned physician, Order of Canada recipient expert in addictions and trauma, and bestselling author of five books including In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters with Addiction</i></p> <p>Anna Banerji, O.Ont., MD, MPH, FRCPC, FAAP, DTM&H CTropMed <i>2024 Top 25 Women of Influence in Canada Executive Director, North American Refugee Health Conference Inc.</i></p>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
2:45 – 3:00	Transition Time	
03:00 – 04:00	Concurrent Sessions	Breakout Rooms
03:00 – 04:00	<p>Concurrent Session 1: Caring for the Uninsured Paul Caulford, MD <i>Family Physician; Founder, The Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care</i></p>	Breakout Room 1
03:00 – 04:00	<p>Concurrent Session 2: Reflections and Lessons Learnt from the Afghan Resettlement Program Umashanie Reddy <i>Manager of the Resettlement Assistance Program National Coordinating Body</i></p> <p>Fariborz Birjandian <i>Chief Executive Officer · Calgary Catholic Immigration Society</i></p>	Breakout Room 2
03:00 – 04:00	<p>Concurrent Session 3: Beyond Health Advocacy, Towards Solidarity: Lessons from Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Work in Medicine and Public Health Yipeng Ge, MPH, MD CCFP <i>Primary Care Physician, Public Health Practitioner Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre</i></p>	Breakout Room 3
04:00 – 04:10	Transition Time	
	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
04:10 – 05:10	<p>Refugee Stories Nhial Deng <i>Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan</i></p> <p>Ali Abdiwahab Adan <i>Journalist and Disability Advocate, Uganda</i></p>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor



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Friday September 12, 2025

07:00 - 08:00	Registration & Breakfast	
08:00 – 08:15	Welcome Remarks	
	Plenary Sessions	Main Plenary Room
08:15 - 09:15	Organization on Migration: The Interwoven Fabric in Refugee Health Naing Zaw Htun Myint, MBBS, MPH Patricka Chulamokha	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
09:15 - 10:15	Mental Health of Refugee Children Rachel Kronick, MD <i>Researcher, Child Psychiatrist, Co-Director Child Psychiatry Services, Jewish General Hospital; Child Consultant, Cultural Consultation Service</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
10:15 – 10:45	Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
10:45 – 11:45	Workshops (60 minutes total: 45 minutes interactive presentation and 15 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
10:45 – 11:45	Trauma Informed Approach for Working with Child and Youth Survivors of War and Torture (11) Ana Ulloa	Breakout Room 1
10:45 – 11:45	Innovations Improving Refugee Health: IOM Vaccine App and Vaccine Access Contact Center (14) Alex Klosovsky, Farah Amin, Jason dela Peña, Patricka Chulamokha, Glib Bortnikov, Svitlana Batsokina	Breakout Room 2
10:45 – 11:45	Refugee Protection and Settlement in Canada (26) Teresa Dremetsikas	Breakout Room 3
10:45 – 11:45	Equitable Healthcare and Well-being Service/Programs for Newcomers, Refugees, and Non-status Torontonians by Access Alliance-A Toronto Community Health Centre Model (67) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 4
10:45 – 11:45	No Health Without Status: The Fight for Equitable HIV Care for Uninsured People (121) Sarah Ionson	Breakout Room 5
10:45 – 11:45	Tuberculosis in newcomers Sahar Zohni	Breakout Room 6
10:45 – 11:45	Oral Health Matters in Refugee Health: Steps for Dental Disease Screening and Management (39) Jennifer N. Seo	Breakout Room 7
10:45 – 11:45	International Organization for Migration on LGBTI issues Gabriel Schirvar	Breakout Room 8
11:45 – 12:45	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	



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12:45 – 1:45	Oral Abstracts (Each presentation is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
Presentation 1	Healthcare Service Needs for Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Residents with Precarious Immigration Status in Canada (24) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 2	Telehealth Utilization Among Immigrant and Refugee Populations: A Scoping Review (22) Saleema Allana	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 3	A promising health training program for Rohingya refugee women in Bangladesh (55) Nada Alnaji , Bree Akesson , Ashley Stewart-Tufescu	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 1	Addressing Refugees and Other Migrant Populations in National Adaptation Strategies: A Critical Assessment and Future Pathways (25) Mariam Farooq , Leanne Lacap	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 2	National asylum clinic perspectives' on the Asylum Medicine Training Initiative (AMTI) (68) Marcelina Kubica , Sara Snyder	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 3	Rethinking empowerment through the lens of power: A systematic review and qualitative meta-synthesis on the experience of asylum-seeking unaccompanied minors (75) Tevfik Bayram	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 4	Examining the Inclusion of Distress Migrants and Refugees in Ecuador's Health Systems Through a Human Rights Lens (90) Daniel López-Cevallos	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 1	Mental Health Issues Affecting Refugee Youth in Canada who Experienced Family Loss and Separation in their Country of Origin (49) Ezza Jalil	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 2	Trauma, Healing, and Resilience: Examining Adverse Childhood Experiences and Support Systems Among Afghan Refugees in North America (71) Nangyalai Attal , Ajmal Khuram , Ian Barron	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 3	Access to a Primary Care Autism Assessment Program for Children with Non-English Language Preference (100) Stanley Weinberger	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 1	Towards Sustainable Reintegration: Factors Shaping the Return of Liberian Refugees from Ghana (10) Eric Gyampoh	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 2	Migrants in turbulence times - Staying Awake - Journey to the land of Paradise (16) Richard Osei Bonsu Leander	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 3	Addressing the mental health needs of African Refugees in Canada: An Afrocentric Approach (58) Massah Tarawalley	Breakout Room 4
01:45 – 02:15	Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	



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02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Sessions	Breakout Rooms
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Session 1: Working with an Interpreter Grace Egan <i>Director, Language Services and Digital Strategies, Access. Alliance</i>	Breakout Room 1
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Session 2: Pathways to Peace in the Middle East Michael Lynk, LLB, LLM <i>Associate Professor of Law, University of Western Ontario; Former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	Breakout Room 2
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Session 3: How to Handle a Mental Health Crisis for the Non-Psychiatrist Clare Pain, MD, MSc, FRCPC, DSc (Hons) <i>Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto; Psychiatrist, Mount Sinai Hospital; Consultant, Canadian Center for Victims of Torture for Refugee Mental Health; Co-lead, Toronto Addis Ababa Academic Collaboration (TAAAC)</i>	Breakout Room 3
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Session 4: Work Up of Tropical Medicine in Refugees Andrea Boggild, BSc, MSc, MD, DTMH, FRCP, DipABLM <i>Medical Director, Tropical Disease Unit, Toronto General Hospital</i>	Breakout Room 4
03:15 – 03:30	Transition Time	
	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
03:30 – 04:30	Unlocking the Heart of Childhood Trauma: Paediatric PTSD in Today's Context Gili Adler Nevo, MD <i>Michael Garron Hospital Child and Adolescent Anxiety Clinic Assistant Professor, the University of Toronto and Toronto Metropolitan University</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
04:30 – 05:30	Racism and Refugees Rageshri Dhairyawan, MBBS, FRCP, BSc, MSc, Dip GUM, Dip HIV, DFSRH <i>NHS Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV Medicine; Author, Unheard: The Medical Practice of Silencing</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor



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Saturday September 13, 2025

07:00 - 08:00	Registration & Breakfast	
08:00 – 08:15	Welcome Remarks	
	Plenary Sessions	Main Plenary Room
08:15 - 09:15	Women’s Health Shatha Elnakib, PhD, MPH <i>Assistant Scientist, International Health, Center for Humanitarian Health, Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health (CHH)</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
09:15 - 10:15	Panel: Detention Issues in Canada, Australia, and America Audrey Macklin <i>Professor of Law and Chair in Human Rights, University of Toronto</i> Barri Phatarfod, MD <i>Physician, Antenatal Shared Care Program, Royal Hospital for Women, Australia</i> Joseph Nwadiuko, MD, PhD <i>Division of Hospital Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
10:15 – 10:45	Morning Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
10:45 – 11:45	Workshops (60 minutes total: 45 minutes interactive presentation and 15 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
10:45 – 11:45	The Invisible Stakeholder: How to Utilize Interpreters Ethically In Service Provision Settings (65) Kamil Khan	Breakout Room 1
10:45 – 11:45	Community Agencies Collaborating to Support Newcomer/Refugee Mental Health & Trauma (36) Kylee Goldman, Brenton Diaz	Breakout Room 2
10:45 – 11:45	Two Steps Back: The Fight for Healthcare Access for Uninsured People in Ontario (122) Sarah Ionson	Breakout Room 3
10:45 – 11:45	The Importance of Network Navigators Sahar Zohni	Breakout Room 4
10:45 – 11:45	Challenges with patients with HIV and blood borne infections Rageshri Dhairyawan, MBBS, FRCP, BSc, MSc, Dip GUM, Dip HIV, DFSRH	Breakout Room 5
10:45 – 11:45	Mutual Aid-Medical Collaboration to Support Im/Migrants and Newcomers (38) Yajaira Saavedra, Nathaniel Kratz, Kate Sugarman	Breakout Room 6
10:45 – 11:45	Healing & Thriving: A Comprehensive Mind, Body, and Community Wellbeing Program for Refugees & Immigrants (78) Edis Cardoza, Deborah Young	Breakout Room 7
11:45 – 12:45	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	



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12:45 – 01:45	Oral Abstracts (Each presentation is 15 minutes total: 10 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for audience questions)	Breakout Rooms
Presentation 1	Refugee Older Adults' Use of the Internet and Social Media for Transnational Healthcare: A Scoping Review (46) Cristina Catallo	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 2	Home Away from Home: Displaced Ukrainian Women's Homestay Stories with their Canadian Hosts in Toronto Areej Al- Hamad, Kateryna Metersky	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 3	Food Insecurity and Social Connection of Nicaraguan Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Costa Rica: a Qualitative Study (108) Keren Herrán	Breakout Room 1
Presentation 1	Identifying Refugees' Challenges in Navigating the Canadian Healthcare System: A Case Study from Fredericton, New Brunswick (30) Vahid Salehi, Alexis McGill	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 2	Integrating Cultural Health Navigators into Hospital Systems: A Pathway to Equitable Healthcare for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations (35) Ehiremen Adesua Azugbene, Jeanne F. Nizigiyimana, Roseanne Schuster	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 3	Non-institutional Health Navigators Open the Door to health and social services for refugees and immigrants (76) Kasia Filaber, Rosanra (Rosie) Yoon	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 4	Impact of Language Barrier and Delay Before Interpreter Services on Pediatric Hospitalization (114) Lydia Saad	Breakout Room 2
Presentation 1	Abnormal normalcy: Intergenerational Trauma among Bosnian Americans (8) Ajliina Karamehić-Muratović	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 2	Resilience Mechanisms and Coping Strategies for Forcibly Displaced Youth Experiencing Social Isolation (33) Akm Alamgir	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 3	Caring in Crisis: Family dynamics and child wellbeing in Rohingya refugee camps (54) Cindy Sousa	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 4	PRENA-E-COUT study: Evaluation of the experience and cost of prenatal care among pregnant women with precarious migratory status in Quebec (53) Laila Mahmoudi, Lara Gautier, Marie Dorey	Breakout Room 3
Presentation 1	"So as not to feel alone": Motivations and barriers for pregnancy loss support among displaced Syrian refugee families living in Lebanon (48) Bree Akesson, Karen Frensch	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 2	Hardship, health, and hope: How social determinants of health shape Rohingya mothers' caregiving (56) Ashley Stewart-Tufescu, Karen Frensch	Breakout Room 4
Presentation 3	Preying on vulnerability: A document analysis of online	Breakout Room 4



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	sex work recruitment of Ukrainian displaced women in Canada (91) Kateryna Metersky, Kristina Tsvygun	
Presentation 4	Engaging in sex work for survival: A systematic review on the mental health needs of refugee women from conflict regions (88) Kateryna Metersky and Kristina Tsvygun	Breakout Room 4
01:45 – 02:15	Afternoon Break, Sponsor Exhibit & Poster Viewing	
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Sessions	Breakout Rooms
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Session 1: Climate Change and the Most Vulnerable Carmen Logie , PhD <i>Professor, Canada Research Chair in Global Health Equity and Social Justice with Marginalized Populations, University of Toronto</i>	Breakout Room 1
02:15 – 03:15	Concurrent Session 2 Panel: Latin- American Health and Migration Eduardo Vides , MD <i>Executive Director & Senior Health Sector Consultant, Multi-Sectoral Expertise Group (MSEG)</i> Olger Gonzalez , PAHO Human Rights Advisor	Breakout Room 2
	Concurrent Session 3: Addressing the Mental Health Needs for Victims of Torture Teresa Dremetsikas , MD Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture Jayne Fleming <i>Esq., Human Rights Lawyer and Partner at Reed Smith LLP</i>	Breakout Room 3
	Plenary Session	Main Plenary Room
03:15 – 04:15	Closing Plenary (Virtual) Francesca Albanese <i>United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i>	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor
04:15 – 04:30	Closing Remarks	Great Room BC 3 rd Floor