

African Health Conference Oct. 15-17

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Save the date of October 15-17 to attend the African Refugee Health Conference in Lewiston Maine.

The twin cities of Lewiston-Auburn, population 60,000, have had a net influx of 6,000 immigrants and refugees in the last decade, largely of East African origin. This conference strives to present best practices in immigrant health care in the medical, nursing, public health, behavioral/mental health and administrative fields, from nationally and internationally recognized experts in these fields. It will educate participants regarding some of the unique cultural aspects of this population, which is largely composed of refugees from Somalia, Togo, Sudan, Rwanda and the Congo. The conference will be enriched by the perspective of physicians, nurses, mental health professionals and lay midwives from the immigrant community and/or who have practiced in Africa.

Participants in this program will be able to:

- *Understand best practices in international screening of African refugees
- * Implement best practices in domestic screening for health problems that are particular to immigrants and refugees
- *Identify and effectively address latent tuberculosis infections, hepatitis B, common intestinal nematodes, schistosomiasis, and other common infectious diseases of African refugees
- *Identify and effectively address chronic health issues such as diabetes and obesity as well as effective preventive screening health education messages, such as HIV screening, immunizations, pap, mammography and colon cancer screening.
- * Appropriately screen for and manage mental health issues including depression, anxiety, PTSD, torture, trauma and their consequences for health and family functioning
- *Understand cultural and religious perspectives that influence patient and family decision making, and be able to accommodate these perspectives ethically and effectively
- *Effectively evaluate and work in partnership with interpreters and cultural brokers within CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) national guidelines

If you need further information, please contact Brenda Pelletier at bpelleti@bates.edu

Please help us widely circulate this announcement. If/when you forward it to a list, please drop Brenda an e-mail to let her know. She can send you a copy of the brochure when it is completed, to be sent out later to interested parties.

Sincerely,
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