

Editorial

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief: Journal of Refugee & Global Health Volume 1 Issue 2

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We are pleased to continue our efforts to support shared learning on issues impacting refugee health and health issues as they are relevant to our global society. Clearly, 2017 was a year where many challenges and changes occurred in how care could be provided for the newly arriving refugees resettling in the United States and around the world. Although these numbers decreased, their complexity continued and care was often provided without the resources that had become the foundation for the federal resettlement program in communities across the US. This issue of the *Journal* will highlight a variety of approaches and new discoveries of value for communities, healthcare providers, and support services as they continue to provide assistance for refugees as they resettle.

Professor Enid Trucios-Haynes, an attorney and professor in the Brandeis School of Law, provides The Brandeis Human Rights Advocacy Program: Advancing the Human Rights of the Immigrant, Noncitizen and Refugee Community in Louisville, Kentucky. Professor Trucios-Haynes is a recognized scholar and champion for refugees, immigrants, and the undocumented and the human rights struggles they face. In her work, she describes the human rights and advocacy program she and her team initiated at the Brandeis School of Law and provides it as a model for other communities as they seek to develop a community-engaged and supported program. The program review provides a complete “how to” approach for other communities while, at the same time, providing excellent background into the socioeconomic realities that exist within the refugee populations as they resettle. The article is full of live links to other documents and videos and is a testament to the importance of having a multimedia component to this Journal.

Dr. Najah Zaaed and colleagues provided insight into Jordanian refugees and attitudes toward those with developmental disabilities. Their results provide a glimpse into the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions that exist within the Jordanian society and how that may influence refugees arriving for resettlement into new communities. Their work will be an important resource for program concept, development and evaluation.

Duckles and her colleagues from the University of Pennsylvania sharing their findings regarding female refugees and gender-related issues that are important for those providing care. In their comprehensive guide, they address a spectrum of considerations including specific women’s health issues and mental health concerns that have been identified in the literature among resettling refugees. In addition to the information, they provide a tool that may be useful in ensuring a consistent and complete evaluation as part of the initial refugee health assessment.

In their review of nutrition and diet during pregnancy among Syrian refugees, Harb, Yazbeck and Haidar described their work investigating the knowledge, attitudes and practices among newly delivered Syrian refugees. Their findings indicated a continued opportunity to provide culturally tailored and culturally targeted education and intervention addressing the many social determinants that may lead to inadequate nutrition.

In this issue, we elected to include a Letter to the Editor describing Tetanus in an unvaccinated Amish woman. Corcino describes the course of illness, the public health response, and provides some guidance for healthcare providers as they work with unvaccinated, or under-vaccinated, populations. As we continue to address immunization across all populations, this case is a reminder that vaccine-preventable diseases remain a constant threat to communities across the world. Addressing an anti-vaccination stance can be further complicated by existing cultural nuances.

Lastly, in our ongoing commitment to a multimedia approach, we provide a presentation describing a novel approach to refugee community outreach. The presentation describes use of ‘Global Health Navigators’ as a link between in-clinic and in-community care approaches.

We look forward to receiving submissions for the next 2018 issue as we continue to develop and nurture this community of learners.