A Refugee Health Elective For Medical Students
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Refugee Population:
• Increasing refugee population worldwide
• In 2012, Denver will receive more than 2500 refugees
• Come from culturally diverse backgrounds
• Comprise a medically underserved population with:
  • Impaired access to care
  • Difficulty understanding the healthcare system

SHREC
A multi-year student collaborative to:
• Perform a needs-based assessment of the refugee population
• Engage in service learning projects within the refugee community
One goal of SHREC was to start a student-run refugee health elective.

Methods
• SHREC research findings were combined with the input of professors, community healthcare professionals, and refugee advocates to identify the important components of the curriculum
• In spring 2011 medical students were offered a student-developed and run refugee health elective that consisted of 8 one-hour sessions

Session Evaluations
• Used a four-point Likert scale to rate student views about the quality, organization and long-term applicability of each session

Course Evaluations
• Students completed an eleven-question, four-point Likert scale survey to assess their beliefs and attitudes regarding refugee healthcare

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eight one-hour sessions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Who Is a Refugee?</td>
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<td>2) Common Medical Issues Affecting Refugees</td>
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<td>4) Psychological Issues &amp; Refugees</td>
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<td>5) Challenges and Ethical Dilemmas of Providing Culturally Effective Care</td>
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Results

Pre/Post Self-Assessment of Students Taking Refugee Elective

Overall, students had a positive view point of the individual sessions. The mean satisfaction for the individual sessions ranged from 3.30 to 3.73 out of 4

Discussion

Students' self-perceived knowledge of medical, mental health and cultural issues increased with this elective.

Limitations
• Unable to match pre and post student beliefs regarding knowledge gained from this elective
• Unable to assess the impact of this elective alone as occurred in context of core curriculum on Foundations of Doctoring likely confounding

Next Steps
• Future research could assess if these self-perceived gains are reproducible with subsequent offerings of the elective
• Explore integration with other parts of the SOM curriculum and make available to other health professions students
• Follow students who take this elective into the clerkship years to assess if these students have better interactions with refugees and people from different cultural backgrounds

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References


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