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Refugees in primary care: what are their needs and how can we care best? WONCA SIG on Migrant Care Symposium

Maria van den Muijsenbergh(1,7), Ana Costa(2), Aral Sürmeli(3), Favila Escobio(4), Kyriakos Maltexis(5,6), Christos Lionis(6), Guus Busser(7)

(1) Pharos Centre of Expertise on Health Disparities and Department of Primary and Community Care, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

(2) GP Trainee, Portugal

(3) Acibadem Medical School, Istanbul and Medical Rescue Association, Turkey

(4) MSF, Barcelona

(5) GP, Greece

(6) Social and Family Medicine Faculty of Medicine, Univerisity of Crete, Greece

(7) Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Corresponding author: Dr Maria van den Muijsenbergh, GP And Pharos Centre of Expertise On Health Disparities, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. E-mail: maria.vandenmuisenbergh@radboudumc.nl

Background & Aims: Europe presently faces a huge influx of refugees. Primary Care has the potential to play a key role in the provision of affordable and high quality care to these individuals. They experience large health inequities and barriers in accessing healthcare. European general practice has acknowledged its responsibility in addressing this, in the WONCA 2015 Istanbul Statement. However, many GPs are not familiar with the specific health problems of refugees, and often have difficulties in understanding and addressing their health needs. Scientific knowledge Recent research and care projects can provide information on the health status and health needs of refugees as well as on effective ways of providing good quality and affordable primary care.

Objectives:

- Provide insight into the health and health needs of recent refugee groups in Europe
- Provide knowledge of best practices in primary care for refugees

Methods:

1. Presentations on the health and health needs of refugees:
 1. Experiences and needs of refugees in 8 EU countries: EUR-HUMAN project results.
 2. Health problems of Syrian refugees in Istanbul
 3. Presentations on good practices in primary care for refugees
 4. Oversight of guidelines for refugee care
 5. Mediciens Sans Frontieres practices in Spain
 6. Primary care for refugees in Greece
2. Discussion of expert panel with the audience: how to provide affordable good quality care for refugees in primary care.

Results: Participants will develop a better understanding of the refugee context; their specific health needs, with first hand reports from colleagues in the field; and develop the confidence to adequately perform health assessments and provide affordable and patient-centred care.

Conclusion:

The refugee crisis in Europe has left a trail of significant health consequences, leaving Primary Care with the important task of meeting new challenges in an effort to adequately care for these vulnerable populations.