



WORLD
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SUMMIT



M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

**Organized by the M8 Alliance
under the leadership of the Sapienza University of Rome**

The Impact of COVID-19 on Migrant and Refugee Health

28 January 2021

15:00 – 16:30 CET

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3qkDGBK>

**Webinar in cooperation with the
Lancet Migration Commission**

The **M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health** is a new format and brings together experts from across the M8 Alliance to discuss global, develop innovative and collaborative answers and promote science-based policy advice. Each lecture will last 90 minutes and different speakers from within the M8 Alliance and beyond.

Program

Welcome Addresses

Axel R. Pries, President, World Health Summit and Dean, Charité –
Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Luciano Saso, Sapienza University of Rome, Coordinator M8 Alliance Webinar
Series on Migrant and Refugee Health

Panel Session

Chair

Miriam Orcutt, Executive Director, Lancet Migration

Santino Severoni, Director, Migration Health Programme World Health
Organization (WHO), Office of the Deputy Director-General
*"Impact of COVID19 on Migration and Refugee Health – review of policy
approach."*

Ozge Karadag Caman, Public Health Researcher, Center for Sustainable
Development, Earth Institute, Columbia University
*"Why social determinants of health matter more than ever in the pandemic?
The case of Turkey."*

Ietza Bojorquez, Professor-Researcher, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte,
Tijuana
*"The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons in mobility in Latin
America: the case of Mexico."*

Paul Spiegel, Director, Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health
"COVID-19, Public Health orders and Migration Health in the U.S."

Apostolos Veizis, Director, Medical Operational Support, Doctors without
Borders Greece
"COVID-19 and migrants, refugees and asylum seekers stranded in Greece."

Q&A

Conclusions

Rapporteur

Stephen Matlin, Visiting Professor, Institute of Global Health Innovation,
Imperial College London, UK

Description

COVID-19 has highlighted the structural inequalities which migrants often face as well as the importance of inclusion of migrants and refugees in all aspects of health system response. Factors such as lack of access to health care, poor living conditions and economic precarity have impacted disproportionately on particularly the most marginalised migrants and refugees during COVID-19.

This panel will outline the impact of COVID-19 on Migrant and Refugee health, including both country and policy examples.

In May 2020, Lancet Migration published a Global Call to Action which highlighted the need to include migrants and refugees in the public health and health systems responses to COVID-19.

However, although there are some country examples of good practice, to date migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, have often not been explicitly included in public health and health system responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, COVID-19 restrictive public health measures and 'lockdowns' in some countries have caused either severe restriction on movement for asylum seekers and refugees or emergency internal migration of low-wage migrant workers. This can impact negatively on migrants' and refugees' healthcare access, social support networks and ability to work, leading to adverse physical and mental health outcomes.

Action and cooperation between academia, policy and practice is now needed to address the structural factors affecting migrant inclusion in health systems. COVID-19 disease outbreak control measures will only be successful if all populations are included in the national and international responses.

Speakers



Axel Radlach Pries is Dean of Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin and President of the World Health Summit. He is a Professor of Physiology and Dean of the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin. His major research fields are microcirculation, organ perfusion, endothelial function, endothelial surface, vascular adaptation, angiogenesis, tumor microcirculation and blood rheology.



Luciano Saso (Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy) received his PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences from Sapienza University in 1992. He is author of more than 250 scientific articles published in peer reviewed international journals with impact factor (SASO-L in www.pubmed.com, total impact factor > 800, H-index Google Scholar 47, Scopus 39). He coordinated several research projects and has been referee for many national and international funding agencies and international scientific journals in the last 30 years. Prof. Saso has extensive experience in international relations and he is currently Vice-Rector for European University Networks at Sapienza University of Rome. In the last 15 years, he participated in several projects and has been speaker and chair at many international conferences organised by the UNICA network of the universities from the Capitals of Europe (<http://www.unica-network.eu/>) and other university associations. Prof. Saso has been Member of the Steering Committee of UNICA for two mandates (2011-2015) and he is currently President of UNICA (2015-2023). Prof. Saso is the Representative of Sapienza in the M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies (<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance.html>) and organized three Expert Meetings on Migrant and Refugee Health in Rome <https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>



Miriam Orcutt is a Senior Research Fellow in Global Public Health and Forced Migration at the Institute for Global Health, University College London, and Executive Director of Lancet Migration: global collaboration to advance migration health. She is a trained medical doctor and works regularly as a public health and humanitarian consultant on migration and health. Her main areas of academic and policy work focus on: health

systems resilience and response, global health policy and governance, forced migration and health, and structural and political determinants of health for migrants. Over the last two years she has worked regularly as a Migration Health Specialist for Médecins sans Frontières, and on consultancies in Public Health and Migration at the World Health Organisation. She has been a Steering Committee Member of the Syria Public Health Network for the last five years. Miriam previously worked as a medical doctor in the UK's National Health Service (NHS), on the Academic Clinical Foundation Programme in Epidemiology and Global Public Health, in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. She holds an MSc in Medical Anthropology with Distinction from Durham University and is a doctoral candidate on health system response to forcibly displaced populations. She has published academic articles on migration and health in peer-reviewed journals, and was one of the lead authors of 'The UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health' (published in the Lancet in December 2018). In 2018 she was named a Canadian Woman Leader in Global Health, on the inaugural list by the Canadian Society for International Health and The Lancet.



Santino Severoni is Director of the Migration Health Program, Office of the Deputy Director-General, at the WHO headquarters in Geneva. Since 2000 he has held senior positions at the WHO European Office. He is a medical doctor, health economist, epidemiologist, and experienced system management. He has over 24 years of experience as an international senior technical advisor and executive, worked for governments, multilateral organizations, NGOs, and foundations in Eastern Africa, Balkans, Central Asia and Europe. He has dedicated his work to global health during his professional career, focusing on health sector reforms, health system strengthening, health diplomacy, aid coordination/effectiveness, management of complex emergencies, and as WHO Representative in Albania and Tajikistan. In 2011 have been establishing and leading the public health aspect of migration work for the WHO Regional Office for Europe. In 2019 he was appointed EURO Special Representative on health & migration and

Director a.i. on health systems and public health. In May 2020, he was appointed Director of the WHO Migration Health Program to lead the WHO global work on health and migration.



Ozge Karadag Caman works as a Senior Researcher at the Center for Sustainable Development of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. She also holds an Associate Professor of Public Health title in Turkey. Dr. Karadag Caman earned her medical degree at Istanbul University, and her MSc and PhD Degrees in Public Health at Hacettepe University in Turkey. She also holds a postgrad degree in health promotion from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Karadag Caman has more than 15 years of experience working in multicultural and multidisciplinary teams to conduct research, develop public health policies and programs for different vulnerable/disadvantaged populations. She has worked as a consultant for numerous UN organizations and European Commission in addition to different governmental and non-governmental organizations. Her current work focuses on research, advocacy and training activities regarding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the most vulnerable populations including migrants and refugees and how to use innovative outreach approaches and digital technologies to increase access to health information and health care among refugee and disadvantaged local youth in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. She is a member of The Lancet COVID-19 Commission Secretariat and the Global Happiness Council.



Ietza Bojorquez holds a Ph.D. in Epidemiology, and a MSc in Public Health. Her main research interest is on the social determinants of health, in the areas of mental health, health-related practices and migrant health. After graduating from medical school, she worked in health promotion in rural areas in Mexico. From 2007 to 2010 she was Deputy Director of Operations Research in Mexico's Ministry of Health. From 2010 on, she has been a professor-researcher at the Department of Population Studies, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte, Mexico, where she is currently in charge of the Surveys of Migration in Mexico's Borders (EMIF). She is a member of the board of the Lancet Commission on Migration and Health-Latin America Node. She is currently working on an epidemiological study of COVID-19 among migrant and non-migrant population, the development of a model to facilitate access to mental health care for migrants, and a qualitative study of migrants' access to healthcare, among other projects.



Paul Spiegel is the Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Humanitarian Health and Professor of the Practice in the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), where he lectures and undertakes research in humanitarian emergencies. He received his medical degree at the University of Toronto and his Master of Public Health and specialty in Preventive Medicine at JHSPH. Previously, Dr. Spiegel was a Senior United Nations official in the UN Refugee Agency from 2004-2016. He was the Deputy Director of the Division of Program Support and Management at UNHCR in Geneva, Switzerland from 2012-2016 where he supervised and managed four technical sections - Public Health, Cash-based Initiatives, Shelter and Settlement, and Operations Solutions and Transitions. He also was Chief of the Public Health and HIV Section and the Refugee Agency's Global HIV Coordinator for UNAIDS. Dr. Spiegel was the first Chair of the Funding Committee for the DFID and Wellcome Trust- funded Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises, or R2HC. He is on the editorial board of the journal entitled Conflict and Health. Dr. Spiegel has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles on humanitarian health and migration. He has served as a Commissioner on the Lancet Commission for Migration and Health and the Lancet Commission on Syria. He is currently co-chair of Lancet Migration. Before joining UNHCR, he worked as a Medical Epidemiologist in the International Emergency and Refugee Health Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Previously he worked as a Medical Coordinator with Médecins Sans Frontières and Médecins du Monde in refugee settings in Kenya and Congo, as well as for numerous organizations including the Canadian Red Cross, the Pan American Health Organisation, the American Medical Center in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the Centre for Victims of Torture in Toronto. Dr. Spiegel has responded to a multitude of crises and undertaken fieldwork and research in humanitarian emergencies in numerous countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas. He has published extensively and lectured widely in the field of humanitarian emergencies. His research interests are in humanitarian coordination, methods and surveillance, global health security, and HIV. He has won numerous awards, including CDC's Charles C. Shepard award for outstanding research in Assessment and Epidemiology



Apostolos Veizis is a Medical Doctor (General Practitioner). He is the Director of Medical Operational Support Unit of Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) in Greece. Prior to that he worked as Head of Mission and Medical Coordinator for MSF and Medecins Du Monde in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Albania, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, Turkey. Also participated on assessment, emergency assignments and evaluations in Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Armenia, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, North Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Zambia, Malawi, Uzbekistan, Cyprus and Tajikistan. He participated and had announcements in international and national medical congresses and contributed on publications of relevant articles.

Background

This webinar is part of the **M8 Alliance Webinar Series on Migrant and Refugee Health**, organized by the M8 Alliance under the leadership of Prof. Luciano Saso.



The **M8 Alliance of Academic Health Centers, Universities and National Academies** is an unique international network of 30 leading international academic health centers, universities and research institutions, all of which are committed to improving global health and working with political and economic decision-makers to develop science-based solutions to health challenges worldwide.

Migrant and Refugee Health has been a focus topic of the M8 Alliance since 2016. Regular sessions at the World Health Summit and dedicated expert meetings have laid the basis for effective international research networks. The webinar series builds on this tradition and uses the opportunities of digital technologies to involve even more experts from around the world.

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Further information:

<https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/m8-alliance/topics/migrant-and-refugee-health.html>

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