

Fact Sheet:

Let's Talk! Interprofessional Dialogue at the Intersections of Religion, Diversity, and Healthcare
March 28, 2013
University of Ottawa, Ottawa

Organized by:

Rukhsana Ahmed (University of Ottawa)

Participants:

Rukhsana Ahmed, University of Ottawa
Lori Beaman, University of Ottawa
Josephine Etowa, University of Ottawa
Kevin Pottie, Elisabeth Bruyère Research Institute/University of Ottawa
Saleem Razack, McGill University
Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham, Trinity Western University
Sam Shemie, University of Ottawa/McGill University
Louisa Taylor, Ottawa Citizen
Roanne Thomas, University of Ottawa

Student Participants:

Marianne Abou-Hamad, University of Ottawa
Sarah Anne LaCombe, University of Ottawa
Wahid Mayar, , University of Ottawa
Kajahni Tharmarajan, , University of Ottawa
Tracey Prentice, University of Ottawa

Event Description:

The one-day workshop, *Let's Talk! Interprofessional Dialogue at the Intersections of Religion, Diversity, and Healthcare*, funded by the *Religion and Diversity Project* and sponsored by the LOEB Chair and Research Consortium in Organ and Tissue Donation, brought together top medical and nursing faculty, practitioners, patient advocates, and religious studies scholars from across Canada to engage in discussion and to examine the question: What roles do diversity, and religious beliefs and practices play in health and healing, and medical decision-making?

The one day workshop was mainly structured around a keynote address, two moderated panel discussions, including focused presentations on selected topics and with time for participant engagement after each panel. Topics included: public understanding of what it means to be dead and its cultural and religious implications; Aboriginal women's experiences of spirituality; student selection in medicine to care for a diverse population; religious plurality in the context of home health; clinical perspectives on mental illness of refugee populations in Canada; and the role of spirituality in health care for African Canadians. This event was preceded by a professional development workshop for graduate students titled: *Researching Religion: Health*

Care as Laboratory. Held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, this workshop was co-organized by Rukhsana Ahmed and Lori Beaman and facilitated by Sheryl Reimer-Kirkham.

Results Dissemination:

The workshop report has been posted to the *Religion and Diversity Project* website, and a follow up project on organ donation, religion and culture is underway. Data is being gathered from Muslim and Christian participants regarding their use of health care and their attitudes towards organ donation, also funded by the *Religion and Diversity Project*.