12:00–12:30 pm
Export of an evidence-supported psychotherapy: The case of culturally adapted Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT) in Ethiopia

Dawit Wondimagegn MD & Paula Ravitz MD

Between 2012 and 2019, we conducted an externally funded pilot to integrate mental health services into primary health care in Ethiopia – the Biaber Project (Grand Challenges Canada). We developed teaching modules for primary care health workers with no previous mental health training. The training focused on mental health literacy/stigma, screening, safety and Interpersonal Psychotherapy (IPT), an evidence-supported depression treatment which we adapted for Ethiopia.

As a result of the extensive training, capacity-building and IPT supervision to >500 front-line primary care workers in Ethiopia, it became clear that that training needed to be scaled up to satisfy demand in LMHCs. We subsequently developed a competency-based IPT Massive Open-access Online Course (MOOC) for low-barrier, accessible health professional education (AHSC Innovation Award & UT Online Course Innovation Fund). However, MOOCs have low learner completion rates, and it is not known whether learning objectives are achieved or relevant across cultures and differing clinical settings. We will discuss and seek feedback for future HPE research on perspectives situated in social learning and post-colonialist frameworks with respect to the IPT model’s export, cultural relevance, acceptability, and feasibility in differing health settings.

12:30–1:00 pm
Reflecting on Research: Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Health Professions Education

Roshan Arah Jahangeer PhD and Joanna Krongold PhD

2022 saw the appointment of the first postdoctoral fellows in Islamophobia and antisemitism at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. The inaugural holders of these positions, Drs. Roshan Arah Jahangeer and Joanna Krongold, will offer reflections on their research and its connections to health professions education. While both Islamophobia and antisemitism are prevalent forms of discrimination that have taken on new inflections in recent years, they are rarely discussed in health professions education.

Drawing on preliminary interview research for her project on TAHSN’s adoption of Standards for Religious Attire in Sterile Spaces (Islam et al. 2022), Dr. Jahangeer will reflect on the systemic ways that Islamophobia, or anti-Muslim racism, can manifest in institutional contexts. In a separate but related project, she also discusses archival research undertaken to find the first Muslim-identified medical student at the University of Toronto, as well as the difficulty with openly identifying as Muslim in the pre–World War II period in Canada.

Dr. Krongold will focus on her work investigating antisemitism, or the hatred of and discrimination against Jews, at the structural and individual level. This is exemplified by U of T’s historic antisemitic quota system, in place for decades in the mid-twentieth century at the Faculty of Medicine. She will share archival findings and insights from personal interviews, situating her project in the broader context of EDI and health professions education to explore the possibilities of institutional change.