



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE VIRTUAL PATIENT CASES INITIATIVE Call for Physician Case Authors

The purpose of the Trauma-Informed Care virtual patient initiative is to produce and implement a comprehensive set of online, interactive clinical cases for physicians and other healthcare providers. These cases focus on the prevalence, consequences, and impact of trauma, and how healthcare practitioners can provide trauma-informed care for diverse populations. Upon completion of authoring and full launch of this course, continuing medical education credits will be offered.

Violence and trauma, defined as a painful or distressing events that overwhelm one's ability to cope, are common in the United States and pose an enormous threat to public health. Traumatic events include experiences such as: intimate partner violence, rape and other forms of sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, terrorism, natural disasters, community violence, and historical trauma. Traumatic events are related to maladaptive coping behaviors such as smoking, overeating, alcohol and drug abuse, and high-risk sexual behavior. Trauma can also result in neurophysiological changes that impact the physical health of survivors. To provide appropriate care to trauma survivors, healthcare professionals must understand how trauma influences physical and mental health.

TIC's first cases were completed in the fall of 2015 and new cases are planned through 2018. We are now seeking **Physician Case Authors** for 2017. We are specifically looking for physicians (MD or DO) with:

- 1) interest, experience, and expertise in trauma-informed care in the clinical setting
- 2) experience authoring educational case-based scenarios using reputable literature
OR a willingness to be trained by the leadership team in this area and
- 3) the time and interest to devote to this project

As a **Physician Case Author**, you will commit to approximately a total of 80 hours during the months of February-September (training, conducting literature review, writing, revising, and finalizing cases). You will be paired with a psychologist/behavioral scientist co-author. There will be a required 2-hour webinar training session to kick off the project, followed by weekly 1-hour calls with your co-author for a total of 12 weeks during the authoring process. You will be responsible for participation in subsequent post-meeting conference calls, and the performance of any and all independent work to finalize your case by September 2017. In return, you will be acknowledged as a **Case Author** and receive an honorarium in the amount of \$1,000. Letters of acknowledgement are provided by MedU.

The projected time frame for this project is now through September 2017. If you are interested, please send your CV and a written work product (article, book chapter, etc.). All inquiries and applications should be made to Emily Jacobs, MedU Project Manager and Lead Instructional Designer, at emily.jacobs@med-u.org.

Project Background:

The impact of exposure to traumatic events is well documented. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study and several other notable studies have documented the prevalence of traumatic events in the United States and their impact on the health of Americans. As a result of this data, there is a growing consensus that trauma must be addressed as a major public health issue.

Despite the enormous impact traumatic experiences can have on health and well-being, patients often do not disclose this information to their health care providers, and even when they do, providers are not always aware of the impact this history may have on the patient's physical and mental health.

The Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) virtual patient cases have been created to help providers acquire the knowledge and skills required to interact effectively with patients, particularly women and girls with histories of trauma, both disclosed and undisclosed, in a way that promotes the patient-provider relationship, improves patient engagement in care, and prevents re-traumatization.

Project Partners and Leaders:

The TIC collaboration between the U.S. Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health and MedU began in October 2014. The Project Directors and subject matter experts for this initiative are. Sheela Raja, PhD and. Shairi Turner, MD, MPH.

Michelle Hoersch, MS - Initiative Founder and Federal Project Lead.

Ms. Hoersch is a Public Health Advisor and has been with the Office on Women's Health (OWH) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Region V since 1996. Michelle has a Master's degree in Health Law and Administration from DePaul University in Chicago. Before joining OWH, Michelle was on faculty at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago in the Department of Preventive Medicine. In the Office on Women's Health, Michelle works to cultivate policies, programs, and activities to improve the health of women across the lifespan with particular emphasis on disadvantaged and underrepresented groups of women and girls. Her work focuses on increasing health equity through trauma-informed, gender-responsive approaches. Michelle is a leader in OWH and active across the federal government in advancing efforts to address the impact of trauma on women and girls and promote trauma-informed principles, approaches, practice, and policy. Michelle has co-authored several peer-reviewed publications on the health effects of trauma and is a sought after speaker and trainer.

Sheela Raja, PhD – Initiative Co-Founder and Project Co-Director.

Dr. Raja is an Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Behavioral Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she holds appointments in the Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Raja completed her internship and post-doc fellowship at the National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. In addition to numerous peer-reviewed publications on the health effects of trauma, she is the author of *Overcoming Trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder* and *The Sexual Trauma Workbook for Teen Girls* (New Harbinger Press).

Shairi Turner, MD, MPH – Project Co-Director.

Dr. Turner is a Medical Consultant with the Florida Department of Health. She was the first Chief Medical Director for the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice where trauma informed care is now being implemented. She was a Faculty Consultant for the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and the National Center for Trauma Informed Care where she performed numerous trainings on the Neurobiology of Trauma. She completed her residency at the Harvard Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Residency Program and received a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Alexander Chessman, MD – Editor-in-Chief.

Dr. Chessman is a family physician and professor of family medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. He has been engaged in medical student education for over 25 years, and active nationally through the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. He served on the development team in 2006, and then as co-Editor-in-Chief, of fmCASES, a set of virtual patient cases for medical students on the family medicine clerkship.

MedU (<http://www.med-u.org>), under the leadership of Executive Director Leslie Fall, MD, is well established as the most utilized technology-enhanced learning program in medical education anywhere in the world. With over 150 virtual patient cases, this educational curriculum is used by over 180 institutions worldwide, serving allopathic, osteopathic medicine, nurse practitioner, and physician assistant training programs. More than one million Med U virtual patient cases are completed each year.

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