INTERCULTURAL MEDIATION IN HEALTH CARE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS MODELS, RESEARCH AND EXPERIENCES

Huelva (Spain), 19th and 20th September 2013
Organised by the Health Promotion Unit of the Centre for Migration Studies of the University of Huelva

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Presentation

Health care for immigrants who come from other cultures and speak other languages proves particularly complex, in the fields of disease treatment, health promotion or disease prevention.

In the field of treatment, mutual ignorance of the respective languages and cultural codes normally translates into therapeutic ineffectiveness, overuse of resources and unnecessarily complicated situations in the health care services. It can also produce negative collateral effects, such as causing pain to the family, additional suffering to the patient or consolidating barriers that hinder intercultural coexistence.

In the field of disease prevention and health promotion, trying to work with people from other cultural backgrounds without knowing their language well or their cultural codes is, in the majority of cases, a waste of time and resources, even the cause of other relevant problems. Effective action over the determinants of the state of health of a community is not possible if its cultural codes and how these relate to lifestyles, or to the way of facing certain problems are not known and understood.

Intercultural mediation in the health care services, insofar as it acts as a bridge between different cultures and languages, contributes to creating an environment of mutual respect and human understanding. In this way it can lead to resolving the problems highlighted. However, implementing this initiative in the health services and in community intervention programmes is open to a variety of formulas, not all of them equally effective, easy to manage or sustainable by the health care system.

Throughout Europe, the growing cultural diversity of those who use the health care services has led to the setting up of intercultural mediation –not always professional– in the interaction between the professionals in these health care services and those who use them. However, different degrees of experience in this field are observed across the continent, as well as a variety of models and practices of intercultural mediation, both between the various countries and within each country. Likewise, differences in
management are detected when it comes to immigrants who have recently arrived, as opposed to migrant people who have been in a country for many years, speak the language and know the culture quite well. In these cases, even the need for an “intercultural opening” by the institutions is suggested.

Given the great complexity inherent in intercultural mediation practices, as well as in the organisational management of it in the health care services and community programmes, sharing experiences and perspectives in this field with other professionals and researchers proves of great interest. Similarly, for those who are responsible for the health care services, discussing the suitability of the various formulas that can be applied may be useful, especially considering the sociocultural contexts, economic determinants, the cultural specificity of the users and the organisational culture of the institutions.

For all these reasons, this International conference on intercultural mediation in health care aims to promote the exchange of experiences in this field, and to learn about the results of relevant research relating to this subject. Finally, to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the various organisational models of intercultural mediation in European countries in relation to disease treatment, health promotion and disease prevention.

Objectives

1. To exchange experiences in intercultural mediation in health care environments and to consider the usefulness and viability of the various action formulas being applied in European countries in intercultural mediation in the health care sector.
2. To learn about the relevant findings from research conducted recently in relation to intercultural mediation in health care.
3. To further analyse particularly model experiences carried out in this field.
4. As far as possible, to jointly achieve consensus on guidelines relating to intercultural mediation in disease treatment, health promotion and disease prevention that can be applied in European contexts.

Participants

The conference is open to the active participation of representatives from the following sectors:

1. Health policy makers.
2. Managers of health care services.
3. Researchers who specialise in matters of health and interculturality.
4. Health professionals, working in disease treatment, health promotion or disease prevention.
5. Professionals from the social services, translation services and other professionals who normally cooperate with the health care system in caring for immigrants.
6. Representatives from associations, foundations and other bodies associated with the subject of the conference.

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Scientific committee


Begoña García Navarro. Nursing Department, University of Huelva. Juan Ramón Jiménez Hospital Division (Huelva). Member of the Research Group “Social Studies and Social Intervention”.

Estrella Gualda Caballero. Professor in Sociology, University of Huelva. Director of the Research Group “Social Studies and Social Intervention”.


Pierre Lombrail, Professor of Public Health, School of Medicine, University of Nantes (France).

João Filipe Marques, PhD in Sociology, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics. University of Algarve.

Emilia Martins Texeira da Costa. PhD in Health Psychology. Deputy Director of the School of Health. University of Algarve.


Ramón Mendoza Berjano. Full Professor of Developmental and Educational Psychology. University of Huelva.


Barbara Schramkowski. PhD in Intercultural Pedagogy. Director of the “Gender Equality in Caritas Managing Department” Project (Germany). Lecturer in Intercultural Social Work. University of Voralberg (Austria).


Organising committee

Coordinator: Ramón Mendoza Berjano. University of Huelva.

Assistant coordinator: Estrella Gualda Caballero. University of Huelva.

E. Begoña García Navarro. University of Huelva.

Diego Gómez Baya. Department of Developmental and Educational Psychology, University of Huelva. Member of the Research Group “Health Promotion and Lifestyles Development throughout Lifespan”.

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Violeta Luque Ribelles. Department of Clinical, Experimental and Social Psychology, University of Huelva. Member of the Research Group “Coalition for the Study of Health, Power and Diversity”.


Structure

The conference will include lectures, round tables, communication sessions, working groups and plenary discussion sessions.

Preliminary content

1. Situation of intercultural mediation in the health care sector in European countries.
3. Intercultural competence of professionals in the health care services.
4. Barriers in accessibility to the health care system relating to cultural diversity.
5. Communication strategies in intercultural mediation in health care.
6. Intercultural mediation in health promotion and disease prevention programmes.
7. Professional and non-professional profiles in intercultural mediation.
8. Legal and ethical aspects of intercultural mediation in the health care sector.
10. Some specific subject areas:
   - Adherence to treatments
   - Childbirth
   - Breast-feeding
   - Vaccination
   - Physical activity and prevention of obesity
   - Health and gender
   - Prevention and treatment of addictions
   - Death and cultural diversity
   - Palliative care
   - Prevention and treatment of infections (HIV and others)
   - Surgery
   - Mental health

The definitive programme will confirm these proposals and include others, based on the interests expressed by the participants.

Working languages

English, French, Portuguese and Spanish will be used indistinctively. There will be no simultaneous translation.
Working Groups

These will be organized according to the participants’ interests. The participant’s choice of topics and language or languages to be used in the work group discussions can be stated in the application form.

Conference registration

Registration for the conference includes lunch (main meal) for both days.
Reduced fee registration (before 30th April): 80 euros.
Normal registration (from 30th April): 100 euros.
University students: 40 euros (before 30th of April) or 50 euros (after 30th of April), evidence to accredit current studies must be provided.

Bank Account
Recipient: Universidad de Huelva
Account number: 0049 1009 30 2810001042
Int. bank account number (IBAN): ES7400491009302810001042
Details to be quoted on the payment receipt: CIM salud-migración
A copy of the bank receipt for the payment or transfer must be sent to the conference office together with the registration form.
Please note that, given the nature of the Conference, places are limited.

Conference Office

You may find updated information on the conference on the website: uhu.es/health-migration/
For further information or to register, you can contact the office by e-mail, post or telephone at the following address: promocionsalud.cim@inv.uhu.es

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