The fourteenth Summer Institute on Migration and Global Health, organized by the University of California (UC) Berkeley Health Initiative of the Americas, took place July 10 -13, 2019 in the San Francisco Bay Area, at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, The California Endowment’s Center for Healthy Communities in Oakland, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Although migration is a natural phenomenon that has always been an integral part of human history, it has substantially increased in recent years as a result of economic disparities, violence, climate change, and globalization, among other factors. Policies, regulations and debates about migration have intensified in recent years, in many cases jeopardizing the health of the migrants and the people around them.

The goal of the Summer Institute is to provide an academic space dedicated to presenting and analyzing in depth the interrelation between migration, the health of migrants, and global health from a multi-disciplinary perspective. It provides researchers, faculty, graduate students, and professionals working with migrant communities around the world, a unique opportunity to learn about different health issues that affect mobile populations.

Now in its 14th year, the Summer Institute has gained national and international recognition, reaching many countries across several continents. This year there were 115 people
hailing from 15 countries in attendance, including 28 speakers from well-known institutions that have vastly contributed to migrant communities all over the world. For the first time ever, participants from afar were able to attend virtually thanks to the live webcast. The eighteen virtual participants were able to watch the presentations in real time and ask questions via chat, as well as view the recorded plenary sessions at their own convenience.

**Current topics and inspiring presentations**

Plenary presentations covered diverse topics, incorporating the latest information about policies that affect the health of migrants and highlighting successful programs that address those problems. The presentations also included research methodologies and other valuable information such as where to find useful resources when working with these vulnerable populations.

Dr. Marc Schenker kicks off the 14th Summer Institute with a presentation on historical and current trends related to migration and global health.

The main topics were:

- Past, present and future of global migration
- Changes in immigration policies in the U.S.
- Best practices and regional coordination to respond to migrant health needs in Europe and Latin America
- Human rights and medical-legal partnerships
- Health disparities among Asian immigrants in the U.S.
- Data collection on immigrants health
- Population mobility and HIV epidemics in Eastern Africa
- Gender, vulnerability, and resilience among children left behind
- Refugee health
- Returning to the place of origin
Following the plenary presentations, the simultaneous breakout sessions allowed for more in-depth discussions in smaller groups. The sessions included the following topics:

- Data sources on migration and health
- US-Mexico collaborations in migrants’ health
- Occupational health and safety
- Mapping spatial inequality in immigrant services
- Policy dialogues to engagement for advancing health equity
- Alcohol and substance related sexual risk in Latino migrant day laborers
- Human trafficking and health
- Conducting outreach in an anti-immigrant climate
- Resilience, faith and social supports in forced migrants from Central America and Mexico
- Mental health
- Climate change and migration
- Humanizing deportation

Poster sessions allowed researchers and students to present their research on migrant health issues, while receiving feedback and fostering the exchange of ideas. Twenty-seven posters were presented, seven of them projects funded by the Research Program on Migration and Health (PIMSA), administrated by the Health Initiative of the Americas.

HIA director Xóchitl Castañeda presents Dr. Joseba Achotegui and Dr. Gudelia Rangel with the Mario Gutierrez Migrant Health Award

Mario Gutierrez Migrant Health Award

As part of the 14th Summer Institute, the Mario Gutierrez Migrant Health Award was presented to two outstanding individuals and tireless professionals who have dedicated their career to dignify the health of migrants. The award recipients were Dr. Gudelia Rangel Gomez, who currently serves as Executive Secretary of the Mexican Section.
of the United States-Mexico Border Health Commission and research professor at El Colegio de la Frontera Norte; and Dr. Joseba Achotegui Loizate, professor at the University of Barcelona and Director of SAPPiR (Psychopathological and Psychosocial Support Service for Immigrants and Refugees) at the Hospital of Saint Peter Claver in Barcelona The award was presented by family members of the late Mario Gutierrez, who’s life’s work was to promoted social justice and better the lives of migrants.

Site Visits

Aside from the information and theory provided through presentations, Summer Institute participants had the opportunity to see firsthand some of the programs that serve migrant populations in the Bay Area. The first site visit was to the Asian Health Services in Oakland on Thursday, July 11, where they learned about the history and the culturally and linguistically appropriate health services they provide to their clients, who are primarily Asian migrants. On Friday, participants were delighted with a guided tour of the beautiful and historic UC Berkeley campus.

On Saturday, the site visit focused on the migrant LGBTQ community living in San Francisco. The first stop was at the headquarters of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) where the coordinator of the Latino programs offered a comprehensive presentation of the challenges that migrants experience upon arrival to San Francisco, one of the most liberal and progressive cities in the U.S., but also one of the most expensive. After the presentation participants experienced a guided walking tour around the Tenderloin neighborhood, where many migrants live on the streets, and where the struggles of substance abuse, sex work, and poverty are obvious. Multiple organizations provide social and health services to the population in this area. After touring the Tenderloin, the group went to the Castro District, one of the most globally recognized areas for LGBTQ activism and events. There participants visited the Strut Health and Wellness Center,
managed by SFAF, which provides multiple services to the LGBTQ community, many of whom are immigrants, and learned about SFAF’s efforts and strategies to eliminate HIV transmission and improve the quality of life and longevity of individuals living with HIV.

**Space to socialize and network**

The Summer Institute also included plenty of spaces and social activities to foster communication and networking among participants. The first day students and faculty were treated to a pleasant evening welcoming reception with drinks and appetizers at Oakland’s Agave Uptown restaurant. On Thursday evening, a group of participants took the ferry from Oakland’s Jack London Square to the San Francisco Ferry Building, and enjoyed a wonderful dinner in the City.

**Comments from Participants:**

“It was such a great pleasure and inspiration to meet so many of the attendees and hear the amazing work everyone around the globe is doing.”

“It was absolutely my pleasure to attend and to take part in such fascinating and progressive discussions. Thank you for making the event so fruitful and for sharing all of the materials with us.”

“It was an incredibly eye-opening and stimulating conference. The diverse, multidisciplinary group that you assemble every year really helped me discover new tools/methodologies and brainstorm new ideas for our work. I’m looking forward to keeping in touch and engaging with this community working in migration and health.”

“It was a great conference – so well organized and with a varied and interesting set of presenters. Thanks to you all for putting together such an excellent program.”

“Congratulations for the organization of this Summer Institute and thank you for allowing the possibility of participating in live-streaming. This was a great idea!”
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