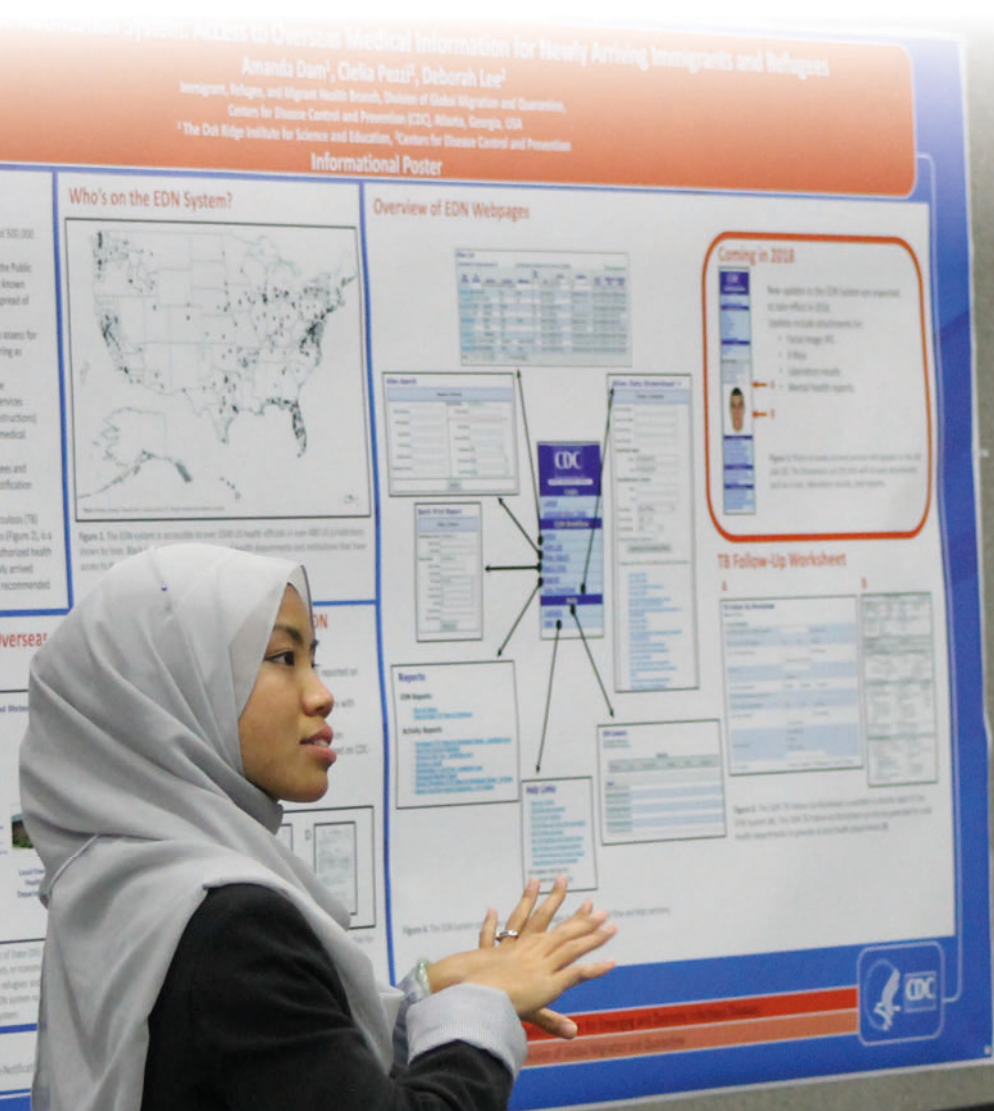




Society of Refugee  
Healthcare Providers

# Annual Report 2020



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**Society of Refugee  
Healthcare Providers**

On the cover: A poster presenter speaks with another attendee at our North American Health Conference (from pre-COVID days!). Photo courtesy of Kay K Wah.

# Message from the Executive Director

Greetings Members,

**WOW, What a year!** As the pandemic hit, we turned our focus on Covid-19 and what that means for the unique populations our members serve. Thanks to a joint effort by all our members we were able to immediately compile links to educational materials in multiple languages for Covid-19 and post on our website. We also published a perspective piece on Covid-19 in the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health as well as a brochure for service providers on assessing barriers to following Covid-19 prevention guidance.

You would think that the pandemic would have slowed us down but 2020 was actually one of our most productive years! Our membership increased by a whopping 68% and we launched our Twitter account and immediately received over 1,000 followers. We kept up our webinars and added a two-day virtual course on how to perform a forensic evaluation for asylum seekers. And of course... We still held our annual conference. Let that sink in for a minute... The 2020 North American Refugee Health Conference was our most successful conference to date and it was held in the middle of a pandemic!

A sign that we are maturing as an organization is the creation of committees. In 2020 we launched our first committee: Research, Evaluation, and Ethics. Thanks to a dedicated group of Society members and non-members the committee has been very active and we expect to see some concrete results from this committee soon!

This whole operation wouldn't have happened without the dedication and hard work from our Board of Directors. These 14 individuals have voluntarily given up their time and talent to make this all happen and I want to take this opportunity to thank them.

**Now what?** Read through this annual report and you will not only see what we have done, but what we are planning to do in the coming year! YOUR Society is hitting its stride and we are poised to do great things in the coming year. Thank you everyone for your membership and support.

Best Regards,

 **Jim Sutton** PA-C, Executive Director



***Read through this  
annual report  
and you will not  
only see what  
we have done,  
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everyone for your  
membership and  
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# Society mission and activities

**We are a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the healthcare of refugees and asylum seekers, as well as addressing equity in healthcare.**

Our passionate members include medical providers, nurses, social workers, researchers, coordinators and many other professionals who spend much of their workday caring for newly-arriving refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants.

## 2020 activities



340 emails to over 4,106 professionals sharing educational resources, connecting people and answering questions.



Like many we pivoted to a virtual conference due to the pandemic. It was a great success! 726 attendees serving over 300,000 refugees joined us online in September for the 2020 North American Refugee Health Conference (pg. 8–9).



Thanks to generous donations, 36 previously resettled refugees training or working in the medical field received a scholarship to attend the 2020 NARHC (pg. 10).



In 2020 the Society grew by a whopping 68% – from 241 to 404 members by December (pgs. 6).



Nearly 1,000 individuals registered for our virtual education including a mental health webinar and our 2-day “Forensic Evaluation of Asylum Seekers” training co-hosted with the Society of Asylum Medicine (pg. 10).



We started our very first committee – the Research, Evaluation & Ethics Committee (pg. 6).



Potential Impact of COVID-19 on Recently Resettled Refugee Populations in the United States and Canada: Perspectives of Refugee Healthcare Providers published in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.



1,090 followers on our Society @RefugeeSociety Twitter account reached.



University interns helped us create an outline of a Society Ambassador program for implementation at universities (pg. 10).



# How to get more involved with the Society



**JOIN** the Society. Membership is open to anyone interested in issues related to refugee, asylee and immigrant healthcare. Benefits include member-only content, discounted conference registration, access to a listserv of refugee and immigrant health professionals, and the ability to join special interest committees.

**DONATE** to the refugee scholarship fund (pg. 10), which enables previously resettled refugees to attend our North American Refugee Health Conference.

**ATTEND** or present at the North American Refugee Health Conference (pg. 8–9). Join hundreds of other professionals to learn about best practice in refugee healthcare at this preeminent conference.

**SPONSOR** the North American Refugee Health Conference and/or the Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers and be part of the movement for more equitable healthcare.

Visit [refugeesociety.org](http://refugeesociety.org) for more details or contact us at [sarah@refugeesociety.org](mailto:sarah@refugeesociety.org) to learn more.

**Our thanks** A big thank you to NARHC attendees, speakers and the planning committee; Society members and our Board; to those who donated to the refugee scholarship; and our conference sponsors: Gilead and EthnoMed.

# Who we are

## Society membership

# total members for 2020:

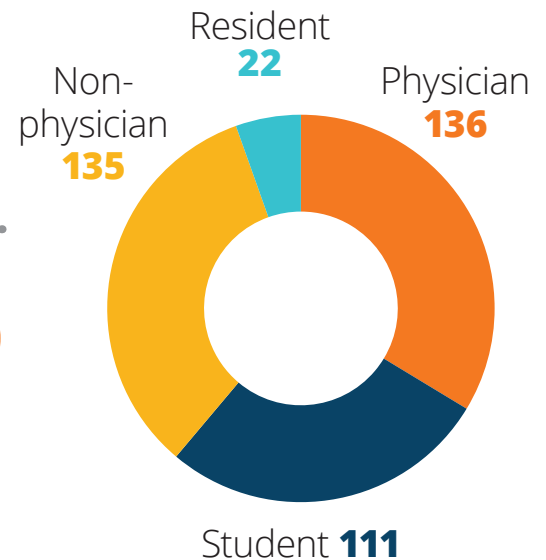
404

Membership growth from 2019 to 2020:

68%

2019

2020

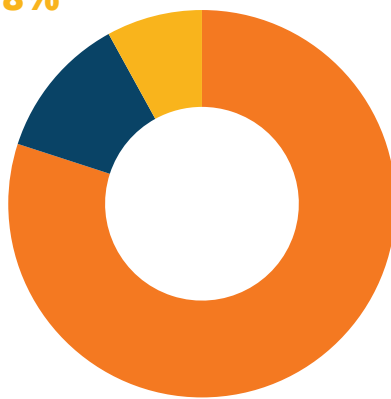


## Where are members located?

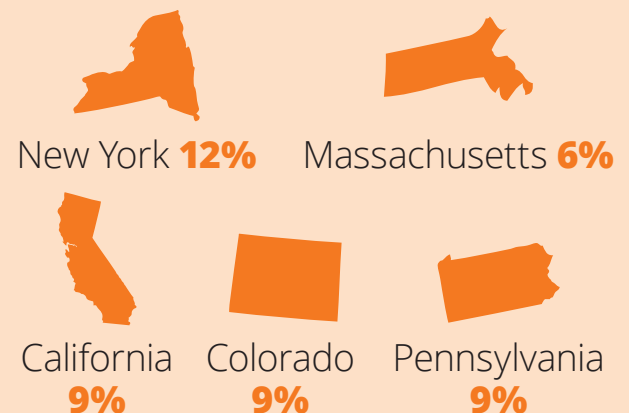
International 8%

Canada 12%

US 80%



### Top 5 States



## Research, Evaluation & Ethics Committee

Society members launched their first committee – with a mission of fostering refugee health research among Society members and acting as a source of research expertise and support for the broader refugee health community. Selected committee members include over 20 professionals representing an array of specialties, including a cohort of refugee health experts who also identify as previously resettled refugees. Learn more about the committee and read the charter at <http://refugeesociety.org/research-committee>.

## Want to become a Society member?

More information about membership on pg. 5.

# Society staff and Board

## Executive Director

**James Sutton, PA-C**  
Chair, North American Refugee Health  
Conference (United States)  
Rochester, NY

## Coordinator

**Sarah K. Clarke, MSPH**  
Technical Advisor – Health Promotion,  
International Rescue Committee  
Technical Advisor – Refugee Health YYC,  
University of Calgary  
Global Health Consultant  
Houston, TX

## Board Executive Committee

### Chair

**Anna Banerji MD, MPH, FRCPC,  
DTM&H, O.Ont**  
Director, Global and Indigenous Health,  
Continuing Professional Development  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto  
Chair, North American Refugee Health  
Conference (Canada)  
Toronto, ON

### Vice Chair

**Najah Zaaed, DrPH, LMSW, MPA,  
CHES®**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Health Promotion and Wellness  
Adjunct Professor, Department of Counseling  
and Psychological Services, School of Education  
Institute of Global Engagement Fellow at  
SUNY Oswego  
NASW-NY Central Division Director  
Certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor  
(Youth and Adult)  
State University of New York, Oswego  
Oswego, NY

### Secretary

**Michael Aucoin, MD, CCFP, DTMH**  
Clinical Lecturer, University of Calgary,  
Department of Family Medicine  
Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University,  
Department of Family Medicine  
Family Physician, Clinical Operations Lead,  
Mosaic Refugee Health Clinic  
Calgary, AB



## Board Members

**Ani Annamalai, MD**  
Assistant Professor, Departments of  
Psychiatry and Internal Medicine,  
Yale School of Medicine  
Director, Yale Refugee Clinic  
Newhaven, CT

**Mahli Brindamour, MD, FRCPC**  
Assistant Clinical Professor,  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK

**Julia Condrea BSW, RSW**  
Registered Social Worker  
Mosaic Sunridge Community Clinic,  
Mosaic Refugee Health Clinic,  
Children's Health Clinic  
Mosaic Primary Care Network  
Calgary, AB

**Peter J. Cronkright, MD, FACP**  
Clinical Associate Professor in  
the Department of Medicine  
Clinical Associate Professor in Family Medicine  
SUNY Upstate Medical University  
Syracuse, NY

**Paul Geltman, MD, MPH**  
Medical Director for Refugee and  
Immigrant Health,  
Division of Global Populations and  
Infectious Disease Prevention,  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
Chief Medical Officer, Upham's Corner Health  
Center, Dorchester, MA  
Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Health  
Policy and Health Services Research,  
Boston University School of Medicine and  
Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine,  
Boston, MA

**Brian Gushulak, MD**  
Migration Health Consultants, Inc.  
Cheltenham, ON

**Fatima M. Karaki, MD**  
Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor,  
Division of Hospital Medicine, University of  
California, San Francisco  
Director, Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health  
Initiative  
San Francisco, CA

**Katherine C. McKenzie, MD, FACP**  
Director, Yale Center for Asylum Medicine  
Director, Yale School of Medicine Asylum  
Medicine Observership Program  
New Haven, CT

**Hassan Vatanparast, MD, PhD**  
Professor, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition  
School of Public Health  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, SK

**Janine Young, MD, FAAP**  
Medical Director, Denver Health Refugee Clinic  
Co-Medical Director of the Human Rights  
Clinic at Denver Health  
Medical Advisor for the State of Colorado  
Refugee Services Program  
General Pediatrician, Denver Health  
and Hospitals  
Associate Professor, University of Colorado  
School of Medicine, Department of General  
Pediatrics  
Executive Committee of the AAP's Council of  
Immigrant Child and Family Health  
Denver, CO

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Liaison

**Gayathri Suresh Kumar, MD**  
Medical Officer/Epidemiologist, Immigrant,  
Refugee and Migrant Health Branch, Centers  
for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, GA



# North American Refugee Health Conference (NARHC) 2020



## Overview

The North American Refugee Health Conference (NARHC) is recognized as the preeminent conference for healthcare and resettlement professionals working with refugee and asylum seeking populations. Attendees learn about best practices, hone their cultural humility, connect with like-minded professionals, reflect on the challenges and successes of the work they do, and develop a network of colleagues who are making a difference in their communities. NARHC alternates annually between the United States and Canada.

NARHC 2020 was scheduled for Cleveland. Like other conferences NARHC had to make the decision between cancelling or shifting online due to the pandemic. We're so glad we decided to go ahead with a virtual format! NARHC 2020 was a smashing success with 726 attendees, 200+ presentations and 36 scholarships awarded.

***"Content and quality of the presentations and creativity of presenters on the workshops with virtual format was impressive."***



**NARHC 2020**  
**at-a-glance**  
**Virtual**

**726** attendees

**97.5%** surveyed would recommend attending NARHC to their colleagues/friends

**90%** surveyed are likely to attend future NARHCs



*"The event was well-organized and I was amazed with the audience engagement in the sessions that I attended. Overall, I believe it was a great success!"*

*"So great to be able to attend the conference from home, and have the opportunity to go back and watch everything on my own time so I don't miss a single session. Looking forward to 2021!"*

*"I enjoyed attending several of the simultaneous sessions; the topics were varied and interesting. I am excited to see how much this has grown beyond biomedical topics compared to when I first started."*

*"Inspiring conference as always."*

*"Array of presenters was superb."*

*"The keynotes rocked it. Every single one. I particularly got a lot out of the advocacy session – including step by step on how to write an op ed."*

## 2020 NARHC Student Abstract Competition Winner

**"A Journey of Empowerment for Refugee Girls to Address Child Marriage in Lebanon: Findings from a Formative Program Evaluation"**

Lillian Collins

## 2020 NARHC Student Abstract Runner Up

**"Changes in Weight and Height in Underweight Refugee Children Following United States Resettlement"**

Noor Basharat

The winning author of an original research abstract receives a \$500 award and a guarantee of publication in the Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health. The runner-up is awarded \$250 and also receives the publication opportunity.

# Educational opportunities



## Scholarships for previously resettled refugees

The Society asked registrants of the 2020 North American Refugee Health Conference (NARHC) to donate money to help cover the cost of attending NARHC for a previously resettled refugee training or working in the medical field.

Thanks to your generosity, each person who applied and was eligible for our fund. This meant that 36 former refugees received scholarships to attend NARHC. Wow!

## Forensic Evaluation of Asylum Seekers

Having a high-quality forensic evaluation can often mean the difference between an asylum seeker winning or losing their case. Healthcare professionals can make a powerful and unique contribution to individuals seeking asylum through their evaluations. However, not many professionals are formally trained.

In October 2020, we co-hosted a 2-day training with the Society of Asylum Medicine. 668 individuals registered and 200 participants

attended the live session to learn practical tips for performing objective assessments of physical, functional and psychological scars related to persecution and torture. These participants now possess the skills necessary for writing impactful medical-legal affidavits.

## Student Ambassadors

The Society had a group of university interns research and develop the outlines for a student ambassador program for students ranging from undergraduates to graduate students representing a range of disciplines who are united in their interest in refugee and immigrant health. The goal of the Society student ambassador program is to develop students' refugee and immigrant health knowledge, skills, and connect them with local and regional experts. The Society is now looking for interested universities who would like to pilot the program. Contact us for more details!

## Webinar

300 people registered for our Society webinar "Mental Health of Refugees: A Holistic Approach to Management" with Dr. Ani Annamalai.

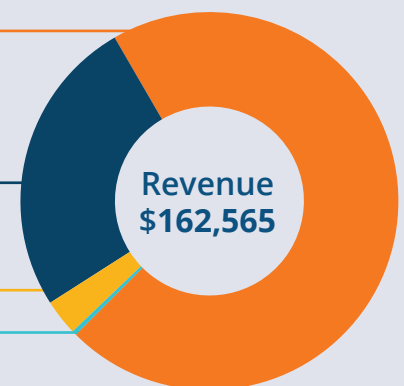
# Future plans



## 2020 Financial information

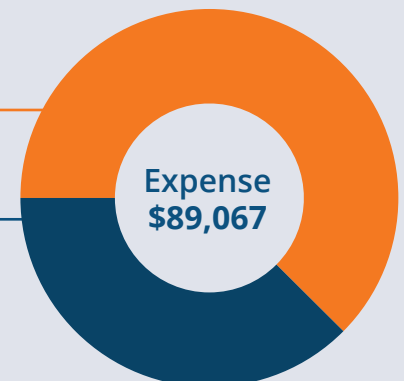
### Revenue

2020 NARHC	\$115,202
Membership Dues	\$41,750
Paycheck Protection Program	\$5,000
Interest	\$612
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$162,565</b>



### Expense

2020 NARHC	\$55,157
Operations	\$33,160
Abstract Trainee Award	\$750
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$89,067</b>



**Independently Reviewed Finance Report**  
Society of Refugee Healthcare Providers 2020





Society of Refugee  
Healthcare Providers

# Our thanks

A big thank you to:

- North American Refugee Health Conference attendees, volunteers, speakers, photographer and the planning committee;
- Society members and our Board;
- to those who donated to the refugee scholarship;
- and our corporate sponsors Gilead and EthnoMed.



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