

The Refugee and Asylum seeker Health Initiative (RAHI) at UCSF

Fatima Karaki, M.D.
Director, Refugee and Asylum seeker
Health Initiative (RAHI)
Assistant Clinical Professor
University of California, San Francisco



University of California
San Francisco





Refugee Public Health Crises

- Syria
 - Exposure (drowning, hypothermia, frostbite)
 - Preexisting non-communicable diseases
- Rohingya
 - Infectious disease (malaria, diphtheria, cholera)
 - Mental health/ post traumatic stress disorder
- Yemen
 - Cholera outbreak (1 million), acute malnutrition (2.2 million children) and near famine (14 million)
- USA
 - Uninsured (28 million), 40% of undocumented immigrants; refugee medical assistance for 8 months

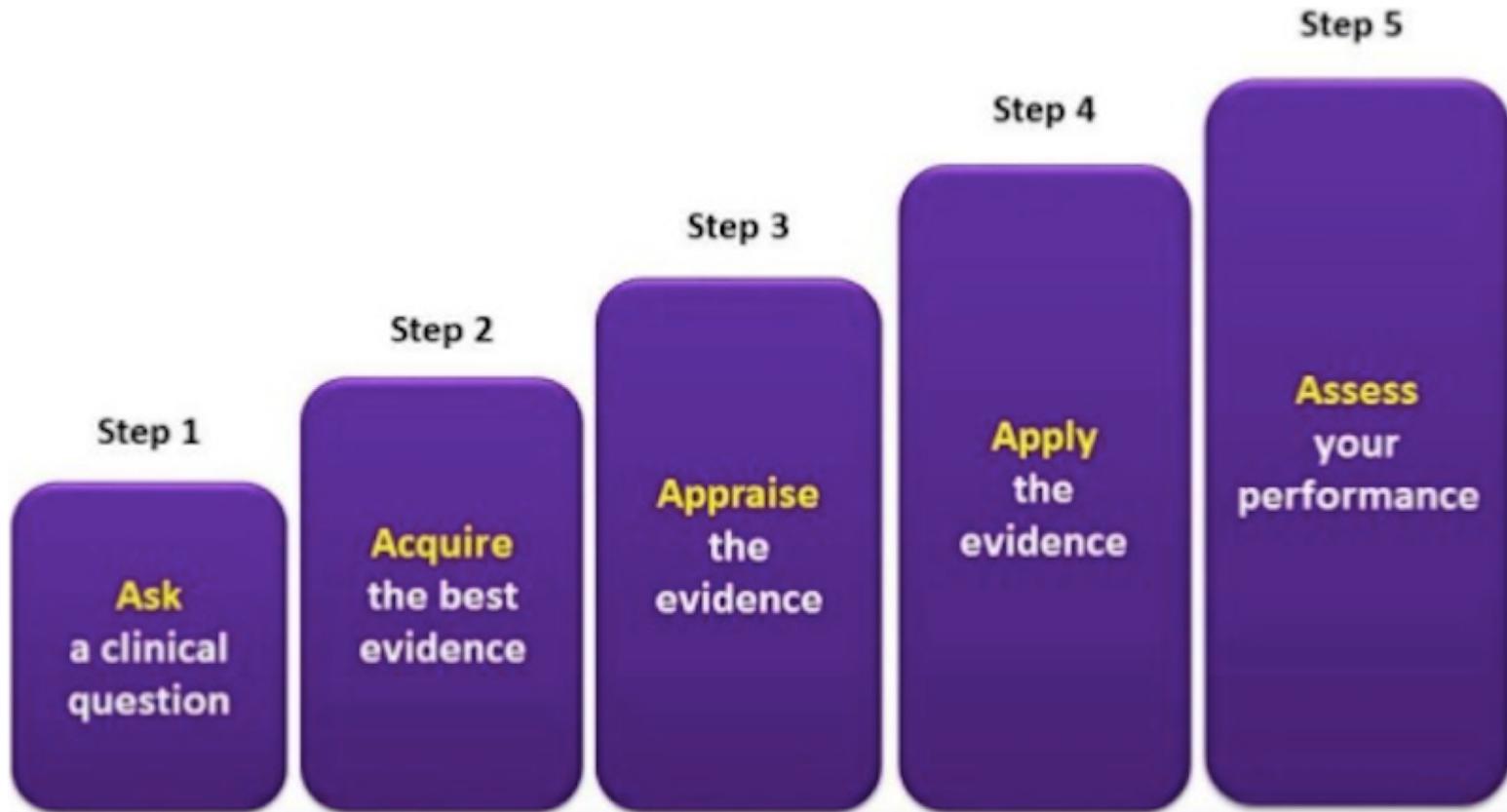
What are we really doing?

- A proliferation of NGOs and volunteers
- Massive waste and redundancy
- Helping?
- Harming?
- Nothing?

MINIMAL TO NO
RESEARCH



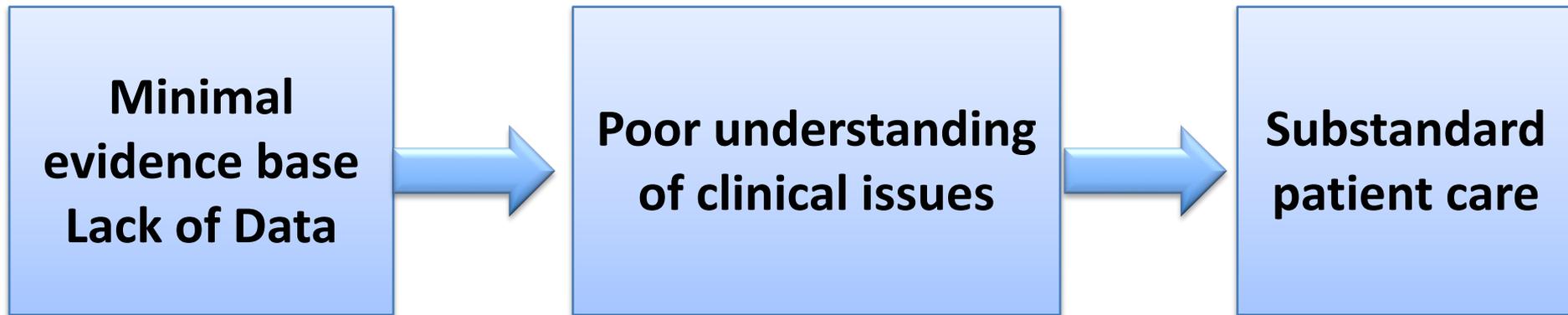
Evidence Based Medicine



Integrated with **Clinical Expertise** and **Patient Preferences**

Why is Refugee Health Research Important?

We spend most of our time “putting out fires” clinically in humanitarian settings



Neglecting: sustainability, efficiency, impact, self evaluation and the views of refugees themselves

Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health Initiative at UCSF: Changing the Narrative



Refugee & Asylum seeker Health Initiative

Mission: to improve the health of refugees

Vision: to develop sustainable, evidence-based clinical interventions that improve the quality of refugee healthcare via original refugee health research

OUR CORE FOUNDATIONS

The **Refugee and Asylum seeker Health Initiative (RAHI)** seeks to foster novel research collaborations in refugee health to provide refugees with an equitable, high-quality, culturally sensitive patient experience.



RESEARCH

such as performing a health needs assessment of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon



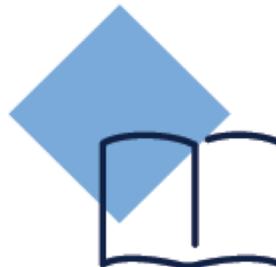
CLINICAL CARE

such as providing medical relief and humanitarian work in the Syrian refugee crisis



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

such as engaging with locally resettled refugees in the Bay Area



EDUCATION

such as developing an online course on Refugee Health in the Middle East with UC Berkeley

Current Research Projects

“Needs Assessment, Non-Communicable Disease Burden, and Access to Healthcare among Camp-dwelling Syrian Refugees in Beirut, Lebanon”

- UCSF, UC Berkeley, American University of Science and Technology Beirut
- Fatima Karaki, Ola Alani, Krysia Lindan, Rachel Kaplan, Robert Snyder, Zouheir Attieh, Lynn Ezzeddine, Maya Tannoury
- North American Refugee Health Conference 2018

“Baseline Health Needs Assessment of Stateless Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh”

- Fatima Karaki, Elizabeth Uy-Smith, Saba Rahman, Tania Reza, NGO Med Global
- IRB pending

Current Research Projects

- “Refugee policy implications of US immigration medical screenings: a new era of inadmissibility on medical grounds”
 - Mi-Kyung Hong, Reshma Varghese, Charulata Jindal, Jimmy T. Efirid
- “Comparing the Health Status of Newcomers Health Program Refugee and Asylee Patients with US-Born and Other Immigrant Patients at the ZSFG Family Health Center”
 - Eva Raphael, Nehath Sheriff, Matthew Vengalil, Nancy Nasrawin, Rita Hamad
- “Feasibility of Determining Scabies Burden in the Refugee Population in Greece to Inform Evaluation of Control Strategies ”
 - Fatima Karaki, Aileen Chang, Toby Maurer, Vasiliki Stamatopoulou
 - Data collection July 2019

Education and Clinical Care

- UC Berkeley massively open online course (MOOC): Refugee Health in the Middle East (Spring 2019)
 - Julia Choucair Vizoso, Michael Lukas, Daniel Zoughbie, Lamis Jomaa (American University of Beirut)
- Newcomers Health Program
 - Refugee Medical Clinic at Family Health Center, ZSFG
- Housestaff medical asylum evaluations and training
 - Trauma Recovery Center at UCSF
 - Developing centralized asylum evaluation workflow for SF county
- First Annual UCSF Refugee Health Symposium, Nov 2017

Get Involved

- RAHI website (in beta): www.rahiucsf.com
- Join our listserv! Email RAHI@ucsf.edu
 - Always open to new project ideas and collaborations
- North American Society of Refugee Health Providers (NASRHP.org)
- North American Refugee Health Conference: June 2019
- Donate to RAHI: www.crowdfund.ucsf.edu/RAHI