

and vice versa, and adding scenarios and learning objectives on sustainability and sustainable practice.

Further surveys were generated for planned dissemination to students and facilitators for feedback which are planned for initial distribution in January 2024 onwards and results are awaited.

**Results.** ILAs and associated documents were successfully reviewed allowing the curriculum to be diversified and updated. Due to the time constraints for project completion, it wasn't possible to have specialist input on gender and gender identity and so these themes were not able to be incorporated into the curriculum. Plans have been made for a further review to be conducted in approximately 12 months and these themes to be added at that time.

**Conclusion.** This review has allowed for positive changes in the undergraduate curriculum and important issues around diversity, culture and sustainability and their impact on mental health and care are now specifically addressed. This aims to be the first of such collaborative curriculum reviews to ensure that the Psychiatry curriculum is up-to-date and fit to address emerging needs in mental health.

---

Abstracts were reviewed by the RCPsych Academic Faculty rather than by the standard *BJPsych Open* peer review process and should not be quoted as peer-reviewed by *BJPsych Open* in any subsequent publication.

### 'An Emotional Earthquake' – the Psychological Impact of the Earthquake in Syria on Mental Health Workers and the Value of Reflective Spaces: Who Cares for Carers?

Dr Mustafa Alachkar\*

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool, United Kingdom

\*Presenting author.

doi: 10.1192/bjo.2024.279

**Aims.** The war-ridden northern part of Syria was struck by a powerful earthquake in February 2023 leaving thousands of people dead or injured. The consequences of the earthquake on people's mental health are harder to evaluate but are likely to be severe and long-lasting, especially as people have lived through years of war and devastation.

This poster reports on facilitating reflective practice groups, online, where Syrian mental health professionals in northern Syria explored the psychological impact of the earthquake on them as individual and as professionals.

**Methods.** The author facilitated a series of online reflective practice group meetings. Three distinct groups of mental health workers were formed, each group consisting of 6–12 participants. Each group met twice, each session lasting an hour and a half, resulting in 6 meetings that took place between the 25<sup>th</sup> of February and the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. In the first session the group discussed the psychological impact of the earthquake on them as individuals, and in the second the psychological impact on them as professionals.

**Results.** Thematic analysis was conducted on the discussions in the 6 reflective group meetings, resulting in three main themes: emotional responses, cognitive responses and helpful strategies. These themes are grouped detailed in terms of the impact of the earthquake on the personal and the professional lives of the participants.

**Conclusion.** Notwithstanding the limitations of this experience, it highlights the importance and value of group reflective spaces, as a way of helping mental health professionals process their emotional experiences in the aftermath of natural disasters.

---

Abstracts were reviewed by the RCPsych Academic Faculty rather than by the standard *BJPsych Open* peer review process and should not be quoted as peer-reviewed by *BJPsych Open* in any subsequent publication.

### Embracing Diversity in Mental Health Education: A Primary Study on Cultivating Cultural Humility in Undergraduate Medicine

Ms Ariana Axiaq\*

Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom

\*Presenting author.

doi: 10.1192/bjo.2024.280

**Aims.** Training within medical schools often neglects that mental health patients are very culturally diverse, contributing to a lack of cultural competence in future doctors. This deficiency exacerbates access to healthcare barriers for this population. To address these issues early in the course, we initiated a student-led teaching programme on Cultural Humility (CH) for first-year medical students, aiming to enhance cultural awareness (CA) about mental health patients.

CH emphasises the lifelong development of skills, knowledge, and attitudes, fostering a perspective of 'becoming the student of the patient' to address power imbalances between doctors and patients with mental illness, particularly from minority groups. It promotes culture as expansile incorporating many characteristics from race and religion to sexual orientation, disability and age.

This study assessed the knowledge and perceptions of first-year medical students following the introduction of CH.

**Methods.** After exposure to an author-developed CH learning resource, students participated in a baseline survey to gauge their understanding of CH. Subsequently, an interactive student-led workshop with a reflective exercise encouraged medical students to embrace their cultural diversity and that of others, emphasising the multifactorial nature of mental illness. The workshop incorporated prompts inspired by peer experiences of mental illness. Students then engaged in an early clinical contact programme, interacting with patients with mental illness to implement their understanding of CH into practice. Reflective blogs, written by students as part of the programme, were analysed for data inclusion using an author-selected framework.

**Results.** Out of 312 participants, 188 provided responses, revealing higher scores for perceived CH importance (4.83/5) compared with understanding (3.86/5) and perceived preparedness for CH implementation (3.98/5). Analysis of free-text survey responses identified learning gaps, particularly in demonstrating cultural sensitivity during patient interviews, and highlighted preferred pedagogies. Thematic analysis of ten collected blogs followed a 5R framework: Respect, Reflection, Regard, Relevance, and Resiliency. Findings indicated a demand for better training in identifying patient-specific sensitive topics and a preference for appreciating patient characteristics such as socioeconomic class without explicit labelling of these qualities as culturally engendered or directly linked to their diagnosis.

**Conclusion.** CH aims to foster a patient-centred approach, encouraging medical students to look beyond the diagnosis of mental illness. This study explored the multimodal integration of CH as a CA toolkit into the undergraduate curriculum, providing insights into the application of preclinical CA teaching and students' perceptions of its clinical applicability in their learning about different patient populations experiencing mental illness.

---

Abstracts were reviewed by the RCPsych Academic Faculty rather than by the standard *BJPsych Open* peer review process and should not be quoted as peer-reviewed by *BJPsych Open* in any subsequent publication.