



**1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD CONGRESS ON  
MIGRATION, ETHNICITY,  
RACE AND HEALTH**  
Diversity and Health  
17-19 May 2018, EICC, Edinburgh

**Confer with the world's most important organisations and individuals working on healthcare equity and human rights in relation to ethnic and racial minority health, and the health and health care of recent migrants.**

Are you or your organisation interested in equity, equality, human rights in relation to health and health care? If so, and especially if you are interested in the health of ethnic and racial minorities, and indigenous peoples, then this congress is an unmissable opportunity for you. It provides an opportunity for cutting-edge discussions on cultural competence in these fields.

The Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Health (MERH) will be the first congress of its kind and will be held from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. This three-day congress will take place in the city voted the 4th most beautiful capital city in the world.

MERH 2018 is hosted by three congress partners: The University of Edinburgh, the European Public Health Association (EUPHA) and NHS Health Scotland. So far, there are over 575 delegates registered but we are looking to attract more than 800.

The Congress will discuss the need for a new International Society to promote the aims below on a long-term basis. We aim to publish one Edinburgh Declaration which will be a set of principles designed to integrate the fields of migration and health, ethnicity/race in health, indigenous health and Roma health. Please come and help us with this incredibly challenging task.

**Delegates attending this important event will play an important part in achieving the  
7 core MERH congress aims:**

1. Improve research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations
2. Bring together policy, social science, clinical, social service and public health perspectives and share and transfer learning within and across countries
3. Examine contemporary problems across the globe and debate suggested solutions
4. Consider health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes
5. Find ways to overcome differences in concepts and terminology so the field can be understood internationally in acceptable language
6. Provide opportunities for people to showcase their work and to meet to share experience and motivations
7. Build networks that will last beyond the Congress itself



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Anticipation is really building as we are weeks away from opening the congress and we are delighted to announce the following will participate in the official opening:

- Professor Raj Bhopal  
Chair of the MERH Executive Committee
- Professor Peter Mathieson (Principal)  
University of Edinburgh
- John Swinney  
Deputy First Minister of Scotland
- Jacqueline Weekers (Director of the Migration Health Division)  
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Dr Santino Severoni (Co-Ordinator – Public Health and Migration)  
World Health Organisation (WHO) - Regional Office for Europe

**Keynote Speakers**

Our nine keynote speakers are invited from around the globe to underpin the conference themes with their state of the art presentations. We expect all nine speakers for the full duration of the congress providing delegates with opportunities to network with them between sessions.

We welcome to MERH 2018:

**Professor Shiriki Kumanyika**

Founder & Chair of the African American Collaborative Obesity Research Network  
Drexel University Dornsife School of Public Health, United States of America

Presenting: *Unravelling Common Threads in Obesity Risk among Racial/Ethnic  
Minority and Migrant Populations*

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**Gorik Ooms**

Human Rights Lawyer & Professor of Global Health Law & Governance  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom

Presenting: *Exclusion from health rights: from human rights to citizens' rights and  
back*

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**Professor Paparaangi Reid**

Tumuaki (Deputy Dean Māori) at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and Head of Te Kupenga Hauora Māori and Specialist in Public Health Medicine  
University of Auckland, New Zealand

Presenting: *Colonial histories, racism and inequity – the experience of Māori in Aotearoa New Zealand*

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**Professor Uma Segal**

Professor of Social work, researching Immigrant and refugee concerns in global perspective  
University of St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America

Presenting: *Globalization, Migration, and Ethnicity: Opportunities and Challenges*

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**Assoc. Professor Charles Agyemang**

Academic Medical Centre  
University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Presenting: *Promise and challenges of hypothesis driven health research in multi-ethnic societies with dynamic migration patterns.*

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**Ramadan Assi**

Executive Leader, Strategist and Humanitarian Diplomat, Turkey

Presenting: *Access to Health and Healthcare: The Case of Syrian Refugees in Turkey*

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**Professor Jenny Phillimore**

Founding Director of the Institute for Research into Superdiversity and Professor of Migration and Superdiversity  
University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Presenting: *Superdiversity, population health and health care: opportunities and challenges in a changing world*

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**Professor Ronald Labonté**

Canada Research Chair in Globalization and Health Equity and Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa; and Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Flinders University, Australia

Presenting: *From Émigré Health Workers to Medical Tourists: When Migration Challenges Health Systems*



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**Dr Camara Jones**

Immediate Past President of the American Public Health Association, and a Senior Fellow at the Satcher Health Leadership Institute and the Cardiovascular Research Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine  
United States of America

Presenting: *Tools for Naming and Addressing Racism and Other Systems of Structured Inequity*

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**Symposia, Exhibition and Workshops**

There will be two lunchtime symposia hosted by the UK Medical Research Council and NHS Health Scotland. Many organisations, including WHO and NHS Health Scotland, will be exhibiting at the congress.

MERH 2018 will host 32 workshops across the three-day congress programme. A selection of the invited workshops open for delegates to book are:

1. Indigenous Data and Health: Critical Research Approach's and Indigenous Data Governance  
***Hosted by the University of Auckland***
2. Health Equity and Migration in the Americas: A knowledge building and policy change strategy to improve our collective understanding and actions  
***Hosted by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation***
3. Occupational Health Disparities Among Global Migrants and Refugees  
***Hosted by UC Davis School of Medicine***
4. Overcoming The Barriers Migrants Face in Accessing Health Care  
***Hosted by London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine***
5. Research from the UCL-Lancet Commission on Migration and Health  
***Hosted by The Lancet***
6. Ethical dimensions of migration, diversity and health – implications for policy and practice in a globalised world  
***Hosted by The UK Faculty of Public Health***
7. How can we further rights-based and evidence-based policies on migrant and ethnic minority health?  
***Hosted by WHO Europe***



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8. Impacting Clinical and Cultural Competencies through Cross-Cultural Connections: The Development of an International Indigenous Academic Health Network  
***Hosted by the Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba***
  
9. Migration Health governance: from data to access  
***Hosted by The International Organisation for Migration***
  
10. Migration, ethnicity, race and health in Scotland – what’s going on here, and what could we do better  
***Hosted by NHS Lothian Health Board, Scotland***

**Conference Oral and Poster Sessions**

With 70 sessions made up of 288 oral presentations and 32 invited/submitted workshops the programme covers a broad range of themes with perspectives from over 53 countries around the world, including:

Diseases & interventions	Exclusion, discrimination & exploitation
Health status and outcomes	Health Policy
Health services & providers	Mental health & wellbeing
Parents & Children	Refugees & asylum seekers
Research methods	

There will be 289 poster presentations available throughout the congress, with 11 sessions of moderated posters, the top scoring posters being presented for three minutes per poster.

**Congress programme and book of abstracts**

The congress programme is available here: <http://www.merhcongress.com/programme/>

Delegates will receive, at no extra cost, a book of abstracts including those for plenary sessions, symposia, workshops, oral presentations and posters.

**Delegate Profile & Countries Represented**

Delegates registered so far are from the following disciplines; medicine, nursing, social work, public health, epidemiology, demography, health economics, anthropology, social policy, sociology, psychology, geography, health care management and politics.

Registered MERH delegates are from over 53 different countries, including; Canada, Finland, Germany, United States of America, Italy, Australia Chile, Hungary, South Africa and New Zealand.

**Congress Sponsors and Bursaries**

Thanks to support from a number of organisations, the MERH 2018 congress has achieved its target of raising £40,000 in bursaries for delegates from low-lower-middle income countries to attend.



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The European Public Health Association (EUPHA) has also provided a special grant covering a limited number of bursaries particularly favouring people working in NGOs, Eastern European countries and with minorities including the Roma populations.

We are extremely grateful to all our MERH Congress supporters including:

- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- NHS Health Scotland
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Wellcome Trust
- Visit Scotland
- Marketing Edinburgh
- Bradford Institute for Health Research
- British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
- Journal of Global Health
- Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- South Asian Health Foundation

### **Social Programme**

On the first evening of MERH 2018 the Opening Reception hosted by the University of Edinburgh will take place around our posters and exhibition, this event is included for all registered delegates.

The highlight however, will be the Conference Dinner & Traditional Scottish Ceilidh which is a subsidised event for all delegates on the evening of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Delegates can enjoy a truly Scottish experience starting with a 3-course dinner followed by traditional ceilidh dancing. A ceilidh is a great way to spend an evening, and will allow you to learn new dance steps, get some exercise and meet new people. If you prefer not to dance, you are just as welcome to watch the fun!

### **Edinburgh and beyond**

Steeped in history, Edinburgh seamlessly blends old and new providing the perfect destination to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of a diverse and vibrant city.

If you have time, we encourage you to visit more of Scotland while you are here. May can be a beautiful month weather wise and the scenery no matter which corner of the country you travel to, can be spectacular!

[www.edinburgh.org](http://www.edinburgh.org)

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

### **Help spread the word!!**

Participation is one of the main ingredients to ensuring that **MERH 2018** is a resounding success. Please share our details with any colleagues and friends who would benefit from being an attendee at this important inaugural congress.

[www.merhcongress.com](http://www.merhcongress.com) / [merh@in-conference.org.uk](mailto:merh@in-conference.org.uk)  
[www.twitter.com/merh2018](https://www.twitter.com/merh2018)