

Curriculum – Introduction to Medicine and the Holocaust for Pediatricians
Lecture at Saban Center for Pediatric Medicine in Soroka Medical Center

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1. Details of lecture –

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To whom – Senior physicians, attending physicians, residents, interns, and medical students in pediatrics clerkship rotation, of Saban Center for Pediatric Medicine in Soroka Medical Center.

Characteristics – 1 session lecture, part of department's program of enrichment studies, adjacent to The Israeli Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Length – 45 minutes.

Language – Hebrew.

2. Needs assessment and problem identification –

The Saban Center for Pediatric Medicine deals with a unique and diverse population from ethnicity and cultural aspects to socioeconomic aspects. The center treats genetic conditions that are rare in any other population due to consanguineous marriages and lack of prenatal care and testing. The epidemiology of infectious diseases that the center deals with is also unique due to lack of community services and due to low socioeconomic status and poor living conditions of vast parts of this population. This means that the staff deals with situations in which they have little or no ability to help and cure their patients and this kind of encounters is emotionally straining. Inability to care for your patient causes frustration and all of these together lead to burnout on professional level and ethical level.

The prospect audience of the lecture is a collective of medical professionals from all levels of training, medical students doing a clerkship rotation in pediatrics to senior pediatricians. The diversity of the audience poses a few challenges. First, Medicine and the Holocaust is not taught at all of the medical schools or even to all of the students at the schools in which it is taught, therefore it is unknown to which extent the audience is familiarized with the topic if it is familiarized with it at all. Second, as they are at different levels of training and accumulated different amounts of professional-identity-forming experiences hence their professional identity is at different stages of creation and consolidation, the question of ability to discuss implications and recognize similarities and relevancies to one's practice arises.

3. Targeted needs assessment –

- a. As professional and ethical burnout is likely for this audience there's a need to equip them with means and methods to deal with the burnout and to recognize when their personal views and struggles interfere with their professional duty and way of conduct.
- b. As the audience is likely not familiarized with the topic of Medicine and the Holocaust there's a need for establishing basic knowledge.
- c. As the audience is composed of physicians at different levels of training there's a need for implications and thought-provoking questions that are relevant to all or implications and thought-provoking questions that each addresses different parts of the audience.
- d. As the lecture is given to the pediatrics department examples of pediatricians and pediatric patients are in order and can create a better platform for the audience to listen, accept the concepts discussed, and relate.

4. Goals –

Upon completion of this instruction the learner will:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the history of medicine and of the processes in the health profession before, during and after the Holocaust
- Identify components and similarities of the Nazi health practice in health practices of other countries and regimes before, during and after the Holocaust
- Explore, examine, and reflect on relevant values, beliefs, feelings, ideas, and behaviors of oneself that resonate with the knowledge acquired
- Enhance self-awareness about being a health professional with appreciation of how this history relates to oneself as a health professional
- Broaden perspectives on professional obligations

5. Learning objectives –

- Eugenics
- Sterilization laws
- Euthanasia, Children's euthanasia, T4, vulnerable populations, value of life, the paradox of empathy in Euthanasia
- Medical research ethics, Nuremberg doctors' trials, Helsinki declaration
- Inherent propensity for abuse of power in healthcare
- Inspirational case study of health professional (a pediatrician)

6. Methods –

- An interactive questionnaire of associations on M&H (“What is the first association you think of when you hear the term Medicine and the Holocaust?”), assessment of the results shows that “Mengele” is the first association most people think of. An opening to the lecture – there is much more to M&H than Mengele.

- Lecture

- Discussion on controversial eugenic statements that can be heard nowadays

- Presenting case study of one inspiring physician (pediatrician) and what we can learn from their story to nowadays situations.

7. Evaluation, feedback, and assessment

None.