



University Health Network

Toronto General Toronto Western Princess Margaret

12 January, 2016

RE: Educating Canadian Medical Students on Human Trafficking in Canada

Dear Canadian Federation of Medical Students,

---

I am writing this letter in support of the initiative to incorporate human trafficking education into Canadian medical school curricula. I am aware of the six core competencies outlined by the CFMS Global Health Program, and I think that human trafficking specifically relates to four of them: health implications of travel, migration and displacement; social and economic determinants of health; globalization of health and healthcare; and, human rights in healthcare.

As a researcher and educator, I consider educating future healthcare providers on human trafficking to be an important aspect of teaching about the general topic of violence, including family violence, (often a missing curriculum topic in most medical schools). Providing medical students with information about human trafficking, sensitive case identification, and victim support services will allow future healthcare professionals to interact more confidently with patients who are potential trafficking victims. Ultimately, these future healthcare professionals will develop the skills necessary to identify victims of human trafficking and provide victims with potentially life-saving resources.

I hope that the CFMS will consider this initiative, as human trafficking in Canada is a health issue that requires the involvement of healthcare providers to help effectively identify and support victims.

Sincerely,

Donna E. Stewart CM, MD, FRCPC  
University Professor, University of Toronto  
Inaugural Chair in Women's Health  
Head of Research and Academic Development, UHN Centre for Mental Health  
Senior Scientist, Toronto General Research Institute

Donna E. Stewart CM, MD, FRCPC  
University Professor and Director of Women's Health  
Professor of Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Anesthesia,  
Surgery, Medicine, Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto  
Senior Scientist, University Health Network  
200 Elizabeth St., EN 7-229 Toronto Ontario CANADA M5G2C4  
T 416-340-3846 F 416-340-4185 donna.stewart@uhn.ca



University of

There's always an answer. *We'll find it.*