

## ***Seminar Announcement***

### **Changing the Narrative on Roma in the Context of Healthcare**

October 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Schloss Arenberg, Salzburg, Austria

The Open Society Foundation's Health Media Initiative (HMI) is pleased to invite you to apply to participate in a special seminar on **Changing the Narrative on Roma in the Context of Healthcare**, to be held from October 26 to 31 at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg, Austria. The seminar will be given in **English**.

The seminar will draw upon recent research undertaken on the attitudes of healthcare professionals towards Roma, as well as on the health rights of Roma in central Europe.

The seminar will also draw upon expertise in the emerging field of Narrative Medicine, which looks at the way in which narratives shape patients' experience of ill health and of the health care system, and can either encourage or stand in the way of empathy and understanding between clinician and patient. Through participatory exercises, participants will look at ways in which language used and stories told by health care workers shape and influence the way that Roma people are treated within and experience the health care system. Participants will learn about what recent communication research tells us about how to go about changing attitudes. Seminar attendees will also discuss the concept of human rights in patient care, and the responsibility this places on both patients and healthcare providers. As a group, we will begin to plot a way forward towards transforming narratives about Roma in the context of healthcare.

The format of the seminar will include both plenary and interactive workshop sessions.

The faculty members for the course will include:

- **Paul Browde, MD.** Paul Browde is a psychiatrist and executive coach based in New York City. He is Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at New York University and Adjunct Professor in the Narrative Medicine Masters Program at Columbia University.
- **Murray Nossel, PhD.** Murray Nossel serves on the teaching faculty of the Department of Narrative Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is an Academy Award® nominated documentary filmmaker. Prior to filmmaking, Nossel practiced as a clinical psychologist in his native South Africa.
- **Judith W. Overall, JD, MS, MEd.** Judy Overall is a consultant to the OSF public health program on human rights in patient care, and has worked extensively on issues related to human rights in patient care in the CEECA region. She is a former faculty member and Chair of the Department of Health Systems Management, Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine (TSPHTM), New Orleans,

- **Jyotika Ramaprasad, PhD.** Jyotika Ramaprasad is Professor, Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Research, Interim Director for the Center for Communication, Culture, & Change at the University of Miami. Professor Ramaprasad recently conducted research funded by OSF, examining the attitudes of medical personnel towards Roma in two municipalities in Macedonia.

The cost of round-trip economy airfare or railroad travel, accommodations, and all meals will be provided. Visa costs, in-country transportation costs, insurance, and per diems are not covered and are the responsibility of each participant.

ELIGIBILITY:

Participants in the seminar should be:

- Nurses or physicians working in Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria or Macedonia;

And/OR

- Faculty in medical schools, nursing schools or healthcare professional schools in Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria or Macedonia;

And/OR

- Engaged in work aimed at improving the quality of healthcare for Roma populations;
- Comfortable participating in the seminar in English (both understanding presentations, and speaking during participatory exercises)
- Roma applicants who meet these criteria are particularly encouraged to apply.

The final selection of participants will be made by a Selection Committee composed of the representatives of the Open Medical Seminars Program, OSF and the Seminar Faculty.

Foundations, organizations, or institutions interested in nominating potential candidates for participants should complete the attached application form and submit via email to: Anna Segelman at [anna.segelman@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:anna.segelman@opensocietyfoundations.org). Applications must be received by August 4th, 2014. Selected candidates will be notified by August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. The application form follows on the next page.