### Visiting Professors
### Academic year 2018/2019

#### 1st term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>Cross-cultural issues in clinical medicine: understanding the role of culture in multi-ethnic societies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific area</td>
<td>Neurology (with Scuola di Studi Superiori – SSTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of</td>
<td>Neurosciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language used to teach</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Commitment:</td>
<td>20 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Course summary

The course explores the impact of culture, race, and ethnicity on medical care. Culture, race and ethnic status are still poorly defined concepts in today’s scientific and medical literature. While interdependent, these notions do not overlap, nor should they be conflated with socio-economic status. Failure to appreciate and to understand cross-cultural differences in multi-ethnic societies hinders the proven efficacy of cultural competency in overcoming barriers and disparities in clinical care. Recently published clinical research illustrates both why and how culture influences perceptions and responses of different populations about health and illness, focusing on four areas: formation of care preferences, communication patterns, meanings and expressions of physical and existential suffering, locus and modalities of decision-making processes about curative or palliative treatments and end-of-life care. International examples of medical care that adopt a comprehensive, non-dominant, understanding of the notion of culture show why generalization and stereotyping of different cultural systems of beliefs and practices should be avoided, as well as the need to develop culturally competent and sensitive clinical practices, plans and policy-making. Working in partnerships with patients, family members and communities to identify and negotiate culturally meaningful care, contributes to lessen the burden of care for minorities by promoting equal access to, and delivery of, quality care.

#### Learning objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. understand and master the different notions of culture, race and ethnicity
2. recognize the determinants of culture, including socio-economic status (SES)
3. learn to disentangle culture from SES and other intertwined factors
4. apply correct, non-dominant, understandings and appreciation of cross-cultural issues in multiethnic societies
5. acquire the skills for cultural and sensitive clinical competency, to help lessen the burden of care for minorities, by promoting equal access to, and delivery of, quality care

avoid generalizing and stereotyping different cultural systems of beliefs and practices, to develop clinical practices, plans and policy-making that incorporate them.
**Tutorship activities**

1. Students will prepare a 10-15 page essay on either a theoretical or clinical aspect of the notion of culture essential to understand and overcome cross-cultural differences in multiethnic societies. Essays should show how to incorporate different cultural systems of beliefs and practices into clinical practices, plans, research design and policy-making. They should include a brief introduction, review and analysis of current literature, an original presentation and discussion of specific theoretical issues or clinical cases, brief conclusions, and bibliography with at least 20 relevant references. A table with 5-6 take-home points should be included at the end of the paper.

2. Themes and titles will be decided during the course and approved by the teacher, who will be available to meet with students to provide bibliography or other counseling.

**Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research fellows, dissemination conferences**

Three two hour workshops will be offered toward the end of the course on issues of special interest to students. Each workshop shall focus on a subject presented by one or more students under the teacher’s supervision. Recommendations for further reading will be provided by the teacher. Attendance and active participation to at least one workshop is strongly encouraged, yet it will not directly impact on the final result of the exams.

**Visiting Professor Profile**

1. The visiting professor should be a University professor who is Medical doctor, with a PHD coherent with the theme of the course
2. The Visiting Professor should have published for international high IF (Impact Factor) journals in the areas of Medicine and Bioethics.
3. An experience as visiting professor in international universities and research institutions will be highly appreciated

**Contact person at the Department**

Prof. Adriano Chiò
adriano.chio@unito.it