Before the end of the calendar year, Europe will have received 1.5 million refugees and countless more migrants. The social and economic impact on European society is enormous but not nearly as significant as the impact on humans forced to leave their homeland. Not only do refugees leave their homeland and give up their livelihood and possessions, but they also are forced to make huge changes in their culture, nutrition, medical care, social interactions and family connections. November’s Global Health Seminar will focus on these issues by looking at the situation from both the perspective of the refugee and the health care community.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

In the past twenty years Dr. Koga’s work has centered on the mental health of traumatized war refugees and immigrants in USA and abroad. Since 2012 he conducts psychiatric research and evaluations of all newly arriving Afghan, Iraqi, Syrian, Burmese, and Congolese refugees at Sacramento County Refugee Health Clinic on a contract with the Office of Refugee Health of CDPH. Marius Koga has a first-hand experience of oppression, political imprisonment, and torture having lived in Ceausescu’s communist dictatorship of Romania before he escaped to freedom in 1988 by crossing the border in neighboring Yugoslavia. As a former Dean of International Medicine at Cambridge Overseas Medical Training Programme in UK, and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Tulane School of Medicine, Dr. Koga’s work spanned wide geographical areas from Kyrgyzstan to Russia, Iran, and Turkey focusing on cultural modulators of resilience in PTSD and virtual community environments in global health. Educated at University of Timisoara, Faculty of Medicine, Romania, and Tulane School of Tropical Medicine, New Orleans, Louisiana, Dr. Koga is member of the World Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the Royal Society for Public Health, London. He is the past President of Veteran, Immigrant, and Refugee Trauma Institute of Sacramento (VIRTIS), a refugee-driven center of expertise in global trauma and a long-time partner of UC Global Health Institute, Center of Expertise on Migration and Health.