



Religio-Cultural Competence: Outreach & Training for Residency Programs

Overview

[Tanenbaum](#) is a secular non-profit that focuses on practical measures to mitigate the impact of religious hatred, prejudice and ignorance in real life. In our *Health Care* program that means developing curricula that train medical professionals to identify when religious beliefs affect medical decision-making and how to respectfully communicate with patients and families around religious and cultural issues.

Tanenbaum developed an innovative curriculum for integration into hospital residency programs which was piloted at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in a 5 year project. These materials are now available for a nominal fee to [download](#) on Tanenbaum's website. The training materials can be used as a complete package or as separate topic modules. It is designed to be flexible so that residency programs with different structures can incorporate what they need.

Specific subjects include:

- Identity and unconscious bias.
- Case examples and discussion questions of where religion and health care intersect.
- Skills building activities for communicating with patients about their religious beliefs.
- Intersections of religion with LGBT health and health disparities.
- Strategies for managing religion, conscience and conscientious objection.

Resources include:

- PowerPoint slides.
- Case study discussions.
- Role play activities.
- Detailed facilitators' manuals to assist educators in presenting the material effectively.

Tanenbaum is currently looking for additional pediatric residency programs interested in piloting some or all of the curricular materials that Tanenbaum has developed.

Project Plan

Tanenbaum has been funded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to offer several train-the-trainer sessions for those faculty members responsible for residency education (potentially other medical educators as well) in order to introduce them to the content of Tanenbaum's religio-cultural competence curriculum and its appropriate uses and encourage residency educators to incorporate the issue of religious based patient decision making into residency education.