

Faculty Showcase '07



Anne Rundle
School of Health Studies

Goals

- Obtain guidelines for meeting patients' cultural and spiritual needs.
- Recognize when a caregiver's cultural values, traditions, beliefs, and biases may affect the care of a patient with different cultural norms.
- Understand issues of racism and discrimination in the healthcare setting.
- Talk online with experts in the field of cultural and spiritual competence.
- Learn efficient use of Interpreter Services in practice.
- Discuss Mental health issues among various cultures.
- Identify basic beliefs, traditions, and practices that influence people from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds, affecting their responses to the US healthcare system.

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College



Cultural Competence in Healthcare

Project Overview

I teach an online course "Cultural Competence in Healthcare," that helps providers learn how to work with patients from a range of cultural and spiritual traditions. The students discuss the ethical and legal issues associated with the cultural and spiritual practices of their patients.

In this course, students use an online discussion board to "talk" with guest speakers. Guests offer their expertise and answer questions about their practice. These guest speakers are well known in their professional communities. For example, one regular guest is a leader in the Chinese community and another is a department director at a large insurance corporation. These professionals appreciate the ability to share their knowledge. They often talk about the Simmons class with their workplace colleagues.

The online format affords students a certain "comfort of the screen" – perceived freedom to ask questions about cultural or spiritual practices that might go unsaid in a face-to-face setting. For example, a student might ask an African American nurse how it feels to work with a Caucasian physician, or perhaps ask a hospital interpreter about the best way to use an interpreter when talking with a patient.

Professionals

Anne Walsh

Advisory Board member,

International Rescue Committee

Master's of Art in Intercultural business, NYU
Speaks on needs for immigrants and refugees.

Gretchen Nash

Cultural Competency Provider Manager

Speaks on QI initiatives in her company and the industry's efforts to teach cultural competence to providers.

Allen So

Medical Interpreting & Outreach Coordinator
V.P. of Massachusetts Medical
Interpreters Association

Speaks on the use of interpreters and Chinese culture.

Abby Russell

Physical therapist assistant and clinic manager

Teaches courses on Ethics and Jurisprudence for the rehab professional. Additionally, she is a Jehovah's Witness and speaks about bloodless solutions to medical interventions.

Students

Charlie (David) Edwards

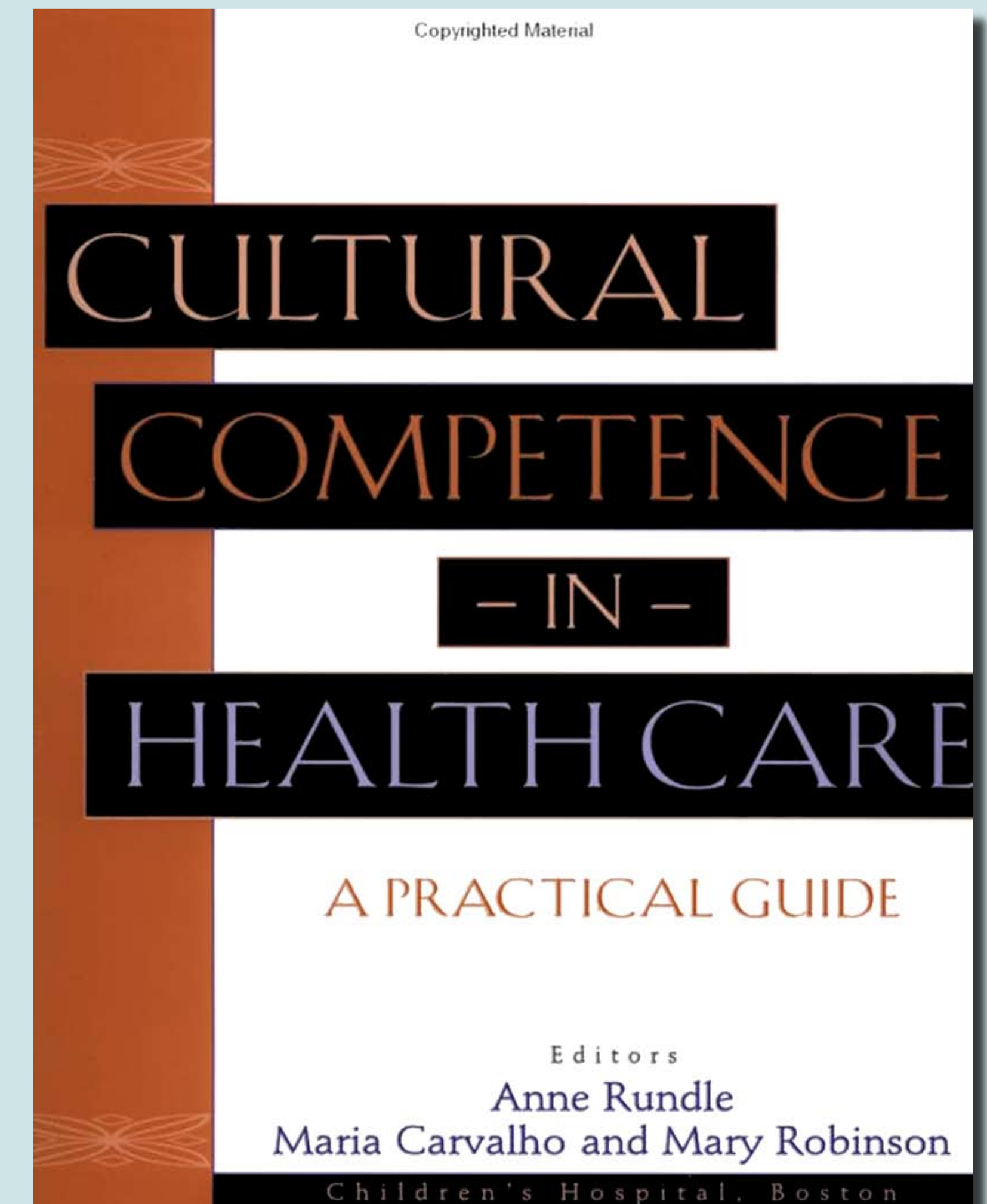
DPT student at Simmons

Spoke about issues pertaining to same-sex marriage and parenting.

Tosha Winger

DPT student at Simmons & Practicing orthopedic physical therapist and Clinic Director

Spoke about her experience as an African American provider in a profession that is mostly Caucasian.



Applications Beyond

There is no substitute for hearing something from "the horse's mouth." For example, hearing a Jehovah's Witness talk about beliefs regarding blood transfusion. The issues are much credible and real for students who have participated in online discussions with outside guests. The online format makes it possible to include guests whose schedules wouldn't permit face-to-face visits. Others might use online guests in this same way.