**Course Name:** A Public Health Approach to Treating Gun Violence

**Faculty Sponsor(s):** Dr. Michael Hirsh, Dr. Erin McMaster  
**Student Sponsor(s):** Patrick Lowe (MS4), Deniz Cataltepe (MS2), Cameron Thomson (MS3), Alexander Schmidt (MS3), Anna Klouda (MS4)

**Maximum number of students:** 30

**Start Date:** September 4, 2019  
**End Date:** October 9, 2019

**Methods of Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated both by meeting minimum attendance requirements as well as on their advocacy proposal and group presentation. Attendance requirements will include attending 5 out of 6 sessions with mandatory attendance at the final session (which includes the group presentations). Evaluation of the advocacy proposal and group presentation will be completed by the course sponsors. Groups will be expected to provide an evidenced-based rationale for their proposed public health policy and describe methods to track the effectiveness of their proposal. A one-page summary of their proposal will be due by 5pm on Friday October 4th, the Friday prior to the final session so that it may be distributed to spur class discussion. A survey of students prior to the start of the elective and at the conclusion of the elective will provide the sponsors with feedback on each session, as well as the effectiveness of the elective as a whole addressing the goals and objectives.

**Course Description** (200 words):  
This OEE will provide medical, nursing and graduate students with a comprehensive educational approach to treating the public health crisis of gun violence in America. Through a series of lectures, simulation, field trips and group presentations, students will gain an understanding of the current crisis of gun violence, how they can incorporate preventive techniques into their practice, the present state of gun laws and regulations and even a hands on the basics of firearms and their legal purposes.

**Goal:** At the conclusion of this OEE, students will be able to comfortably articulate the epidemiology of gun violence, the regulations and legislation surrounding gun ownership and usage, and most importantly, incorporate gun-sense safety into their clinical practice.

**Course Objectives:**  
- Provide information pertaining to the public health impacts of gun violence including epidemiology  
- Prepare healthcare providers to inquire about gun safety including ownership, access, storage, safe disposal and to provide appropriate language and reasons for asking  
- Educate providers on how trauma is dealt with in the community in police, school and other settings, with particular attention on gun violence and harm reduction  
- Offer information and hands on education about firearms, bullets, magazines and how gun enthusiasts and owners approach firearms
- Provide overview of firearm regulation and legislation in MA, US and in other countries
- Activate students to think about change by proposing local initiatives, regulation or legislation

**Course Schedule:**
Wednesday, September 4, 2019
**Introductory Lecture** – Hirsh, McMaster, Lowe, Cataltepe
**Guest:** Kim Long, MA Moms Demand Action
  a. Epidemiology and historic context re: research/public health
  b. Data re: gun sales, trafficking etc.

Wednesday, September 11, 2019
**Incorporating Gun-Sense into Safety and Prevention** – Hirsh, McMaster, Lowe
**Guests:** Mike Weisser, NRA safety coach; Angus McQuilken, MA Center to Reduce Gun Violence
  a. 2nd Amendment and gag-rules – setting the stage
  b. Practical conversations and SP-like interactions
  c. Motivational interviewing

Wednesday, September 18, 2019
**Trauma Informed Policing** – Hirsh, Klouda
**Guests:** Steve Roche, WPS Gang Task Force; The Hon. Carol Erskine, Juvenile Court
  a. Perspective from police, juvenile court
  b. Perspective from school trauma specialist

Wednesday, September 25, 2019
**Visit to Shooting Range and/or Gun Store** – Hirsh, McMaster, Lowe
  a. Learn different types of guns and bullets
  b. Understand terminology and the NRA’s approach

Wednesday, October 2, 2019
**Legal Information** – Lowe, Cataltepe, MA AG’s Office, Worcester DA’s Office
  a. Licensing requirements in MA
  b. How to own, buy, sell and use a firearm
  c. Current legislation/proposals/look at other nations’ approaches

Wednesday, October 9, 2019
**Group Presentations** – Hirsh, McMaster, Lowe, Cataltepe, Klouda
**Guest:** Laurie Ross, the Shannon Grant to Prevent Violence and the Hope Coalition
  a. Groups of 3-5 students will propose a public health initiative related to the topics covered throughout the course
  b. Proposals may include a local initiative (hospital, community), a local regulation (City/town) or legislation (State/Federal)
  c. A one-page summary of the proposal will be due by 5pm on Friday October 4th, the Friday prior to the final session outlining: evidence-based rationale for the
Proposal, details of the initiative/regulation/legislation/other, methods to track effectiveness of the proposal and any other details the group would like to include.

d. Presentations will provide the class with an overview of the proposal and offer opportunity for the class to ask questions and debate the merits and efficacy of the proposal.

e. Examples of call for proposals are below for reference and to provide inspiration for the various approaches available to improve public health.

RFP from public health agency:

Non-profit funding RFP:
https://www.ncgvr.org/content/dam/ncgvr/rfp/NCGVR_RFP_1_7_2019.pdf

Example of MA legislation regulating access to firearms:
https://malegislature.gov/Bills/190/H3610

Description of how OEE builds on current curriculum:
This OEE builds on significant components already contained within the medical and nursing curricula. Students are already exposed to various approaches to preventive medicine including safety (ex, seatbelt usage, bicycle helmets). Students are also already taught methods of motivational interviewing. In this OEE, we will expand on these themes as they relate to gun violence and firearm safety providing both lecture content as well as role-playing opportunities for students to practice patient interactions and develop a sensitive and efficient approach to engaging conversations around firearm safety. This OEE will also provide the opportunity to activate students as advocates as they propose initiatives, regulations or legislation focused on a public health approach to stemming gun violence in our communities.