

ANESTHESIOLOGY & PAIN MEDICINE EDI BRIEF AUGUST 2025

WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

This month, we recognize [World Humanitarian Day](#) and [International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples](#) because the work we do in the department and around the world promotes human welfare and patient centered care.

When asked to share some of the major changes that have occurred in humanitarian work over the last 20 years, **Dr. Sam Sharar** said he has noticed three positive trends:

- “Increased enthusiasm among trainees and young practitioners has expanded the pipeline for teaching and delivering perioperative surgical care in low-and middle-income countries.”
- The second noticeable trend was how much “humanitarian outreach has evolved to providing clinical care with education and training of healthcare providers in these locations.”
- Lastly, “projects that emphasize sustainable partnerships are empowering local healthcare providers to strengthen their own healthcare delivery systems and take primary responsibility for driving these partnerships.” On the flipside, “one persistent challenge is reliable funding as the US government withdraws support from international healthcare programs and private donors redirect support from international humanitarian NGOs toward domestic healthcare programs.”

Eileen Miller, a CRNA at Harborview Medical Center, said there is not one specific thing that inspires her to do humanitarian work. Instead, she focuses on the challenge of “providing excellent care with very basic resources,” while “networking with a community of healthcare providers from all around the world.” She is constantly amazed by the resilience of these communities and the patients as well. Eileen says she loves being immersed in different cultures and has also gained a stronger appreciation for the simple things that can easily be taken for granted like “a flush toilet, hot shower, and tap water I can drink.”

This year’s theme for World Humanitarian Day is ***Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities***.” Take a moment to recognize the impact our department has locally and on a global scale. It could not be possible without all the innovative minds in APM dedicated to bringing forth change.

Learn more:

- Explore resources for [World Humanitarian Day](#), [UNICEF](#), [World Health Organization](#), [Women’s Equality Day](#).
- [Dr. Sharar: Medical Conversation with the Dalai Lama](#)
- [Mission Plastics](#)

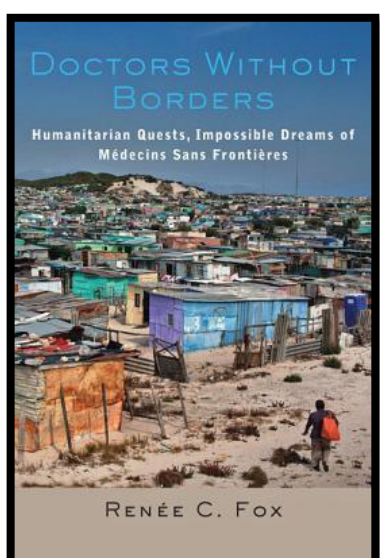
Department Highlights

Welcome our first 2025 Anesthesia Visiting Scholar:

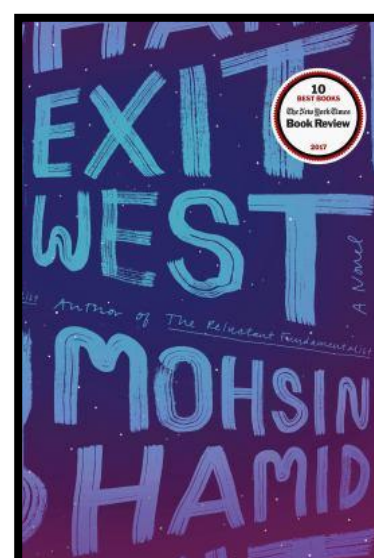
- **Jose Alberto Reyes**, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine begins their rotation at Harborview (8/25/25-9/19/25).

Resources

Recommended Reading:



[***Doctors Without Borders: Humanitarian Quests, Impossible Dreams of Médecins Sans Frontières***](#), Renée C. Fox



[***Exit West***](#), Moshin Hamid

Visit [The Whole U](#) for events happening in the community and at UW:

- August 22 (12-12:50pm): [Wellness Connection Series: Digital Detox](#)
- August 26 (10:30-2pm): [UWMC-Northwest Summer Market](#)