



Global Mental Health Program
Programme mondial
pour la santé mentale

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, September 21, 2017, 3:00 – 4:30 PM

Department of Psychiatry, Irving Ludmer Building, Room #1

Dr. Eric Latimer

Douglas Hospital Research Centre

A Cost-effective Approach to Caring for People with Severe Mental Illness in Africa? The Saint-Camille de Léllis NGO



Established more than two decades ago, the St-Camille de Léllis is a non-governmental organization that currently operates in four French-speaking West-African countries: the Ivory Coast, Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso. The St-Camille now includes a dozen centers where people with mental illness are offered inexpensive medications and are cared for before being, normally, returned to their families. Each center houses about 200 residents at a time. Most of the minimal complement of staff at the centers, very often including the center director and nurses, are themselves patients still on medication. In evaluating new patients, nurses use a very simple tool developed by French psychiatrists from the association, Santé mentale en Afrique de l'Ouest (SMAO). To date, the St Camille has treated more than 66,000 individuals. During the summer of 2017, Eric Latimer visited the St Camille with a view to exploring the potential for developing research projects. The objectives of the presentation will be to: (1) describe in some detail (with photographs) the functioning of the St Camille; (2) describe the design of a just-initiated research project to evaluate the validity and reliability of the diagnostic tool developed by the SMAO; (3) describe additional emerging research project ideas concerning the St-Camille.