

**“The Rights of the Child and the
Role of the Medical Profession in
Protecting the Right to Health”**

-- Prof. David Weissbrodt

**Topics and
Advances in
Pediatrics**



Max Seham Lecture

- Dr. Max Seham, born in Russia, 1888, and immigrated to the US. at the age of 6
- Attended grade school in Minneapolis; North High; University of Minnesota, and University of Minnesota Medical School, graduating in 1910
- Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, University of Minnesota
- Minneapolis Pediatrics, Kenwood Parkway
- Group Health

Max Seham Lecture

Dr. Max Seham:

- “The situation [of American health care] is critical. We’ve got the best delivery of medical services in the world and the poorest, and for some people no medicine at all.”

Max Seham Lecture

Dr. Max Seham, Blacks and American Medical Care:

“As a physician, I have been trained to think of problems in terms of diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. My diagnosis of the plight of blacks in American medicine is that today's medical system consists of twentieth century technology shackled with a nineteenth century sociology.”

Max Seham Lecture -- Outline

- examples of how doctors get involved in human rights
- content of the rights of the child and the international right to health
- a few ways that you might get involved

examples of how doctors get involved in human rights

- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights](#)

United Nations



Principles on the
Effective Prevention
and Investigation of
Extra-Legal, Arbitrary
and
Summary Executions

Archambault Institution
Sainte-Anne-des-Plaines, Quebec

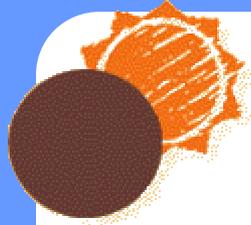


Somalia



Governor Rudy Perpich (1928-1995)





Center for Victims of Torture

- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- St. Paul, Minnesota
- Guinea
- Sierra Leone

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment



- Article 14

1. Each State Party shall ensure in its legal system that the victim of an act of torture obtains redress and has an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, including the **means for as full rehabilitation as possible**. In the event of the death of the victim as a result of an act of torture, his dependants shall be entitled to compensation.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights



- Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

United Nations

United Nations Charter





- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



- Article 12
- 1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Article 12, Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- 2. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:
- (a) The provision for the reduction of the stillbirth-rate and of infant mortality and for the healthy development of the child; . . .

Article 2, Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the **maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights** recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.



- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 14, The right to the highest attainable standard of health



Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 24, Convention on the Rights of the Child

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

Article 24, Convention on the Rights of the Child

2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:
 - (a) To diminish infant and child mortality;

Article 24, Convention on the Rights of the Child

(b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;

Article 24, Convention on the Rights of the Child

(c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, *inter alia*, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution; . . .
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- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Most Widely Ratified Treaty
- Ratified by 191 nations
- Committee on the Rights of the Child

Constitutional Court of South Africa

Minister of Health and others v
Treatment Action Campaign and
others

**University of Minnesota Human
Rights Center**

**Upper Midwest Human Rights
Internship Program**

Minnesota-based Organizations

- Minnesota International Health Volunteers
- American Refugee Committee
- Center for Victims of Torture

International/National Organizations

- Doctors without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières
- Doctors of the World/Médecins du Monde
- Physicians for Human Rights

THANK YOU



Questions?