



Weill Cornell Medical College

# The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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Issue No. 1 | January 2015

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## In this Issue

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- Holiday party 2014
- Dr. Joseph Shin as incoming medical director
- FGM in the news
- Faculty spotlight
- Student spotlight

## Evaluations

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Dec 2014 evaluations: 4  
 Jan 2015 evaluations: 4  
 Total evaluations to date: 190

## Upcoming Events

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### Student training

January 24, 2015

### Faculty training (Psych)

March 26, 2015

### Faculty training (Med/Gyn)

To Be Determined

## Announcement

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We are the honored recipients of the proceeds from NYP's Department of Social Work's annual fundraiser for 2014!

We'd like to thank the department for their generous support.



Welcome to the first issue of our WCCHR monthly newsletter! Our goal is to provide faculty evaluators, student volunteers, our PHR colleagues, and all other WCCHR supporters with updates on our progress in providing asylum seekers with forensic evaluations and continuing care. The newsletter will also serve to keep our readers up-to-date on clinic news and events.

## Holiday Party 2014

The 2014 WCCHR holiday fundraiser was a great success! We sold 104 tickets and raised a total of \$1600. The proceeds from the Holiday Party will go toward our Client Fund, which will be used to assist WCCHR clients on a case-by-case basis in financing important or emergent health-related services that cannot be obtained free of charge. Our deepest gratitude to all faculty evaluators, student volunteers, and community members who contributed and came despite the pouring rain. Special thanks to Sixpoint Brewery for donating drinks and the Weill Cornell Jazz Band for providing live entertainment. Stay tuned for more festivities!



## Incoming Medical Director: Dr. Joseph Shin



We'd like to welcome Dr. Joseph Shin as our new medical director! Dr. Shin graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 2008 and completed his residency training in internal medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center. He is now a hospitalist and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College. His academic interests include global health and community health worker utilization. We look forward to working with Dr. Shin as we continue to grow as a clinic and serve our clients' needs.



## In the News

### Egypt court deals blow to fight against genital mutilation

—*USA Today, November 21, 2014*

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the reason for seeking asylum for many of our female clients, making this article particularly pertinent to the work that we do. Thirteen-year-old Sohair al-Bata'a of Egypt died during an FGM procedure in 2013. Though the practice is illegal, the physician who performed the procedure and the girl's father who brought her to the clinic were acquitted of manslaughter. The article therefore brings up an important point: a law against FGM is effectively useless if the the government does nothing to persecute those who continue to force girls through the procedure. Unfortunately, this is not only a problem in Egypt but also in over 30 countries around the world. Read article for further details...



*Photo credit: Nariman El-Mofty, AP*

<http://www.usatoday.com>

**Link to article:** <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2014/11/21/globalpost-egypt-female-genital-mutilation/19333605/>

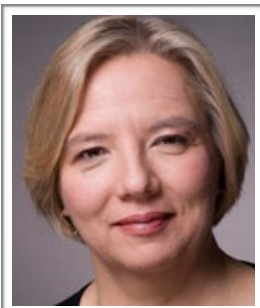
# Spotlight on...

## Sasha Hernandez, MS2

Sasha Hernandez is a 2nd year medical student at Weill Cornell and is a particularly active WCCHR volunteer. Sasha has participated in 12 evaluations on top of her challenging medical school curriculum.



“I grew up in Medellin, Colombia and since a young age was very perceptive to the drug related and political instability present in my country. Coming to the US was life changing and gave our family a newfound freedom. I knew Cornell was the place for me when I heard about WCCHR and the amazing work they do for asylum seekers. I am passionate about our clinic because I feel a personal connection to every asylum seeker I work with as their struggle was once my own as members in my own family have been granted political asylum. This shared common ground makes every evaluation even more special, especially when I am able to share my story with the clients. It is inspiring to work with so many physicians that have been able to incorporate human rights and global health work into their own careers—something that I myself hope to do.”



## Dr. Terri Edersheim and Dr. Joanne Ahola

We would like to thank our outgoing medical directors, Drs. Edersheim and Ahola, for their inspiring leadership and strong dedication to WCCHR. They have served as medical directors of WCCHR since its inception and have contributed tirelessly to student research projects, community events, and other initiatives in addition to conducting many gynecological and psychological forensic evaluations. Although we will miss them as directors, we are grateful for their continued support of our work.

