



Weill Cornell Medical College

The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

Issue No. 11 | February 2016

In this Issue

- WCCHR Honored by NGO Committee on Mental Health
- Record Breaking Student Training!
- In the News
- Faculty Spotlight
- Student Spotlight

Evaluations

Total Evaluations to Date:

266 evaluations with **71** clients
being granted legal protection.

Upcoming Events

Spring Faculty Training

March 10, 2016, 6 PM - 10 PM

Asylum Networking Luncheon

April 23, 2016



WCCHR faculty and students attend the Mental Health Award Ceremony on February 2, 2016. Photo credit: Dr. Alexandra Tatum

WCCHR Honored by NGO Committee on Mental Health

On February 2nd, 2016, WCCHR was honored at the NGO Committee on Mental Health's 2016 Award Ceremony. WCCHR was recognized for outstanding dedication to survivors of torture seeking asylum in the United States and for serving as an outstanding model of student-generated effective leadership in contributing to the global community. The Committee, which works closely with the United Nations to ensure the inclusion of mental health issues within a broader context of concerns such as vulnerable populations, human rights, poverty, violence, the environment, peace and well-being, is chaired by WCCHR evaluator Dr. Vivian Pender.

Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addition Services, and the UN Rocks Music Group, a group of UN Ambassadors who produced the album "Strong UN Better World", were also honored at the event. WCCHR is grateful to the NGO Committee on Mental Health for this honor and to Dr. Pender for her ongoing support of WCCHR's work.

Record Breaking Student Training!

On Saturday, February 6th, 2016, WCCHR conducted its largest ever training session for students interested in learning more about asylum and the role of medical professionals in conducting forensic medical and psychological evaluations for survivors of torture. In order to prepare them for participating in evaluations, students learned about the Istanbul Protocol, the legal process for obtaining asylum, and the process of conducting forensic medical, psychological and gynecologic evaluations.

In addition to 18 students from WCMC, students from the Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York Medical College, Albany Medical College, and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai attended the training. Brown and Mount Sinai have existing asylum clinics where students can volunteer to participate in forensic evaluations. Touro, Albany, and NYMC are all looking to develop their own asylum programs as well.

WCCHR's Asylum Training Manual, which outlines the basic components of a forensic asylum evaluation is available online at <http://www.wcchr.com/resources/traning-manual>.

WCCHR is grateful to Lauren Antrim, WCCHR education coordinator, as well as Dr. Joanne Ahola, Dr. Joseph Shin, Dr. Thomas Kalman, Dr. Deborah Ottenheimer, Dr. Alex Tatum, Kelsey Young, and Dan Smulian for making the training a success!



Kelsey Young, MSi, addresses the group about the work of our Continuing Care program.

In the News

30,000 North Korean children living in limbo in China

— The Guardian, Feb 5th, 2016



A North Korean child in Hyangsan Province (AP).

30,000 North Korean children, born to defectors from the regime or victims of sex trafficking, are living in China without citizenship or recognition from either state. China has cracked down on North Korean defectors, considering them to be “illegal migrants” who have “disrupted public order in our border regions.” For this reason, these children are living without access to basic human right: they cannot attend Chinese schools and are even denied access to health care in hospitals.

The Citizens' Alliance for North Korean Human Rights, a group advocating for these children, has rescued 112 adult and child refugees from China last year.

Link to article: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/05/north-koreas-stateless-children>

Spotlight on...

Lynne Rosenberg, MS1

Lynne Rosenberg graduated Cum Laude from UC Berkeley in 2014 with a B.A. in Integrative Biology. Through her undergraduate experience, she became passionate about working to help those who cannot advocate for themselves. Lynne was the Director of Operations and the Director of Special Events at Camp Kesem, a camp for children whose parents have been affected by cancer. Upon graduating, she worked at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center where she conducted research on neurodegenerative and neurodevelopmental diseases. Lynne is now a member of the class of 2019 at Weill Cornell Medical College. She has continued to pursue her passion for service at WCMC as the Co-Director of Camp Phoenix, an organization supporting pediatric burn victims. This is her first year as a Case Scheduler for WCCHR.



Vivian Pender, M.D.

Vivian B. Pender, M.D. is a faculty member of Columbia and Cornell Medical Schools where she is a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry. She has training in Internal Medicine, Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. She teaches medical students, residents and psychoanalytic candidates. She is a Trustee of the American Psychiatric Association. She is the Main Representative to the UN of the International Psychoanalytical Association since 2009. She chaired the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York, from 2007-2011, a coalition of 85 NGOs in consultative relationship with the United Nations. She has been President of professional organizations including the NY District Branch of the American Psychiatric Association and the Payne Whitney Faculty Council. She

volunteered with a NYC mental health team that treats homeless people with mental illness. She is a member of the New York City Medical Reserve Corps. She spent a year in Africa where she visited medical missions and is a psychiatric consultant at the United Nations. She has authored papers on affect, motivation, pregnancy, female psychology and women's health. She is the Editor of a forthcoming book on Women and Psychoanalysis: an International and Political Perspective. From 2006-2013 she produced four documentary films of UN conferences on violence, global health, mental disability, and human rights. She is a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice in Manhattan.