



Weill Cornell Medical College

The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

Issue No. 14 | October 2016

In this Issue

- Upcoming Events
- WCCHR Fall Training
- Welcome to New Board
- US Admits 10,000 Syrian Refugees
- Faculty Spotlight
- Student Spotlight

Statistics

We have conducted **306** evaluations for **266** clients from **55** countries.

We have trained **486** medical students to evaluate clients for signs of physical and psychological trauma.

Upcoming Events

Educational Event with the Victim Intervention Program

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 6:30 PM
Location TBD

WCCHR Annual Holiday Party

Friday, Dec. 2, 6:00 PM
Belfer Research Building



*Students and faculty members participate in fall training. (pg.2)
Photo credit: Andrew Milewski*

We are pleased to introduce our 2016-2017 WCCHR Student Board!

Executive Team

Executive Directors: Nick Hernandez and Andrew Milewski
 Director of Clinical Operations: Tasher Losenegger
 Director of Organizational Operations: Lynne Rosenberg
 Director of Continuing Care: Kelsey Young

Clinical Operations Team

Faculty Recruitment Coordinator: Francesca Voza
 Case Schedulers: Jae Seong No, Eric Zhang, & Kevin Ackerman
 Education Coordinator: Latha Panchap
 Continuing Care Referrals Coordinator: Anna Cai

Organizational Operations Team

Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator: Chris Gamboa
 Events and Advocacy Coordinator: Karina Ruiz-Esteves
 Public Relations Coordinator: Molly Chodakewitz
 Research and Publications Coordinator: Aoife MacMahon
 Treasurer and Webmistress: Ariana Rabinowitsch

Good luck to all in their new roles!

First Combined Faculty/Student Training

On September 10th, 2016, WCCHR held its first combined faculty/student training. Prospective clinical and student evaluators learned how to prepare an affidavit and how to conduct psychological, physical, and gynecological evaluations of survivors of torture. WCCHR's very own medical directors, Dr. Thomas Kalman and Dr. Joseph Shin, provided the psychological and physical evaluation portions of the training, respectively.

For the first time, this year we invited WCM PA students to attend our fall training and conduct evaluations. Attendees at this session included 42 WCM medical and PA students, 5 New York Medical College students, 2 Albany Medical College students, 7 Columbia students, and 8 faculty.

We have now trained a total of 486 students in conducting evaluations, including 266 from Cornell.

New Continuing Care Partnership with NYU College of Dentistry

We are thrilled to announce an exciting new partnership between WCCHR's Continuing Care Division and the New York University College of Dentistry's Program for Survivors of Torture. The Program for Survivors of Torture, an elective course for dental students in their final year of training, has generously agreed to provide pro bono dental care to WCCHR's clients. Students enrolled in the program run a clinic dedicated to providing dental care for survivors of torture and host weekly seminars exploring the special psychological and physical needs of this patient population. WCCHR student leaders were graciously invited by Dr. June Weiss, one of the course's co-directors, to speak at one of the program's seminars in early September. Our clinic's members greatly enjoyed having the opportunity to meet this dedicated group of dental students and to learn more about the invaluable work they do.

In the News

U.S. Reaches Goal of Admitting 10,000 Syrian Refugees

—NY Times, August 31, 2016

In the 2016 fiscal year, the US has now reached the goal of admitting 10,000 Syrian refugees, generally placed where jobs are plentiful and the costs of housing are low. Before admission, refugees undergo a stringent background check and vetting process.

Notably, there are now a total of 12,000 Syrian refugees in the US, a total that pales in comparison to previous admissions. During the Vietnam War, for example, the US took in over 300,000 refugees.



Photo credit: Raad Adayleh, NYTimes.com

Link to interactive article: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/30/us/syrian-refugees-in-the-united-states.html>

Spotlight on...

Tasher Losenegger, MS2

Tasher Losenegger is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he obtained a bachelor’s degree in Pharmacology and Toxicology in 2014. He has always been interested in human rights and has taken a particular interest in the convergence of global health and human rights. Tasher is currently helping with the development of Health and Human Rights as an Area of Concentration for medical students at Weill Cornell Medical College, where he is in his second year. He spent the past summer in India, investigating factors that led to higher neonatal mortality rates in rural districts in the states of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

As a first year student, he served as a case scheduler for WCCHR. He is now our incoming Director of Clinical Operations.



Gunisha Kaur, MD

Dr. Gunisha Kaur earned her B.S. from Cornell University in 2006, graduated from Weill Cornell Medical College in 2010, and completed her Anesthesiology Residency training at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2014. She is an anesthesiologist specializing in international health and is leading the Department of Anesthesiology’s Global Health Initiative. She also serves as the Program Director for the Anesthesia Global Health Fellowship. Dr. Kaur holds a Master’s in Medical Anthropology from Harvard University. In 2008, she published the book *Lost in History: 1984 Reconstructed*, which documents human rights violations in South Asia.

