Weill Cornell Medical College

The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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Evaluations

March evaluations: 8
Total evaluations to date: 199
Total clients: 172

Upcoming Events

NY Asylum Network Luncheon
April 11, 2015
SafeZone Training
April 14, 2015

Announcement

Please check your email for information about our upcoming third annual New York Asylum Network Luncheon on April 11.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

At last month's WCCHR student board meeting, Dr. David Nissan, a third-year Psychiatry resident at Weill Cornell, gave an eye-opening presentation on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Dr. Nissan explained existing theories on the development of PTSD, its clinical features, and methods of treatment. Based on the National Comorbidity Survey (NCS) report, the prevalence of PTSD among adult Americans is about 7.8 percent. The diagnosis of PTSD requires exposure to a serious trauma such as death, serious injury, or sexual violence leading to lasting psychiatric sequelae, including but not limited to recurrent nightmares, flashbacks, memory impairment, avoidance of distressing external cues, hypervigilance, and irritability. An effective treatment for PTSD is prolonged exposure therapy, which involves 9 to 12 weekly or twice-weekly sessions of confronting distressing memories or scenarios in a therapeutic manner. Repeated re-experiencing of traumatic memories or safe environmental triggers of memories can eventually lead to a weaker emotional response and decreased level of stress. As PTSD is one of the most common psychiatric diagnoses in our client population, Dr. Nissan's lecture was particularly relevant to our work. As students, we look forward to applying our new knowledge in our forensic evaluations.

Upcoming Event: LGBT and Asylum SafeZone Training

Q!   Queer Health Alliance and WCCHR are partnering to present the second ever LGBT and Asylum SafeZone Training. The training will provide an overview of the health disparities and legal issues LGBT asylum seekers face abroad and in the United States. It will also focus on how to take an LGBT-sensitive history in both a clinical setting and during a forensic asylum evaluation. Local resources for the LGBT community will also be discussed.

The SafeZone Training will be held on **April 14th at 7:00 pm in Belfer 302 B, C and D**. It will be led by Michelina Stoddard (MD/PhD student), Dr. Joanne Ahola and Dr. Ariel Shidlo. Dinner will be served!

Upcoming Event: Human Trafficking Conference and Webinar

A conference and webinar titled "Human Trafficking: Training Healthcare for Policy and Prevention" will be held in the Griffis Faculty Club and Uris Auditorium at Weill Cornell Medical College on **April 10th from 1:00 to 5:30 pm**. Dean Glimcher will be joining a panel of distinguished speakers for the conference portion of this event. The event is free of charge, but registration at www.healthcareagainsttrafficking.com is required.

In the News

Schoolgirls Are Facing More Threats, U.N. Reports

—NYTimes, February 9, 2015

As the excitement of graduation season approaches, we are reminded to give thanks for the education we often take for granted. In many parts of the world, girls in particular are denied the right to education or are forced to abandon school due to gender based violence that is perpetuated by social norms and stereotypes of a woman's role in life. The United Nations recently issued a report on the escalation of attacks against girls' education in the past several years. It estimates that in 2012 alone, 3,600 attacks were made against teachers, students, and schools. Among these are the Taliban's assault on a school in Peshawar, Pakistan in December, the kidnapping of 300 schoolgirls in Nigeria in April, the shooting of Malala Yousafzai in 2012, and attacks on girls in Afghanistan between 2012 and 2014. Visit the link below to read the NYTimes summary and for access to the U.N. report.

Link to article: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/10/world/schoolgirls-are-facing-more-threats-united-nations-reports.html

Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Photo credit: abcnews.go.com

Spotlight on...

Darya Terekhova, MS1

Darya Terekhova is a first year medical student at Weill Cornell Medical College.   She received a BS in Chemistry from Novosibirsk State University in Russia and a PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from New York Medical College. After graduating, she performed basic science research in bacteriology and clinical research in HIV and hepatitis C at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. As an immigrant from Russia, Darya is acutely aware of discrimination against social and ethnic groups that occurs outside the United States, which is why she is passionate about working with asylum applicants at WCCHR. She has participated in three evaluations and is planning to participate in more.

Ariel Shidlo, PhD

Dr. Ariel Shidlo has been one of our psychologist faculty evaluators since 2011. He is Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychology at Weill Cornell Medical College, Co-Director of Research Institute Without Walls, and in independent practice in Manhattan. Dr. Shidlo has specialized in LGBT mental health since 1986, and the treatment of trauma and refugee mental health since 2003. He co-edited the book "Sexual Conversion Therapy: Ethical, Clinical, and Research Perspectives," which received a Distinguished Book Award from the LGBT division of the American Psychological Association in 2002. Together with Dr. Joanne Ahola he published one of the first papers on LGBT refugee mental health. As a clinician and activist he also founded mental health and peer counseling programs for gay and bisexual men at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan. We are proud to have Dr. Shidlo as one of our most active faculty evaluators.