



Weill Cornell Medical College

The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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Statistics

Total Evaluations as of 3/31:
270 evaluations with **72 clients** being granted legal protection (**94%** of those who have been to court).

Upcoming Events

Evaluator Appreciation Event and End of the Year Potluck
 TBD

We are pleased to announce that WCCHR, the Cornell student chapter of Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) has been awarded the 2015-2016 PHR National Student Program Chapter of the Year Award.

Congratulations to all students and faculty involved!



Faculty Training Adds LCSWs

The Spring Faculty Training was held this past March 10th, and 20 potential evaluators attended. This was the first time that we also accepted Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs) as evaluators in order to utilize their diverse talents to expand our services in psychological evaluation. We successfully trained 2 social workers at this March's training, and they will be added to our team of psychological evaluators.

The evaluators were educated on a diverse set of topics related to their work with us along with the clinic as a whole. All the presentations at the training were provided by our array of experience current evaluators. Topics included how to conduct a psych, med, and gyn evaluation; how to identify signs of torture; how to interact with the attorney; and the proper way to write and submit an affidavit.

We are thrilled to have new evaluators on our team to continue providing high-quality forensic evaluation to clients in need.

Networking Luncheon Brings Together Human Rights and Homeland Security

On April 23, WCCHR hosted our 4th Annual Asylum Networking Luncheon. Each year, the WCCHR hosts a luncheon aiming to facilitate discussion and provide connections across the New York asylum community. Attendees in the past have included physicians, attorneys, social workers and advocates, as well as medical, graduate and law students.

This year, we chose a topic prevalent in current events and the media: the intersection between human rights and homeland security, with an emphasis on US immigration, refugee and asylum policy in the context of global unrest. The luncheon featured a panel discussion and Q&A session, along with an opportunity for informal discussion and networking over lunch. The panelists for this year were Dr. Georgette F. Bennett, President of the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, Officer Thomas Herman from the New York Asylum Office, and Mr. David Wildman, Executive Secretary for Human Rights and Racial Justice with the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries.



From left: Dr. Georgette Bennett, David Wildman, and Thomas Herman.

Safe Harbor Project

Members of WCCHR's student board and Dr. Thomas Kalman, one of WCCHR's medical directors, travelled to Brooklyn Law School on March 30th to give presentations on working with traumatized clients and self-care for managing vicarious trauma. At Brooklyn Law School, students in Professor Dan Smulian's class become involved with the Safe Harbor Project, a student clinic that Professor Smulian co-directs which helps provide legal support for individuals seeking asylum in the United States. Both Professor Smulian and the Safe Harbor project have worked closely with WCCHR in this capacity, and deal with many of the same issues that confront our volunteers. We were honored to offer insight into the medical aspects of their work, as well as strategies for coping with the emotional demands of asylum work.

Correctional Health Elective

On Friday, March 18th, members of WCCHR's leadership team joined medical students from Harvard and University of Massachusetts in presenting a digital curriculum for medical students interested in correctional health at the 9th Annual Academic and Health Policy Conference on Correctional Health. This presentation was born out of an ongoing collaboration between Harvard, UMass, and WCMC medical students focused on designing and developing a web-based correctional health care and health policy elective curriculum for fourth year medical students. The curriculum covers an array of correctional health topics including women's health, public health, social justice and advocacy subject matter. The goal is to record a collection of flipped-classroom style lectures that will be available online for medical students across the country enrolled in correctional health coursework. The process of recruiting subject matter experts and creating video content is underway, and we are excited to hopefully launch the curriculum soon!

Spotlight on...

Donovan White, MSi

Donovan White is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he obtained a Bachelors of Science in Biomedical Engineering (BSBME) with departmental honors, honors in Science and Technology, and Magna Cum Laude. While an undergraduate, Donovan co-founded and was president of his university's chapter of Global Medical Brigades. He lead the group on their first medical brigade to Honduras in December 2013. Donovan has a strong passion for international social justice and global health outreach. He is our Faculty Recruitment Coordinator this year, and most recently coordinated our Spring Faculty training discussed in the front-page article.



Alka Gupta, M.D.

Alka Gupta, M.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, and is a hospitalist at Weill Cornell Medical Center and Lower Manhattan Hospital. She completed her undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University, her medical degree at Virginia Commonwealth University, and her residency in internal medicine at the University of Maryland. She is currently involved in teaching medical students and residents. She is board certified in Internal Medicine and in Integrative Medicine.

Dr. Gupta has co-founded The Integrative Health Program at NYP/Weill-Cornell, which seeks to provide an individualized, evidence-based approach to healthcare. She is a member of the Society of Hospital Medicine, The Institute of Functional Medicine, and The Academy of Integrative and Holistic

Medicine. She is board certified in Internal Medicine, and a Diplomat of the American Board of Integrative and Holistic Medicine.