



# The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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## Statistics

We have conducted **340** evaluations for **293** clients from **59** countries.

We have trained **550** medical students to evaluate clients for signs of physical and psychological trauma.

## Upcoming Events

### Advanced Evaluation Training; Evaluating Adolescent Clients

Tuesday, March 21, 6-9PM

Dinner served at 6PM

Weill Auditorium

1300 York Ave.

## WCCHR Hosts its Largest Asylum Evaluation Training Ever



*Photo credit: Nick Hernandez*

On Saturday, February 4, the WCCHR hosted its annual Winter Asylum Evaluation Training. 145 students and clinicians attended, making it the largest training we have ever hosted. For the first time, several WCCHR clinician evaluators led small group sessions in which trainees discussed cases drawn from the leaders' experiences. This addition allowed us to provide a more thorough and engaging training.

Eric Zhang, a member of the Clinical Operations Board, recounts that "No training has ever been this big and exciting before. We had a deluge of people join us for discussion and food, and we implemented for the first time small-group based learning experiences for our trainees. We hope that the WCCHR can grow and serve more people, and our recent training has fueled that hope."

## WCCHR Presents to Weill Cornell Board of Overseers

On February 1, the WCCHR's co-Executive Directors, Nicholas Hernandez and Andrew Milewski, spoke to the Weill Cornell Board of Overseers at the invitation of Dr. Barbara Hemptsead, Senior Associate Dean for Education. This is the first time leaders from the WCCHR have been asked to present to this Board, an invitation that reflects the medical college's growing support and enthusiasm for our work. During their presentation, Andrew and Nick described our clinic's history, the services we provide, and the many educational opportunities available to Weill Cornell students through our organization. Nick describes that the experience of presenting to the Board of Overseers as "a wonderful opportunity to have an incredibly perceptive audience push us on how we can better the clinic, while fundamentally reaffirming the value of our mission."

## Asylum Clinic Listserv

The WCCHR is proud to announce that we have created an asylum clinics listserv in an effort to bring together asylum clinics at medical schools across the country. Ten clinics have joined this group so far and we anticipate that the remaining programs will sign on soon. We're very excited about the development of this listserv, which will allow all established and developing clinics to share resources and to troubleshoot common challenges. The WCCHR is proud to be the first student-run asylum clinic and is thrilled to see its model replicated at medical schools across the nation. We are always happy to share our experience and resources with other clinics and hope this new listserv will foster an open and supportive community among the growing number of asylum clinics.

## In the News

### A Surprising Salve for New York's Beleaguered Cities: Refugees

—NYTimes, February 20, 2017

*"While President Trump has cast incoming refugees in a sinister light, the influx into the beleaguered communities along New York's old Erie Canal has been a surprising salve for decades of dwindling population and opportunity...And the irony is that it is the cities' long-term struggles that have inadvertently made them popular locations to settle newcomers."*



Photo credit: Nathaniel Brooks, NYTimes.com

**Link to interactive article:** [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/20/nyregion/a-surprising-salve-for-new-yorks-beleaguered-cities-refugees.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/20/nyregion/a-surprising-salve-for-new-yorks-beleaguered-cities-refugees.html?_r=0)

## Spotlight on...

### Latha Panchap, MEd

**Latha Panchap** graduated from Cornell University in 2015 with a degree in Biological Engineering and a minor in Applied Economics and Management. Throughout her undergraduate career, she attempted to understand health inequalities in populations within the United States and abroad in countries like India and Peru. Her interests are focused on improving infant morbidity and mortality in rural populations worldwide and optimizing patient-centered healthcare experiences in hospitals. She is currently an MD candidate at Weill Cornell Medical College, and she is the WCCHR's Education Coordinator.



### Joseph Shin, MD

**Joseph Shin, M.D.** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College serving as an academic hospitalist at NY-Presbyterian Hospital. Prior to joining the faculty at Cornell in 2014, Dr. Shin had spent the last ten years at NYU School of Medicine as a student, resident and attending physician conducting medical evaluations of survivors of torture and asylum applicants, participating in research on human rights abuses in Punjab, India, and serving as a primary care physician at the NYU/Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture. His interests also include advocacy against physician involvement in torture, medical education and global health workforce development. Dr. Shin has served as Co-Medical Director of the WCCHR since January 2015, and we look forward to continuing our work with him!

