



Weill Cornell Medical College

The Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights

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Statistics

As of May 29, we have learned that **100 of our clients have been granted asylum**, constituting 93% of clients whose cases have been adjudicated.

We have conducted **363** evaluations for **311** clients from **60** countries.

We have trained **551** medical students to evaluate clients for signs of physical and psychological trauma.

Upcoming Events

End-of-the-Year Debrief

Thursday, June 1, 7-8:30PM
Archibold Commons

WCCHR Hosts Fifth Annual Networking Luncheon and First-Ever National Asylum Clinic Summit



Photo credit: Molly Chodakewitz

On Saturday, May 20, the WCCHR hosted its fifth annual Networking Luncheon at Weill Cornell Medical College. We were thrilled to welcome more than 70 attendees, making this event our largest luncheon to date. The Luncheon brought together students, physicians, attorneys, social workers, advocates, and others engaged in human rights and asylum work to discuss challenges currently facing our clients. The event featured a Q&A panel discussion centered around the Luncheon's guiding theme: "Immigration and Asylum in the First 100 Days of the New Administration and Beyond." We thank our honored panelists, Ms. Anwen Hughes, Deputy Legal Director at Human Rights First; Dr. Kerry J. Sulkowicz, Chair of the Board for Physicians for Human Rights; and Dr. Allen Keller, Director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture, for lending their expertise and insight to the conversation. Following the luncheon, the WCCHR hosted the first-ever National Summit for Student-Run Asylum clinics.

WCCHR Luncheon and Summit (continued from pg. 1)

Students from medical schools around the country convened to share advice with new clinics, to troubleshoot common challenges, and to straighten relationships between student-run asylum clinics. Many thanks to everyone who attended and helped to make the Summit a big success. Special recognition is due to Karina Ruiz-Esteves, WCCHR's Events & Advocacy Coordinator; Lynne Rosenberg, Director of Organizational Operations; Andrew Milewski and Nick Hernandez, Co-Executive Directors, and the Student and Executive Boards for all their hard work in organizing these events.



Spotlight on...

Karina Ruiz-Esteves, MEd

Karina N. Ruiz-Esteves is a member of Weill Cornell Medicine's Class of 2020. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez with a BS in Biology. As an undergraduate Karina engaged in research, both on campus and during summer internships, that focused on autism, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease. After graduating in 2015, Karina moved to Washington DC where she completed a Postbac Research Program at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the Laboratory of Allergic Diseases. As an undergraduate and while living in DC, she worked with underserved populations, particularly with homeless individuals. Through these experiences, she explored her newfound interest in health inequalities among Latinos and among underserved populations more generally. Karina plans to continue working with these populations during her medical education and future career. Karina currently serves as the Events and Advocacy Coordinator for the WCCHR.



Tom Ott, LCSW



Tom Ott is a graduate of Hunter College School of Social Work. Tom has worked with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for most of his 40+ year career. He is now in his 19th year at YAI; Seeing Beyond Disability as a clinician and administrator. Tom works clinically with individuals, couples and families. He is also a staff support person for the self advocates of YAI. He has engaged in volunteer work throughout his life and is most recently involved with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. In addition, he and his dog, Chapin, are a therapy team sponsored by The Good Dog Foundation and they visit people in Hospice through VNS. Tom is also involved in the LGBTQ community and has mentored younger people struggling with their identity or self image. He is committed to doing what he can to make our world a more positive and life-affirming place for all, especially for those who might be or feel disenfranchised. His interest in and involvement with the WCCHR is a natural extension to do what he can as well as work with others who are similarly passionate.

