



Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Human Rights

Issue No. 37 | May 2019

In this Issue

- Human Rights Medical School Lecture
- Student & Faculty Spotlight

Statistics

As of May 2019, the WCCHR has conducted **559** evaluations for **486** clients from **74** countries. **153** clients or **95%** of the cases that have been adjudicated have already been granted asylum or another form of relief.

Upcoming Events

- Stay tuned for future events!

Human Rights WCMC Pilot Lecture

On May 24th, Dr. MacKenzi Hilliard and Dr. Thomas Kalman led a class entitled “Heath and Human Rights” for the first year medical students. This was a pilot lecture for incorporating human rights related topics into the medical school’s curriculum. The presentation covered topics such as past human rights documents and policies and the intersection between health and human rights with a focus on pediatric care. Specifically, it discussed what human rights are for children, why children belong to a vulnerable population, how threats to these human rights may present themselves in clinical encounters, and what we can do as current and future physicians to preserve these rights. This class nicely balanced the more traditional lecture presentation with class participation through polling questions and patient case discussions to engage students and allow them to learn more about the tangible and intangible rights of children and how best to protect them.



Asylum Medicine: Standards and Best Practices

By Hope Ferdowsian, Katherine McKenzie and Amy Zeidan

This paper in the Health and Human Rights Journal discusses standards and best practices in asylum medicine. It spans topics such as expectations of clinical evaluators, required skills and common findings in medical and psychological evaluations, and the proper documentation for evaluation findings. The paper also provides a list of nongovernmental organizations and academic medical centers offering evaluation training and services, which include WCCHR and 21 other programs. It details the role of physicians in conducting forensic evaluations for asylum seekers in an effort to increase the number of clinicians qualified to conduct these evaluations.

Link to article: <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2019/05/asylum-medicine-standard-and-best-practices/>

In the News...

“DHS: Around 6,000 asylum seekers have been returned to Mexico to await immigration hearings”

By Priscilla Alvarez, CNN

“The individuals have been returned under the Migrant Protection Protocols policy, informally known as Remain in Mexico, that requires some asylum seekers to wait in Mexico until their immigration hearing.”

“The policy was initially rolled out at the San Ysidro port of entry in January. It's since expanded elsewhere in California, New Mexico and Texas.”

“Earlier this month, a federal appeals court allowed the Trump administration to continue returning some asylum seekers to Mexico for the time being.”



Link to article: <https://www.cnn.com/2019/05/21/politics/migrants-returned-to-mexico-immigration/index.html>

Spotlight on...

Adrienne Clermont is a first-year medical student. She graduated from Princeton University in 2009 with a BA in public policy and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 2015 with an MSPH in international health and nutrition. She came to medical school to pursue a clinical career in global health after working in international development and public health research in the past. Adrienne has previously supported refugees and asylum seekers in several contexts, including volunteering with Iraqi and Eritrean refugee families for many years in Baltimore, so she was excited for the opportunity to continue this work with WCCHR while in medical school. She has assisted with approximately 10 evaluations over the course of the past academic year.

Adrienne Clermont



Patricia Tidwell, Ph.D., LCSW

Dr. Tidwell has been in private practice for over 20 years. She works primarily with individuals and is an EMDR practitioner. She is faculty and a clinical supervisor at Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Study Center and Institute for Expressive Analysis, both in Manhattan. Having lived and worked in different cultures, Dr. Tidwell has a particular interest in how culture influences the ways that women experience themselves in the world. Her dissertation explored the relationship between women's sense of self, agency, and ambition.

