

Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights  
Boston University School of Public Health

## GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

2010 - 2011



With this annual report **GLP** switches from a calendar-based report to a fiscal year report. This report covers January 2010 to July 2011. Our next report will cover July 2011 to July 2012.

### **BOSTON CENTER FOR REFUGEE HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The most important ongoing service project of GLP is the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights ([www.bcrhhr.org](http://www.bcrhhr.org)). The refugee center is devoted to serving victims of torture and refugee trauma. The center served more than 400 patients from 50 different countries during the past year. 80% of our clients are seeking political asylum. The refugee center collaborates with a legal community in preparing asylum affidavits and testifying in court hearings.

### **GUANTANAMO**

**GLP** continues to work with law firms representing prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and is involved with medical record review, consultation on cases with military doctors, and preparation of affidavits for legal proceedings, primarily related to the physical and psychological impact of force feeding on hunger strikers.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS MISSIONS

Sondra Crosby traveled to Zanzibar and Guantanamo to examine patients and document human rights abuses.



Sondra Crosby, MD

## COURSES

For the past twelve years George Annas and Michael Grodin have taught a **Human Rights and Health** course at the Boston University School of Public Health. This course is taught in the Fall and Spring semesters and offered to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The course syllabus is posted at:

<http://www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/educational-resources/>

Comments are welcome.

## PIKE CONFERENCE

On Friday, October 29, 2010, Boston University Schools of Law and Public Health sponsored 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Law Pike Conference, "Coming Home Injured: Care and Advocacy for America's Veterans." Scientific, medical, and legal experts contributed to framing the issues, but the primary emphasis was on the experience and suggestions for action of the veterans themselves. The Pike Conference explored the post-Gulf War experience of veterans seeking medical help, the problems that they have encountered and concrete advocacy steps that can be taken to improve the quality of care.

The 2010 Neal Pike Prize was awarded to former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense and Iraq War veteran S. Ward Casscells, M.D. Casscells was the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs from 2006 to 2009.



S. Ward Casscells, M.D.

He is credited with turning around a struggling \$45 billion health and education system with 137,000 employees and 10 million patients in 900 clinics and hospitals in 100 countries.

## **HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS (HHRC)**

**HHRC** at the Boston University Medical Campus is a student-led organization that dedicates its efforts to exploring and supporting health and human rights concerns through education, collaboration, and action in the local, national, and global milieu. Students in the **HHRC** work together to identify, discuss, and help raise awareness of human rights issues in our community and world. The **HHRC** is a very hands-on and interactive group; each semester its members choose from among the important issues of the day, and focus their energy on those they feel are most deserving of exploration, understanding, action, and aid.

In 2010, **HHRC** co-organized the annual gala for the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights. **HHRC** co-organized and co-sponsored a seminar, featuring a panel of human rights experts and human rights activists, in observance of Human Rights Day. **HHRC** hosted a screening of a film about health and human rights issues in Africa, and raised money for a charity working to provide education to young African women.

## AMICUS BRIEFS

**GLP** website provides copies of its amicus briefs. Read them at <http://www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/amicus-briefs>.

## COLLABORATIONS

**GLP** worked in the U.S. assisting law firms on several amicus briefs on human rights issues concerning female genital mutilation and grounds for political asylum, reproductive rights and pregnant women prosecuted for substance use, and helped represent GTMO prisoners on hunger strikes, and worked to hold perpetrators of torture accountable to international law. We also continued our program of workshops on military medical ethics which bring together human rights groups with retired and active-duty military physicians. Internationally, **GLP** participated in educational programs in Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

The Public Health Regulations Analysis Center of the National School of Public Health of New University of Lisbon (Lisbon, Portugal) and the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights of the Boston University School of Public Health, have expanded and enhanced their collaboration with a Program in Health Law & Human Rights to develop programs on international seminars on topics in Health Law and Bioethics, Scholar Exchange Program, and as well as conducting and publishing scholarly research.



Wendy Mariner, Paula Lobato, George Annas

Michael Grodin serves on the Board of Advisors to Dali Lama Center for Transformative Ethics.

George Annas serves as a member of the Committee on Human Rights of the National Academies.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

“Nazi Doctors, Racial Hygiene, Murder, and Genocide,” Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston, MA, May 2011

“Consent to Disaster Research,” Fondation Brocher, Geneva, Switzerland, April 5, 2011

“Mad, Bad, Evil: How Healers Turn to Torture and Murder,” Harvard Countway Medical Library, Boston, MA, April 2011

“Crimes Against the Human Species (“Type II Crimes Against Humanity Explained”),” Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 18, 2011

“International Research Trials and Human Rights,” National Research Conference, Boston, MA, April 2011

“Medical Ethics in the Shadow of the Holocaust,” Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC, NY, March 2011

“Human Rights in Human Experimentation,” AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition, Washington DC, January 1, 2011

“Care for the Aging Holocaust Survivor,” International Survivors Conference, Skokie, IL, November 2010

“The American and Nazi Eugenic Programs,” Harvard Colloquium on the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, September 2010

“How Healers Become Killers from Nazi Doctors to Abu Ghaib,” U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC, August 2010

“Medical Writings of Moses Maimonides,” Cardova, Spain, July 2010

“Care for the Aging Holocaust Survivors and their Family,” Geriatrics Grand Rounds, Parkland Hospital, Dallas, TX, March 10, 2010

"Worst Case Scenarios and All-Hazards Preparedness: Health and Human Rights Lessons from the Haiti Earthquake (and the H1N1 pandemic)," DePaul University College of Law, Chicago, March 11, 2010

"Medical Ethics & Shadow of Holocaust: Nazi Doctors, Racial Hygiene, Murder and Genocide," University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, March 9, 2010

"Hunger Strikes and Physicians," Boston University Schools of Medicine and Public Health, Boston, MA, February 23, 2010

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Annas GJ, *Worst Case Bioethics: Death, Disaster, and Public Health*, Oxford University Press, NY, 2010 (Paperback 2011).

Annas GJ, Mariner WK. Women and children last – The predictable effects of proposed federal funding cuts. *New Engl J. Med* 2011; 364:1590-91.

Annas GJ, Grodin MA. A world of research subjects: Informed consent and benefit sharing. *Advances in Pulmonary Hypertension*; 2011; 4:208-13.

Annas GJ. Self experimentation and the Nuremberg Code. *BMJ* 2010; 341:1279-80.

Annas GJ. Health law, human rights, and public health. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2010, 10(9):591

Annas GJ. Standard of care – In sickness and in health and in emergencies. *New Engl J Med* 2010; 362:2126-31.

Annas GJ. Human rights and American bioethics: Resistance is futile. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 2010; 19:133-41.

Annas GJ, Lobato P, Mariner WK. Defining health law, or the Edgewood Syndrome. *Revista Portuguesa de Saúde Pública* 2010; 25: 117-125.

Piwowarczyk L, Grodin M. Research Ethics in Post-Conflict Settings. (In) *Project 1 Billion: Book of Best Practices*. Mollica R. (ed) University of Vanderbilt Press, Nashville, 2011

Grodin M: "Hitler Should Have Finished the Job": Counter Transference, Anti-Semitism, Abandonment and Termination. (In) *Juggling Porcupines in Mental Health Practice: Casebook on Ethically Challenging Work Settings in Mental Health and the Behavioral Sciences*. Johnson WB, Koocher G (eds) Oxford University Press, NYC, 2010

MacDuff S, Gardiner P, Grodin M. The use of complementary and alternative medicine among refugees: A systematic review and implication for a prospective refugee clinic. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* 2011; 13(3):585-99

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