

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

GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

2012 - 2013



Annual Report

FORENSIC MEDICAL EVALUATION GROUP

The Boston University Forensic Medical Evaluation Group (FMEG) is a service for asylum seekers and others requiring documentation of prior ill treatment. This innovative program is part of the Department of Medicine, the School of Public Health and **GLP**. It was cofounded in 2012 and is co-directed by Sondra Crosby and Elizabeth Rourke. FMEG offers evaluation and documentation of physical and psychological evidence of torture and abuse in a supportive and collaborative environment while working closely with attorneys. In addition to performing medical evaluations, FMEG is actively involved in academic work, including scholarly publications and advancing the field of torture documentation. FMEG teaches students (medical, law, and public health), medical residents, physicians, lawyers, and judges.

In the past year, Dr. Crosby has taught medical forensics and has implemented the Istanbul Protocol for physicians in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. Dr. Crosby has also traveled to Reyhanli, Turkey to conduct training on effective medical documentation of alleged torture and to mentor Syrian physicians. In Istanbul, Turkey, Dr. Crosby trained physicians from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region on medical documentation of torture.



Dr. Sondra Crosby during a human rights investigation in the Farchana Refugee Camp in Chad

MEETING ON MEDICAL ETHICS AND HUNGER STRIKES IN U.S. AND MILITARY PRISONS

On April 8, 2013, medical and legal experts attended a meeting on “Medical Ethics and Practice Challenges of Hunger Strikes in U.S. and Military Prisons” at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C. The meeting was co-sponsored by **GLP** and The National Academies’ Committee on Human Rights. The experts discussed the ethical and legal challenges faced by medical and psychological professionals in providing care for prison hunger striker. Clinicians have a responsibility to care for their patients yet lack the authority to do so in the prison setting. While hunger strikes do not occur as frequently outside of the prison system, the group found an overall lack of clear regulatory policies to provide care for competent prison hunger strikers. The experts also focused on the relationship of the clinician and the patient hunger striker. In the eyes of the hunger striker the role of a clinician is often filled with uneasy trust, and a physician who authorizes force feeding becomes a guard like figure. Physicians need to establish trust with the hunger striker.

Discussions focused on the Guantanamo military prison and identified a path to improve care for prisoners. Key steps to move forward include collecting data on hunger strikers; review best practices for clinicians; increased professional support for clinicians in the correctional system; and developing an education strategy for training physicians who work in prisons.

Link to the meeting's summary can be found at:

<http://www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/storage/AgendaHungerStrikeMeeting.pdf>

Some follow up articles from the meeting:

Guantanamo Bay: A Medical Ethics-free Zone?

On June 12, 2013, George Annas, Sondra Crosby, and Leonard Glantz published “Guantanamo Bay: A Medical Ethics-free Zone?” in *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The article can be found at:

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp1306065>

Open Letter to President Obama

Frank Arnold of Medical Justice Network (UK) organized an Open Letter to President Obama concerning the hunger strikers at the Guantanamo military prison. This letter, which was published in the *Lancet*, urged President Obama to authorize a group of independent physicians to examine the hunger strikers at Guantanamo.

The letter can be found at:

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2813%2961414-2/fulltext>

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN A CHANGING WORLD



A new textbook *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World* was published in March 2013 by Routledge. The textbook is a collaboration by co-editors Michael Grodin, Daniel Tarantola, George Annas, and Sophia Gruskin. The book contains seminal articles along with questions for students to consider and suggested additional readings to help contextualize the field of Health and Human Rights.

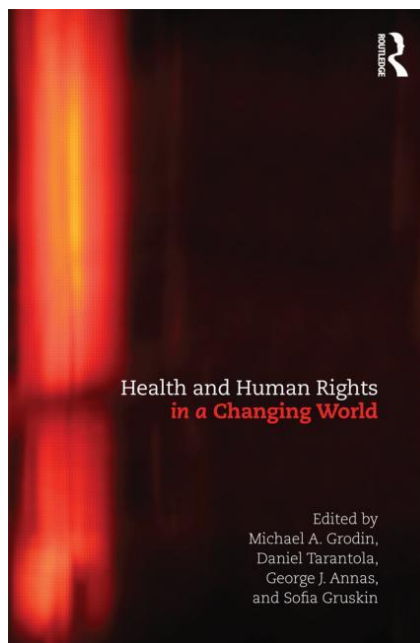
Co-Editors of *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World*:
Daniel Tarantola, Sofia Gruskin, George Annas and Michael Grodin

Purchasing information for the *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World* textbook can be found at:

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415503990/>

Paperback ISBN-13: 978-0415503990

Hardback ISBN-13: 978-0-415-50398-3



EVENTS

Pike Lecture

On October 15, 2012, Boston University Schools of Law and Public Health co-sponsored the 9th Annual Health Law Pike Lecture on “The Least Bad Death? Marcia Angell, a senior lecturer in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and former editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine* urges Massachusetts voters to vote yes on question two in the November 2012 election. This ballot question sought to import the “Death with Dignity Act” to Massachusetts after successful voter initiatives in Oregon and Washington. Dr. Grodin provided commentary opposing passage of the measure. The ballot question was defeated by a margin of 51 to 49 percent.

Commercial Surrogacy in India

On April 22, 2013, GLP, Our Bodies Ourselves, and The Health and Human Rights Caucus sponsored screening and discussion of the film “Can We See the Baby Bump Please.” Commissioned by the Sama Resource Group for Women and Health in New Delhi, the film explored current ethical challenges posed by commercial surrogacy in India. Sarojini N., the director and co-founder of Sama, discussed the organization's recent research on surrogacy practices, as well as strategies to address problems such as the exploitation of women hired to be gestational mothers. A women's health advocate and researcher for more than 18 years, Sarojini writes and speaks extensively on reproductive and medical technologies.



Sarojini N. (2nd left) of Sama and Judy Norsigian (far right) of Our Bodies Ourselves with the Health and Human Rights Caucus officers

Genocide in Bosnia: Sarajevo in 1990s

On April 23, 2013, GLP co-sponsored “Genocide in Bosnia: Sarajevo in the 1990s”, a screening of “In the Name of the Sun,” followed by a panel discussion on *War, Health, & Human Rights*. Harun Mehmedinovic, a Bosnian born filmmaker, photographer, and founder of the “Bloodhoney Project,” shared his story of living in war-torn Sarajevo during the genocide in Bosnia in the early 1990s. Dr. Grodin discussed his experiences caring for survivors of torture and their families.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN HEALTH LAW AND BIOETHICS

On July 25, 2013, George Annas and Wendy Mariner will participate in the 4th International Seminar in Health Law and Bioethics, "Health Law and Bioethics in an Aging Society" at the University of Reading (Reading, England).

This seminar is organized and sponsored by, the National School of Public Health of the New University of Lisbon, the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights of the Boston University School of Public Health, the University of Reading School of Law, and GLP. The seminar will examine legal and ethical problems in providing health care for an aging population.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

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.

AMICUS BRIEFS

GLP website provides copies of its amicus briefs. They can be found on our website at:

www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/amicus-briefs

COURSES

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

The current course syllabus is posted at:

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

Comments are welcome.

CONTINUING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

GLP continues to work with law firms representing prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in addition to providing consultation on cases involving military doctors. GLP prepares affidavits for legal proceedings, primarily related to the physical and psychological impact of force feeding on hunger strikers.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

George Annas

"The Affordable Care Act in the U.S. Supreme Court: Ideology, Politics, and the Right to Health," UCL Current Legal Issues Colloquium - Law and Global Health, University City London, London, UK, July 2, 2012

"The Death of Privacy in the Age of Facebook and 23 and Me," American Bar Association, Chicago, IL, August 4, 2012



Sherman Teichman, George Annas, and Robert Green
at the Privacy and Progress Symposium at Tufts University

"Ethical Genomics: Ensuring Privacy and Preventing Abuse," Tufts, Medford, MA, February 23, 2013

Michael Grodin

"Rabbinic Responsa During the Holocaust: Rabbi Oshry in the Kovno Ghetto," Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University, Boston, MA, September 23, 2012

"Medical Ethics in the Shadow of the Holocaust: The Nazi Doctors, Racial Hygiene, Murder, and Genocide," Yeshiva University, NYC, NY, October 21, 2012

"Jewish Medical Resistance in the Ghettos and Camps During the Holocaust," Jewish Cultural Endowment Conference, Boston University, Boston, MA, October 28, 2012

"Caring for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma," Tufts, Medford, MA, October 29, 2012

"Jewish Medical Resistance in the Ghettos and Camps," Project on Medicine and the Holocaust, NYC, NY, January 30, 2013

"Forensic Evaluations of Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma," Boston College Law School, Boston, MA, February 13, 2013

"Care of Survivors of Massive Trauma," National Psychoanalytic Meeting of the American Psychological Association, NYC, NY, April 27, 2013

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

George Annas

Annas GJ, Crosby SS, Glantz LH. Guantanamo Bay: A medical ethics-free zone. *N Engl J Med* 2013; DOI: 10.1056/NEJMp1306065.

Annas GJ. Health and human rights in the continuing global economic crisis. *Am J Public Health* 2013; 103(6):967.

Reyes H, Annas GJ, Allen SA. Physicians and hunger strikes in prison: confrontation, manipulation, medicalization and medical ethics (part 1). *World Medical Journal* 2013; 59(1):27.

Reyes H, Annas GJ, Allen SA. Physicians and hunger strikes in prison: confrontation, manipulation, medicalization and medical ethics (part 2). *World Medical Journal* 2013; 59(1):60-67.

Reyes H, Annas GJ, Allen SA. Physicians and hunger strikes in prison: confrontation, manipulation, medicalization and medical ethics (part 3). *World Medical Journal* 2013; 59(2):97-101.

Annas GJ. Strip searches in the Supreme Court — prison and public health. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 367:1653--57.

Mariner WK, Glantz LH, Annas GJ. Reframing federalism — The Affordable Care Act (and broccoli) in the Supreme Court. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 367:1154-58.

Annas GJ. Doctors, patients, and lawyers — two centuries of health law. *N Engl J Med* 2012; 367:445-50.

Michael Grodin

Highfield E, Kaptchuk T, Lama P, Grodin MA, Crosby SS. Acupuncture and traditional Asian medicine for survivors of torture and refugee trauma: a descriptive report. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* 2012; 14(3):433-40.

Longacre M, Highfield E, Lama P, Grodin MA. Complementary and alternative medicine in the treatment of refugees and survivors of torture: a review and proposal for action. *Torture* 2012; 22(1):38-57.

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