

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

GLOBAL LAWYERS AND PHYSICIANS

2014 - 2015



Annual Report

THE IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

The Immigrant and Refugee Health Program (IRHP), founded in 1996, is a joint project of Global Lawyers and Physicians (GLP), Boston University (BU) and Boston Medical Center (BMC). In addition to providing clinical services, we have developed an innovative educational teaching program, perform research and advocate for social justice and human rights.

Clinical

The IRHP clinical program has served patients from over 60 countries, many of whom have been displaced by war trauma, torture, and sexual and gender based violence. The IRHP serves the complex needs of these patients in a culturally sensitive and multidisciplinary setting, and is situated in the Section of General Internal Medicine.

Our clinical services are holistic, comprehensive and include multiple components, including expertise in the care of HIV infected refugees. The IRHP program offers integrated mental health, case management, and patient navigation. We refer to an expansive team of subspecialists as needed (including Psychiatry, OB-Gyn, Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, Urology, Radiology, Neurology, Otolaryngology, Integrative Medicine, and others). In addition, the IRHP provides consultation service to all BMC clinicians for complex immigrant and refugee patients.

The Forensic Medical Evaluation Group (FMEG) is a service for asylum seekers and others requiring documentation of prior ill-treatment. This innovative program offers evaluation and documentation of physical and psychological evidence of trauma and abuse in a supportive and collaborative environment while working closely with attorneys. The FMEG is actively involved in academic work, including scholarly publications and advancing the field of torture documentation. The FMEG teaches students (medical, law, and public health), medical residents, physicians, lawyers, and judges. We have written over 500 affidavits and have served as expert witnesses in Boston and DC Immigration Courts, US Federal Court, the US Military Commissions Court, and in international courts.

We are a designated screening site for newly arrived refugees in the Department of Public Health's Refugee Health Assessment Program, where we provide initial screening, vaccinations, health education and connection to primary care.

Education

IRHP has an extensive immigrant health, education and teaching program. We have taught courses and lecture students throughout the University, including within the BU School of Public Health, BU School of Medicine, BU School of Law, BU College of Arts and Sciences, BU School of Theology, BU School of Dental Medicine, and BU Kilachand Honors College. In addition, we are a teaching site for BMC internal medicine residents, and offer an IRHP resident continuity clinic and comprehensive didactic series where we train future clinicians and leaders in the field. SPH students are also trained in this program, in addition to law, medical and undergraduate students.

Research

IRHP and GLP faculty are actively involved in research informing best practices of care for this population. This research includes social justice and medical ethics issues in vulnerable populations. Our members teach both nationally and internationally. IRHP and GLP faculty are the editors of three textbooks on health and human rights. IRHP faculty have published scholarly papers in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, *British Medical Journal*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *The Journal of General Internal Medicine*, *The Laryngoscope*, *Urology*, and *The British Journal of Ophthalmology*, among others on topics related to this field. IRHP faculty prepared an Amicus brief in the case of *A-T vs Michael Mukaskey Case No. 07-2080* on the adverse health effects of

female genital mutilation, which has been instrumental for women seeking asylum based on FGM.

Advocacy

IRHP clinicians have evaluated nearly 1000 survivors of torture in their medical practice. In addition, clinicians have served as consultants to Physicians for Human Rights, and have evaluated the effects of torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment and displacement on Darfuri women living in a Refugee Camp in Chad, and former detainees in US detention at Guantanamo Bay, and at other sites in Iraq, Afghanistan and Bahrain.

The IRHP clinicians have taught and mentored Istanbul Protocol evaluation and documentation in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Dushanbe, Tajikistan; Istanbul, Turkey, Reyhanli, Turkey, and Amman, Jordan as a medical consultant for Physicians for Human Rights, and has lectured in the Asylum Officers Basic Training Course in Lansdowne, VA on medical forensic findings in asylum cases. IRHP teaches lawyers on the how to utilize medical experts in asylum cases.

PROJECT ON MEDICINE AND THE HOLOCAUST

The Project on Medicine and the Holocaust is an international center involved in the research, teaching, service and advocacy of contemporary and historical issues arising from the role of medicine in the Holocaust. The Project was founded by Professor Michael A. Grodin, M.D. and represents the culmination of over 30 years of Professor Grodin's scholarship, service, education and advocacy. The Project is being expanded to encompass an international group of scholars, experts and institutional partners. We aim to foster the development of the Project mission through a collaborative network that builds on the potential of modern information technology as well as personal collaboration and scholarly exchange. Ongoing research topics include: Medical and Psychological Care for Survivors, Medicine in the Shadow of the Holocaust: The Relevance of the Holocaust for Contemporary Medicine and Public Health, the Psychological Resilience of Resisters and Rescuers, The Study of Bystanders, and of Perpetrators, Jewish Physicians and their Function in the Ghettos and Camps, and the Role of Public Health Professionals during the Holocaust.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

The Health and Human Rights Caucus at the Boston University School of Public Health 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.

On March 30th, 2015, Health and Human Rights Caucus hosted a discussion with former CIA agent, John Kiriakou, via Skype. In 2007, Kiriakou became the first CIA official to publicly confirm and detail the agency's use of waterboarding. In January 2013, he was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison. Under a plea deal, Kiriakou admitted to a single count of violating the Intelligence Identities Protection Act by revealing the identity of a covert officer involved in the torture program to a freelance reporter, who did not publish it. In return, prosecutors dropped charges brought under the Espionage Act. Kiriakou is the only official to be jailed for any reason relating to CIA torture. John Kiriakou shared his experiences as a CIA analyst and also shed light on the Senate's Intelligence Committee's report on CIA torture.

AMICUS BRIEFS

The Global Lawyers and Physicians website provides copies of its Amicus briefs. They can be found at

<http://www.globallawyersandphysicians.org/amicus-brief>

COURSES

Health and Human Rights at Boston University

For the past sixteen years George Annas and Michael Grodin have taught a Health and Human Rights course at the Boston University School of Public Health. The Textbook used for the Course is *Health and Human Rights in a Changing World*, edited by Prof. Annas and Dr. Grodin along with Daniel Tarantola and Sofia Gruskin. 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.

SENATE'S REPORT ON CIA TORTURE

On December 16, 2014, George Annas, Sondra Crosby and Michael Grodin held a forum titled "The Role of Physicians, Psychologists, and Health Care Providers in Post-9/11 Torture: A Forum on the US Senate's Committee Study of the CIA's Interrogation Program" at Boston University. The release of the Senate's Report on CIA Post-9/11 Interrogation Methods and Results has ignited debate on the use of torture, the results of torture (both in terms of intelligence obtained and harm done to the prisoners), and the role of physicians, psychologists and health care providers in the CIA's torture and interrogation programs. The panel addressed these issues, as well as how a medical torturer is made, national and international law on torture, the relevance of the Nuremberg Principles, applicable medical ethics standards regarding the physician's role in torture and prison medicine, and what health and medical-related obligations, if any, the US owes to those we tortured.

Video of Forum:

<https://echo360.bu.edu:8443/ess/echo/presentation/678d12e5-c8f4-46a6-af96-8eafe8b8dfab>

Senate Intelligence Committee's Report CIA Torture:

<http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/press/committee-releases-study-cias-detention-and-interrogation-program>

The New England Journal of Medicine article on " Post-9/11 Torture at CIA "Black Sites" — Physicians and Lawyers Working Together" by George Annas and Sondra Crosby:

http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1503428?query=featured_home

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

George Annas

"A Bioethicist and Human Rights Expert's Analysis of Denial of Mental Health Care and Human Rights at GTMO", 34th International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Sigmund Freud University, Vienna, Austria, July 13, 2015.

"We Tortured Some Folks": Physicians and Lawyers at the Post 9/11 CIA Black Sites, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, February 27, 2015.

"The Role of Physicians, Psychologists, and Health Care Providers in Post 9/11 Torture: A Forum on the US Senate's Committee Study of the CIA's Interrogation Program", Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA, December 16, 2014.

"Human Rights, American Values, and Forced Feeding at GTMO" American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Chicago, IL, October 26, 2014.

"From Medical Atrocities in the Death Camps to Disaster Bioethics" University of Oslo, Centre for Medical Ethics, Oslo, Norway, May 22, 2014.

Sondra Crosby

"Beyond Deliberate Indifference: An Internist's Experience with the Consequences of Ignored Mental Illness in the World's Highest Security Prison", 34th International Congress on Law and Mental Health, Sigmund Freud University, Vienna, Austria, July 13, 2015.

"We Tortured Some Folks": Physicians and Lawyers at the Post 9/11 CIA Black Sites, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, February 27, 2015.

"Medical Ethics and Hunger Strikes at Guantanamo Bay Detention Center" The Human Rights Center at the Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, Durham NC, February 5, 2015.

"The Role of Physicians, Psychologists, and Health Care Providers in Post 9/11 Torture: A Forum on the US Senate's Committee Study of the CIA's Interrogation Program", Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA, December 16, 2014.

"Human Rights, American Values, and Forced Feeding at GTMO" American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Chicago, IL, October 26, 2014.

Michael Grodin

"Jewish Spiritual Resistance and Medical Responsa During the Holocaust
Fourth International Conference on Religion and Medicine. Cambridge, MA,
March 7, 2015.

"Nuremberg Echos of the Defense", Imperial War Museum International
Conference, London, England, January 9, 2015.

"The Role of Physicians, Psychologists, and Health Care Providers in Post
9/11 Torture: A Forum on the US Senate's Committee Study of the CIA's
Interrogation Program", Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA,
December 16, 2014.

Visiting professor and scholar, Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance
Lecture, Creighton University, Omaha, NE, November 9-11, 2014.

Visiting professor and scholar to the Jewish Community Center; lectured on
Jewish medicine in the Holocaust and Jewish Bioethics, University of
Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, October 22-24, 2014.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

George Annas

Annas GJ, Crosby SS. Post-9/11 torture at CIA "Black Sites" — physicians
and lawyers working together. N Engl J Med 2015; 372(24):2281.

Annas GJ. Medical ethics and human rights in wartime. SAMJ 2015; 105:40.

Annas GJ. Discharge proceedings against Navy nurse for refusing to force-
feed at Gitmo dropped. Boston University Experts Media Alert. May 13, 2015.
[http://www.bu.edu/news/2015/05/13/experts-media-alert-discharge-
proceedings-against-navy-nurse-for-refusing-to-force-feed-at-gitmo-
dropped/?utm_source=social&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=prbuexper
ts](http://www.bu.edu/news/2015/05/13/experts-media-alert-discharge-proceedings-against-navy-nurse-for-refusing-to-force-feed-at-gitmo-dropped/?utm_source=social&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=prbuexperts)

Annas GJ. Guest post: force feeding at Guantanamo and Judge Gladys
Kessler. Just Security. May 29, 2014.

<http://justsecurity.org/11030/force-feeding-guantanamo-judge-gladys-kessler/>

Sondra Crosby

Annas GJ, Crosby SS. Post-9/11 torture at CIA “Black Sites” — physicians and lawyers working together. *N Engl J Med* 2015; 372(24):2281.

Crosby SS, Xenakis SN, Glantz LH. Force feeding at Guantanamo in first case brought to US federal court. *BMJ* 2015; 350:h1270.

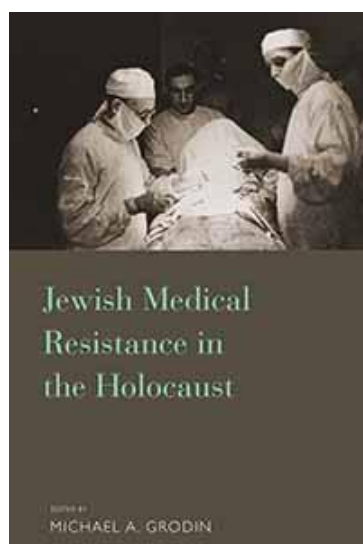
Moreno A, Crosby SS, Xenakis S, Iacopino V. Implementing Istanbul protocol standards for forensic evidence of torture in Kyrgyzstan. *J Forensic Leg Med.* 2015; 30:39-42.

Waldorf B, Gill C, Crosby SS. Assessing adherence to accepted national guidelines for immigrant and refugee screening and vaccines in an urban primary care practice: a retrospective chart review. *J Immigr Minor Health* 2014; 16(5):839-45.

Crosby SS. Not every food refuser is a hunger striker. *Am J Bioeth* 2014; 14(7):47-8.

Michael Grodin

Grodin MA. *Jewish medical resistance in the holocaust.* Berghahn Press, NY, 2014.



Longacre M, Beinfeld B, Hildebrandt S, Glantz LH, Grodin MA. Public health in the Vilna Ghetto as a form of Jewish resistance. *AJPH* 2015; 105(2):293-301.

Highfield E, Longacre M, Sager A, Grodin MA. A preliminary comparison of primary care use by refugees before and after acupuncture. *J Complement Integr Med*. 2014; 11(4):289–295.

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