

# GLOBAL LAWYERS & PHYSICIANS

## 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

### PROJECTS

---

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

**The Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights** (BCRHHR) at Boston Medical Center, formed at the initiative of GLP, endeavors to fill a serious gap in the health care safety net in New England by reaching out to survivors of torture, those seeking asylum, and traumatized refugees. The BCRHHR was also formed to serve as a focus for GLP advocacy on issues of refugee torture and humanitarian law. These high-risk populations often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or depression and typically need, but rarely receive, a complex set of medical and psychosocial services in order to successfully integrate into society. The BCRHHR currently provides a broad range of medical, legal, psychological and social services to survivors of torture and related trauma arriving in Boston and throughout the region. In this manner, the BCRHHR involves the expertise of several clinical departments at Boston Medical Center including Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, and Primary Care. The BCRHHR also represents a collaboration of the Boston University Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Law, and Dentistry. In 2003, approximately 197 patients were seen at the BCRHHR from 34 different countries including Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Tibet and Uganda.

**In** November 2003, GLP sponsored its Second Annual Workshop on **Caring for Survivors of Torture and Refugee Trauma: A Multi-disciplinary Training Course**. This workshop was supported by a generous donation from the Reebok Human Rights Foundation.

**Also**, in 2003, the GLP received a grant from the Hudson Foundation for training in the Caring for Refugees and Survivors of Torture for the Maine Medical Center in Portland and the Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston, ME.

**A** web-based course entitled **Caring for Refugees and Survivors of Torture** was created and has been used by professionals around the world for training and teaching purposes, including in Norway, Burma, Australia, and by the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT). The course can be found at [www.glphr.org](http://www.glphr.org). The BCRHHR staff has published many articles this year, including one in JAMA, and has also made presentations at the annual meeting of both the Society of General Internal Medicine and the American Public Health Association. The BCRHHR has also conducted in-service training sessions for residents at Boston Medical Center, as well as training for other professionals in collaboration with Physicians for Human Rights, American Public Health Association and Francois Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights (FXB). Additional information about the BCRHHR can be found at [www.glphr.org/refugee](http://www.glphr.org/refugee).

#### ***UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF PATIENT RIGHTS***

**In** 2002, an international committee was established to develop a "Universal Declaration of Patient Rights." This committee continued its work in 2003 and is examining how to encourage recognition of the rights of patients as a necessary component of basic human rights both in law and in practice. The

committee is using established models which support patient rights (i.e. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights) to develop a broader statement for use by other countries including the development of more detailed guidelines for regions, countries or organizations that wish to implement particular patient rights. Wendy Mariner is chairing this committee.

### ***HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND LETHAL INJECTION EXECUTION***

**GLP** continues to be actively involved in work on the elimination of the death penalty. We have worked to stop all health professional involvement in this violation of international human rights. GLP has served as consultant and amicus for several capital cases arguing that health professional involvement is a violation of medical ethics. Our law review article in Human Rights Quarterly is widely cited as authoritative on the topic. Joan LeGraw is chairing this project.

### ***HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH NETWORK***

**GLP's** major goal is to facilitate cooperative work on human rights by lawyers and physicians, with a primary focus on health. GLP established the **Consortium for Health & Human Rights** in 1998 to enable professionals to more easily and effectively combine their skills and influence to promote the human rights and health agenda. The Consortium consists of GLP, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), the Francois Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights (FXB), and the New England branch of Amnesty International. Activities of the Consortium, including conferences, curriculum development and support for student organizing, can be found at the Consortium's website ([www.healthandhumanrights.org](http://www.healthandhumanrights.org)) which is maintained by Physicians for Human Rights.

### ***HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS VISITING ACTIVISTS***

**Marie** Norredam, MD, a physician from Denmark, worked with GLP and the BCRHHR on the epidemiology and delivery systems for caring for survivors of torture and refugee trauma. Marie completed her yearlong study and was involved in two publications regarding the ongoing research project to detect the prevalence of torture of foreign-born patients at inner city hospitals. Muriel Gillick, M.D., a visiting scholar, worked on the "Rights of Patients" and focused particularly on geriatrics and end of life care.

**Our** newest campaign, aimed at closing down the Guantanamo prison camp, will be announced soon on our website.

## **CONFERENCES AND COURSES**

---

**GLP** held its fifth annual conference on Health and Human Rights, on May 15, 2003, at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia. This year's conference was entitled **Facing Terror: Tensions between Medicine, Public Health and Human Rights**. The conference was cosponsored by the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and the Global Lawyers and Physicians, and chaired by Evelyne Shuster. This workshop gathered a group of experts in the fields of science, medicine, law, philosophy and public health to discuss the challenges posed by terrorism including the impact of the responses to terror on human rights, and what we can do to help prevent or minimize terrorist acts and threats?

**In** November 2003, Michael Grodin participated in the workshop **War, Terrorism and Children: Supporting Family Strengths and Resilience**. This workshop focused in the impact of war and terrorism in children's lives and the on-going efforts to collaborate professionally for supporting parents and children.

**For** the past seven years George Annas and Michael Grodin have offered a **Human Rights and Health** course at the Boston University School of Public Health. Every other year they also offer the course at BU Law School. In the Spring 2004 semester, this course is taught on Thursday mornings in Room1470A at the BU Law School on the Charles River Campus. GLP continues to encourage others to incorporate health and human rights into their curricula. The Boston University Health and Human Rights syllabus is available on request.

**In** June 2004, GLP will cosponsor a three-day intensive continuing education course on **Health & Human Rights** with FXB. People from over 22 countries have attended this course and many of them were provided with scholarships. George Annas, Michael Grodin, Stephen Marks, Sofia Gruskin and Monica Onyango taught this course. It will be offered for the fourth time in June 2004. For information: [www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/ICHH.shtml](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ccpe/programs/ICHH.shtml).

**GLP** is an ongoing participant of the national **Health and Human Rights Curriculum Project**. Initial workshops were held at the Harvard School of Public Health and they brought together thirty specialists in public health practice and health professions educators with the explicit goal of providing advice on development of human rights education for students and practitioners of public health, medicine and nursing. The conference was co-sponsored by the American Public Health Association's International Human Rights Committee and FXB.

**GLP** and the Boston Center for Refugee Health and Human Rights organized several trainings for physicians, psychologists and social workers on health and human rights for survivors of torture and refugee trauma.

## **ADVOCACY**

---

**During** 2003 GLP sponsored visitors from many countries. Several Tibetan monks visited the BCRHHR to discuss challenges relating to implementing human rights and how the health of the Tibetan community is impacted. Additionally, U.S. Congressman Capuano visited to discuss human rights issues with refugees and torture survivors.

**GLP** sponsors the **Health & Human Rights Student Caucus** at the Boston University School of Public Health, which as a student composed and led organization, dedicates their efforts to exploring and supporting health and human rights concerns through education, collaboration and action in the local, national and global milieu. In 2003, the HHR Caucus focused on two specific health and human rights issues: continuing to explore the link between war, health and human rights; and launching a major advocacy and awareness campaign regarding the global AIDS epidemic. 2003 activities included:

- Participating in the Students Mobilizing Against the Crisis of AIDS (SMAC) *D.C. Day of Education and Advocacy on HIV/AIDS*, April 6-7, 2003, in which three caucus members traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in a national press conference on the global AIDS crisis and meet with members of Congress to secure their commitment to increased funding and leadership to combat global AIDS. The HHR Caucus members were among 200 medical and public health students from 40 states who met with more than 250 Senate and House members and their staff, urging members of Congress to fulfill President Bush's promise

of \$15 billion funding pledge to fight the global pandemic; to commit at least half of those monies to the multilateral Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria; to commit funding to both prevention and treatment programs that represent best health practices; to pursue lowest-cost medication, and to support continued outreach and education efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS. HHR Caucus participation in the SMAC event was made possible by support from Global Lawyers and Physicians. In conjunction with the *D.C. Day of Education and Advocacy on HIV/AIDS*, HHR Caucus designed and crafted two panels for the Global AIDS action quilt to serve as tools of advocacy and awareness at future press, medical and AIDS conferences around the globe. One panel represents a visual display of the commitment of the health community to increased leadership and funding to combat global AIDS; the other panel depicts the necessity of the empowerment of women in order to break the cycle of HIV/AIDS infection (pictured below).



BUSPH HHR Caucus Global AIDS Action Quilt Panel

- Participating in *Health & Human Rights Training Day* while in Washington, D.C., where medical, public health, law, and undergraduate students gathered to learn more about the inextricable link between health and human rights and how to be more effective advocates in promoting health and human rights. GLP sponsored HHR Caucus members' participation in this event.
- Co-sponsoring "Before, During & After: Public Health Consequences of War with Iraq," a talk with Charlie Clements, MD, MPH, Executive Director of the Bartos Institute, co-founder of the International Medical Relief Fund and the International Commission on Medical Neutrality, current Board Member and past President of Physicians for Human Rights who shared his experiences and reflections from his recent emergency mission to Iraq. (March 1, 2003)
- Sponsoring the third annual clothing drive (November 2003) for the Boston Center for Refugee Health & Human Rights in which HHR Caucus collected and sorted dozens of bags of gently used winter clothing to be distributed to clients of the Center. 2003 marks the second year in which HHR Caucus collaborated with a local middle school to collect kids' and teens' clothes as well.

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### **BIOETHICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Annas, George J. *Bioethics and Human Rights*, **Hastings Center Report**, Sept-Oct. 2003, 3.

### **BIOTERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Annas, George J. *Blinded by Bioterrorism: Public Health and Liberty in the 21st Century*, **Health Matrix: Journal of Law- Medicine**, 2003; 13: 33-70.

Annas, George J. *Puppy Love: Bioterrorism, Civil Rights, and Public Health*, **Florida Law Review** 2003; 55: 1171-90.

Annas, George J. *Bodily Integrity and Informed Choice in Times of War and Terror*, **Human Rights** 2003; 30(2); 2

Annas, George, J. *Smallpox Vaccine: Not Worth the Risk*, **Hastings Center Report**, March-April 2003, 6-7.

### **GENETIC RESEARCH AND CLONING**

Annas, George J. *Genism, Racism, and the Prospect of Genetic Genocide*, **Pacific Ecologist**, Spring 2003; 6:43-45.

### **HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**George** Annas and Michael Grodin, together with Sofia Gruskin and Stephen Marks have completed editing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Health and Human Rights volume entitled **Perspectives in Health and Human Rights**. This text focuses on successful methodologies and strategies for implementing the health and human rights paradigm. Anticipated publication date will be in late 2004 by Routledge.

### **PATIENT RIGHTS**

Annas, George J. **The Rights of Patients**, 3d ed ., So. Ill U. Press, Carbondale, Ill. 2004

Annas, George J. *The Right to Health and the Neurapine Case in South Africa*, **N Engl J Med** 2003; 348: 750-754

You can email GLP at [glp@bu.edu](mailto:glp@bu.edu) and visit our website anytime for ongoing activities at [www.glphr.org](http://www.glphr.org).

**Global Lawyers and Physicians  
Department of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights  
Boston University School of Public Health  
715 Albany Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02118**