The Weill Cornell Community Clinic: A student-run initiative to provide comprehensive, high-continuity care to uninsured New Yorkers

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MD PhD Students, Executive Directors

Dr. Pamela Charney
Medical Director, Professor of Clinical Medicine
The WCCC Model

Opened our doors in 2006. Started by motivated group of students to:

- Provide high quality, patient-centered care to the uninsured
- Foster community involvement through outreach programs to underserved communities
- Reinforces and extends the patient care and physicianship themes of the New Curriculum
The WCCC treats uninsured New Yorkers

- **Located on campus**
  - WCIMA – Helmsley Medical Tower, 4th floor

- **New York City residents**
  - Adults >18 years old
  - Uninsured
  - Income <400% Federal Poverty Level
  - Patients with chronic, general medical conditions

- **In the past year:**
  - Active base of 129 patients
  - 283 total appointments
The WCCC runs on volunteer support

Our Team
- General Medicine Director
- Women’s Health Director
- Mental Health Director
- 10 Student Directors
- 28 Student Board Members
- 2 NYPH Social Work Directors

Our Volunteers
- 31 Attending Physicians
- 212 Medical Students
- 15 Social Workers & Social Work Students
The WCCC operates on Monday nights

All clinical care in our Medical, Gynecology and Psychiatry Clinics overseen by Dr. Pamela Charney

- **General Medicine Clinic**
  - Monday nights, 5-8pm
  - Capacity: 6-8 patients/night

- **The Team**
  - Medical Students
    - MS 1/2: “Junior Clinicians”
    - MS 3/4: “Senior Clinicians” (via Primary Care Clerkship)
  - Social Workers
  - Physician Preceptors
The WCCC has access to specialty services

- **Women’s Health Clinic** (Twice monthly)
  - Routine screenings
  - Reproductive health counseling
  - Education on women’s health issues
  - Minor gynecologic procedures

- **Mental Health Clinic** (Once monthly)
  - Consult clinic
  - Medication management

- **Referrals to Specialty Practices**
  - Common referrals: radiology, ophthalmology, dermatology, cardiology, colonoscopy, pathology

Dr. Patricia Allen
Women’s Health Director
The patient is at the center of what we do

- WCCC strives to provide Comprehensive, Interdisciplinary Care
  - General Medicine Clinic
  - Mental Health Clinic
  - Women’s Health Clinic
  - Subspecialty and Imaging Referrals
  - Insurance Screening
  - Prescription Reimbursements

- Longitudinal Care of Patients
  - Medical & Student Director Oversight
  - Primary Care Clerkship (6 week block)
  - Continuity of Care Program
The WCCC provides social support

- **Insurance Screening**
  - Collaboration with NYPH social workers and social work students
  - Addresses psychosocial needs
  - Assists in enrollment in insurance programs, via ACA and Medicare
  - Refers to NADAP patient navigators

- **Continuity-of-Care Program**
  - Pairs high-needs patients with individual students for 2-4 years
  - Students attend all WCCC and sub-specialty referral appointments
The WCCC fosters experiential learning

- Practical Learning
  - Close collaboration with attendings
  - Working with colleagues in other professions
  - Skill in working with electronic medical record (EPIC)
  - Leadership opportunities
  - Exposure to complexities of the health care system
  - Participation in Primary Care clerkship with greater clinical responsibility

- Student-Driven Scholarly Work
  - Quality assurance initiatives
  - Regional conferences
  - National conference presentations
  - Research infrastructure
New Research Infrastructure

- Student Research Director
- Quarterly Research Meetings with Drs. Pamela Charney & Ashita Batavia
- Referrals Research Project completed, by MS2 Andrew Iannone
- Other student research projects involve:
  - Evaluation of our Continuity of Care Program,
  - Follow up of Access to Care Initiative
- Plan to present results at upcoming National meetings
Extending the Reach:
Student Run Free Clinic Conference at WCMC

- We hosted 10 NYC clinics and other Northeast clinics
- Break Out Sessions on Patient Care and Clinic Management
- Sharing Best Practices
- Poster session
- Networking Lunch
- Panel on Careers in Primary Care & Caring for the Underserved
Goals for the New Year

- First ever WCCC Health Fair (May 2016)

- Expand our collaborations
  - On campus with other departments, NYP, HSS, MSKCC
  - Inter-professional education
    - WCM PA (Physician Assistant) students
    - New collaboration with the Long Island University Pharmacy students

- Support student-driven projects & learning
  - Increase opportunities for active learning
  - Improve mentorship amongst WCCC volunteers
  - Increase opportunities for service at WCM
How do we survive? How do we thrive?

- Volunteer support
  - Faculty and staff
  - Students and colleagues

- Institutional Support
  - Dean’s Office
  - Individual Departments, e.g. Radiology, Medicine, etc.
  - Medical College and Hospital Alumni Councils

- Donations
  - Mr. Sanford Ehrenkranz
  - Dr. Patricia Yarberry-Allen
  - Many individual donors

- WCIMA
  - Space – 4th floor Helmsley Medical Tower
  - Laboratory fees
External Support

- **Foundations**
  - Charles Evans Foundation (in honor of Dr. Shari Midoneck)
  - Lauder Foundation

- **Grants**
  - Arnold P Gold Foundation
  - Aetna Community Health Grants Program
  - Michael Wolk Heart Foundation
  - Reproductive Health Access Grants Program
  - Langeloth Foundation
  - Aetna Regional Public Health Research Grant
  - Wonderbread (Share the Wonder) Award
  - APF Helping Hands Grant

- **Fundraising**
  - Music and Medicine benefit in 2012
  - “Without a Safety Net” fundraiser
Coming Soon: Tenth Anniversary Celebration – Fundraiser and Silent Auction
Thursday, April 7, 2016 – 7-10 p.m. – The Pratt Mansions – 1027 Fifth Avenue
How to Support WCCC

- 10th Year Anniversary: Fundraising Goal $100,000
- Annual Expected Budget $40,000
  - Costs primarily support medication reimbursements & specialty care
- Long-term goal to endow the Clinic to attain financial stability
- Sponsorship Levels
  - Level range: $500, $1,000, $2,500, and above $5,000
  - Support will receive increasing levels of publicity and recognition
  - Tickets to the 10th Year Anniversary will be included above $1,000 donations
Concrete examples of support

- Attending the Celebration: $75 supports the cost of a month of medications for 2 patients
- $250 supports the cost of labs run by the clinic for a month
- $500 supports the cost of an anti-parasitic medication for one patient
- $1,000 can cover specialty visits for up to 12 patients
Thank you!

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