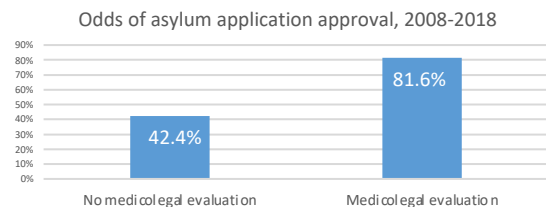




## INTRODUCTION

- Rochester is a refugee resettlement hub with a large population of immigrants seeking asylum, including people detained at a nearby immigration detention facility in Batavia.
- Asylum seekers have survived significant trauma and have unique health needs that are best served by immigrating away from their country of origin.
- Presenting a medicolegal evaluation substantiating reason to avoid return to the country of origin nearly doubles the odds of asylum application approval.



Atkinson, H. G., Wyka, K., Hampton, K., Seno, C. L., Yim, E. T., Ottenheimer, D., & Arastu, N. S. (2021). Impact of forensic medical evaluations on immigration relief grant rates and correlates of outcomes in the United States. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, 84, 102272. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2021.102272>

## COMMUNITY PARTNER

Rochester Human Rights Initiative (RHRI) provides free medicolegal evaluations for people seeking asylum (**Figure 1**).

I founded RHRI in 2018 with Chance Najera, MD '21. Since then, RHRI has conducted nearly 100 evaluations.

We have provided affirmative and defensive evaluations to pediatric, adolescent, and adult clients.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

### Objective 1: Improve reference and recruitment materials

- Redacted and classified completed affidavits to use as reference
- Created handouts for RHRI clients and potential clients (**Figure 2**)
- Created recruitment materials for students and physicians

### Objective 2: Increase visibility throughout University of Rochester

- Initiated strategic partnerships with Susan B. Anthony Center, University of Rochester School of Nursing and the HELP pathway
- Currently developing a media packet with support of multiple faculty members and admin

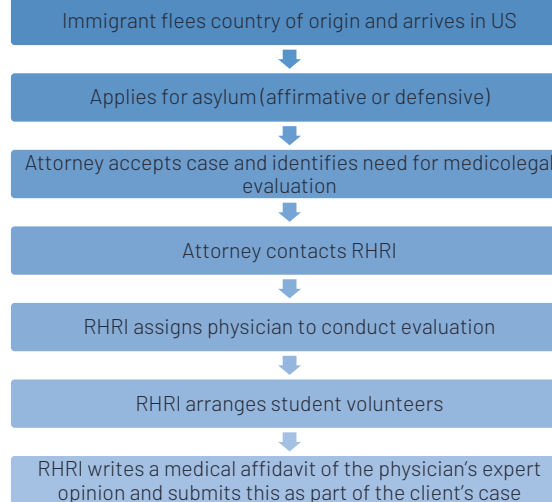
### Objective 3: Improve sustainability by increasing the volunteer pool

- Worked with classmate Katie Klapheke to present to multiple departments, update volunteer list, and disseminate recruitment materials
- Currently developing a faculty recruitment plan with Dr. Kate Cerulli and Dr. John Cullen

### Objective 4: Create a strategic plan for dissemination

- Applying to North American Refugee Health Conference
- Mixed methods article for the *Journal of Refugee Studies*
- Evaluating other national opportunities for publication and networking

## FIG 1: RHRI FLOW OF OPERATIONS



## FIG 2: CLINIC HANDOUT

## CONCLUSIONS

### Reflections

- RHRI taught me skills in program development that I used to found GIRAFFES, a program for systemically marginalized and excluded caregivers of children with gastrostomy tubes
- By choosing a project that was local, timely, and actionable, I was able to create a sustainable program that will outlive my tenure at URSMD

### Limitations

- Limited volunteer pool: we have had to decline cases due to lack of faculty and student volunteers
- Outcome follow-up: we are working to improve outcome follow-up, but currently do not know the outcomes of most of our cases

## IMPACT AND SUSTAINABILITY

### Impact:

- While we know that RHRI is an in-demand resource within the Rochester community, we need better outcome measures.
- Next steps include working with current leadership to data mine and follow up with attorneys to create abstracts and workshops for publication

### Sustainability:

- RHRI has in many ways proven its sustainability over the past four years via a structure of student leadership
- Currently addressing capacity challenges with an active recruitment plan for faculty and students
- Next steps include finalizing faculty recruitment plans, meeting with federal immigration courts to discuss efficacy, and evaluating expanding volunteer criteria