About the Network

NYLPI’s Medical Providers Network has a growing number of professionals who review medical records, develop advocacy letters, visit individuals in immigration detention facilities, conduct in-person consultations or medical interviews and provide testimony supporting individuals in immigration proceedings. The power of our volunteers’ expertise can be a force of change and is used to advocate for better care for individuals that are detained, support requests for their release and contribute to strategic, systemic change.

This medical-legal-community partnership is supported by 155 volunteers who are dedicated to raising awareness of the health crisis in immigration detention. This year we faced additional challenges posed by the novel Coronavirus and its potential spread through detention facilities and jails. NYLPI’s MPN expanded its work and reach to address this urgency and coordinated an open letter to ICE advocating for the release of people from detention, developed a template letter and quick response process for Covid-19 related medical advocacy requests and supported as “amici” federal litigation seeking the release of people confined to the Elizabeth immigration detention facility in New Jersey.

### Data Summary

- **83** Cases Completed
- **76** Cases Serviced
- **1** In-Person Detention Evaluation Completed
- **9.9k+** Medical Pages Reviewed
- **63** Medical Records Review Completed
- **61** Medical Advocacy Letters Written

### Top Health Concerns

- **36** Cases w/ Respiratory Problems / Asthma
- **20** Cases w/ Heart Problems
- **19** Cases w/ Physical Injuries / Pain

### Notable Case Patterns

- **High** gender disparity - 5 cases focused on women
- **High** age disparity - few cases focused on clients older than 61 and younger than 21

### Detention Rates per Facility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Detention Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rikers</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDC</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bergen County</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essex County</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batavia</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hudson County</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth County</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Case Highlight**

**Gaspar Avendaño Hernandez**

In February, Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez was tasered over six times during an ICE raid in Brooklyn. MPN member, Dr. Marie DeLuca, an Emergency Medicine physician who reviewed over 100 pages of medical records, found that Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez had developed rhabdomyolysis.

Medical staff instructed Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez to avoid any conditions that result in stress. Instead, Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez was transferred to Hudson County Jail, stripped nude and placed in solitary confinement for 24 hours. Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez received water every 8 hours and was forced to eat his meals by hand.

In response to Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez’s case, NYLPI rallied and mobilized community advocates and medical professionals, during the NYC Council's Immigration Committee hearing. Joined by community and medical advocates, we denounced the actions of ICE and its increased presence within our immigrant communities.

Dr. DeLuca testified during the City Council Hearing, on her medical findings of Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez and her deep concerns regarding the lack of medical care in detention. Dr. Deluca was joined by Dr. Nathaniel Kratz, member of the MPN's Steering Committee and a primary care physician in New York City. Dr. Kratz, shed light on disparities within immigration detention and the rampant fear of ICE worsening the health of our communities. Due to community advocates and the MPN’s relentless efforts, in late March, Mr. Avendaño-Hernandez was released from ICE custody.

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: “Up and Coming Star”**

**Dr. Rayna Sobieski**

Institute for Family Health
Family Medicine Physician

It has truly been an honor to work alongside NYLPI as a member of the Medical Providers Network. From writing letters to visiting clients in detention, this work has vastly expanded my understanding of how health and the criminal justice system are intimately intertwined. It is now obvious to me how my work as a healthcare provider is not complete without also working to end immigration detention and mass incarceration. I am so grateful for this opportunity.
Case Highlight

March 2020

In March 2020, NYLPI was approached by Mr. X's attorney, seeking support from the MPN to advocate for the client's release due to their underlying health conditions. Mr. X, who is over the age of 40 and suffers from diabetes, a chronic disease where the body produces little to no insulin, had been confined to immigration detention for several months prior to our involvement.

Our MPN volunteer, Dr. Mariya Masyukova, reviewed the client's medical records and concluded that the client did not receive adequate treatment for their diabetes. Dr. Masyukova found indications of glucose in the client's urine, indicating kidney damage or an abnormally high level of glucose in the blood. Our doctor also found other signs and symptoms of diabetes complications, which the facility neglected to address. According to our doctor, the client fell into a vulnerable category in the current COVID-19 pandemic, as diabetes is a serious chronic condition that compromises the immune system.

Dr. Masyukova provided a medical advocacy letter supporting the client's immediate release, due to their high risk of developing life-threatening complications from diabetes and potentially COVID-19. We are happy to report that ICE released the client, two weeks after the completion of our medical advocacy letter. The client's immigration case is still pending, but for now, the client is reunited with their family in New York City.

Volunteer Spotlight:

"The Overnight Hero"

Dr. Ted Apstein

Berkeley Emergency Medicine Group
Emergency Medicine Physician

I went into medicine desiring to improve my community's health. Time and experience have evolved my understanding of what it means for one to be 'well' -- and demanded respect of how much one's health is determined by situations typically thought as 'beyond' a physician's grasp. Working with your organization has allowed me to regain traction and feelings of agency as a doctor. Partnering with NYLPI and other social agents expands the ability of a physician to help others in ways school and residency never taught.
I came to this work through a listserv with other physicians and medical students interested in immigration advocacy. I joined in hopes of supporting immigrants who are in detention centers and jails notorious for depriving individuals of their rights and human dignity. It seemed like an amazing opportunity to write medical advocacy letters that combine my clinical skills, writing skills, and passion for immigrant health! I get to do chart and lit reviews which is a nice way to keep up with my clinical skills as a medical student. I've enjoyed interacting with my attending as well who reviews the letters. The best part is knowing that you helped someone get out and reunite with their loved ones!

Volunteer Spotlight:
"MPN Record Breaking Doctor"

Dr. Kate Sugarman
Unity Healthcare
Family Medicine Physician

I have truly cherished being a volunteer physician with the Medical Providers Network. Through their teamwork with lawyers, physicians and students, we have really been able to amplify our effect. It is so gratifying when someone gets released. I have long been distressed by the lack of access to medical care for detained immigrants. Now with Covid 19, ICE jails are now death camps. All of us, especially those in the medical community must not be silent until every last immigrant is free and living in the community.
Upcoming Events

LISTEN in on Webinars

- MHTTC: Minimizing Risk for Conflict/Coercion in Families with School-Age Children
  - July 28, 2020

- People's School of DC: 2020 Intro to Racism and White Privilege Webinar Course
  - July 2020 - February 2021

- NACCHO: Health Equity and Social Solidarity: Strategies for COVID-19 Response and Recovery
  - August 13, 2020

- CDC: Promising Practices in Health Equity II
  - July 29, 2020

- CUGH: Reducing Race Based Disparities in the United States
  - July 30, 2020

SIGN Campaigns

- NAACP: We must fight for equality during this uncertain time. We are done dying.

- SWI: The Immigration Justice Campaign

PARTICIPATE in Trainings

- YWCA: Toward Equity: Moving Beyond Diversity and Inclusion Workshops

READ Resources

- CUGH: 2020 INCLUSION, ANTI-RACISM, AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

In Case You Missed It.....

- NYLPI: Dismantling Racism: Protests are Vital to the Health of the Nation and Public Health during the Pandemic.

- NYLPI: NYLPI and NYIC Livestream COVID-19 Medical/Legal Session in Spanish
NYLPI’S MEDICAL PROVIDER NETWORK AND LEGAL DIRECTOR TESTIFY TO CITY COUNCIL ABOUT ICE VIOLENCE
March 2, 2020

NYLPI’S MEDICAL PROVIDER NETWORK & ALLIES SEND OPEN LETTER TO I.C.E. ADVOCATING FOR THE RELEASE OF PEOPLE FROM IMMIGRATION DETENTION TO HELP STOP SPREAD OF COVID-19
March 19, 2020

NYLPI PUBLISHES LEGAL STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE HEALTH JUSTICE IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION
April 23, 2020

NYLPI CALLS FOR RELEASE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS
April 28, 2020

NEW REPORT FINDS WORSENING CRISIS OF INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION AND IMMEDIATE COVID-19 THREAT
April 28, 2020

MEDICAL PROVIDERS NETWORK OP-ED CALLS ON ICE TO HALT ARRESTS AND RELEASE PEOPLE WHO ARE DETAINED
May 11, 2020