



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007



1051 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK, NY 10032  
WWW.COLUMBIAPSYCHIATRY.ORG  
646-774-5300

## **Chapman Perelman Foundation joins with Columbia University Medical Center and NYC Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence**

*Collaboration to improve and expand the legal, social welfare  
and health services available to victims of domestic violence*

(New York, NY—October 30 2014) — Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC) today announced a \$1 million donation from the Chapman Perelman Foundation in support of a new program that will provide mental health services to victims of domestic violence. The gift establishes a collaboration between Columbia Psychiatry and the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) by providing services at the New York City Family Justice Center, Bronx (BXFJC), in addition to the legal and social services currently available through the OCDV in partnership with the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC.

This innovative program will provide on-site clinical psychiatric services at BXFJC to victims of domestic violence in an underserved community, by establishing the Chapman Perelman Fellowship at Columbia. This pioneering fellowship is the first of its kind. The Fellow, along with Columbia Psychiatry faculty members Catherine Monk, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Fitelson, M.D., are partnering with service providers at BXFJC to provide comprehensive and integrated care for families affected by domestic violence. Expanded services will offer support to victims via further counseling and therapy, while the Columbia team will also present a training curriculum on mental health issues and interpersonal violence for other service providers at the BXFJC.

The collaboration between the Department of Psychiatry and BXFJC was spearheaded by Anna Chapman M.D., a faculty member at Columbia's Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, and an advocate for mental health services, and Jeffrey Lieberman M.D., Columbia's Chair of Psychiatry. In 2012, when Dr. Chapman learned of the apparent lack of psychiatric support available to victims of domestic violence, she began working closely with the city to create this much-needed program.

"Thanks to the generosity of the Chapman Perelman Foundation, there will now be a partnership between Columbia University Medical Center and the Bronx Family Justice Center, which will enhance the organization's work with a new program for mental health services," said **New York City First Lady Chirlane McCray, Chair of the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC**. "Too often, people focus on the physical scars of domestic violence, but forget that emotional and mental scars can run even deeper. The mental health service initiative is a prime example of what can be accomplished when public and private institutions work together. That is the fundamental goal of the Mayor's Fund to Advance NYC and we are proud that this essential service will now be available to those in need."

The New York City Family Justice Initiative is a public-private initiative lead by the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. The Centers, located in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens are designed to bring together under one roof over 60 domestic violence professionals in a collaborative effort to provide domestic violence victims and children greater support and accessibility to services and resources. This collaborative effort makes the entire process less intimidating to victims and their children and more efficient and effective for everyone involved.

“One of the major gaps in services that domestic violence survivors often face is quality mental health services to help them deal with the trauma they have experienced,” said **Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Rosemonde Pierre-Louis**. “This invaluable program will provide the psychological support needed by many of our clients and will help them take the next step in healing and living a life free from violence.”

Mayumi Okuda Benavides M.D. has been named the first Chapman Perelman Fellow. Dr. Benavides was born in Colombia and received her medical degree from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota. She completed her psychiatry residency at Columbia University, where she was trained in pharmacologic management of psychiatric illness, and evidence-based psychotherapeutic approaches.

“Our goal is to provide each person with the best possible care while contributing to a greater understanding of the generational patterns that frequently persist around issues of domestic violence, in order to break the cycle of violence,” said **Jeffrey Lieberman, M.D., chair of CUMC’s Department of Psychiatry**. “There is enormous potential for this partnership to address an unmet public health need and contribute positively to the overall health and wellbeing of troubled families.

**Dr. Chapman** said, “Domestic violence has traditionally been approached as a social issue, and not from a mental health perspective. I believe that in order to combat this devastating problem most effectively, it is crucial to incorporate the services of psychiatrists and psychologists, who are expertly trained to interpret and help manage the complex psychodynamics surrounding domestic violence. The Chapman Perelman Foundation is proud to enable this unique collaboration between the Bronx Family Justice Center and the Columbia Department of Psychiatry, which we hope will enhance the multitude of services that the FJC provides, and foster a better understanding of how to help future generations affected by domestic violence.”

The collaboration will draw on an array of Columbia resources, including the CUMC Women’s Program, a clinical and research program developed by the Department of Psychiatry in collaboration with the Division of Child Psychiatry and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the Sackler Parent-Infant Program at Columbia’s Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology, which conducts clinical research dedicated to the science of infant intervention services.



*(l-r) Rosemonde Pierre-Louis, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Anna Chapman, MD, First Lady Chirlane McCray, and Gabrielle Fialkoff, Senior Advisor to the Mayor and Director of the Mayor's Office of Strategic Partnerships tour the Bronx Family Justice Center. The Chapman Perelman Foundation announced today a major gift that will provide mental health services to victims of domestic violence at the Bronx Family Justice Center through a partnership with Columbia University Medical Center.*

###

### **Columbia University Department of Psychiatry**

Columbia Psychiatry is ranked among the best departments and psychiatric research facilities in the nation and has contributed greatly to the understanding and treatment of psychiatric disorders. It is home to distinguished clinicians and researchers noted for their clinical and research advances in the diagnosis and treatment of depression, suicide, schizophrenia, bipolar and anxiety disorders, eating disorders, and childhood psychiatric disorders. Visit <http://columbiapsychiatry.org/> for more information.

### **Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence**

The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, established in 2001, oversees the citywide delivery of domestic violence services, develops policies and programs, and works with diverse communities to increase awareness of domestic violence. The NYC Family Justice Centers are a public-private initiative of the OCDV. These one-stop domestic violence service centers reduce barriers and make it easier for victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking to get the help that they need, in their language, regardless of immigration status, income, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Currently, OCDV operates four NYC Family Justice Centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens with a fifth Center opening in Staten Island in 2015.

### **The Chapman Perelman Foundation**

The Chapman Perelman Foundation is a private foundation formed in 2010 by Anna Chapman and Ronald O. Perelman, which supports a range of social, educational and scientific causes, with a primary focus on advancing the scientific fields of mental health and the neurosciences.

**The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City**

The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, which facilitates high-impact public-private partnerships throughout New York City's five boroughs. The Fund leverages individual, philanthropic, and corporate partnerships to support public programs advancing key Mayoral and agency priorities.

###

**Columbia University Department of Psychiatry**

Rachel Yarmolinsky, Director of Media Relations and Marketing

Direct: 646-774-5353

Email: [yarmoli@nyspi.columbia.edu](mailto:yarmoli@nyspi.columbia.edu)

**Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence**

Selvena N. Brooks, Director of Communications

Direct: (212) 442-0490 Main: (212) 788-3156

Email: [ocdvmedia@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:ocdvmedia@cityhall.nyc.gov)

[www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence](http://www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence)

**Hiltzik Strategies**

Matthew Gorton

Direct: 212-776-1161

Email: [mgorton@hstrategies.com](mailto:mgorton@hstrategies.com)