

# General Internal Medicine Newsletter



## Message from Division Leadership

I cannot express just how proud I am of this division. We celebrated about how we are Proud to Be GIM in February, then in March you all rolled up your sleeves and showed the world what you are made of. Hospital Medicine, Ambulatory Internal Medicine, Integrative Medicine, Research, and our staff all jumped in to help and take on essential tasks to prepare us, and now to take outstanding care of our COVID-19 patients and provide support to our front lines. It has been an awe-inspiring four weeks since our first case, and I am truly proud to be your Chief. From developing a Peer Support program, to organizing our volunteers, to credentialing them all, to stepping up to become intensivists, to creating a cough and cold clinic in literally 48 hours, to developing a database that can inform our front lines as well as our institutional leaders, to finding the time and energy to advocate for the most vulnerable patients. I am so humbled to be a part of this team. Thank you! You are why we should all be Proud to be GIM.

**Monika Safford, MD | Chief, GIM**

## Education Updates

The Primary Care Clerkship is happy to formally introduce our new Clerkship Coordinator, **Nebahat Bayrakcioglu, MA**; she brings enthusiasm and years of experience in medical education to the role and we are excited to have her on the clerkship team. We also want to convey our gratitude to **Kathryn Zhu, MPA**, our outgoing Clerkship Coordinator, for her years of hard work in transforming the coordinator role, and she will continue to support the clerkship in a more senior administrative role. Even now as the clinical clerkships are paused during this unprecedented health crisis, we want to thank all of our preceptors again for all that you do for our students.

## Primary Care Innovation Program (PCI)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Primary Care & Hospital Medicine Innovations Symposium was a huge success, with over 135 guests from Weill Cornell Medicine, New York-

Presbyterian Queens, New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist, Lincoln Medical Center, Mount Sinai Health System, and more. Our division



was awarded an honorarium for the third year in a row from the Society of General Internal Medicine. The symposium's plentiful activities included oral presentations from seed grant recipients and a keynote address by Abby Spencer, MD, Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program and Vice Chair for Education at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. She gave an inspirational talk on "Why GIM doctors are leading medical education." The symposium concluded with a poster session and a peer mentoring network session. #ProudtobeGIM week culminated with an exhilarating book club discussion and a Twitter campaign hashtag reaching **4.7M** impressions.

## Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cornell Center for Health Equity–Meyer Cancer Center Joint Tri-Campus Symposium, originally scheduled for April 16-17, 2020, has been **POSTPONED** in light of COVID-19. Please visit our website at [centerfortheequity.cornell.edu](https://centerfortheequity.cornell.edu) for announcements on the status of the symposium or other CCHEq-related activities.

We are pleased to announce that the Cornell Center for Health Equity funded one pilot and one community partnership project for 2019–2020. The Center aims to generate and enhance collaboration among scientists and scholars across our Ithaca and New York City campuses. The awardees of the Cornell Center for Health Equity pilot grants are:

**Patricia Cassano, PhD**, at Cornell University and **Keith Roach, MD**, at Weill Cornell Medicine, were awarded \$50,000 for their pilot project on *A Collaboration between the Digital Health Patient Activated Learning System (PALS) and the Division of Nutritional Sciences to Develop Nutrition Content for*

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*Populations with Health Disparities; A Multisite Pilot Study in New York State.*

**Madeline Sterling, MD**, at Weill Cornell Medicine and **Ariel Avagar, PhD**, at Cornell University, were awarded \$5,000 for their community partnership project on *Home Care Workers in Rural and Upstate New York*.

The **Health Equity Seminar Series** take place every first Friday of the month and are currently presented remotely via Zoom due to COVID-19. On March 6, 2020, **Kelly Doran, MD**, Assistant Professor, Departments of Emergency Medicine and Population Health at NYU School of Medicine presented *Can Hospitals Help Prevent Homelessness?* For more information on the Health Equity Seminar Series or if you would like to give a talk at one of the seminars, please email [Grace Figueroa](mailto:Grace.Figueroa).

## Diversity Center of Excellence (DCoE)

The Weill Cornell Department of Medicine and the Graduate Medical Education held a Welcome Back Recruitment Conference for residency applicants. Applicants were invited from the local northeastern region to learn more about Weill Cornell Medicine's training programs and offerings. The event took place on January 18, 2020, and was hosted by the Office of Human Resources and various departments including Medicine, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Anesthesiology, and Neurology. **Susana Morales, MD**, led the efforts through panel discussions, networking sessions, and community engagement. Over 40 residency applicants were able to garner insight on the programs throughout the day. We thank the contributions and participation of many GIM physicians, trainees, and staff in making this event another massive success. This event is a follow-up to the Make Your Match fall event that takes place in September. For more information about our various trainee programs and recruitment, please contact [Daisy Torres-Baez](mailto:Daisy.Torres-Baez).

## Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

Happy 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, Quality Improvement Academy! Our leadership team is thrilled to welcome **Ericka Fong, BS**, as the QIA Program Manager.

After four years and 31 graduates, the incoming Class of 2021 will start in July 2020 with 12 attending faculty and nurses from the departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Anesthesiology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology. Of the eleven projects, four are in the outpatient setting. Five of the seven inpatient projects will be at Weill Cornell uptown campus with one at Lower Manhattan Hospital and another crossing both Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. We are grateful to all of the department chairs for supporting their faculty who are championing frontline efforts to improve the quality of care we deliver to our patients.

## POSTPONED: Annual QIPS Poster Session

Due to the emergent clinical responsibilities and social distancing policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the QIPS Poster Session originally scheduled for May 20, 2020, will now be held on **Tuesday, September 15, 2020**, in Griffis Faculty Club from 5-7 pm. We hope you will join us for what we hope will be a renewed time for celebration as we showcase the amazing work in quality and safety that our institution has done throughout the year as well as the innovative approaches to frontline clinical care in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

## Honors & Awards

**Paul Martin, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was selected by the nursing leadership at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell for the Physician of the Year Award.



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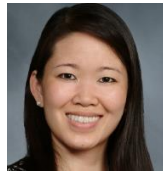
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**Melissa Rusli, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, was accepted into the Society of General Internal Medicine TEACH Certificate Program. TEACH is a year-long career development program focused on teaching skills for medical education.



**Alice Tang, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, received a 2020 NEGEA Scholars Grant for \$15,000 on her proposal, *MANTLE Rotation: How does a coaching team structure foster deliberate practice?* Dr. Tang plans to implement and study the new MANTLE curriculum which fosters intensive residents and attending coaching on the inpatient medicine service.



### Publications

**Justin Choi, MD** [Raoultella Bacteremia Presenting as an Acute Self-Limited Illness in an Obstetric Patient](#)

**Dhruv Khullar, MD** [Potentially Preventable Spending Among High-Cost Medicare Patients: Implications for Healthcare Delivery](#)

**Jyoti Mathad, MD** [Rifapentine demonstrates efficacy for pregnant women, including those with HIV](#)

**Jyoti Mathad, MD** [TB prevention strategies and unanswered questions for pregnant and postpartum women living with HIV: the need for improved evidence](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [Clinical Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Imipenem-Cilastatin/Relebactam Combination Therapy](#)

**Erica Phillips, MD** [Understanding and effectively addressing disparities in obesity: A systematic review of the psychological determinants of emotional eating behaviours among Black women](#)

**Laura Pinheiro, PhD** [Diabetes care management patterns before and after a cancer diagnosis: A SEER-Medicare matched cohort study](#)

**Monika Safford, MD** had several publications during this period click [here](#)

**Martin Shapiro, MD** [Impact of a Patient-Centered Behavioral Economics Intervention on Hypertension Control in a Highly Disadvantaged Population: a Randomized Trial](#)

**Madeline Sterling, MD** [Understanding the Workflow of Home Health Care for Patients with Heart Failure: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

**Devin Worster, MD** [Observational stepped-wedge Analysis of a community health worker-led intervention for diabetes and hypertension in rural Mexico](#)

**Orysa Soroka, MS** [Racial differences in trends of serious hypoglycemia among higher risk older adults in US Veterans Health Administration, 2004–2015: Relationship to comorbid conditions, insulin use, and hemoglobin A1c level](#)

### Appointments & Promotions

**Judy Tung, MD**, a distinguished internist and educator, has been appointed to Associate Dean for Faculty Development. In this role, she will be providing the Office of Faculty Development with strategic support on several mentoring and leadership initiatives. Click [here](#) to read more.



**Melissa Yutronich**, Practice Manager for Integrative Health and Wellbeing has been promoted to Clinical Operations Administrator for the Division of General Internal Medicine effective March 2, 2020.

**Grace Figuereo, BS**, has transitioned to CCHEq Administrative Specialist effective January 10, 2020.

**Benicia Rodriguez, MBA**, has been promoted to Practice Supervisor for Integrative Health and Wellbeing effective March 2, 2020.

**Brian Jerez** has been promoted to Senior Patient Coordinator at Integrative Health and Wellbeing effective March 2, 2020.

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## GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. The following speakers gave grand rounds: **Carrie Down Johnston, MD**, on *Transgender Patient Care: Optimization In And Out Of The Hospital*; **Megan Shen, PhD**, on *Reducing Disparities in Advance Care Planning and End-of-Life Care*. For speaker recommendations, please email [Fred Pelzman, MD](#) or [Jigar Contractor, MD](#).

## Spread the Word

The **GIM Internship Program** received a total of 142 applications this year. We are in the process of finalizing candidates and will begin onboarding in the next couple of months.

**Monika Safford, MD** was featured on Weill Cornell Medicine's newsroom for her study featured in The Annals of Family Medicine entitled *Peer-Delivered Cognitive Behavioral Training to Improve Functioning in Patients With Diabetes: A Cluster-Randomized Trial*. Click [here](#) to read more.

**Madeline Sterling, MD** was featured in the Cornell College of ILR Alumni Magazine for her collaboration and research on home care workers. Click [here](#) to read more.



**Feng Zhen**, Transition Coordinator and **Faudia Pasha**, Administrative Assistant, were selected as Super STAR performers; **Grace Figueroa**, Administrative Specialist-CCHEq and **Heidi Rojas**, Office Assistant, were nominated as STAR performers in the Weill Department of Medicine. This is in recognition for their exceptional service, thoughtfulness towards others, and projection of excellent role models.

The Weill Cornell Mentoring Academy featured some of our faculty mentors and mentees on their Twitter **#NationalMentoringMonday** campaign!



## Welcome to the Team!

### Academic:

**Michael Kim, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Adult Internal Medicine

**Orit Saigh, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates/Long Island City

**Eshrak Awad, NP**, Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates

**Elvie Soria, NP**, Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates

**Robert Spigai, NP**, Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates

### Staff:

**Ericka Fong, BS**, Quality Improvement Academy Program Manager