

# General Internal Medicine Newsletter



## Message from Division Leadership

We close 2021 with enormous gratitude for the amazing contributions from each and every member of our division. The accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter (and all of our prior newsletters) represent a collective effort from too many people to name and we'd like to take a moment to thank you for your tireless efforts. We have many reasons to be tired; tired of putting in extra hours, tired of being distanced from one another, tired of not knowing what's around the corner... tired of COVID. But we have also grown comfortable with leaning on each other, drawing upon and returning strength as it differentially flows. There is much to look forward to in 2022, including **#ProudtobeGIM** week and the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Primary Care and Hospital Medicine Innovations Symposium on February 24, 2022**, but what I wish for all of you in 2022 is more of the understanding, gratitude, forgiveness, and generosity, with ourselves and with others, that I believe hallmarked this last year. A happy and healthy 2022 to all!

**Judy Tung, MD | Section Chief, Adult Internal Medicine**

## Education Updates

As of January 2022, the Primary Care Clerkship will be renamed the **Ambulatory Care Clerkship** to match the breadth of clinical experiences in both primary care as well as other outpatient medicine sub-specialties that students have on this rotation. Also, the temporary Satisfactory-Unsatisfactory grading rubric put into place because of the COVID-19 pandemic will be lifted as of January and students will again be graded as Honors-High Pass-Pass-Fail as they were prior to the pandemic. We would love to expand our group of student preceptors and welcome any interest in participating in the clerkship and helping the next generation of students build their outpatient medicine skill sets, hopefully also encouraging many of them to pursue careers in outpatient medicine and primary care.

We also want to thank **Dr. Melissa Rusli** and **Kathryn Zhu, MPA**, for their years of hard work and outstanding innovation as the Associate Clerkship Director and Clerkship Coordinator, respectively. We are excited to announce our new Associate Clerkship Director, **Dr. Deborah Fung**; she is a Primary Care specialist at the Lower Manhattan Hospital Primary Care practice and a graduate of the NYP-Weill Cornell Primary Care residency program. Our new Clerkship Coordinator is **Ryan Batik, BS**, who brings experience in medical education and simulation center administration.



## Research Updates

**Iris Navarro-Millan, MD** (Mentor), and **Megan Creasman, MD**, received the Lawren H. Daltroy Heath Professional Preceptorship award of \$15,000 from the Rheumatology Research Foundation for their study on "The Cardiovascular Risk Assessment for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (CARE – SLE)."

## Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

**2022 [Community Partnership Building Grant](#)**

**New Application Deadline: Friday, January 7, 2022, at 5 pm EST**

The Cornell Center for Health Equity is pleased to request applications for 6-12 month community partnership building grants. We are able to support up to four project teams that aim to establish or strengthen collaborative partnerships that will enable meaningful involvement of community stakeholders in health equity research. The purpose of this funding opportunity is to form teams comprised of scientists, scholars, and community partners from across our Ithaca and New York City campuses with the overall goal of enhancing collaboration. It seeks to enhance the capacity to develop innovative research practice partnerships broadly related to health equity. This year

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we are particularly interested in proposals that look at health equity from a public health perspective, including research related to systems and process improvements, and proposals that explore the role of racial justice in achieving health equity. Any topic that seeks to understand the sources of health disparities and how to overcome them is appropriate. The Community Partnership Building RFA and application template may be found on the Cornell Center for Health Equity website; click [here](#) to access. For additional information on this opportunity please contact [Grace Figueroa](#), Administrative Specialist for the Cornell Center for Health Equity.

## Diversity Center of Excellence (DCoE)

The Diversity Center of Excellence continued its efforts in diversifying the physician workforce with support from faculty and trainees from the Division of General Internal Medicine. The Research Scholars in Health Equity met monthly with **Drs. Monika Safford** and **Martin Shapiro** to discuss progress in their health equity research projects. Two additional faculty were selected in November 2021 to join the 2020 Research Scholars in Health Equity cohort.

The **Faculty Scholars in Health Equity**, led by co-course director **Dr. Erica Phillips**, met monthly and concluded the 2020 cohort and welcomed the 2021 cohort in November 2021. Congratulations to **Dr. Arnab Ghosh**, who joined the 2021 Faculty Scholars in Health Equity cohort.

**Dr. Andrea Card**, faculty lead for the Pre-Medical Diversity Initiatives, was joined by many Weill Cornell faculty and trainees, including former GIM staff member and current medical student Benedict Harvey, for three small-group mentorships for pre-medical students part of linkage schools. Many GIM faculty were in attendance for the virtual Diversity Mentoring Cascade, a team-based approach to mentorship for trainees and faculty of underrepresented in medicine (URiM) backgrounds organized by Principal Investigator and Director of the DCoE **Dr. Susana Morales** and

Assistant Dean for Student Diversity **Dr. Joy Howell**. **Drs. Christopher Gonzalez** and **Martin Shapiro** met with 19 first-year medical students interested in health equity research at the annual Area of Concentration Fair held in person on November 15.

Lastly, in response to student interest and the ongoing pandemic, a fourth cohort of the COVID-19 Community Education Empowerment and Internship Program (CEEIP), led by **Dr. Susana Morales** and the Steering Committee, began meeting weekly from the end of October to December. This program is possible due to the support and participation of Health Equity Research Training Fellows **Drs. Asia Gobourne** and **Ro-Jay Reid** and faculty **Drs. Ramsey Kalil** and **Dwindally Rosado-Rivera**, and many others. To share your journey in medicine with trainees or find out more about the DCoE, email [dcoe@med.cornell.edu](mailto:dcoe@med.cornell.edu).

## Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

QIA is expanding! Starting January 2022, **Dr. Brock Daniels** and **Dr. Daniel J. Crossman** will join us as Improvement Advisors, working closely with QIA participants on project design and implementation through application of QI methodology.

**Dr. Brock Daniels** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine. After residency training in Emergency Medicine at Yale-New Haven Hospital, **Dr. Daniels** completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Quality, Safety and Comparative Effectiveness Training (QSCERT) program funded by the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) at the University of California, Davis Center for Population Health Sciences. His research and QI work focus on the targeted use of telemedicine to increase the quality of and access to acute care for high-cost, high-need patient populations with chronic conditions.

**Dr. Daniel Crossman** is the Associate Chief Quality Officer at NYP/Weill Cornell and a hospitalist in our division. His primary research interest is the prevention of hospital-acquired PE/DVT. He also serves as Associate Chief Medical Officer at MCIC and continues work

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clinically at the NYP/Weill Cornell and NYP/LMH campuses.

QIA is also thrilled to announce our new partnership with Thomas Campion, Jr., PhD, and Evan Sholle, MS from Architect for Research Computing in Health (ARCH). With this new collaboration, we are able to secure dedicated support and offer an expedited process for collecting EHR data.

We are currently accepting applications for the QIA Class of 2023. [Click here to apply!](#) Application deadline is **January 14, 2022**. To learn more about QIA and our initiatives, please visit us on [our website](#).

## Honors & Awards

**Ezra Gabbay, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was honored by the religious congregation of Chabad of Sutton Place on December 5, 2021, as one of the people selected to light a Channukah candle in their public menorah lighting. He was chosen to represent frontline health care workers and their efforts during the pandemic. Among the other honorees were the UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres, Councilwoman-elect Julie Menin, and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. To read more, click [here](#).



**Ernie Esquivel, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, was awarded the 2021 Mid-Atlantic SGIM Meeting poster competition and oral abstract competition on his study entitled "When constipation is beyond irritable, hoofbeats may be those of a zebra."

## Publications

**Rebecca Berger, MD**, [Improving Antibiotic Stewardship for Inpatients with Reported Beta-Lactam Allergies and Limited Access to Penicillin Skin Testing](#)

**Ernie Esquivel, MD**, [Transitioning Preclinical Students into Clerkships Amidst Curricular Disruptions from the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

**Parag Goyal, MD**, [Health Care Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic by Race and Social Determinants of Health Among Adults Age  \$\geq\$  58 Years in the REGARDS Study](#)

**Parag Goyal, MD**, [A Proposal to Accelerate Widespread Implementation of Geriatric Cardiology](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD**, [Ethical Challenges of Prospective Clinical Trials During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD**, [Repurposing Approach of Fluvoxamine for COVID-19](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD**, [Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Ibrexafungerp](#)

**Margaret McNairy, MD**, [High Lead Exposure Associated With Higher Blood Pressure in Haiti: A Warning Sign for Low-Income Countries](#)

**Margaret McNairy, MD**, [Point-of-Care Viral Load Testing Among Adolescents and Young Adults Living with HIV in Haiti: A Randomized Control Trial](#)

**Erica Phillips, MD**, [Developing Faith-Based Health Promotion Programs that Target Cardiovascular Disease and Cancer Risk Factors](#)

**Laura Pinheiro, PhD**, [Multiple Social Vulnerabilities to Health Disparities and Hypertension and Death in the REGARDS Study](#)

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

**Madeline Sterling, MD**, [Prevalence and Predictors of Home Health Care Workers' General, Physical, and Mental Health: Findings From the 2014–2018 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)

## Appointments & Promotions

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**Erica Phillips, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, was named Jack Fishman Associate Professor of Cancer Prevention. Dr. Phillips' appointment to this professorship is a prestigious acknowledgment of her outstanding contributions to Weill Cornell Medicine.



Over the past 20 years as a PI or Co-Investigator on several university-wide and NIH-funded grants, she has played an instrumental role in laying the groundwork for establishing trust and strong ties with community residents, organizations, and providers. A tireless advocate for community engaged research, she has been a superb leader of the Community Engagement Core of the Cornell Center for Health Equity. Dr. Phillips has done an exceptional job leading the Meyer Cancer Center's community outreach and engagement program, and has been instrumental in building the center's partnerships with community stakeholders. To read more, click [here](#).

**Parag Goyal, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was appointed as the inaugural Etingin Family Clinical Scholar in Medicine. Clinical Scholar Awards confer high recognition and are awarded to Assistant or Associate Professors, giving junior and mid-level faculty the time and support they need to strengthen synergies across their activities in clinical care, research, and education. Parag's appointment to this Clinical Scholar Award recognizes his excellence in heart failure cardiology, especially in older adults. Parag joined the Weill Cornell Medicine community in 2010, completing his residency in Internal Medicine, followed by fellowships in Cardiovascular Disease as well as Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology. During this time, he also completed a Master of Science in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Services Research from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. In addition to being a part of our division's core health services research faculty,



he also holds an appointment in the Division of Cardiology as a member of the Perkin Center for Heart Failure.

## GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. **Neil Wenger, MD**, Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, presented on October 7, 2021, on *Implementing Advance Care Planning in an Academic Health System*, and **Ishani Ganguli, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, presented on December 2, 2021, on *If You Give a Mouse an EKG: Cascades and Low-Value Care*. To learn more about upcoming GIM Grand Rounds, click [here](#).

## Spread the Word

### The Anita Mesi GIM Summer Internship Program

application is now open! We are excited to start accepting students for several programs—please disseminate this information to anyone that might be interested. Click [here](#) to apply!

**Iris Navarro-Millan, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, participated in video interviews with HealthiNation about various rheumatoid arthritis topics in both English and Spanish. For videos and articles, see links below:

[When Your Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment Doesn't Work: What's Next?](#)

[Tools That Make Everyday Life Easier with Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)

[What Are the Stages of Rheumatoid Arthritis?](#)

[How Rheumatoid Arthritis Affects Women Differently](#)

**Madeline Sterling, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was featured on the WCM newsroom for her study on home health care workers. Click [here](#) to read more!

**Laura Pinheiro, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Health Services Research in Medicine, was invited to present at

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the National Cancer Institute on October 13, 2021, for the SEER-MHOS User Webinar “Tips and Tricks: Learning from Experts to Develop a SEER-MHOS Project.”

**Susana Morales, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, and **Erica Phillips, MD**, gave Medicine Grand Rounds about “Key Insights from the Weill Cornell Medicine Racial Justice and Equity Taskforce” on October 13, 2021.

**Erica Phillips, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, and **Justin Kingery, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Medicine Retreat on October 29, 2021. Dr. Phillips presented on “Leveraging the Power of Community Experts,” and Dr. Kingery presented on “Health Status, Persistent Symptoms and Effort Intolerance One Year After Acute COVID-19 Infection.” In addition, several of our GIM faculty took part in the virtual poster session.

**Laura Pinheiro, PhD**, gave a talk at the GIM Diversity & Inclusion Faculty Research Dinner on Monday, December 13, 2021, on “Optimizing the Delivery of Diabetes Management during Breast Cancer Care.”

**Lauren Mitchell, MD**, one of our Primary Care PGY2s, received an honorable mention for the GIM Lisa A. Cooper-David M Levine Award for her work on “Assessing Health Worker Competence to Deliver a Brief Psychological Treatment for Depression: Development and Validation of a Scalable Measure.”

**Susana Morales, MD**, interviewed with Epicenter NYC to discuss her role in leading the COVID-19 STEM Community Education & Empowerment Internship, which is organized by the Weill Cornell Medicine Diversity Center of Excellence. The program, supported by a generous gift from Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, educates participants about COVID-19 and empowers them to effectively inform and discuss with others. Click [here](#) to read more!

The Weill Office of External Affairs conducted a mail appeal highlighting **National Doctors’ Day** on March 30, 2021, by mailing out blank notecards that donors were encouraged to fill out with their own special message to doctors/medical professionals who made an important difference to them. We are pleased to announce that GIM received seventeen thoughtful and kind notecards in honor of our faculty and staff.

## Welcome to the Team!

### Faculty:

**Yiwei Shieh, MD**, Healthcare Policy and Research Assistant Professor of Medicine at WCIMA

### Staff:

**Thiace Norman**, Message Therapist at Integrative Health and Wellbeing

**Malavika Radhakrishnan**, Research Assistant for Dr. David Scales

**Savannah Leigh Windham**, Research Assistant for Dr. David Scales

**Lindsay Hurth**, Research Assistant for Dr. David Scales

## Congratulations!

**Peggy Leung, MD**, welcomes baby boy Wren!

## Farewell!

**Melissa Rusli, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, has accepted a new job offer with Lakeland Regional Health-Florida as Program Director, Transitional Year Residency.

**Faudia Pasha**, Administrative Assistant for Hospital Medicine, accepted a new position as a Clinical & Translational Science Center Education Program & Grants Coordinator effective December 22, 2021.

**Maha Ali**, Research Assistant