

General Internal Medicine Newsletter



Message from Division Leadership

We are pleased to provide an update on our Division's activities to combat racism. Last summer, we constituted an **Anti-Racism Task Force** to advise us on how our Division can contribute to combatting racism within our division and its sphere of influence. We will be sharing their findings as well as what we are already doing and new activities we will be initiating based on these findings at an upcoming Town Hall later this spring. In the meantime, thank you all for your efforts to create a welcoming, safe, and productive environment for our faculty and staff as we work together to provide outstanding unbiased patient care and education; and discover new findings through our research. **Monika Safford, MD | Chief, GIM**

Education Updates

Cornell-Hunter Health Equity Research Fellowship

Congratulations to **Ro-Jay Reid, MD**, who was awarded a diversity supplement to **Dr. Parag Goyal's** AHA award to study successful aging. **Asia Gobourne, MD**, and **J.L. Stewart, MD**, continue to make progress on their projects on hospital follow-up (Asia) and post-partum mental health (J.L.). We selected **Alex Huttel, MD**, a pediatrician from our own Weill Cornell Pediatrics program, and **Serena Flaherty, NP**, soon-to-be-PhD, to join our program in the next academic year. Come learn more at the fellow-led **Primary Care Journal Club** being held virtually monthly on Wednesdays from 12-1pm!

The **Ambulatory Care Clerkship** is excited to move into the spring and summer months with students. The clerkship is hoping to recruit new clinical preceptors, including both general internists and medicine subspecialists to host medical student clerks during their outpatient practice sessions. Please contact [Brian Eiss, MD](#), [Deborah Fung, MD](#), or [Ryan Batik](#), if you have questions or are interested in becoming a clinical preceptor.

Research Updates

Laura Pinheiro, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Services Research in Medicine, and Co-PI **Shoshana Rosenberg, MD**, from Weill Cornell Population Health were awarded \$150,000 from Pfizer and Conquer Cancer for their project entitled *Identifying Unmet Needs and Barriers to Receipt of Psychosocial Care in Men and Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer from Diverse Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds Treated in an Urban Hospital Network*.

Laura Gingras, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, has been awarded the NewYork-Presbyterian Dalio Center for Health Justice 2022-2023 grant in the amount of \$100,000 for her project on *The Patient Activated Learning System (PALS) to Improve CVD Disparities*.

Christopher Gonzalez, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has been selected as a recipient of the 2022 Pilot Grant Award of the Mastercard Diversity-Mentorship Collaborative at Weill Cornell Medicine in the amount of \$50,000 for his project on *Developing Weight Management Interventions for Hispanic Immigrant Men in Under-Resourced Settings*.

Primary Care Innovations (PCI) Program

On February 24, 2022, the PCI program hosted the **5th Annual Primary Care & Hospital Medicine Innovations Symposium** virtually with a large national attendance during #ProudtobeGIM week. This year the PCI program provided \$82,000 to fund 5 innovative interdisciplinary projects across campus, consisting of 3 faculty, 1 resident, and 1 student awardees in various topics related to primary care—click [here](#) for a complete list of recipients and project titles. The half-day symposium began with opening remarks from **Dr. Fred Pelzman**, **Dean Augustine Choi**, and **Dr. Judy Tung**. A keynote address was given by **Aswin Vasin, MD**, 44th Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene, on *Public Health and*

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Healthcare in the (Post) COVID-19 Era in NYC: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Road Ahead. Followed by an informative session from **Drs. Christopher Gonzalez, Tanveer-E-Fatema R. Hassam, and Zachary Mulvihill** on *Leveraging Fellowships for Careers in GIM*. Other event highlights included past competitive seed grant presentations, top abstract presentations, and compelling poster sessions from abstracts selected during an open call for abstracts earlier this year. This year's event showcased posters from medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty from WCM, NYP, Global Health, Cornell Tech, Population Health Sciences, and Cornell University. The event concluded with closing remarks and a Twitter raffle giveaway from **Dr. Monika Safford**. The symposium was a forum to get to know others with similar interests and to become familiar with the ongoing innovative work on-campus and off-campus in the Primary Care arena.

Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

SAVE THE DATE: 3rd Annual Cornell Center for Health Equity Symposium! October 21, 2022 in Belfer Research Building!

The **Cornell Center for Health Equity** has made great strides towards one of its missions to generate and share new knowledge, through its pledge towards research development by offering funding opportunities and grant writing development training. The Center has committed to funding two grant cycles this year, focused on community partnership building and generating pilot data.

The community partnership building grants, committed to supporting projects that aim to establish or strengthen collaborative partnerships have been awarded to two Cornell University Principal Investigators: **Rana Zadeh, PhD**, Associate Professor, for the project entitled *Home Opioid Prescription Education and Smart Storage (HOPES) Program in Tompkins and*

Cortland Counties: Design Meets Medicine to Improve Health and Independence for Older Adults with Dementia at Home and **Karla Hanson, PhD**, for the project entitled *Collaboration among Health Care, Visiting Nurse, and Meal Delivery Services to Support Population Health and Position the Team to Conduct Implementation Research in Rural Areas*. Both projects were awarded \$5,000 each.

Last month, the Center announced a new request for proposals for one-year grant support for research or scholarship. The primary goal of this opportunity is to support impactful projects ranging from \$15,000 to \$50,000. **The application deadline is April 15, 2022.** To learn more about this funding opportunity, click [here](#) to access the full RFP.

Additionally, the Cornell Center for Health Equity partnered with the Cornell Center for Social Sciences (CCSS) and Cornell Population Center to offer the [CCSS NIH Grant Development Writing Program](#). This year, the program again provides resources and mentorship opportunities to support the development of competitive NIH grant proposals. **Drs. Monika Safford and Erica Phillips** are this year's program faculty. This year's awardees are:

- Angela Odoms-Young, PhD, Cornell University
- Amelia Greiner Safi, PhD, Cornell University
- Kathryn Fiorella, PhD, Cornell University
- Madeline Sterling, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine
- Laura Pinheiro, PhD, Weill Cornell Medicine
- Pon-Hsiu Yeh, MD, Weill Cornell Medicine

Become a member of the Cornell Center for Health Equity to learn more about funding opportunities and center activities. [Complete a membership application today!](#)

Diversity Center of Excellence (DCoE)

The Diversity Center of Excellence began the new year with its annual **Diversity Welcome Back for Residency**

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applicants. This year's program was virtual and had over 100 participants and participation from program leadership and faculty from Weill Cornell Medicine Internal Medicine, and eight additional departments.

The path to medical school is a difficult one but a well worth path. We are thankful for the faculty that have helped us grow the network of pre-medical students affiliated with the Pre-Medical Diversity Initiatives.

The Diversity Center of Excellence hosted its third annual Health Equity pre-medical conference on Saturday, March 12, 2022, for 70 students interested in health equity. This year's conference theme was "Building a Workforce for Health Equity and Health Justice." We kicked off with opening remarks from PI/Director **Dr. Susana Morales** and faculty lead **Dr. Andrea Card**. In addition to a keynote address, participants had a session on admissions, financial aid, and a panel discussion with current Weill Cornell Medical students.

Dr. Andrea Card, faculty lead for the Pre-Medical Diversity Initiatives, launched the second cohort of the Careers in Medicine Enhancement Program (CMEP) with 26 talented pre-medical students selected from various linkage schools affiliated with the Pre-Medical Diversity Initiatives. CMEP is an 8-week academic enrichment program opportunity offered to undergraduate and recent graduates from City College, Columbia, Cornell, Fordham University, Hunter College, and St. John's University. Moreover, Dr. Andrea Card hosted the Diversity Center of Excellence presentation night for the second cohort of **Careers in Medicine Enhancement Program (CMEP)** on March 23, 2022. During the evening, 21 presentations were given by undergraduate and gap-year students with topics on the U.S. maternal mortality rate, health disparities post-Hurricane Katrina, and mental health disparities in the prison system.

The Diversity Center of Excellence is preparing for the spring semester of **Dialogues in Health** sessions. Virtual

sessions will be held Wednesday evening on April 6, 20, and 27, 2022. Faculty and trainees that are available to volunteer and share their journey to medicine with pre-medical students can email dcoe@med.cornell.edu.

Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

Quality Improvement Academy is excited to announce that they are mid-way through the selection process for the Class of 2023, having received project applications from 8 departments from three WCM/NYP campuses. Notification letters will be sent out by mid-April.

Please join us for Grand Rounds on Wednesday, May 25, 2022. The QIA Class of 2022 graduates from the Weill Department of Medicine will present their projects: [Kelly Cummings, MD](#) (Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine), "*Improving Transitions of Care for Older Adults in an Ambulatory Geriatrics Clinic to Reduce 30-day Readmission*"; [Christine Garcia, MD](#) (Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology), presenting with German Rodriguez, RN (Department of Nursing), "*Reducing Falls Among Patients with Cancer at NYP-Weill Cornell Medicine*"; [Ramsey Kalil, MD](#) (Chief Medical Resident), "*Reducing Telemetry Utilization in Hospitalized Comfort Care Patients*"; Emily Schonfeld, MD (Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology), "*Management of Risk Factors for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease After Transplant*"; Tiffany Yeh, MD (Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism), "*Development of a Pediatric to Adult Transition Clinic for Young Adults with Type 1 Diabetes for Continuity of Care.*" That evening, we hope you will come and celebrate our return to the Griffis Faculty Club for our in-person **QIA Class of 2022 Graduation** and Annual **WCM-QIPS Poster Symposium**. Abstracts are being accepted until April 1, 2022 ([CLICK HERE](#) to submit!).

To learn more about QIA and its initiatives, please visit the [website](#).

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Honors & Awards

Susana Morales, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, is the 2022 recipient of the Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Faculty Development Award. Overseer Herbert J. Siegel and his wife, Jeanne, made this award possible through an endowed gift to acknowledge professional achievement and innovation by a faculty member at the assistant or associate professor level of his/her career. In addition to receiving a financial prize, this honor will be recognized as part of the Commencement activities in May 2022 as well as on a plaque in the Medical College with past awardees.



Susana Morales, MD, has been selected for the 2022 Physician of the Year by the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA). The award was presented at the Leadership Awards Gala & Dinner on March 26, 2022, as a part of NHMA's 25th Annual Conference: Addressing Social Determinants and Well-Being in Arlington, VA.

Franklyn Fenton, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has been accepted into the Society of General Internal Medicine TEACH Certificate program.

J. Emilio Carrillo, MD, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, received the Latino Medical Student Association's co-founder award on March 5, 2022.



Publications

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

Rebecca Berger, MD [Does Prophylaxis Prevent Recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* Infection?](#)

Justin Choi, MD [The Diagnostic Accuracy of Procalcitonin for Urinary Tract Infection in Hospitalized Older Adults: A Prospective Study](#)

Anthony Finch, MD (Dr. Safford's Medical Student Mentee) [Greater Social Functioning Associated With Lower Depressive Symptomatology Among Black Belt African Americans Enrolled in the Southeastern Collaboration to Improve Blood Pressure Control Study](#)

Arnab Ghosh, MD [Association Between Patient Diversity in Hospitals and Racial/Ethnic Differences in Patient Length of Stay](#)

Arnab Ghosh, MD [Trends in National Institutes of Health Funding on the Health-Related Effects of Climate Change and Natural Disasters](#)

Christopher Gonzalez, MD [Predictors of Life-Threatening Complications in Relatively Lower-Risk Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19](#)

Parag Goyal, MD [All-Cause Mortality as an End Point for Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction: Underperformance or Overambitious?](#)

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](#)

Justin Kingery, MD [Health Status, Persistent Symptoms, and Effort Intolerance One Year After Acute COVID-19 Infection](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Exebacase: A Novel Approach to the Treatment of Staphylococcal Infections](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Current and Emerging Immunomodulators for Treatment of SARS-CoV2 Infection \(COVID-19\)](#)

Laura Pinheiro, PhD [Racial Disparities in Diabetes-Related Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations Among Cancer Survivors](#)

Madeline Sterling, MD [Utilization, Contributions, and Perceptions of Paid Home Care Workers Among Households in New York State](#)

Madeline Sterling, MD [Rural-Urban Differences in Family and Paid Caregiving Utilization in the United States: Findings from the Cornell National Social Survey](#)

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

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Appointments & Promotions

Sanjai Sinha, MD, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine on February 1, 2022. Dr. Sinha has expanded his work to include video visits and telemedicine to assist with the hospital-to-home transition. When the COVID pandemic disrupted his work, he pivoted from video visits for post-discharge care to COVID care. In addition, he is also a co-investigator on efforts to improve the quality of race and ethnicity data in our electronic medical record, and outreach efforts to improve breast cancer screening rates among minority women. He is actively involved in the development of the Patient Activated Learning System, and holds a leadership position as Senior Director of Content Development. He has published over 100 evidence summaries that are viewed internationally by tens of thousands of patients. We are extremely excited about his accomplishments and promotion.



Laura Pinheiro, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Services Research in Medicine, has been appointed to Associate Director of Curriculum for GIM Fellowship Programs. In this leadership role, she will meet individually with each research fellow to design an individualized training plan for their two-year fellowship period. This includes assessing the fellow's specific training needs, guiding their coursework selection and enrollment process, and identifying opportunities to accelerate their professional development. Given Dr. Pinheiro's study design and statistical expertise, she is very familiar with short-term and semester-long courses and workshops taught across the country. She will work closely with each fellow to identify the courses that best fit their training and career development needs. As a part of the fellowship leadership team, Dr. Pinheiro meets bi-



weekly with Drs. Safford, Shapiro, McNairy, and Morales to discuss recruitment of future fellows, progress of current fellows, mentoring teams, and additional training and development opportunities.

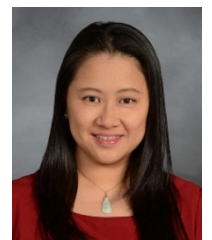
Madeline Sterling, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has been appointed to Assistant Director for Cross-Divisional Research Engagement. In this role, Dr. Sterling will help foster research collaborations between faculty and staff across the three sections of the Division of General Internal Medicine: Ambulatory Medicine, Hospital Medicine, and Research. Specifically, she will work to draw on the strengths, skills, and insights of clinicians and engage them in new or ongoing research activities that will lead to meaningful and productive scholarship for clinicians and researchers alike.



Elizabeth Baquero, EdD, Research Program Manager, has been promoted to Research Operations Administrator. In this newly created role in GIM, she will focus on developing and operationalizing a more cohesive and standardized approach to the various operational functions surrounding the division's research portfolio. This will include disseminating unified communications to the research team on new developments and updates, and ensuring that relevant information reaches the team.



Deanna Joa, BBA, Administrative Coordinator, has been promoted to Administrative Manager effective March 1, 2022 for Hospital Medicine and Lower Manhattan Hospital. She joined Hospital Medicine in June 2013 when NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital



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merged with New York Downtown Hospital and Hospital Medicine was expanded to NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital. Over the past nine years, Hospital Medicine has doubled its faculty and has expanded in new initiatives and programs. In her new role, she is the administrative lead in overseeing the administrative support team for both campuses at Hospital Medicine Upper East Side and Lower Manhattan Hospital.

GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. **Monika Safford, MD**, Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, presented on January 20, 2022, on *The Pandemic That Keeps On Giving: What We Know About Post-Acute Sequelae in COVID-19 (“Long COVID”)*, **Oanh Nguyen, MD**, Assistant Professor, Division of Hospital Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital, presented on February 3, 2022, on *Addressing Social Determinants to Prevent Hospital Readmission (and Improve Post-Hospital Recovery)*, and **Adam Bress, PharmD**, Associate Professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine, presented on March 3, 2022, on *Optimizing Antihypertensive Treatment in 2022 to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease and Dementia: Lessons Using Pharmacoepidemiology*. To learn more about upcoming GIM Grand Rounds, click [here](#).

Spread the Word

Renuka Gupta, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, was featured on the WCM Newsroom for Women’s History Month. To read more, click [here](#).

Madeline Sterling, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was interviewed by NY1 to discuss her research on home health aide training focused on heart failure. To watch, click [here](#).

Susana Morales, MD, was featured in the *Cornell Chronicle* for “Volunteer Scientists Change Opinions about Vaccines.” To read more, click [here](#).

Christopher Gonzalez, MD, was a panelist at the Society of General Internal Medicine Health Equity Commission on Anti-Racism in Medicine: Innovations in Education on March 2, 2022.

Judy Tung, MD, Section Chief for Adult Internal Medicine, and **Renuka Gupta, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, were featured on Health Matters NewYork-Presbyterian in honor of National Women Physicians Day. Read more [here](#)!



The **Anita Mesi General Internal Medicine Internship Program** has accepted 15 interns for the summer to work with various programs in GIM starting June 1, 2022. Interns are allowed on-site as long as they are fully vaccinated. For questions about the internship, email [Arta Habili, MA](#).

Elizabeth Baquero, EdD, was a guest lecturer at Cornell University on March 21, 2022, where she presented on *Nutrition Experiential Learning in Systematic Review and Knowledge Translation*— a graduate course on creating articles for the Patient Activated Learning System.

#MatchDay2022 #WCM2022

Dr. Safford’s mentees: **Sunidhi Singh** matched at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in OB/GYN
Sachin Shah matched at University of California San Francisco in Internal Medicine
Justin Lee matched at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Anesthesiology
Khalid Fahoum matched at New York University in Internal Medicine
Lisa Zhang matched at Columbia University in Pediatrics

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Dr. Sterling's AOC mentee, Ariel Shalev, matched at Weill Cornell Medicine in Psychiatry

Dr. Phillips' AOC mentee, Fatima Morales, matched at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Internal Medicine

Dr. Osborne's AOC mentee, Yende Grell, matched at Weill Cornell Medicine in Internal Medicine

Welcome to the Team!

Faculty:

Mary Rothfus, Mind-Body Instructor, Integrative Health and Wellbeing

Staff:

Sharmin Hossain, MS, Grants and Research Finance Administrator

Joanna Ortiz, Grants Administrator

Bria Stevensons, BS, Administrative Assistant for Hospital Medicine

Congratulations!

Musarrat Nahid, MSc, Research Data Analyst &


Katelyn Zingg, BA, Administrative Specialist, were selected as STAR Performers in the Weill Department of Medicine. Keep up the excellent work!


Alina Kofman, MPA, Program Assistant for Hospital Medicine, had a baby girl, Eliana Riley Kofman, on February 24, 2022!


Farewell!

Eri Telegrafi, BBA, Finance Manager, transferred to the Weill Cornell Department of Pediatrics as a Senior Financial Reporting Analyst on January 14, 2022.

DID YOU KNOW?

 **SGIM Annual Meeting** will be held in person this year at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida on April 6-9, 2022!

 We will be rekindling our tradition of a **GIM Dinner** at the SGIM meeting – all WCM faculty, trainee, and student attendees are invited! If you are attending the meeting, please email [Katelyn Zingg](mailto:katingg@med.cornell.edu) to add you to the program and dinner invitation list.

 The **pandemic is not over**: our British colleagues attribute the current spike in Europe to

1. BA2 variant (now 40% of NYC's Covid strains);
2. Relaxation of precautions;
3. Waning immunity. NY State reported the first increase in cases in many weeks this past week, the only state to do so (but no uptick in hospitalizations yet). Stay tuned, stay vigilante, and stay safe!