

General Internal Medicine Newsletter



Message from Division Leadership

We are just kicking off our new 2023 fiscal year/2022-2023 academic year with much to look forward to! Chief among them includes welcoming new faces, including 11 new faculty, 3 Cornell-Hunter Health Equity Research fellows, and 3 POCUS fellows. A continuing focus of our division's efforts this year will be ongoing work to implement the recommendations of the division's Anti Racism and Social Justice Taskforce. Thank you to all of you for joining our faculty and staff division-wide Diversity Town Hall meeting in May. We are also very appreciative of everyone who participated in the division's demographics survey. We achieved a 92% response rate from faculty and a 100% response rate from staff. This help us develop baseline data to measure progress and develop actionable strategies to promote change that brings us closer to the values we seek to promote GIM. We look forward to sharing with you soon. Various GIM centers (CCHEq & DCoE) have executed new initiatives for advancing diversity and inclusion through funding pilot grants to projects related to anti-racism, and leading many programs for research scholars, mentoring URM students, trainees, and faculty, and hosting pipeline programs for high school students from underrepresented minorities in medicine. A GIM institute that has increased awareness and understanding of racism is the Primary Care Innovations program which has funded over seven health equity projects. Institutional-wide education programs have incorporated anti-racism curricula in training programs such as the T32 Cornell-Hunter Health Equity Research Fellowship and Diversity Leadership Faculty Fellowship. In addition, courses on health equity have been added to clerkships led by our own GIM faculty. Numerous administrative actionable items have been developed to promote our shared values of diversity, inclusion, equity, and access—those practices and policies include the division diversity dashboard, AAMC recruitment and hiring standards, summer internship program, and division equity in quality. We all play a pivotal role in

achieving health equity, and we look forward to further engagement of everyone in the division this year.

Blake Rambo, JD, MBA | Division Administrator

Education Updates

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Group Peer Mentoring (GPM) program co-led by **Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and **Swana Di Gijzel, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine. The GPM program serves as a resource for Weill Cornell faculty to lead to career advancement, physician vitality, personal development, and professional wellness. Faculty from a variety of career paths will meet every 6-8 weeks starting September 2022 with a group of faculty peers led by trained facilitators. To learn more about the program or to complete an application, click [here!](#)

Welcome to a new academic year from the **Ambulatory Care Clerkship!** We are sad to announce that **Dr. Deborah Fung**, Associate Clerkship Director, is leaving the institution and will not be able to continue in her role. We are proud and grateful for the hard work during her tenure and delighted to announce that she is the recipient of the clerkship's annual Lecturer of the Year Award for the interactive session she spearheaded on lab test interpretation. We are excited to announce our new **Associate Clerkship Director, Dr. Emily Taylor**, a clinician-educator and faculty member at WCIMA-Payson House, who will begin in July 2022.

We are actively **recruiting new physician preceptors** in ambulatory medicine subspecialties as well as any faculty members who might be interested in serving as a facilitator of the clinical reasoning tutor group sessions that are part of the didactic curriculum of the clerkship. Please email [Brian Eiss, MD](#), Ambulatory Care Clerkship Director, if you are interested in working with medical student clerks.

Congratulations to Class of 2022! **Drs. Angelina Voronina** and **Tanveer-E-Fatema R Hassam** have successfully completed the **Hospital Medicine Point of**

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Care Ultrasound Fellowship! We would like to welcome Fizza Sajid, Hafiz Jeelani, and Rolfe Retuya to our incoming Class of 2023!

Research Updates

Lisa Kern, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, was a recipient of the NIA IMPACT Collaboratory Demonstration Project grant for her study *Improving How People Living with Dementia are Selected for Care Coordination: A Pragmatic Clinical Trial Embedded in an Accountable Care Organization*. The award duration is two years in the amount of approximately \$725,000.

Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

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

Colleen Barry, PhD, Inaugural Dean of the Cornell Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy, announced that the Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq) will be joining the Cornell University Brooks School of Public Policy. The partnership between CCHEq and the Brooks School offers the center a strong institutional home and new opportunities for our center members and partners to collaborate in policy-related research, education, service, and advocacy that are central to the center's vision and mission. The move provides CCHEq with a shared administrative infrastructure, as well as the ability to more closely integrate efforts with other policy-related entities.

A generous Cornell family is removing barriers so that undergraduate students studying equitable healthcare policy can use internships and research opportunities to apply the lessons they learn in the classroom. This contribution is consequential and deeply appreciated because it comes at a pivotal moment, when society is grappling with profound disparities in the quality, availability, and affordability of healthcare. CCHEq is

ideally positioned to accomplish its mission by connecting health equity policy scholars on Cornell's Ithaca campus with researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine to partner on initiatives to reduce health disparities.

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 team was delighted to give two presentations at the annual Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting, held on April 6, 2022. The sessions highlighted the Faculty Scholars in Education and COVID-19 Community Education and Empowerment Internship, for pre-medical students, which began during the pandemic.

The annual Weill Cornell Medicine Diversity Awards honored seven winners who have distinguished themselves as key contributors to a culture of diversity. During Diversity Week, the



DCoE announced the recipients of funding to support community service projects. Projects awarded include: Peer2Peer Tiered Mentorship Program, Longitudinal Mentorship Program, and Weill Students for Harm Reductions. Congratulations to the students and faculty advisors **Drs. Susana Morales, MD** (Longitudinal Mentorship Program), Alex Ajeto (Peer2Peer Tiered Mentorship Program), and **Alexis Vien, MD** (Weill Students for Harm Reductions).

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On May 3, the Diversity Mentoring Cascade hosted an in-person team-based mentoring session to encourage cross-departmental and training level mentorship and community building. The theme of the session was Reconnecting, Fellowship, and Community. The planning committee included GIM faculty **Drs. Christopher Gonzalez** and **Susana Morales**.



Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

On May 25, 2022, the Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Poster Symposium was held in the Harkness Courtyard. With ongoing support from Dean Augustine M.K. Choi and Dr. Anthony Hollenberg, this groundbreaking interdepartmental and interdisciplinary celebration of quality and patient safety initiatives and innovations is co-sponsored through Quality Improvement Academy-Weill Cornell Medicine (QIA), NYP Department of Nursing, and the Physician Organization's Division of Quality and Patient Safety.

The evening program included 27 projects from 13 departments across WCM, Lower Manhattan Hospital, NYP-Queens, and NYP-Brooklyn Methodist. 14 of the projects were from the graduating QIA Class of 2022. Also included were the top three graduate medical education projects selected during this year's NYP CLER-House Staff Quality Improvement Poster Session. Through a peer-review process by QIA alumni, we recognized three general symposium projects from those featured for their incorporation of QI and safety methodology, innovation, and impact on patient care: *Management of Infants at Risk for Early Onset Sepsis* (Department of Pediatrics, WCM), *Palliative Care in the Emergency Department* (Department of Emergency Medicine, WCM), and *Telehealth Access in a Multi-lingual Urogynecology Patient Population* (Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, WCM/NYP-Queens).

The event also celebrated QIA's sixth graduating class, representing 14 faculty from seven departments. Five graduates were from the WDOM and also presented their projects at Grand Rounds earlier that morning: Dr. Kelly Cummings (Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine), Dr. Christine Garcia (Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology), Dr. Ramsey Kalil (Chief Resident, Internal Medicine Residency Program), Dr. Emily Schonfeld (Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology), and Dr. Tiffany Yeh (Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism).

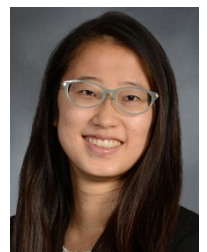
Dr. Jennifer I. Lee, Director of QIA and Vice Chair for Quality and Safety, expressed thanks to department chairs for supporting their faculty in this year's QIA class: Dr. Sallie Permar (Department of Pediatrics), Dr. Rahul Sharma (Department of Emergency Medicine), Dr. Hugh Hemmings (Department of Anesthesiology), Dr. Stephen Peterson (Department of Medicine, NYP-Brooklyn Methodist), Dr. Matthew Fink (Department of Neurology), Rosanne Raso (VP/Chief Nursing Officer), Dr. Donald D'Amico (Department of Ophthalmology), Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi (Department of Surgery), and Dr. Michael Zenilman (Department of Surgery, NYP-Brooklyn Methodist).

Congratulations to the QIA Class of 2022 for their remarkable achievements and for joining our community of over fifty QIA alumni! And thank you to all who attended and continue to work and support making care better every day.

To learn more about QIA and our initiatives, please visit us on [our website](#).

Honors & Awards

Lily Yan, MD, Global Health Research Fellow; and mentee of Dr. Margaret McNairy was the recipient of the 31st Young Investigators Award of 2022. This award is presented annually to members of the Weill Department of Medicine below the rank of



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professorship who perform on outstanding levels in clinical and/or basic biomedical research. She is currently the first fellow ever to win such an award—competing against junior faculty.

Susana Morales, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, was awarded the Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Faculty Development Award, which recognizes a faculty member for exemplary clinical and research contributions, as well as teaching and mentoring medical students.

Christopher Gonzalez, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was the 2022 recipient of the Unified Leadership Training in Diversity Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine. This award recognizes junior and mid-career faculty from underrepresented groups with proven leadership potential. Recipients of this award receive a scholarship to attend educational and networking opportunities.

The following GIM faculty were recipients of various awards at the Weill Cornell commencement ceremony on May 18, 2022. **Drs. Aram (Annie) Kim, Ezra Gabbay, William Levine, and Nathaniel Hupert** received the Excellence in Medical Education Award, **Dr. Susana Morales** received the Education Innovation Award, and **Drs. Tomas Seisdedos and Alexandra King** received the House Staff Teaching Award. Click [here](#) for a complete list.

Laura Kolbe, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was awarded the John A. Benson Jr., MD Professionalism Article Prize from the American Board of Internal Medicine for her article [On Gifts and Heroes](#)—questioning whether referring to health care workers as heroes creates unfair expectations that they will accept excessive work risks or demands.

Publications

Arbab Ghosh, MD [Comparing Hospital Length of Stay Risk-Adjustment Models in US Value-Based Physician Payments](#)

Parag Goyal, MD (REGARDS Study Team) [Depressive Symptoms and Incident Hospitalization for Heart Failure: Findings from the REGARDS Study](#)

Parag Goyal, MD [N-of-1 Trials to Facilitate Evidence-Based Deprescribing: Rationale and Case Study](#)

Parag Goyal, MD [Association of Perceived Stress With Incident Heart Failure](#)

Lisa Kern, MD [Primary Care Redesign and Care Fragmentation Among Medicare Beneficiaries](#)

Lisa Kern, MD [Health Care Fragmentation and Blood Pressure Control Among Adults Taking Antihypertensive Medication](#)

Lisa Kern, MD [Frailty, Gaps in Care Coordination, and Preventable Adverse Events](#)

Peggy Leung, MD [Factors Associated with Never Having Had A Video Visit](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Fluticasone Propionate as a Potential Treatment for COVID-19](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Outpatient Treatment Options to Address the SARS-CoV-2 Variant Omicron](#)

Iris Navarro-Millan, MD [Protocol for the Pilot Randomized Trial of the Cardiovascular Risk Assessment for Rheumatoid Arthritis \(CARE RA\) Intervention: A Peer Coach Behavioral Intervention](#)

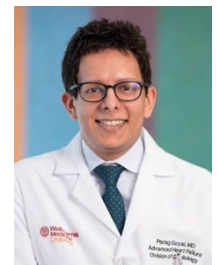
Erica Phillips, MD & Laura Pinheiro, PhD [Cancer and Cardiovascular-Related Perceived Risk in a Diverse Cancer Center Catchment Area](#)

Laura Pinheiro, PhD [Many Medicare Beneficiaries Do Not Fill High-Price Specialty Drug Prescriptions](#)

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

Appointments & Promotions

Parag Goyal, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was appointed Associate Professor of Medicine in the academic achievement and scholarship pathway. Dr. Goyal has been recognized for his promise and accomplishments through several awards and has a large research



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program with 18 active IRB protocols, demonstrating his rapid pathway to independence. He was also exemplary in his willingness to help our institution's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He spent many hours in our Intensive Care Units caring for our critically ill COVID-19 patients during the spring surge and into the summer. Dr. Goyal is highly collegial and a major contributor to the scientific environment at our institution.

Sydney Katz, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, has been appointed Associate Director of the Weill Cornell Margaret and Ian Smith Clinical Skills Center (CSC). The CSC offers a safe and controlled environment where medical students can practice clinical skills. The center includes a patient simulator suite, where students can practice clinical skills on high-tech mannequins, as well as 10 outpatient and two in-patient rooms, where students can treat "actor patients" who recreate clinical scenarios. All instructional and simulation spaces are outfitted with state-of-the-art technology.



GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. **Stephen Jurasche, MD**, Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School, presented on April 14, 2022, on *New Strategies to Improve Adoption of Healthy Dietary Patterns to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease*; **Geraldine McGinty, MD**, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, presented on June 2, 2022, on *Building an AI Infrastructure in Medicine*. To learn more about upcoming GIM Grand Rounds, click [here](#).

Spread the Word

Madeline Sterling, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was featured in Cornell News for her article and video on seeking to elevate home care workers. Watch the video [here](#)!

Monika Safford, MD, was interviewed by Intellihealth during Weight Matters week on May 11, 2022, about the relationship between severe COVID-19 and obesity, as well as the issues the pandemic revealed around public health and healthcare inequity. Listen to the podcast [here](#)!



The Weill Cornell Physicians Organization selected **Trenton Collier, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, as an outstanding physician for the 2022-2023 Healthcare Leadership Fellows Program to foster fellows' development as physician leaders. **Renuka Gupta, MD**, 2021-2022 fellow recipient, showcased her final presentation on May 19, 2022.

Judy Tung, MD, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, was an invited panelist at the Weill Cornell Medicine Diversity and Inclusion Town Hall on May 11, 2022, to discuss *Unpacking the Asian American Experience: A Diversity Town Hall Panel*.

Monika Safford, MD, gave Medicine Grand Rounds on May 11, 2022, on *Social Determinants of Health: Under-appreciated Cardiovascular Risk Factors*.

Matthew McCarthy, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, gave Medicine Grand Rounds at the University of California San Diego on March 16, 2022, on *COVID-19 in New York*. He was also an invited lecturer at the Ben-Gurion University of Negrev Medical School for International Health to present on *COVID-19 in New York* on April 26, 2022. Dr. McCarthy was a keynote speaker at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on April 27, 2022.

Curtis Cole, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, has been named a Visiting Professor at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil in the Department of Radiology and Oncology for a one-year term.

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On May 3, 2022, the Lower Manhattan Women in Healthcare quarterly series, hosted by **Dr. Renuka Gupta**, Chief of Medicine at Lower Manhattan Hospital, was another successful event! This is an opportunity to meet and network with women from different departments and disciplines across Lower Manhattan Hospital to form genuine professional and personal connections.



The **Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting** was held at the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in Orlando, Florida, from April 6-9, 2022, and many of our leaders and faculty members were featured in the program. To view the booklet, click [here](#).



Welcome to the Team!

Staff:

Noelia Hernandez, BS, Research Assistant for Drs. Martin Shapiro, Christopher Gonzalez & Iris Navarro-Millan

Bria Stevenson, MS, Administrative Assistant for Hospital Medicine

Nour Mourra, Research Assistant for Dr. McNairy

Caroline Zeng, BS, Research Assistant for Dr. Pinheiro

Cisco Espinosa, BA, Research Assistant for Dr. Sterling

Melissa Yanez, BS, Research Assistant for Dr. Sterling

Congratulations!

Daisy Torres-Baez, Diversity Programs Coordinator, was a recipient of the 2022 Diversity Administrative Staff Award!

Kate Zarzuela, MD, Research Program Coordinator, was selected as a STAR Performer in the Weill Department of Medicine. Keep up the excellent work!

Melissa Ramos, WCIMA Supervisor, and **Catherine Lopez-Sable**, WCIMA Manager, were recognized as the Patient Access Employees of the Year by the Community and Population Health/Ambulatory Care Network!

Farewell!

We thank **B. Robert Meyer, MD**, for his tremendous 25 years of service, leadership, teaching, and mentorship! We wish him a very happy retirement!

Jennifer Chester, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Deborah Fung, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Justin Kingery, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine

Michael Torres Lizardi, MD, Professor of Clinical Medicine

Nachelle Aurelien, MD, POCUS Fellow

Edward Bergin, MD, POCUS Fellow

Tanveer-E-Fatema R Hassam, MD, POCUS Fellow

Angelina Veronina, DO, POCUS Fellow

Hannah Curtis, Research Assistant for Dr. Goyal

Miranda Metz, Research Assistant for Dr. McNairy, is starting medical school!

Micayla Wilson, Research Assistant for Dr. Pinheiro, is starting medical school!