

General Internal Medicine Newsletter



Message from Division Leadership

The start of the academic year brings new faces and fresh energy and we extend a hearty welcome to our incoming students, residents, fellows, faculty and staff! A new year also rejuvenates our goals and efforts within our tri-partite mission. In education, we applaud the Diversity Center of Excellence for hosting and engaging over 500 students and residents through open houses and other mentorship programs. We honor the legacy of Dr. B. Robert Meyer through the establishment of a new primary care and medical education award. Our clinical excellence was recognized this summer by the CDC for enduring quality in diabetes prevention at WCIMA and continues through projects sponsored by the Quality Improvement Academy, now in its 7th year. We are proud of the tremendous awards achieved by our talented research faculty, including the prestigious Doris Duke Award given to Dr. Madeline Sterling for her study on home health care. We celebrate the valued partnerships with Ithaca, Hunter and many other organizations and pledge to strengthen them this year. It is going to be an aspirational 2022-2023!

Judy Tung, MD | Section Chief, Adult Internal Medicine

Education Updates

The division launched the **B. Robert Meyer Scholar Award** in primary care and medical education in honor of Dr. B Robert Meyer, professor emeritus of clinical medicine, who through his leadership and dedication to patients and learners, embodied the highest standards of clinical medicine and teaching. This award supports education and scholarly work that advances patient care in the primary care setting, particularly for underserved populations. **CALL FOR PROPOSALS! Proposals are due November 1, 2022 at 5pm ET.** The funding period is anticipated to be January 2, 2023 – January 1, 2025.



Cornell-Hunter Health Equity Research Fellowship

We would like to welcome the incoming group of fellows into the [Cornell-Hunter Health Equity Research Fellowship](#): **Alisha Akinsete, MD, Serena Flaherty, MSN, Laura Gingras, MD, Jin-Young Han, MD, and Alexandra Huttie, MD!**

As we transition into the latter half of the calendar year, the **Ambulatory Care Clerkship** is looking for any faculty interested in clinical precepting or in leading our Friday tutor group clinical reasoning sessions. Please reach out to [Dr. Brian Eiss](#), Clerkship Director, or [Ryan Batik](#), Clerkship Coordinator, regarding any potential precepting/lecture opportunities. We are also in the planning stages of opening a NewYork-Presbyterian Queens (NYP-Q) site for the clerkship at the Forest Hills faculty practice. **Dr. Demetrios Paidoussis** will serve as the site director with leadership support from the NYP-Q Department of Medicine Chair, **Dr. Joseph Cooke**. This new location is slated to join our two existing sites, WCIMA and Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, beginning in 2023.

Research Updates

Monika Safford, MD, Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, received an R01 grant for four years of \$7.9M from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for her study on *REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke – Myocardial Infarction – 4*.



Jyoti Mathad, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was awarded a \$3.5M grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for her study on *HIV, Gestational Diabetes, and TB in Pregnancy*.



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Madeline Sterling, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, received the Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award Grant for her study on *Improving the Mental Health of Home Health Aides*. The three-year award in the amount of \$495K will support the expansion of Dr. Sterling's research on home health care to a new area –aiming to improve the mental health of home health aides. To read more, click [here](#).



Madeline Sterling, MD, is the 2022 grant recipient of the Research Institute for Home Care on her project, *Understanding the Perspectives of Key Home Health Stakeholders Towards Home Health Value Based Purchasing in the United States*. The one-year award is in the amount of \$75K.

Madeline Sterling, MD, was awarded the Weill Cornell Medicine Mastercard Diversity-Mentorship Collaborative Research Assistance for Primary Parents Initiative grant which aims at building upon WCM's mission on enhancing diversity and inclusion in medicine, and establish an infrastructure of mentorship that supports all research faculty at WCM. The one-year award is in the amount of \$50K.

Madeline Sterling, MD, received the Investigator Development Core Pilot Grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for her study on *Improving the Cardiovascular Health of Home Health Aides*. This two-year award is in the amount of \$50K.

Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)
RSVP TODAY! For the 3rd Annual Cornell Center for Health Equity Symposium! October 20-21, 2022 in Belfer Research Building!

It has been an extraordinary year of growth for the Cornell Center for Health Equity. Our new institutional home on the Ithaca campus, the **Jeb E. Brooks School of Public Policy**, has opened new avenues of support and partnership. We continue to advance research, education, service, and advocacy through numerous programs across each of Cornell's campuses. Our academic, student, and community membership is growing. We've built strong partnerships with various centers, programs, organizations, and institutes locally, regionally, and nationally.

At the same time, recent events underscore the immense challenges ahead of us. Disproportionate burdens of COVID-19, police violence, and white nationalist rhetoric continue to remind us of ways that structural racism undermines health for us all, but particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Our work has never been more important than now. We invite you to continue to find ways to support our mission, attending the [3rd Annual Cornell Center for Health Equity Symposium](#) and checking out the [annual report](#) to learn more about the center activities.

The Center hosts a series of **Health Equity Seminars** on the first Friday of the month. Sessions are broadcasted via webinars for remote attendees. These colloquia are intended for Center members to share their work on various equity-focused and social justice issues and obtain multi-disciplinary input on works in progress. For a list of presentations and recordings for this quarter, please click [here](#).

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 DCoE was able to reach over 500 medical students and residents through the annual diversity open houses

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for residency programs and fellowship programs this summer. Faculty and trainees that are available to volunteer and share their journey to medicine with pre-medical students can email dcoe@med.cornell.edu.

Dr. Susana Morales and the COVID-19 Community Education Empowerment Program (CCEEIP)

Steering Committee is preparing for the 5th cohort this fall – with program coordinators Rosio Ramos and Lawrence Onyekwere leading the efforts.

The center also co-hosted the **3rd Annual Fellowship Diversity Open House** on July 27 with the Department of Medicine and Pediatrics Fellowship programs. The virtual program was represented by over 25 fellowship programs and attended by over 50 trainees worldwide. The annual Make Your Match residency diversity open house had record attendance, with over 385 participants and over 50 Weill Cornell faculty and trainees joined to provide mentorship to medical students. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Housestaff Committee members facilitated the resident panel on “What is it like to be a resident at NYP?” with encouraging tips from residency program director and panelist, Kirana Gudi, MD.

Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

Quality Improvement Academy – Weill Cornell Medicine (QIA-WCM) is proud to be in its seventh year, training junior faculty who are passionate and committed to becoming strategically vital leaders dedicated to patient care excellence through interdisciplinary process and quality improvement, QI education and mentorship, and QI research and scholarship. With ten physicians and nurses from the departments of Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Anesthesiology, Psychiatry and NYP Nursing, this year’s class joins our growing QIA network of research collaborators from WCM, Population Health Sciences, ARCH, the IRB, and nearly sixty alumni from WCM, Lower Manhattan, NYP-Queens and NYP-Brooklyn Methodist.

Open recruitment for the Class of 2024 will begin in November. If you are interested in being a part of our growing community, please consider submitting your application. Please visit us on [our website](#) to learn more about our program and other QIA initiatives. You can also contact us directly at QIA-WCM@med.cornell.edu with questions.

Honors & Awards

Esther Wei, NP, was awarded the CDC Full Plus Recognition for 5 years for her diabetes program. This designation is reserved for programs that have effectively delivered a quality, evidence-based program that meets all of the standards for CDC recognition, including the three retention thresholds. The sustained success of this program makes an invaluable contribution to the prevention of type 2 diabetes, both in our community and nationally.



Michelle Loy, MD, Assistant Professor in Medicine and Pediatrics in Integrative Health & Wellbeing, was appointed to the Weill Cornell Medicine Committee of Admissions July 2022 and was accepted into the 2022-2023 Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (LAMP) Program.



Madeline Sterling, MD, was appointed to two national positions as Inaugural Chair, Primary Care Science Committee, American Heart Association and as the Guidelines Derivative Task Force, American Heart Association.

Iris Navarro-Millan, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was a recipient of the 2022 Rheumatology Research Foundation Innovation Research Award was interviewed to briefly talk about her Moving Well Intervention project which aims at helping patients in

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the preparation and recovery from knee replacement. Watch video [here!](#)

Justin Choi, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was selected to be one of the bedside fellows for the Society of Bedside Medicine for the 2022-2023 academic year. Dr. Choi's study, *Error Recovery on the Wards: Focused Ethnography of Handoffs in New Patients Admitted Overnight in a Teaching Hospital*, will use a socio-cognitive approach to understand the influence of team dynamics, team-patient interactions, and racial/ethnic diversity on the bedside diagnostic process.



Publications

Pamela Charney, MD [A Medical Student-Run Telehealth Primary Care Clinic During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Maintaining Care for the Underserved](#)

Peggy Leung, MD [Health Priorities of Multi-Morbid Ambulatory Patients in New York City During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Qualitative Analysis](#)

Michelle Loy, MD [Probiotic Use in Children and Adolescents with Overweight or Obesity: A Scoping Review](#)

Michelle Loy, MD [Clinician Wellness—Self-Care for Staying Healthy: Narrative Medicine for Optimizing Well-Being and as an Antidote to Stress and Burnout](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Recent advances in the diagnosis of monkeypox: implications for public health](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Therapeutic strategies to address monkeypox](#)

Matthew McCarthy, MD [Novel strategies for the treatment of COVID-19](#)

Iris Navarro-Millan, MD [Comparing cardiovascular risk of patients with rheumatoid arthritis within the Social Security Disability Insurance with those commercially insured](#)

Iris Navarro-Millan, MD [Incidence of Dementia in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Association with Disease Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs – Analysis of a National Claims Database](#)

Laura Pinheiro, PhD [Fatalistic cancer beliefs and self-reported cancer screening behaviors among diverse urban residents.](#)

Laura Pinheiro, PhD [Analysis of Eligibility for Lung Cancer Screening by Race After 2021 Changes to US Preventive Services Task Force Screening Guidelines.](#)

Laura Pinheiro, PhD [Nearly All Cancer Survivors Return to Primary Care.](#)

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

Madeline Sterling, MD [Addressing the Home Care Shortage: Predictors of Willingness to Provide Paid Home Care in New York](#)

Madeline Sterling, MD [Better Preparation and Training Determine Home Care Workers' Self-Efficacy in Contributing to Heart Failure Self-Care](#)

Madeline Sterling, MD [Implementing Equity: Improving Blood Pressure and Glycemic Control Among Adults With Heart Failure](#)

Appointments & Promotions

The Division of General Internal Medicine is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jerel Ezell, PhD, MPH**, as Social Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor in Medicine. Dr. Jerel Ezell earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology from the University of Chicago, a Master of Public Health from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from the University of Michigan. He is currently an academic member of the Cornell Center for Health Equity – an initiative bridging Cornell's New York City and Ithaca campuses together to collaborate on how to achieve health equity. Previously, Dr. Ezell held a position as Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences in the Africana Studies and Research Center. He is a mixed-methods researcher and Fulbright Scholar focused on health disparities and



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social inequality in post-industrial communities, with an emphasis on environmental health, opioid use disorder, and violence. We look forward to his future achievements at GIM.

GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. **Laura Pinheiro, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Health Services Research in Medicine, presented on July 7, 2022, on *When Cancer Is Not The Only Health Concern: How can we help cancer patients manage their comorbid conditions?* **Drs. Cornelius James, Meghan Kiefer, Peggy Leung, Milad Memari, Tanya Nikiforova, Craig Noronha, and Eva Szymanski** gave *Updates in Medical Education* on August 4, 2022. To learn more about upcoming GIM Grand Rounds, click [here](#).

Spread the Word

Madeline Sterling, MD, was featured in Entrepreneur as This Physician Is on a Mission to Empower Home Health Aides. Read more [here](#) on how she's doing it! She was also featured on Young Change Makers: Why and How Dr. Madeline Sterling of Weill Cornell Medicine Is Helping to Change Our World in Authority Magazine. Read more [here](#)!

Matthew McCarthy, MD, Associate Professor in Medicine, gave a lecture at the American Museum of Natural History on *A Brief History of the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic*.

Michelle Loy, MD, spoke with Dr. John Leonard about marijuana as medicine on Weill Cornell Medicine's *CancerCast* postcast. Listen [here](#)!

Todd Cutler, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, gave Medicine Grand Rounds at Maimonides Medical Center on June 9, 2022, on *Point of Care Ultrasound in Hospital Medicine*.

Drs. Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, Laura Kolbe, and Nekee Pandya presented at Department of Medicine Grand Rounds on July 27, 2022 on *Communication Reboot: An Evidence-Based Approach to Success with Patients, Learners and Teams*.

Welcome to the Team!

Faculty:

Neha Nagpal, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Madison Dennis, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Katherine Penziner, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Shiran Porat, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Alex Huttle, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Rochelle Wong, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Tanya Bhardwaj, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Carly Borinsky, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Sandeep Sikerwar, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Elizabeth Wang, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Apra-Marie Watson, MD, Instructor in Medicine
Fizza Sajid, MD, POCUS Fellow
Hafiz Jeelani, MD, POCUS Fellow
Rolfe Retuya, MD, POCUS Fellow
Bianca Lee, DO, Integrative Health Fellow
Serena Flaherty, PhD, Health Equity Research Fellow
Timothy Fatato, LaC, IHW Fellow

Staff:

Jazmine Williams, Administrative Specialist to Dr. Monika Safford
Maryam Hyder, BA, Research Assistant for Dr. Parag Goyal
Brooke Kelly, BS, Research Assistant for Dr. Parag Goyal
Princess Osma, MS, Research Assistant for Dr. Parag Goyal
Ryan Mohebpour, BS, Research Assistant for Dr. Parag Goyal

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Meena Seetharaman, BS, PALS Administrative & Research Assistant for Laura Gingras, Monika Safford, Elizabeth Baquero

Congratulations!

Musarrat Nahid, MSc, Research Data Analyst has been promoted to Senior Research Data Analyst effective September 1, 2022!

Vladimir Murenko, BA, Academic Program Coordinator was promoted to Administrative Manager effective July 1, 2022!

Orysya Soroka, MS, Senior Research Data Analyst, Feng Zhen, Transition Coordinator, Elizabeth Baquero, EdD, Research Administrator, Grace Figueroa, BS, CCHE Administrative Specialist, and Kathryn Zhu, MPA, Fellowship & Educational Program Coordinator, were selected as Star Performers in the Weill Department of Medicine. Keep up the excellent work!

Farewell!

Ilana Prior Redmond, MD, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Melissa Yutronich, BA, Clinical Operations Administrator, has accepted a new position at Catholic Health

Daisy Torres-Baez, MS, Diversity Program Coordinator, has accepted a new position at Southern Connecticut State University

Katelyn Zingg, BA, Administrative Specialist for Dr. Monika Safford, has relocated to Minnesota and accepted a new role with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Lisa Souza, PALS Content Developer

Jacklyn Cho, Research Assistant for Drs. Sterling & Pinheiro got into medical school

Assem Jabri, Research Assistant for Dr. Monika Safford

Mahad Musse, Research Assistant for Dr. Goyal