



Infectious Diseases Division Newsletter

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Awards and Honors
- Appointments and Transitions
- Grants
- Other News
- Newsroom Updates
- Divisional Publications
- Important Dates





Awards and Honors



Congratulations to **Fanta Jobarteh**, Patient Lab Technician – CCTU, for being selected as a Star Performer in the Department of Medicine's Results, Rewards and Recognition Program:

The Star Performer Program recognizes:

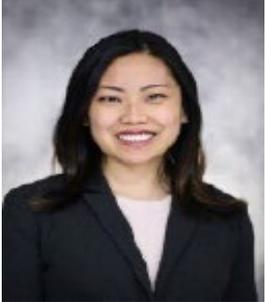
- Service that is consistently exceptional,
- Thoughtful, considerate treatment of others,
- Actions that demonstrate extraordinary dedication and
- Role models of excellence

Feel free to nominate an employee who exhibits STAR qualities here: ([Link](#))





Awards and Honors



Congratulations to **Catherine Cai**, who was awarded a travel award to attend IDWeek, in October.



Congratulations to **Gabriel Motoa Cardona**, who was awarded a travel award to attend the AST Fellows Symposium, in September.



Congratulations to **Joshua Rosenblatt** on completing the Group Peer Mentoring Program in 2024-2025. ([Link](#))



Appointments and Transitions



Congratulations to **Evan Cooper**, who was promoted to Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, effective July 1.



Congratulations to **David DiTullio**, who joined the Fellows Community of Practice Executive Committee of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), joined the Professional Development Committee as a Workgroup Chair (IDSA), and was accepted into the Health Informatics Masters program here at WCM.



Welcome to **Dana Fantuzzi**, who joined the CSS team as a Nurse Practitioner.



Congratulations to **Lee Gottesdiener**, who joined the faculty as an Instructor in Medicine, effective July 1.



Appointments and Transitions



Congratulations to **Tony Li-Geng**, who was accepted to the CTSC certificate program in Clinical Investigation.



Congratulations to **Grace Maldarelli**, who was promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine, effective July 1.



Congratulations to **Khanh Pham**, who was promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine, effective July 1.



Welcome to **Karen Rainford**, who joined the CSS team as a GYN Nurse Practitioner.



Appointments and Transitions



Welcome to **Keemia Rashidi**, who joined as an I.D. Pharmacist.



Welcome to **Alex Stabell**, who joined the faculty as Clinical Instructor in Medicine, effective July 1.





Grants



Congratulations to **Brad Jones**, who successfully competed for an UM1 grant by NIH, entitled “INSPIRE: Innovative Strategies for Personalized Immunotherapies and Reservoir Eradication”.



Congratulations to **Lish Ndhlovu**, who successfully competed for a grant by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), entitled: “Single cell dark matter in the context of HIV and substance use”.



Congratulations to **Khanh Pham**, who successfully competed for the Clinical Research LRP award from the NIAID. This LRP (Loan Repayment) award is for a period of two years.





Other News

On July 8th, WCM hosted the second WCM/Rutgers Health NeuroHIV Research Symposium. ([Link](#))



Matt Bendall gave a talk on:
“Exploring genomic dark matter with Stellarscope”.





Other News



The I.D. Division was well-represented at The International AIDS Society Conference in Kigali, Rwanda from July 13 to July 17.

Kathryn Dupnik's Oral Abstract:

“Increased systemic inflammation and plasmacytoid dendritic cells in people living with HIV with history of cured pulmonary TB”.





Other News



Continued:

Trip Gulick's Oral Abstract:

ACTG 5391: A randomized multicentre 3-arm controlled trial for people with obesity on integrase inhibitors and tenofovir alafenamide switching to doravirine, with or without tenofovir disoproxil fumarate.



Trip Gulick (left) and Lish Ndhlovu (right)



Other News



IAS 2025

Continued:

Lish Ndhlovu gave a talk at the IAS 2025 Satellite Symposium, entitled: “Metabolic Targeting to Silence the HIV Reservoir”.

He also moderated an oral abstract session at IAS 2025 – the 13th International Congress on HIV Science, entitled:

“Basic science highlights: Cutting-edge research and implications”.





Other News



Continued: Photos from the IAS 2025:





Other News

Welcome to our new I.D. Fellows:



Alex Berman
(pxy9003@nyp.org)



Gabriel Motoa Cardona
(gzl9004@nyp.org)



Rohan Goyal
(njr9012@nyp.org)



Emily Frech Preciado
(mbc9012@nyp.org)



Other News

Our Fellows had quite a busy first day, joining Micro Rounds, the NYP summer picnic, and a happy hour with our colleagues at Columbia!





Other News

Additional photos from their first day:





Other News

The Weill Cornell - Salzburg seminar on Infectious Diseases was held this year May 25 to May 30 for over 30 infectious diseases physicians from Central Asia, Eastern Europe, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania and Vietnam.



WCM Faculty who attended (and colleagues from Austria and France):

- **Trip Gulick** (Course Director)
- **Alex Drelick**
- **Jin-Young Han**
- **Jamie Marino**
- **Lee Gottesdiener**



Newsroom Updates



Brad Jones was featured in the following:

[Chicago Tribune](#): “Used In COVID Shots, mRNA May Help Rid The Body Of HIV”.



Jen Downs was featured in the following:

[Cornell Chronicle](#): “Taking on a tropical parasite, with women in mind”.



Chris Brown and **Kyu Rhee** were featured in the following:

[WeillCornell.org](#): “Is Tuberculosis Starting to Make a Comeback in America?”





Newsroom Updates

Marina Caskey, Andrea Gramatica, Brad Jones and Guin Lee were featured in the following:

amfAR.org: “What’s New in HIV Science?
Leading HIV researchers discuss the latest advances”





Divisional Publications

- Chavez, J.V., Bolzenius, J., Chan, P., Cho, K., Mannarino, J., Sacdalan, C., Farhadian, S., Trautmann, L., **Ndhlovu, L.C.**, Tipsuk, S., Crowell, T.A., Krebs, S.J., Slike, B., Suttichom, D., Colby, D.J., Phanuphak, N., Kroon, E., Vasan, S., Sriplienchan, S., Spudich, S., Paul, R., Carrico, A.W., Inside Out: TNFa-RII and Sexualized Drug Use in Acute HIV Predicts Persistent Depressive Symptoms Despite Antiretroviral Therapy, *Brain, Behavior, & Immunity - Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbih.2025.101079>.
- Hawkins KL, Dandachi D, Verzani Z, Brannock MD, Lewis C, Abedian S, Jaferian S, Wuller S, Truong J, Gage Witvliet M, Dymond G, Mehta HB, Patel PB, Hill E, Weiner MG, Carton TW, Kaushal R, Feuerriegel E, Tran HG, **Marks K**, Oliveira CR, Gardner EM, Ofotokun I, **Gulick RM**, Erlandson KM; RECOVER Consortium, the N3C Consortium; PCORnet Consortium. HIV Infection and Long COVID: A RECOVER Program, Electronic Health Record Based Cohort Study. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2025 May 12:ciaf242. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciaf242. Epub ahead of print. [PMID: 40354184](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40354184/).
- Hu W, Foord C, Hsu J, Fan L, **Corley MJ**, Lanjewar SN, Xu S, Belchikov N, He Y, **Pang APS**, Bhatia TN, Jarroux J, Joglekar A, Milner TA, **Ndhlovu LC**, Zhang J, Butelman E, Sloan SA, Lee VMY, Gan L, Tilgner HU. Combined single-cell profiling of chromatin-transcriptome and splicing across brain cell types, regions and disease state. *Nat Biotechnol*. 2025 Jul 22. doi: 10.1038/s41587-025-02734-5. Epub ahead of print. [PMID: 40696189](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40696189/).



Important Dates



Next I.D. Faculty Meeting
Postponed
Next Meeting: **9/4**



Labor Day
(WCM Holiday)

