

# General Internal Medicine Newsletter



## Message from Division Leadership

We have great expectations for this year. Hospital Medicine is committed to expanding institutional support for our inpatient addiction medicine program so that patients at both NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital (NYP/LMH) have equal access to state-of-the-art care inpatient care for addictions, as well as sufficient resources to provide post-discharge continuity in outpatient clinics. Another major clinical initiative is securing financial support for the Hospital Medicine Procedure Service, which not only offers ultrasound-guided paracentesis, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, and aspiration of affected joints and abscesses but also bedside insertion of emergency dialysis catheters. The goal is to expand these services to include patients at NYP/LMH. A third clinical initiative is the creation of an NYP/LMH Medicine and Surgery Co-management Service to improve the care of these patients. Among several faculty development programs, we expect >50% growth this year in our program to train physicians to facilitate and lead peer mentoring groups, and similar growth in our related program to offer facilitated group peer mentoring to over 60 faculty across the medical college.

**Arthur Evans, MD | Chief, Hospital Medicine**

## Education Updates

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 [Brian Eiss, MD](#), Clerkship Director, and [Kathryn Zhu, MPA](#), Interim Clerkship Coordinator, regarding any potential precepting/lecture opportunities.

## Primary Care Innovations Program (PCI)

**Save the Date** for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Primary Care & Hospital Medicine Innovations Symposia on Thursday, May 25, 2023, in Belfer Research Building!

## Research Updates

**Iris Navarro-Millán, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, received a \$2.5M grant from Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation for her study, *Healthier: A Peer Coach Intervention to Improve Mental Health in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis*. The award duration is from July 2023 through June 2028.



**David Scales, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, received a \$1.2M grant from the Annenberg Public Policy Center for his study, *Adapting the Bottom-Line Protective Knowledge Model to include identification of misinformation on reproductive and maternal health and vaccination*. The award duration is from January 2023 through June 2024.



**Arnab Ghosh, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was awarded a five-year K08 grant in the amount of \$920,000 from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for his study on, *Improving the identification of persons at risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes from extreme weather events in the age of climate change*.



**Arnab Ghosh, MD**, was awarded a two-year grant in the amount of \$150,000 by the Cornell Center for Pandemic Preparedness and Response for his project on, *The Interaction of Public Health Emergencies: Understanding Nation-wide and City-wide Spatiotemporal Dynamics of COVID-19 Transmission in a Warming World*.

**Arnab Ghosh, MD**, received a two-year grant in the amount of \$50,000 from the Collaboration, Communities and Conferencing International Data Corporation for his study on, *Understanding the*

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*relationship between poor sleep and hypertension during heat waves.*

## Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

The Cornell Center for Health Equity Center invites you to take the *optional* course as an avenue to tackle and challenge racism. The self-paced training will equip participants with information, resources, and skills to disrupt spaces perpetuating these intolerant systematic narratives and achieve authentic allyship. We developed this training to help allies navigate these complex spaces through understanding, reflection, and action pathways. We hope this inspires you to take measures toward fundamental transformation to create a more inclusive society. [Click here to start the course!](#)

The **Cornell-Hunter Health Equity Research Fellowship** under the Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Division of General Internal Medicine, in collaboration with CUNY-Hunter College, is uniquely designed to deepen trainees' understanding of health care, local and international healthcare delivery systems, epidemiology of disease, and interventions to improve health outcomes. The fellowship offers four focus areas in primary care, health system redesign, community-partnered research, and global health. To learn more about this fellowship, click [here!](#)

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 today! Find out more about funding opportunities and center activities by [completing a membership application!](#)

## Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

Thank you to all who attended the March 16<sup>th</sup> Quality and Patient Safety Grand Rounds that is held every year during National Patient Safety Week and in honor of Dr. Harvey Klein, who was the forefather of safety and created the infrastructure on which our current QPS processes and programs are built today. Dr. David Leiman, Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology at Duke University Medical Center, Director of Esophageal Research and Quality for the GI Division, and Chair of the American Gastroenterological Association's Quality Committee shared his inspirational work on developing quality indicators on both a national and local level and how they impact and reflect clinical practice. For those who were unable to attend, please watch the recording through this link: [MGR Recordings](#).

Please join us for our Quality Improvement Academy Graduation Grand Rounds on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. The QIA Class of 2023 graduates from the Weill Department of Medicine will present their projects: Jessica Snead, PharmD (Department of Pharmacy/Internal Medicine), presenting with [Felicia Ann Mendelsohn Curanaj, MD](#) (Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism), "*Transitions of Care Evaluation combined with a Virtual Glycemic Management Service to Impact Inpatient Blood Glucose Goals- (TEAM-Glucose trial)*"; [Elijah Douglass, MD](#) (Division of General Internal Medicine/Section of Hospital Medicine), "*Chart Smarter, Not Harder: Improving Mortality with Documentation*"; [Manjinder Kandola, MD](#) (Chief Resident for Quality and Safety), "*Sustainable Strategies for CAUTI Reduction at WCM.*" Later that evening, we are thrilled to host the Annual **Weill Cornell Medicine – Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Poster Symposium and Quality Improvement Academy Class of 2023 Graduation** in person this year at Belfer Terrace & Skylight Lounge from 5-7 PM. We hope you will come and celebrate the grassroots initiatives that improve

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healthcare delivery and practice across Weill Cornell, Lower Manhattan Hospital, Brooklyn Methodist, and Queens campuses. Thank you to **NYP Nursing** and the **PO Division of QPS** for their ongoing co-sponsorship of this monumental event, the only institutional gathering to formally recognize the interdisciplinary quality and safety initiatives across our sites and across the continuum of medical education and practice.

We are also excited to announce the eighth year of QIA with the Class of 2024 starting this fall. The selection process is nearly complete, having received project applications from 7 departments from three WCM/NYP and HSS campuses. Notifications letters will be sent out by the end of March.

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

## Honors & Awards

**Judy Tung, MD**, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, received the 2023 Exceptional Mentor Award from the Awards Committee of the American Medical Women's Association. This award celebrates those who have made an impact on the lives of students in medicine. An "Exceptional Mentor" goes above and beyond what is required and actively reaches out to those around them to help guide those individuals in their career path. The association will be recognizing her in the AMWA 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting – Thriving with Tenacity, Humor & Hope Program Book.



**Erica Phillips, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, is a recipient of the 2023 Community-Engaged Practice and Innovation Award from the David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement. The award recognizes faculty who have developed community-engaged learning, leadership, or research



activities that create curricular and co-curricular opportunities for students.

**Drs. Arnab Ghosh** and **Jerell Ezell** received the pilot grant scholars award from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Community Center Investigator Development Core's Health Equity led by **Erica Phillips, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine. Read more [here!](#)

## Publications

**Todd Cutler, MD** [Prevalence of misdiagnosis of cellulitis: A systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

**Brett Fischer, MD** [High-Sensitivity Cardiac Troponin Algorithms and the Value of Likelihood Ratios](#)

**Arnab Ghosh, MD** [Quantum Advantage of Thermal Machines with Bose and Fermi Gases](#)

**Christopher Gonzalez, MD** [Cultural and neighborhood characteristics associated with activity-specific parenting practices in Hispanic/Latino youth: a secondary analysis of the Hispanic Community Children's health study/study of Latino youth](#)

**Parag Goyal, MD** [Real-world safety of neurohormonal antagonist initiation among older adults following a heart failure hospitalization](#)

**Parag Goyal, MD** [More COACHing Needed to Optimize Care after Heart Failure Hospitalization](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [Anakinra as a potential treatment for COVID-19](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [Montelukast as a potential treatment for COVID-19](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [VV116 as a potential treatment for COVID-19](#)

**Margaret McNairy, MD** [High Dietary Sodium, Measured Using Spot Urine Samples, is Associated with Higher Blood Pressure among Young Adults in Haiti](#)

**Laura Pinheiro, PhD** [Physician Perspectives on the Use of Beta Blockers in Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction](#)

**Laura Pinheiro, PhD** [Fatty acids prime the lung as a site for tumour spread](#)

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

**David Scales, MD** [Community-oriented Motivational Interviewing \(MI\): A novel framework extending MI to address COVID-19 vaccine misinformation in online social media platforms](#)

**Stephanie Sirna, MD** [Authorship Equity Guidelines in Global Health Journals](#)

**Madeline Sterling, MD** [To care for them, we need to take care of ourselves: A qualitative study on the health of home health aides](#)

## Appointments & Promotions

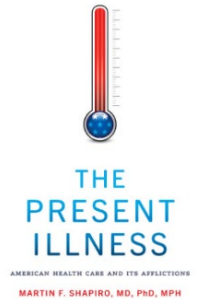
**Iris Navarro-Millán, MD**, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine on the academic achievement and scholarship pathway. Dr. Navarro-Millán has developed two primary areas of independent research expertise: peer coaching in rheumatology, and observational research in arthritis using large databases. She has published 35 papers in high impact journals and mentored several fellows resulting in first authored publication. She has also taken on undergraduate students, medical students, and residents to introduce them to both clinical rheumatology and her research. She has continued to seek opportunities to lecture to medical students, residents, and fellows, and regularly teaches clinical skills. Dr. Navarro-Millán is currently the director of the Diversity Leadership Training Program in GIM, a newly launched program in 2021. We look forward to her future achievements at Weill Cornell Medicine!

## GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. **Jotishman Pathak, PhD**, Vice Chair for Entrepreneurship, presented on January 5, 2023, on *Secondary Use of Longitudinal Clinical Data for Mental Health Services Research*, and **David Scales, MD**, presented on February 2, 2023, on *The Toxins We Carry: Addressing Medical Misinformation Beyond COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy*.

## Spread the Word

**Martin Shapiro, MD**, Professor of Medicine, recently published a new book, *The Present Illness: American Health care and Its Afflictions*. The book explores the current issue with the American health care system by examining the roles of patients and the public, clinicians and their professional organizations, medical schools and their faculty, clinical corporations, scientists and the NIH, manufacturers, insurers and investors, and of government in perpetuating the current system. Dr. Shapiro lays out a number of themes, including commodification, values, needs, expectations, and communication that run across these groups of actors. He draws on substantial evidence from health services and educational research, social theory, research in the social sciences and humanities, and his own experiences to tell this story. The book is now available for purchase on Johns Hopkins University Press, click [here!](#)



## The Patient Activated Learning System (PALS)

needs your help with peer review! As you may know, the PALS seeks to raise the standard for patient education to make it truly patient-centered, answering questions by patients about their medical conditions and medications. We take a unique approach by reviewing the literature to answer patients' questions, then translating these evidence summaries into plain language. We need additional peer reviewers for the evidence summaries. This is a paid opportunity to contribute to the most rigorous patient education platform available today. Peer review is an essential element of keeping this platform rigorously evidence-based. If you are interested in this opportunity, please email [Meena Seetharaman](mailto:Meena.Seetharaman) and visit [palsforhealth.com](http://palsforhealth.com) to learn more about the system.





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The **Patient Activated Learning System** was mentioned in a CNN op-ed by Eloise Chapman-Davis, MD, Director of Gynecologic Oncology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine about *Women Don't Have to Die from Cervical Cancer*. Read more [here!](#)

**Madeline Sterling, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, gave Medicine Grand Rounds on January 4, 2023, on *Home Care Workers' Contributions to Patient Care in Heart Failure and Beyond: Leveraging a Previously Overlooked Workforce*.

**Elizabeth Baquero, EdD**, Research Administrator, gave an oral presentation about the *Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Hands-on Service-Learning Opportunity Utilizing the Patient Activated Learning System (PALS)* at the 21st Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education on January 4, 2023.

**Martin Shapiro, MD**, Professor of Medicine, led a discussion on the Ithaca campus about the flaws and future of the U.S. health care system. Read more [here!](#) Dr. Shapiro also gave Medicine grand rounds on February 1, 2023, on *American Health Care's Many Afflictions: Are They Treatable*.

**Iris Navarro-Millán, MD**, presented at the American College of Rheumatology on *Difficult to Treat Rheumatoid Arthritis: Clinical Factors*, and was also invited to interview with Healio Rheumatology about maintaining the engine of empathy. Read more [here!](#)

**Brett Fischer, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine, presented at New York University on February 22, 2023, on *Transforming Hospital Medicine Through the Care Continuum: Leveraging Health IT*.

**Michelle Loy, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, gave a two-part podium presentation on shared medical visits and narrative medicine at the Academic Consortium of Integrative Medicine Health Symposium

Conference in Chicago on February 28, 2023, that was very well attended and received.

**David Scales, MD**, gave Internal Medicine Grand Rounds on *The Toxins We Carry: Tackling Medical Misinformation Beyond Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy* at Emory University – click [here](#) to watch the recording. He was also nominated to serve on the National Academies of Medicine's Consensus Study Committee on Understanding and Addressing Misinformation about Science. Read more [here!](#)

**Drs. Judy Tung and Alice Tang, MD**, held a workshop on *The Educator's Portfolio: When, Why, and How Should I Maintain One?* on March 30, 2023, for GIM faculty.

## Welcome to the Team!

**Yefrenia Henríquez Taveras**, Research Program Manager for Dr. Sterling

**Yaxkyn Mejia**, Research Assistant for Dr. Navarro-Millan  
**Joandalys Tejada**, Assistant Research Coordinator for Dr. Jerel Ezell

**Andie Kim**, Research Assistant for Dr. Jerel Ezell

**Meron Araia**, Assistant Research Coordinator for Dr. Jerel Ezell

**Stephanie Gallent**, Research Assistant for Dr. Jerel Ezell

## Congratulations!

**Elizabeth Baquero, EdD**, won the "Lucky Star" performer from the Department of Medicine! Keep up the great work!

**Yuliana Domiguez Paez**, Research Coordinator for Dr. Navarro, was accepted into medical school!