



## What's New In Medicine

March/April 2024

**What's New In Medicine**, the newsletter of the Weill Department of Medicine, provides updates on research breakthroughs, honors and awards, and more. To submit your division's latest news, email **Larissa Breedlove** at [lab4020@med.cornell.edu](mailto:lab4020@med.cornell.edu).



## News & Notables

### Third Annual Pulmonary Academic Day a Cross-Collaborative Success



The division of Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine held its third annual Pulmonary Academic Day, an opportunity for cross-divisional, cross-departmental, and cross-campus collaboration for faculty, trainees, and postdoctoral fellows across the Weill Cornell Medicine community.

The event opened with remarks from Division Chief **Dr. Fernando J. Martinez**, **Dean Robert A. Harrington** and **Dr. John Leonard**, Interim Chair of the Weill Department of Medicine. All three took note of the division's extraordinary growth, a reflection of the enormous growth

throughout Weill Cornell Medicine. [Read More](#)

### Peer Coaching Can Help Marginalized Individuals Lower Blood Pressure



For younger Black patients living in rural parts of the Southeastern U.S., peer coaching is more effective than traditional clinical care in controlling high blood pressure, according to a new study led by **Dr. Monika Safford**, the John J. Kuiper Professor of Medicine and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine. The **findings**, which were published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, found that for people under age 60 who have persistently uncontrolled hypertension, the benefits of working with a peer health coach were equivalent to what would be expected from taking a low dose of blood pressure medication. [Read More](#)

### Premedical Student Conference Encourages Careers in Medicine

This past weekend, 64 college students and recent graduates from across the New York City area attended **Strengthening and Healing Communities**, a premedical conference featuring Weill Cornell medical students, faculty, and staff. This exciting annual event, with an emphasis



on health equity, is sponsored by the Weill Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine Diversity Center of Excellence, and Cornell Center for Health Equity.

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## Quick Takes



Faculty from the division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism were among the over 100 attendees from 16 institutions at the **31st Annual Boston Ithaca Islet Club** meeting. Twenty-four talks related to pancreatic islet biology and diabetes were discussed. The division's own **Andrew Rappa** won the runner-up prize for best predoctoral talk.

*Faculty from the division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism attended the recent 31st Annual Boston Ithaca Islet Club meeting.*

The division of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism's **EndoMet Racial Justice Taskforce** recently held its first lecture in a three-part series on Type 2 diabetes entitled "**Diabetes 101 Lecture Series: Meals, Monitoring and Meds,**" at Masaryk Towers, a **NORC** on Manhattan's Lower East Side. **Dr. Gwendolyn Jack** and **Regina Hanna, APRN** led a lively discussion with a group of approximately 35 residents. The next events will take place **Friday, July 19** and **Friday, November 8**.

**Dr. Panagiota (Penny) Andreopoulou** recently participated in a discussion on the connection between bone health and cancer on **CancerCast's Bone Breakdown: Bone Health & Cancer** episode.

**Dr. Susana Morales** was recently elected Secretary of the **Society of General Internal Medicine**.

**Dr. Madeline Sterling** recently received the 2024 Community-Engaged Practice and Innovation Award from the **Cornell David M. Einhorn Center for Community Engagement**.

**Dr. Laura Pinheiro** is among the recipients of two new grants totaling \$1,000,000 from Conquer Cancer®, the ASCO Foundation, in collaboration with Pfizer Global Medical Grants, to **support quality improvement projects** to address disparities in delivery of care and treatment outcomes for patients of color with metastatic breast cancer.

**Dr. Priya Kodiyanplakkal** was recently a panelist at the **Transplant Infectious Disease (TID) - Clinicopathologic Conference Series webinar**.

**Drs. Robert Brown, Jr., Russell Rosenblatt** and **Robert Schwartz** of the division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology were all recently named **Gastroenterology Research All-Stars in Becker's Healthcare**.

## In Memoriam

We are deeply saddened by the recent passing of [Dr. Marc Weksler](#), a pivotal researcher in the field of aging; [Dr. Bruce Gordon](#), a groundbreaking nephrology researcher; and [Dr. James P. Smith](#), a prominent pulmonologist. We extend our condolences to their family and friends.

## Vignettes



**Vignettes** is a historic retrospective highlighting prominent physicians and topics connected to the Weill Department of Medicine. In recognition of March's recent Women's History Month, we are proud to feature pioneer Dr. Connie Myers Guion.

### Helping Transform Outpatient Care

After graduating first in her class from Cornell University Medical College in 1917, **Dr. Connie Myers Guion** spent more than half a century at New York Hospital- Cornell Medical Center. During her internship at Bellevue Hospital, she pushed back against the 24-hour ambulance duty required of interns at the time. When she was told the practice had been in place for 100 years, she reportedly declared **"Well, the century's up!"** The shift was soon reduced to 12 hours.

In 1929, she became chief of the General Medical Clinic at the Cornell Pay Clinic, which helped transform outpatient care for the working class by offering fixed-fee treatments and excellent diagnostic services. Dr. Guion rose to attending physician in 1943 and in 1946 became one of the first women in the U.S. to be appointed a professor in clinical medicine. Dr. Guion also became the first woman to be a member of the New York Hospital Medical Board and an honorary governor of the Society of the New York Hospital. The new outpatient building was dedicated to her in 1963, as the first building to be named after a living woman physician.

*Vignettes is coordinated by [Dr. Joseph J. Fins](#), [Nicole J. Milano, MA \(author\)](#), and [Dr. David J. Wolf](#). Photograph and historical resources used for research are courtesy of the Medical Center Archives of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. Visit [Weill Cornell's archives](#) to learn more!*

### Star Performers

Congratulations to our [latest Star Performers!](#)

To recognize someone in your area, [submit a nomination.](#)



Employee Recognition Program  
Results · Rewards · Recognition  
Nominate a **Star Performer** employee today!

### Cheers for Peers

**Cheers for Peers** is a peer recognition program to help doctors recognize their colleagues for going the extra mile.

Send a big "thank you" to your colleague, fellow or resident for brightening your day by completing our **short survey.**

## Sponsored Research Awards

[Dr. Iliyan Iliev](#), division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, has received funding from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases for a project titled "Investigation of gut microbiota metabolite-mediated transkingdom interactions with fungi in the amount of **\$4,062,071.**

[Dr. Vinay Kini](#), division of Cardiology, has received funding from the National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute for a project titled "Measurement and Reduction of Low-Value Cardiovascular Care" in the amount of **\$3,707,404.**

[Dr. Manikkam Suthanthiran](#), division of Nephrology & Hypertension, has received funding from CareDx, Inc. titled "Optimization of UroMap" in the amount of **\$2,399,999.**

**Dr. Jennifer Downs**, division of Global Health, has received funding from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases for a project titled "Schistosomiasis and Women's Reproductive Health" in the amount of **\$1,015,128**.

## Research Highlights

**Yan L**, Sufra R, St Sauveur R, Jean-Pierre CM, Apollon A, Malebranche R, Théard M, Pierre G, Dévieux J, **Lau J**, **Mourra N**, Roberts NLS, Rasu R, Nash D, Pirmohamed A, Devereux RB, Lee MH, Kwan G, **Safford M**, Adrien L, Alfred J, Deschamps M, Patrice Severe P, **Fitzgerald DW**, Pape J, Rouzier V, **McNairy ML**; Haiti Cardiovascular Disease Cohort study team. [Spectrum of prevalent cardiovascular diseases in urban Port-au-Prince, Haiti: a population-based cross-sectional study.](#) *Lancet Reg Health.*

**Katz, S.** [Surviving Infertility: The patient experience through a physician's lens.](#) *Patient Education and Counseling.*

**Kern L**, Ringel J, Rajan M, Casalino, L, Pesko, MF, **Pinheiro L**, Colantonio, L, **Safford, M.** [Ambulatory Care Fragmentation and Total Health Care Costs.](#) *Med Care.*

**Burton JJ**, Alonso LC. [Overnutrition in the early postnatal period influences lifetime metabolic risk: Evidence for impact on pancreatic  \$\beta\$ -cell mass and function.](#) *J Diabetes Investig.*

**Torres HM**, Marino J, **Simon MS**, Singh HK, Westblade LF, Calfee DP. [High touch surface bioburden associated with the use of disinfectants with and without continuously active disinfection in ambulatory care settings.](#) *Infect Control Hosp.*

**Lima SF**, Pires S, Rupert A, Oguntunmbi S, Jin WB, Marderstein A, Funez-dePagnier G, Maldarelli G, Viladomiu M, Putzel G, Yang W, Tran N, Xiang G, Grier A, Guo CJ, Lukin D, Mandl LA, Scherl EJ, Longman RS. [The gut microbiome regulates the clinical efficacy of sulfasalazine therapy for IBD-associated spondyloarthritis.](#) *Cell Rep Med.*

Tenner S, Vege, S, Sheth S, Sauer B, **Yang, A**, Conwell, DL, Yadlapati, RH Gardner, TB. [American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines: Management of Acute Pancreatitis.](#) *The American Journal of Gastroenterology.*

**Sahyoun LC**, Fetene J, McMillan C, Protiva P, Al Bawardy B, Gaidos JKJ, Proctor D. [Impact of COVID-19 Treatment on Real-World Outcomes in Inflammatory Bowel Disease.](#) *Dig Dis Sci.*

**Goyal P**, DiDomenico R, Pressler S, Ibeh, C, White-Williams, C, Allen, L, Gorodeski E; HFSA Scientific Statement Committee Members. [Cognitive Impairment in Heart Failure: A Heart Failure Society of America Scientific Statement.](#) *J Card Fail.*

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