



# Weill Cornell Medicine

## Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

### What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • March 2018



What's New in Medicine, the bimonthly newsletter of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, provides the latest updates on the department's research breakthroughs, new faculty recruits, and honors and awards.

## Message from the Chair



Beginning with this month's newsletter, I will be adding a Chair's message to update you on topics that are germane to the Department. My message for this month will be relatively brief, given the short duration of my tenure thus far. However, as we move forward, I believe this newsletter will be extremely important, not only for the members of our Department but also for alumni and friends. We will be highlighting our many achievements in addition to research papers published within our divisions.

As I complete my first month as Chair, I feel privileged to be working with a Department that excels at the highest levels in all of its missions. I have devoted much time to meeting all members of the Department and have enjoyed learning about their work within their "in situ" environments. Clearly, our work in the Department covers a large footprint, which brings challenges. At the same time, it presents a great opportunity as we seek to grow in all that we do.

I have also spent time getting to know the house staff as they carry out their work at our medical center. As you all know, they are a superb group and deliver outstanding compassionate care to a complex patient population. I also want to thank our Chief Residents who have been my guides as we traveled the hospital floors and participated in Morning Report. They serve as strong role models for our house staff.

In closing, I look forward to working with everyone in the Weill Department of Medicine. Thank you all for such a warm welcome.

*Tony*

Anthony Hollenberg, M.D.  
Sanford I. Weill Chair

# News



## **Dr. Anthony Hollenberg Appointed Chairman of the WDOM**

Dr. Anthony Hollenberg, a premier physician-scientist in the field of endocrinology, has been appointed to serve as Chairman of the Weill Department of Medicine (WDOM) effective February 1, 2018. The WDOM is the largest clinical and academic department at Weill Cornell Medicine encompassing 16 divisions and 2,600 physicians and scientists. [Read more](#)



## **Dr. Martinez Receives More than Two Million Dollars in NIH Funding for The Capture Study**

The Capture Study, guided by strong preliminary data, seeks to identify COPD patients who are under-recognized and undertreated in primary care. Employing a highly innovative approach, the investigative group will utilize five simple questions in combination with a selective peak expiratory flow measurement in an approach called CAPTURE. [Read more](#)



## **Drs. Mary and Augustine M.K. Choi Receive \$2.1 Million NIH Grant**

In this newly funded project, Drs. Choi will examine the mechanisms by which RIPK3 regulates kidney and lung fibrosis, as well as seek to uncover new biomarkers and molecular targets that can be utilized for diagnosis and treatment. [Read more](#)



## **Dr. Prigerson Receives Prestigious Award for Excellence in Scientific Research in Palliative Care from AAHPM**

Dr. Holly Prigerson (Ph.D.) is the recipient of an Award for Excellence in Scientific Research in Palliative Care from the AAHPM (American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine). This award recognizes exceptional research contributions to hospice and palliative care. Dr. Prigerson is the Irving Sherwood Wright Chair in Geriatrics, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. She has nearly 250 papers in the peer-reviewed journals and her work has been cited more than 27,000 times. [Read more](#) and [watch video](#)



## **Division of General Internal Medicine Hosts “#ProudtobeGIM” Event**

The event, which was centered around poster sessions and networking, covered a plethora of GIM-related topics from evidence-based medicine, integrative health and wellbeing, health care delivery and systems, to training issues, hospital medicine, health disparities, medical topics, and global health. On the front lines of health care service, the expert speakers who delivered presentations helped to illuminate many advances, challenges, and concerns that physicians face in the field of general internal medicine. [Read more](#)



### **Dr. David Montrose Receives 2-Year Grant from the Prevent Cancer Foundation**

The project, set to begin in January 2018, is focused on determining whether the chemopreventive effects of the COX-2 inhibitor celecoxib, are exerted in part, through altering the intestinal microbiota and gut luminal metabolites. [Read more](#)



### **Dr. Robert Burakoff Named as Editor-in-Chief of *Scientific American Medicine***

Dr. Burakoff has previously served as the section editor for *Scientific American Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Endoscopy*. A renowned expert on inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), Dr. Burakoff is the newly appointed Vice Chairman of Ambulatory Services for the WDOM and he also serves as Site Chief for the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital. [Read more](#)



### **Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology: New Chief, New Recruits, New Pathways**

Dr. David Cohen's laboratory is leading the frontiers of molecular regulation of nutrient metabolism and energy homeostasis by membrane lipids, with an emphasis on state-of-the-art research and novel collaborations. [Read more](#)



### **Physicians from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Provide Expertise at the Lungs & Legs Health Fair**

Held in the Harkness Courtyard and open to the public, this event provided spirometry testing and education on pulmonary issues, including asthma and COPD. [Read more](#)

## **In Memoriam**



### **Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld**

Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld, one of Weill Cornell's premier physicians, died on January 30, 2018 at the age of 91. A cardiologist and general practitioner who worked on the Upper East Side for more than 50 years, Dr. Rosenfeld was the author of numerous books and a beloved media personality throughout the U.S. He was the Ida and Theo Rossi Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine in the WDOM and a recipient of Weill Cornell's Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award. [Read more](#)



### Dr. Robert Schaefer

Dr. Robert Schaefer, a beloved physician and educator who specialized in both gastroenterology and internal medicine, died on February 12, 2018. Dr. Schaefer was an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and practiced medicine for more than 50 years. He was affiliated with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the Hospital for Special Surgery. He was a graduate of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed his residency training at Vanderbilt University. [Read more \(PDF\)](#)

## News Flashes

- Under the leadership of **Drs. Fernando J. Martinez, Augustine M.K. Choi, and Robert Kaner**, Weill Cornell has been funded for a T32 grant, entitled “Multidisciplinary Approach to Training in Respiratory Research.” The grant became effective on February 2, 2018 with the first trainee, **Alex Racanelli, M.D., Ph.D.**, appointed. A second appointee will be named in July of 2018. The WDOM congratulates Dr. Martinez’s division and all of the mentors who participated in this outstanding achievement.
- **Dr. Ernie L. Esquivel** has been elected to the Council of the Clerkship Directors of Internal Medicine, the flagship organization for Clerkship Directors of the Alliance of Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM). In this role, he will represent Weill Cornell at the national level in shaping the education of medical students in the field of Internal Medicine.
- **Dr. David E. Cohen**, Chief, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, had great news on the publications front. In collaboration with Dr. Hongliang Li at the Wuhan University in China, a paper was published in *Nature Medicine* on the anti-inflammatory enzyme CYLD as it relates to NAFLD (nonalcoholic fatty liver disease). The paper was highlighted in the [WCM Newsroom](#).
- **Dr. Iliyan Iliev**, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology in Medicine, published pivotal findings in *Science* that illuminate a strong connection between fungi, immunity and intestinal inflammation and suggest a new, targeted treatment strategy for IBD. “Having this gene variant and low ASCA titers could be a good indicator that a Crohn’s disease patient might benefit from antifungal therapy,” said Dr. Iliev. Dr. Iliev, the senior author of this paper, is a scientist at the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease. **Dr. Irina Leonardi**, a postdoctoral fellow, was a lead author of the study. The paper was highlighted in the [WCM Newsroom](#).
- Telemedicine to the rescue! **Emergency Medicine’s** work in the area of telemedicine was featured on Medscape. The piece includes an on-air interview explaining how telemedicine can improve disaster response. [Read article and view video](#).

# Research Paper Highlights

## Cardiology

Chan AT, Plodkowski AJ, Pun SC, Lakhman Y, Halpenny DF, Kim J, Goldberg SR, Matasar MJ, Moskowitz CS, Gupta D, Steingart R, Weinsaft JW. Prognostic utility of differential tissue characterization of cardiac neoplasm and thrombus via late gadolinium enhancement cardiovascular magnetic resonance among patients with advanced systemic cancer. *J Cardiovasc Magn Reson*. 2017 Oct 12;19(1):76. doi: 10.1186/s12968-017-0390-2. PubMed PMID: 29025425; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5639740.

## Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluative Sciences Research

Offidani E, Benasi G, Charlson ME, Ravenell JE, Boutin-Foster C. Impact of Depression and Demoralization on Blood Pressure Control in African Americans with Hypertension: Findings from the TRIUMPH Trial. *J Racial Ethn Health Disparities*. 2017 Dec 15. doi: 10.1007/s40615-017-0439-9. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29247405.

Offidani E, Peterson JC, Loizzo J, Moore A, Charlson ME. Stress and Response to Treatment: Insights From a Pilot Study Using a 4-week Contemplative Self-Healing Meditation Intervention for Posttraumatic Stress in Breast Cancer. *J Evid Based Complementary Altern Med*. 2017 Oct;22(4):715-720. doi: 10.1177/2156587217708522. Epub 2017 May 17. PubMed PMID: 28513187.

## Emergency Medicine

Nochomovitz M, Sharma R. Is It Time for a New Medical Specialty?: The Medical Virtualist. *JAMA*. 2018 Feb 6;319(5):437-438. doi: 10.1001/jama.2017.17094. PubMed PMID: 29181539.

## Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

Goncalves MD, Hwang SK, Pauli C, Murphy CJ, Cheng Z, Hopkins BD, Wu D, Loughran RM, Emerling BM, Zhang G, Fearon DT, Cantley LC. Fenofibrate prevents skeletal muscle loss in mice with lung cancer. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2018 Jan 23;115(4):E743-E752. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1714703115. Epub 2018 Jan 8. Erratum in: *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2018 Feb 20;:. PubMed PMID: 29311302; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5789923.

Igel LI, Kumar RB, Saunders KH, Aronne LJ. Practical Use of Pharmacotherapy for Obesity. *Gastroenterology*. 2017 May;152(7):1765-1779. doi: 0.1053/j.gastro.2016.12.049. Epub 2017 Feb 10. Review. PubMed PMID: 28192104.

Sinha Gregory N, Seley JJ, Ukena J, Shah S, Fred MR, Dargar SK, Mauer E, Kim RJ. Decreased Rates of Inpatient Hypoglycemia Following Implementation of an Automated Tool in the Electronic Medical Record for Identifying Root Causes. *J Diabetes Sci Technol*. 2018 Jan;12(1):63-68. doi: 10.1177/1932296817744808. Epub 2017 Dec 17. PubMed PMID: 29251063; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5761991.

## Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Moretti J, Roy S, Bozec D, Martinez J, Chapman JR, Ueberheide B, Lamming DW, Chen ZJ, Horng T, Yeretssian G, Green DR, Blander JM. STING Senses Microbial Viability to Orchestrate Stress-Mediated Autophagy of the Endoplasmic Reticulum. *Cell*. 2017 Nov 2;171(4):809-823.e13. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2017.09.034. Epub 2017 Oct 19. PubMed PMID: 29056340; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5811766.

Leonardi I, Li X, Semon A, Li D, Doron I, Putzel G, Bar A, Prieto D, Rescigno M, McGovern DPB, Pla J, Iliev ID. CX3CR1(+) mononuclear phagocytes control immunity to intestinal fungi. *Science*. 2018 Jan 12;359(6372):232-236. doi: 10.1126/science.aao1503. PubMed PMID: 29326275; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5805464.

Ersoy BA, Maner-Smith KM, Li Y, Alpertunga I, Cohen DE. Thioesterase-mediated control of cellular calcium homeostasis enables hepatic ER stress. *J Clin Invest*. 2018 Jan 2;128(1):141-156. doi: 10.1172/JCI93123. Epub 2017 Nov 20. PubMed PMID: 29202465.

## General Internal Medicine

Choi JJ, McCarthy MW. The prognostic value of mid-regional pro-adrenomedullin in the evaluation of acute dyspnea. *Expert Rev Mol Diagn.* 2018 Feb;18(2):147-153. doi: 10.1080/14737159.2018.1427069. Epub 2018 Jan 19. PubMed PMID: 29319365.

Offidani E, Peterson JC, Loizzo J, Moore A, Charlson ME. Stress and Response to Treatment: Insights From a Pilot Study Using a 4-week Contemplative Self-Healing Meditation Intervention for Posttraumatic Stress in Breast Cancer. *J Evid Based Complementary Altern Med.* 2017 Oct;22(4):715-720. doi: 10.1177/2156587217708522. Epub 2017 May 17. PubMed PMID: 28513187.

Navarro-Millán I, Gamboa CM, Curtis JR, Safford MM. Lipid management among individuals with inflammatory arthritis in the national REasons for Geographic And Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) cohort. *J Int Med Res.* 2018 Jan;46(1):62-69. doi: 10.1177/0300060517713591. Epub 2017 Jul 12. PubMed PMID: 28701103.

## Hematology & Medical Oncology

Teater M, Dominguez PM, Redmond D, Chen Z, Ennishi D, Scott DW, Cimmino L, Ghione P, Chaudhuri J, Gascoyne RD, Aifantis I, Inghirami G, Elemento O, Melnick A, Shaknovich R. AICDA drives epigenetic heterogeneity and accelerates germinal center-derived lymphomagenesis. *Nat Commun.* 2018 Jan 15;9(1):222. doi: 10.1038/s41467-017-02595-w. PubMed PMID: 29335468; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5768781.

Liu Y, Pelham-Webb B, Di Giammartino DC, Li J, Kim D, Kita K, Saiz N, Garg V, Doane A, Giannakakou P, Hadjantonakis AK, Elemento O, Apostolou E. Widespread Mitotic Bookmarking by Histone Marks and Transcription Factors in Pluripotent Stem Cells. *Cell Rep.* 2017 May 16;19(7):1283-1293. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2017.04.067. PubMed PMID: 28514649; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5495017.

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Silver RT, Barel AC, Lascu E, Ritchie EK, Roboz GJ, Christos PJ, Orazi A, Hassane DC, Tam W, Cross NCP. The effect of initial molecular profile on response to recombinant interferon- $\alpha$  (rIFN $\alpha$ ) treatment in early myelofibrosis. *Cancer.* 2017 Jul 15;123(14):2680-2687. doi: 10.1002/cncr.30679. Epub 2017 May 18. PubMed PMID: 28518222. **[Richard T. Silver, M.D. Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Center]**

## Infectious Diseases

Downs JA, Dupnik KM, van Dam GJ, Urassa M, Lutonja P, Kornelis D, de Dood CJ, Hoekstra P, Kanjala C, Isingo R, Peck RN, Lee MH, Corstjens PLAM, Todd J, Changalucha JM, Johnson WD Jr, Fitzgerald DW. Effects of schistosomiasis on susceptibility to HIV-1 infection and HIV-1 viral load at HIV-1 seroconversion: A nested case-control study. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis.* 2017 Sep 25;11(9):e0005968. doi: 10.1371/journal.pntd.0005968. eCollection 2017 Sep. PubMed PMID: 28945756; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5629028. **[Center for Global Health]**

Glesby MJ, Hanna DB, Hoover DR, Shi Q, Yin MT, Kaplan R, Tien PC, Cohen M, Anastos K, Sharma A. Abdominal Fat Depots and Subclinical Carotid Artery Atherosclerosis in Women With and Without HIV Infection. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr.* 2018 Mar 1;77(3):308-316. doi: 10.1097/QAI.0000000000001606. PubMed PMID: 29210836; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5807152.

Kapadia SN, Abramson EL, Carter EJ, Loo AS, Kaushal R, Calfee DP, Simon MS. The Expanding Role of Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs in Hospitals in the United States: Lessons Learned from a Multisite Qualitative Study. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2018 Feb;44(2):68-74. doi: 10.1016/j.jcjq.2017.07.007. Epub 2018 Jan 2. PubMed PMID: 29389462.

## Medical Ethics

Samstein B, de Melo-Martin I, Kapur S, Ratner L, Emond J. A Liver for a kidney: Ethics of trans-organ paired exchange. *Am J Transplant*. 2018 Feb 14. doi: 10.1111/ajt.14690. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29442420.

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## Nephrology & Hypertension

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Nickeleit V, Singh HK, Randhawa P, Drachenberg CB, Bhatnagar R, Bracamonte E, Chang A, Chon WJ, Dadhania D, Davis VG, Hopfer H, Mihatsch MJ, Papadimitriou JC, Schaub S, Stokes MB, Tungekar MF, Seshan SV; Banff Working Group on Polyomavirus Nephropathy. The Banff Working Group Classification of Definitive Polyomavirus Nephropathy: Morphologic Definitions and Clinical Correlations. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2018 Feb;29(2):680-693. doi: 10.1681/ASN.2017050477. Epub 2017 Dec 26. PubMed PMID: 29279304; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5791071.

## Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

Torres A, Niederman MS, Chastre J, Ewig S, Fernandez-Vandellos P, Hanberger H, Kollef M, Li Bassi G, Luna CM, Martin-Loeches I, Paiva JA, Read RC, Rigau D, Timsit JF, Welte T, Wunderink R. International ERS/ESICM/ESCMID/ALAT guidelines for the management of hospital-acquired pneumonia and ventilator-associated pneumonia: Guidelines for the management of hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP)/ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) of the European Respiratory Society (ERS), European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM), European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) and Asociación Latinoamericana del Tórax (ALAT). *Eur Respir J*. 2017 Sep 10;50(3). pii: 1700582. doi: 10.1183/13993003.00582-2017. Print 2017 Sep. PubMed PMID: 28890434.

Harrington JS, Choi AMK, Nakahira K. Mitochondrial DNA in Sepsis. *Curr Opin Crit Care*. 2017 Aug;23(4):284-290. doi: 10.1097/MCC.0000000000000427. PubMed PMID: 28562385; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC5675027.

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## Rheumatology

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Qing X, Chinenov Y, Redecha P, Madaio M, Roelofs JJ, Farber G, Issuree PD, Donlin L, McIlwain DR, Mak TW, Blobel CP, Salmon JE. iRhom2 promotes lupus nephritis through TNF- $\alpha$  and EGFR signaling. *J Clin Invest*. 2018 Jan 25. pii: 97650. doi: 10.1172/JCI97650. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29369823.

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