



Weill Cornell Medicine

Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • March 2019



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. *To submit information for consideration for future newsletters, please contact Suzanne Ross directly at suross@med.cornell.edu.*

Message from the Chair



Since my arrival, I have spent considerable time reviewing our department's outstanding research programs. Importantly, we have a remarkably talented pipeline of superb trainees and young investigators with programs to support their development. Additionally, we have significant breadth of research across our divisions and centers, including basic, translational, and clinical programs. These programs make significant impact locally, nationally and internationally. Recently, the 2019 Blue Ridge report, which tracks departmental research portfolios across the nation, was released. The Weill Department of Medicine is now ranked 22 in the nation with approximately 65 million dollars in federal funding. Strikingly, we have moved to this ranking from 50th since 2012, making us the fastest rising department in the top 50 in the country. In the current climate, this progress

is a testament to the department and all of its members and portends well for the coming years.

Tony

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

News



Dr. Manuel Hidalgo Appointed to Chief of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology Effective June 1, 2019

A premier investigator in the areas of translational and clinical drug development, Dr. Hidalgo has been at the helm of the early clinical development of more than 50 new anticancer agents.

[Read more](#)



Dr. Hempstead Appointed to Dean of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences

A preeminent hematologist, neuroscientist, administrator, and educator, Dr. Hempstead's distinguished career at Weill Cornell has spanned more than 30 years. [Read more](#)



Dr. Weir Appointed to Director of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at NYPH/WCM for the Lower Manhattan Campus

Dr. Weir's expertise includes treatment and symptom management for advanced lung disease, with an emphasis on compassionate care for the critically ill. [Read more](#)



Dr. Manoach Appointed to Director of the MICU at NYPH/WCM for the Lower Manhattan Campus

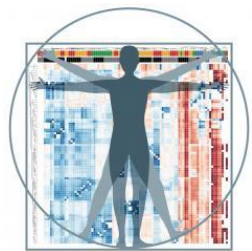
An expert in the pathophysiology of critical illness, including cardiopulmonary interface and advanced airway management, Dr. Manoach is known for his unwavering dedication to improving patient care. [Read more](#)



Cornell Center for Health Equity-Diversity Center of Excellence/Office of Diversity and Student Life: Successful Kickoff for 2019!

The ongoing program of interdisciplinary and multilevel mentoring teams will meet twice more in the spring of 2019; four meetings will be held during the 2019-2020 academic year. [Read more](#)

Research



First Anatomical Map of Innate Lymphoid Cells in Healthy Human Tissues Created: Published in *Immunity*

The innate immune system is the body's first line of defense against invading pathogens, but there has been a lack of information on what a "healthy" innate immune system looks like. [Read more](#)



Phase 2 Trial Using Pembrolizumab for Advanced Esophageal Cancer Yields Promising Results

Pembrolizumab was administered to patients who had already undergone extensive chemotherapy for advanced esophageal cancer and who, subsequently, had not responded to any other treatment. [Read more](#)



Dr. Megan Johnson Shen Receives a Kellen Junior Faculty Fellowship Award

The award will fund her research study on Advance Care Planning and its critical connection to quality End-of-Life care. [Read more](#)



American Society of Nephrology Kidney Newsletter Highlights the Research of Dr. John R. Lee

The newsletter's feature was in recognition of Dr. Lee's pivotal abstract that presented an evaluation of the gut microbiota in 169 kidney transplant recipients. [Read more](#)



Dr. Scott Tagawa Investigates Targeted Radionuclide Therapy for Prostate Cancer with Funding from the DoD

This therapy is primarily being studied for resistant prostate cancer that has spread and/or has not responded to hormonal therapy. [Read more](#)

News Flashes

The WDOM thanks Dr. Katz and New York Cardiology Associates! The Weill Department of Medicine expresses its sincerest thanks to New York Cardiology Associates and to Dr. Lawrence A. Katz, a founding partner of New York Cardiology Associates, for their generous donation to the Residency Training Program in Internal Medicine. This gift has been designated to enhance research experiences for the WDOM's residents in training.

Congratulatory letters were sent from Martha E. Pollack, President of Cornell University, to the following recipients regarding their recent promotions: Dr. Jennifer Downs to Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases (Global Health) and Dr. Gregory Sonnenberg to Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

A **Graduate Medical Education Diversity Welcome Back** was held in January for residency applicants to programs across NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. [Read more](#)

The first **Latinas in Healthcare Winter Mixer** was a huge success. [Read more](#)

Division of Nephrology and Hypertension receives good news from premier journal in the field of transplantation!

Senior author, Dr. Thangamani Muthukumar, Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, and, first author, Dr. Gaurav Thareja (Department of Physiology and Biophysics at WCM-Qatar), collaborated on a paper entitled "Single Nucleotide Variant Counts Computed from RNA Sequencing and Cellular Traffic into Human Kidney Allografts" that was selected as the top 2018 translational paper by the *American Journal of Transplantation*. [Read abstract](#)

The WDOM congratulates Dr. Daniil Shimonov on being selected as the February 2019 Resident Award Winner! Dr. Shimonov, a Fellow in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, received this honor at the Department Meeting on February 15, 2019, where he was given 4,000 points in his NYP Everyday Amazing Account. These points can be redeemed for a variety of gifts. As mentioned on the NewYork-Presbyterian Infonet, "Dr. Shimonov goes out of his way every time he is consulted to teach interesting clinical concepts...in the Emergency Department, on the floors, or on the phone. He is a perfect representative of the kind of physician you would want in a teaching hospital."

Research Paper Highlights

Cardiology

Okin PM, Kjeldsen SE, Devereux RB. Effect of antihypertensive therapy on development of incident conduction system disease in hypertensive patients. *J Hypertens*. 2019 Mar;37(3):629-635. doi: 10.1097/HJH.0000000000001915. PubMed PMID: 30676480.

Cheung JW, Anderson RH, Markowitz SM, Lerman BB. Catheter Ablation of Arrhythmias Originating From the Left Ventricular Outflow Tract. *JACC Clin Electrophysiol*. 2019 Jan;5(1):1-12. doi: 10.1016/j.jacep.2018.11.012. Review. PubMed PMID: 30678772.

Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Yudanin NA, Schmitz F, Flamar AL, Thome JJC, Tait Wojno E, Moeller JB, Schirmer M, Latorre IJ, Xavier RJ, Farber DL, Monticelli LA, Artis D. Spatial and Temporal Mapping of Human Innate Lymphoid Cells Reveals Elements of Tissue Specificity. *Immunity*. 2019 Feb 19;50(2):505-519.e4. doi: 10.1016/j.immuni.2019.01.012. Epub 2019 Feb 12. PubMed PMID: 30770247. [Dr. Artis Lab]

Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Jabbarian LJ, Maciejewski RC, Maciejewski PK, Rietjens JA, Korfage IJ, van der Heide A, van Delden JJ, Prigerson HG. The Stability of Treatment Preferences among Patients with Advanced Cancer. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2019 Feb 19. pii: S0885-3924(19)30049-1. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2019.01.016. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30794935.

Derry HM, Maciejewski PK, Epstein AS, Shah MA, LeBlanc TW, Reyna V, Prigerson HG. Associations between Anxiety, Poor Prognosis, and Accurate Understanding of Scan Results among Advanced Cancer Patients. *J Palliat Med*. 2019 Feb 6. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2018.0624. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30724692.

Lee CC, Czaja SJ, Moxley JH, Sharit J, Boot WR, Charness N, Rogers WA. Attitudes Toward Computers Across Adulthood From 1994 to 2013. *Gerontologist*. 2019 Jan 9;59(1):22-33. doi: 10.1093/geront/gny081. PubMed PMID: 29982458; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6326256.

General Internal Medicine

Pinheiro LC, Reshetnyak E, Sterling MR, Richman JS, Kern LM, Safford MM. Using health-related quality of life to predict cardiovascular disease events. *Qual Life Res*. 2019 Jan 10. doi: 10.1007/s11136-019-02103-1. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30632050.

Sterling MR, Jannat-Khah D, Bryan J, Banerjee S, McClure LA, Wadley VG, Unverzagt FW, Levitan EB, Goyal P, Peterson JC, Manly JJ, Levine DA, Safford MM. The Prevalence of Cognitive Impairment Among Adults With Incident Heart Failure: The "Reasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke" (REGARDS) Study. *J Card Fail*. 2019 Feb;25(2):130-136. doi: 10.1016/j.cardfail.2018.12.006. Epub 2018 Dec 22. PubMed PMID: 30582968; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6377841.

Kern LM, Safford MM, Slavin MJ, Makovkina E, Fudl A, Carrillo JE, Abramson EL. Patients' and Providers' Views on Causes and Consequences of Healthcare Fragmentation in the Ambulatory Setting: a Qualitative Study. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2019 Feb 19. doi: 10.1007/s11606-019-04859-1. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30783883.

Hematology & Medical Oncology

Mark TM, Forsberg PA, Rossi AC, Pearse RN, Pekle KA, Perry A, Boyer A, Tegnestam L, Jayabalan D, Coleman M, Niesvizky R. Phase 2 study of clarithromycin, pomalidomide, and dexamethasone in relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. *Blood Adv*. 2019 Feb 26;3(4):603-611. doi: 10.1182/bloodadvances.2018028027. PubMed PMID: 30792190; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6391672.

Martin P, Bartlett NL, Blum KA, Park S, Maddocks K, Ruan J, Ridling L, Dittus C, Chen Z, Huang X, Inghirami G, DiLiberto M, Chen-Kiang S, Leonard JP. A phase I trial of ibrutinib plus palbociclib in previously treated mantle cell lymphoma. *Blood*. 2019 Jan 28. pii: blood-2018-11-886457. doi: 10.1182/blood-2018-11-886457. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30692121.

Beltran H, Oromendia C, Danila DC, Montgomery B, Hoimes C, Szmulewitz RZ, Vaishampayan U, Armstrong AJ, Stein M, Pinski J, Mosquera JM, Sailer V, Bareja R, Romanel A, Gumpeni N, Sboner A, Dardenne E, Puca L, Prandi D, Rubin MA, Scher HI, Rickman DS, Demichelis F, Nanus DM, Ballman KV, Tagawa ST. A Phase II Trial of the Aurora Kinase A Inhibitor Alisertib for Patients with Castration-resistant and Neuroendocrine Prostate Cancer: Efficacy and Biomarkers. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2019 Jan 1;25(1):43-51. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-18-1912. Epub 2018 Sep 19. PubMed PMID: 30232224; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6320304.

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Infectious Diseases

Bitas C, Jones S, Singh HK, Ramirez M, Siegler E, Glesby M. Adherence to recommendations from comprehensive geriatric assessment of older individuals with HIV. *Journal of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (JIAPAC)* 2019;18:1-8. doi:10.1177/2325958218821656.

Dupnik KM, Reust MJ, Vick KM, Yao B, Miyaye D, Lyimo E, Mukerebe C, Mngara J, Kalluvya SE, de Dood CJ, Corstjens PLAM, van Dam GJ, Zhang T, Xiang J, Lee MH, Downs JA. Gene Expression Differences in Host Response to *Schistosoma haematobium* Infection. *Infect Immun*. 2018 Dec 19;87(1). pii: e00291-18. doi: 10.1128/IAI.00291-18. Print 2019 Jan. PubMed PMID: 30323023; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC6300631. **[Center for Global Health]**

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Medical Ethics

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Fins JJ. Beyond Good and Evil: Doing Ethics in the Clinic. A Lecture Celebrating 25 Years of the Philip Hallie Lecture, College of Letters, Wesleyan University, November 2, 2018. *J Relig Health*. 2019 Feb 8. doi: 10.1007/s10943-019-00768-z. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30737630.

Rheumatology

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