Message from the Chair

As we begin the new academic year, many things seem familiar, including the arrival of our outstanding group of new interns. However, at the same time, many things are different as we evolve as a department from the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has required our full-time focus over the past four months, and we face a number of critical challenges as we go forward during these uncertain times. Importantly, we are adjusting our clinical care patterns to grow our ambulatory volume in all divisions. This is to ensure that all patients can return for the care that they need or want in a structured, safe, and welcoming environment. At the same time, we have increased our virtual capabilities to provide video-visits (telemedicine) to those who are not yet back in New York City or whose care can be handled best in that fashion. Using this and all of our newly learned capabilities, I expect that we will become more efficient as a department and be able to provide care to more patients than we saw prior to the pandemic.

In addition to our clinical operations, we have also reopened our laboratories, which are ramping up towards normal capacity. This process has gone incredibly well over the last two months and we look forward to our bench-based work moving forward strongly. Similarly, our clinical trials, which were stopped during the pandemic, are reopening with patients once again being allowed access to the most innovative research trials across all disciplines.

While our educational programs never stopped, we are now seeing a much greater variety of disease on the inpatient services, which has been superb for our house staff, chief residents, and the Weill Cornell medical students who we have recently welcomed back to our services.

Thus, the Weill Department of Medicine is advancing in each of our mandates, but we will face new challenges every day in this different environment. In particular, racial justice in our greater society and in regard to the healthcare we provide, is at the forefront of everything we do. We need to make much more progress in these areas as a department. I look forward to working with each and every one of you on these issues in the coming weeks.

Finally, I want to thank all of our extraordinary faculty, trainees, and staff for their incredible efforts over the last few months.

Tony

Anthony Hollenberg, M.D.
Sanford I. Weill Chair
Dr. Renuka Gupta Appointed as Chief of Medicine at NYP/Lower Manhattan Hospital

In addition to her roles as a clinician and educator, Dr. Gupta is an expert on hospital operational efficiency, hospital systems, health care policy, and quality improvement. Read more

Dr. Dana Zappetti Appointed as Vice Chair for Clinical Operations in the Weill Department of Medicine

In her new role, Dr. Zappetti will be focused on advancing ambulatory programs across the WDOM, working to ensure the best use of space and resources to meet the growing needs of patients at WCM and NYP. Read more

Diversity Center of Excellence of the Cornell Center for Health Equity Receives U.S. Department of HHS Training Grant

This grant will serve to expand health professions workforce training with a focus on telehealth and distance learning capabilities in response to COVID-19. It will also help to further training on COVID-19 in minority and underserved populations. Read more

A Statement from the NYP/Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Residency Program

We extend our grief, our outrage, and our support, in condemning the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, David McAtee and the countless other Black lives that have been lost to racism. Read more

WDOM Celebrates Faculty Who Received Awards at Commencement 2020

The WDOM congratulates its faculty who received teaching awards at the Weill Cornell Medicine Class of 2020 Commencement ceremony on May 28, 2020. Read more
Dr. Ari Melnick Named Honoree for the 2020 Ernest Beutler Lecture and Prize (ASH)

Dr. Melnick is being recognized for “significant research contributions to the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia through an improved understanding of epigenetics.” Read more

Thank You to WDOM Faculty for the Outpouring of Support for #HairstylesForHeroes!

As of June 1, 2020, more than $80,000 was raised from 180 donors – more than 160% of our initial $50,000 goal – to support the academic efforts of our trainees and junior faculty. Read more

Research

On the Frontlines of COVID-19: Key Guidelines Published in the New England Journal of Medicine

Until a vaccine is discovered and implemented for COVID-19, WDOM physicians on the frontlines continue to focus on diagnosis, drug treatment options, and best practice guidelines. Read more

COMBAT Trial Data Published in Nature Medicine: Triple Combination Approach Holds Promise for Advanced Pancreatic Cancer

Patients with the most common type of metastatic pancreatic cancer showed improved results when treated with a combination of an investigational drug, an immunotherapy drug, and chemotherapy. Read more

Publication in Cell Host & Microbe Reveals Why Some Ulcerative Colitis Patients Benefit from Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT)

Fecal microbiota transplant has been shown in some studies to promote healing in the mucosal lining of the lower digestive tract, thus relieving ulcerative colitis symptoms in some people. Read more
News Flashes

- Congratulations to the following WDOM faculty listed below who recently received promotions:
  - Dr. Laura Alonso (Chief), Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Manuel Hidalgo (Chief), Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Kristy Brown, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Associate Professor of Biochemistry in Medicine
  - Dr. Dmitriy N. Feldman, Division of Cardiology, Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Brett Fortune, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Associate Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Jiwon Kim, Division of Cardiology, Associate Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Laura Kirkman, Division of Infectious Diseases, Associate Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Manish A. Shah, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Professor of Medicine
  - Dr. Nir Uriel, Division of Cardiology, Adjunct Professor of Medicine

- Dr. Laura Alonso, Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, has been invited by the Department of Health and Human Services (NIH) to serve as the Chairperson of the Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology Study Section, Center for Scientific Review. She will serve as Chairperson from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. Membership on this study section is determined upon demonstrated competence and achievement in the member’s scientific discipline as evidenced by the quality of research accomplishments, publications in scientific journals, and other significant scientific activities, achievements and honors. The skill and leadership offered by the chairperson determine to a significant extent the effectiveness and efficiency of the review group. Dr. Alonso’s participation on this study section will ensure the quality of the NIH peer review process. The WDOM congratulates Dr. Alonso on this significant honor.

- Dr. David E. Cohen, Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology has been elected to the prestigious Association of American Physicians (AAP). The WDOM congratulates Dr. Cohen on this high honor. Read more

- Dr. Christopher J. Gonzalez, the inaugural HRSA Health Equity Research Fellow at the Diversity Center of Excellence, WDOM, and Lala Tanmoy Das, MD/PhD student, have published a pivotal paper in the Journal of General Internal Medicine (JGIM) on telemedicine and healthcare equity. The paper shares observations from the COVID-19 epidemic, while highlighting patient care inequities seen in socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. Read more

- Lauren Kelly, a resident in the Internal Medicine Residency Training Program at NYU/NYPH/Weill Cornell, explores inequalities in healthcare in The BMJ Opinion. The post is in collaboration with residents from UCLA and UCSF. Read more

- The WDOM congratulates Dr. Parag Goyal, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, on receiving a Career Development Award from the American Heart Association. The project, which is funded between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2023, is focused on successful aging and cardiovascular disease.

- Health Matters! Helpful advice from Dr. Sorana Segal-Maurer on tick bites – COVID-19 versus Tick-Borne Diseases. Dr. Segal-Maurer is the Director of the Dr. James J. Rahal, Jr. Division of Infectious Diseases at NYP/Queens and Professor of Clinical Medicine in the WDOM. Read more
Research Paper Highlights

**Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluate Sciences Research**


**Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism**


**General Internal Medicine**


Hematology & Medical Oncology


Infectious Diseases


Medical Ethics


Nephrology & Hypertension


Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine


Rheumatology


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