



Weill Cornell Medicine

Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • July 2020



What's New in Medicine, the 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



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

News



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](#)

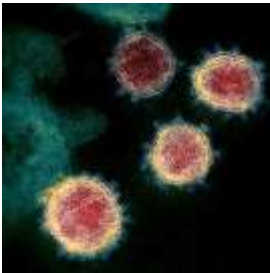


Thank You to WDOM Faculty for the Outpouring of Support for #HairstylesForHeroes!

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 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 & Evaluative Sciences Research

Rouzier V, Liautaud B, Deschamps MM. Facing the Monster in Haiti. *N Engl J Med*. 2020 Jun 16;NEJMc2021362. doi: 10.1056/NEJMc2021362. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32543796; PMCID: PMC7316259. **[Center for Global Health]**

Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

Hopkins BD, Goncalves MD, Cantley LC. Insulin-PI3K signalling: an evolutionarily insulated metabolic driver of cancer. *Nat Rev Endocrinol*. 2020 May;16(5):276-283. doi: 10.1038/s41574-020-0329-9. Epub 2020 Mar 3. PMID: 32127696; PMCID: PMC7286536.

Ritter MJ, Amano I, Hollenberg AN. Thyroid Hormone Signaling and the Liver. *Hepatology*. 2020 Apr 28. doi: 10.1002/hep.31296. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32343421.

Yeh T, Yeung M, Sherman EJ, Tuttle RM, Sabra MM. Structural Doubling Time Predicts Overall Survival in Patients with Medullary Thyroid Cancer in Patients with Rapidly Progressive Metastatic Medullary Thyroid Cancer Treated with Molecular Targeted Therapies. *Thyroid*. 2020 Apr 20. doi: 10.1089/thy.2019.0579. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32131709.

Kumar RB, Aronne LJ. Iatrogenic Obesity. *Endocrinol Metab Clin North Am*. 2020 Jun;49(2):265-273. doi: 10.1016/j.ecl.2020.02.010. PMID: 32418589. **[Comprehensive Weight Control Center]**

General Internal Medicine

Visaria A, Balkan L, Pinheiro LC, Bryan J, Banerjee S, Sterling MR, Krishnan U, Horn EM, Safford MM, Goyal P. Relation of a Simple Cardiac Co-Morbidity Count and Cardiovascular Readmission After a Heart Failure Hospitalization. *Am J Cardiol*. 2020 May 15;125(10):1529-1535. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2020.02.018. Epub 2020 Mar 5. PMID: 32245637.

Sterling MR, Dell N, Piantella B, Cho J, Kaur H, Tseng E, Okeke F, Brown M, Leung PBK, Silva AF, Shaw AL, Kern LM. Understanding the Workflow of Home Health Care for Patients with Heart Failure: Challenges and Opportunities. *J Gen Intern Med*. 2020 Jun;35(6):1721-1729. doi: 10.1007/s11606-020-05675-8. PMID: 32026253; PMCID: PMC7280407.

Pickett S, Burchenal CA, Haber L, Batten K, Phillips E. Understanding and effectively addressing disparities in obesity: A systematic review of the psychological determinants of emotional eating behaviours among Black women. *Obes Rev*. 2020 Jun;21(6):e13010. doi: 10.1111/obr.13010. Epub 2020 Feb 17. PMID: 32067355.

Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Kakarala SE, Roberts KE, Rogers M, Coats T, Falzarano F, Gang J, Chilov M, Avery J, Maciejewski PK, Lichtenthal WG, Prigerson HG. The neurobiological reward system in Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD): A systematic review. *Psychiatry Res Neuroimaging*. 2020 Sep 30;303:111135. doi: 10.1016/j.psychresns.2020.111135. Epub 2020 Jul 3. PMID: 32629197; PMCID: PMC7442719.

Riordan PA, Price M, Robbins-Welty GA, Leff V, Jones CA, Prigerson HG, Galanos A. Top Ten Tips Palliative Care Clinicians Should Know About Bereavement and Grief. *J Palliat Med*. 2020 Aug;23(8):1098-1103. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2020.0341. Epub 2020 Jul 2. PMID: 32614632.

Lichtenthal WG, Roberts KE, Prigerson HG. Bereavement Care in the Wake of COVID-19: Offering Condolences and Referrals. *Ann Intern Med*. 2020 Jun 23:M20-2526. doi: 10.7326/M20-2526. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32574071; PMCID: PMC7346775.

Hematology & Medical Oncology

Béguelin W, Teater M, Meydan C, Hoehn KB, Phillip JM, Soshnev AA, Venturutti L, Rivas MA, Calvo-Fernández MT, Gutierrez J, Camarillo JM, Takata K, Tarte K, Kelleher NL, Steidl C, Mason CE, Elemento O, Allis CD, Kleinstein SH, Melnick AM. Mutant EZH2 Induces a Pre-malignant Lymphoma Niche by Reprogramming the Immune Response. *Cancer Cell*. 2020 May 11;37(5):655-673.e11. doi: 10.1016/j.ccell.2020.04.004. PMID: 32396861; PMCID: PMC7298875.

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Sternberg CN, Fizazi K, Saad F, Shore ND, De Giorgi U, Penson DF, Ferreira U, Efsthathiou E, Madziarska K, Kolinsky MP, Cubero DIG, Noerby B, Zohren F, Lin X, Modelska K, Sugg J, Steinberg J, Hussain M; PROSPER Investigators. Enzalutamide and Survival in Nonmetastatic, Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2020 Jun 4;382(23):2197-2206. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2003892. Epub 2020 May 29. PMID: 32469184.

Infectious Diseases

Jansen RS, Mandyoli L, Hughes R, Wakabayashi S, Pinkham JT, Selbach B, Guinn KM, Rubin EJ, Sacchettini JC, Rhee KY. Aspartate aminotransferase Rv3722c governs aspartate-dependent nitrogen metabolism in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Nat Commun*. 2020 Apr 23;11(1):1960. doi: 10.1038/s41467-020-15876-8. PMID: 32327655; PMCID: PMC7181641.

Magleby R, Westblade LF, Trzebucki A, Simon MS, Rajan M, Park J, Goyal P, Safford MM, Satlin MJ. Impact of SARS-CoV-2 Viral Load on Risk of Intubation and Mortality Among Hospitalized Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019. *Clin Infect Dis*. 2020 Jun 30:ciaa851. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciaa851. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32603425; PMCID: PMC7337625.

Mota TM, McCann CD, Danesh A, Huang SH, Magat DB, Ren Y, Leyre L, Bui TD, Rohwetter TM, Kovacs CM, Benko E, MacLaren L, Wimpelberg A, Cannon CM, Hardy WD, Safrit JT, Jones RB. Integrated Assessment of Viral Transcription, Antigen Presentation, and CD8+ T Cell Function Reveals Multiple Limitations of Class I-Selective Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors during HIV-1 Latency Reversal. *J Virol*. 2020 Apr 16;94(9):e01845-19. doi: 10.1128/JVI.01845-19. PMID: 32051267; PMCID: PMC7163115.

Medical Ethics

Fins JJ. Pandemics, Protocols, and the Plague of Athens: Insights from Thucydides. *Hastings Cent Rep*. 2020 May;50(3):50-53. doi: 10.1002/hast.1132. PMID: 32596885.

Fins JJ. Resuscitating Patient Rights during the Pandemic: COVID-19 and the Risk of Resurgent Paternalism. *Camb Q Healthc Ethics*. 2020 Jun 24:1-15. doi: 10.1017/S0963180120000535. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32576307.

Fins JJ. Sunshine is the Best Disinfectant, Especially during a Pandemic. *Health Law Journal of the New York State Bar Association*. Epub ahead of print.

Nephrology & Hypertension

Koyawala N, Reese PP, Hall IE, Jia Y, Thiessen-Philbrook HR, Mansour SG, Doshi MD, Akalin E, Bromberg JS, Harhay MN, Mohan S, Muthukumar T, Schröppel B, Singh P, Weng FL, Parikh CR. Urine Injury Biomarkers Are Not Associated With Kidney Transplant Failure. *Transplantation*. 2020 Jun;104(6):1272-1279. doi: 10.1097/TP.0000000000002948. PMID: 31568213.

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Johnston CD, Ifeagwu KC, Siegler EL, Derry H, Burchett CO, Rice MC, Gupta SK, Choi ME, Glesby MJ. Elevated cardiac risk score by Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease calculation is associated with albuminuria in older people living with HIV. *AIDS*. 2020 May 1;34(6):947-949. doi: 10.1097/QAD.0000000000002492. PMID: 32271253; PMCID: PMC7321911.

Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

Berlin DA, Gulick RM, Martinez FJ. Severe Covid-19. *N Engl J Med*. 2020 May 15. doi: 10.1056/NEJMcp2009575. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32412710.

Zhang WZ. The Origins of COPD: Sometimes the Journey Matters More than the Destination. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2020 May 11. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202004-0959ED. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32391710.

Schenck EJ, Hoffman K, Goyal P, Choi J, Torres L, Rajwani K, Tam CW, Ivascu N, Martinez FJ, Berlin DA. Respiratory Mechanics and Gas Exchange in COVID-19 Associated Respiratory Failure. *Ann Am Thorac Soc*. 2020 May 20. doi: 10.1513/AnnalsATS.202005-427RL. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32432896.

Rheumatology

Mancuso CA, Berman JR, Robbins L, Paget SA. What Mentors Tell Us About Acknowledging Effort and Sustaining Academic Research Mentoring: A Qualitative Study. *J Contin Educ Health Prof*. 2019 Winter;39(1):29-35. doi: 10.1097/CEH.000000000000234. PMID: 30614956.

Navarro-Millán I, Sattui SE, Lakhanpal A, Zisa D, Siegel CH, Crow MK. Use of Anakinra to Prevent Mechanical Ventilation in Severe COVID-19: A Case Series. *Arthritis Rheumatol*. 2020 Jun 30. doi: 10.1002/art.41422. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32602262.

Ricker E, Chinenov Y, Pannellini T, Flores-Castro D, Ye C, Gupta S, Manni M, Liao JK, Pernis AB. Serine-threonine kinase ROCK2 regulates germinal center B cell positioning and cholesterol biosynthesis. *J Clin Invest*. 2020 Jun 2:132414. doi: 10.1172/JCI132414. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32229726.

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