



Weill Cornell Medicine

Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • September 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



Next week, on October 5, 2020, we will be hosting our Fifth Annual Weill Department of Medicine Research Retreat. This will be a virtual event via Zoom. This annual event allows us to celebrate the broad and impactful work performed by our faculty and trainees across many disciplines.

The WDOM continues to succeed broadly in its research mission, as quantified by many metrics that include federal research funding. Most importantly, our new insights and discoveries allow for successful new strategies to combat a wide variety of diseases and public health issues.

Our department is dedicated to fostering the growth of its young investigators who have remained very successful in the context of new career development grants, and we congratulate our junior faculty and trainees who will present next week in the research retreat. The retreat's keynote speaker is Dr. Nancy J. Brown, Dean of the Yale School of Medicine.

The Fifth Annual Weill Department of Medicine Research Retreat will be an exciting event in support of scientific discovery. We encourage everyone in the Department to join us on October 5th.

Tony

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

News



WDOM Hosts Fifth Annual Research Retreat and Keynote Speaker

The Research Retreat will provide a distinct forum to bring together a diverse range of established and emerging faculty and trainees and experts in complimentary fields to foster and expand research efforts in the Weill Department of Medicine. [Read more](#)



Weill Department of Medicine Announces 2020 Annual Report

The report recaps news and activities by division for the calendar year 2019, along with several current feature stories. There are also updates on COVID-19 activities, leadership, honors and awards, and educational programs. [Read more](#) [PDF]



The WDOM Welcomes Dr. Louis (Lou) Bridges, Jr. as Chief of the Division of Rheumatology

An internationally recognized clinician-scientist known for his work in the areas of arthritis, rheumatology and immunology, Dr. Bridges' work has advanced health disparities in rheumatology patient care. [Read more](#)



QIA Celebrates Class of 2020 with Impressive Array of Projects: Focus on Collaboration

The event recognized the accomplishments of the QIA graduates and their ongoing commitment to improving patient care across the institution. Despite the many setbacks due to COVID-19, 10 projects were completed this year. [Read more](#)



Dr. Paul Martin Receives 2020 Physician of the Year Award From NYP's Department of Nursing

The Department of Nursing gives the Physician of the Year Award to recognize physicians who consistently practice with nursing and support staff in a collaborative, collegial, and respectful manner. [Read more](#)

The WDOM Congratulates Its 2020 Diversity Award Honorees!

These awards are presented by The Executive Committee on Diversity and Inclusion: Drs. Linnie Golightly, Joy Howell, Said Ibrahim, Marcus Lambert, Rache Simmons. [Read more](#)

WDOM Faculty Across Many Divisions Accepted to the 2020-2021 Class of LAMP

A development program for junior faculty, LAMP provides participants with critical tools to accomplish their primary career goals as academicians in the field of medicine. [Read more](#)

Research



Dr. Dan Landau Named 2020 Vallee Scholar

Dr. Landau was one of six scientists from around the world to receive this prestigious honor. He will receive \$300,000 in discretionary funds to be spent over four years for basic biomedical research. [Read more](#)

Collaborative Observational Study Yields Key Findings on Kidney Transplant Patients with COVID-19

Until now, vital data had been lacking on graft and patient outcomes in kidney transplant recipients and the management of their immunosuppression in the setting of Covid-19.

[Read more](#)



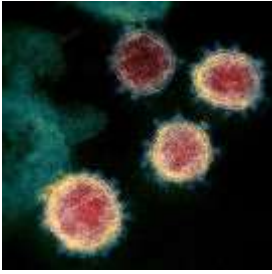
Dr. Parag Goyal Receives The Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging

This prestigious research award is a 5-year grant in the amount of \$1.1 million and will support development and testing of Dr. Goyal's novel strategy for deprescribing medication in older adults with heart failure. [Read more](#)



Pivotal Paper on *Clostridium difficile* Published in *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*

The paper is a one-year retrospective review of the incidence of *Clostridium difficile* infection in NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center inpatients. [Read more](#)



WDOM Faculty Received Weill Cornell Medicine Grants in Support of COVID-19 Research

The WDOM congratulates three of its faculty - Drs. Julie Magarian Blander, Robert Peck, and Erica Phillips - who received grants from Weill Cornell Medicine in support of their innovative research on COVID-19. [Read more](#)

In Memoriam



WDOM Expresses Deepest Condolences on the Passing of Dr. Harvey Klein

Throughout his remarkably distinguished career, Dr. Klein provided care to patients from around the world, taught hundreds of trainees, and exemplified the highest level of integrity and devotion to our medical center. [Read more](#)

News Flashes

- Congratulations to WDOM faculty who recently received a promotion:
Dr. Jim W. Cheung, Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology
Dr. Matthew McCarthy, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine
- Many congratulations to **Dr. Ellen Scherl**, the Jill Roberts Professor of Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, who will be receiving the Rosenthal Humanitarian Award on November 12, 2020. Hosted by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, Dr. Scherl will receive this award as part of the foundation's 53rd Annual Gala known as "The Great Gatsby." In a virtual event, Dr. Scherl's distinguished career and breakthrough advances in IBD will be celebrated, including videos that highlight her outstanding achievements in research, patient care, mentorship, and philanthropy. Stay tuned for the full story after the event! For detailed information about this event, please visit <https://www.greatgutsby.org>.
- **Dr. Monica L. Guzman**, Associate Professor of Pharmacology in Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has been named one of the [100 inspiring Hispanic/Latinx scientists in America](#) in Cell Mentor (Cell Press and Cell Signaling Technology). The list of the 100 inspiring Hispanic/Latinx scientists working in the United States was presented in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month. Selection for this honor was based on scholarly achievements, mentoring excellence, and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. [Dr. Guzman's Lab](#)
- **Dr. Kristen Marks**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, provided perspectives on a potential vaccine for COVID-19 in a Q&A for the [Weill Cornell Medicine Newsroom](#). She answered questions on everything from progress on clinical trials to safety and side effects.
- Chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, **Dr. Laura Alonso**, has provided valuable information on Diabetes and Covid-19 for "[Back to Health,](#)" a health-focused resource accessible on Apple Podcasts, Google Play and Spotify.
- **Dr. Louis Aronne** and the Comprehensive Weight Control Center were featured in [The Wall Street Journal](#) regarding new strategies on combating obesity.
- The WDOM congratulates **Dr. Lewis Cantley**, the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, on winning the 2020 Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Biomedical Research. The award is given by Johnson & Johnson to an active scientist in academia, industry, or a scientific institute, in recognition of a transformational contribution toward the improvement of public health.
- The Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine has named its first two Thomas K.C. King, M.D. Fellows, funded by The Thomas K.C. King, M.D. Pulmonary Fellow Research Fund. The physician-scientist awardees are **Drs. Christopher Parkhurst** and **Alexandra Racanelli**. Dr. Parkhurst's research is on the connection between the gastrointestinal and central nervous systems, and Dr. Racanelli's is on the role of pulmonary vascular endothelial cells in the disease states of pulmonary arterial hypertension, COPD/emphysema, and fibrosis.
- **Dr. Hana Lim**, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has received the [2020 ASH Research Training Award](#) for Fellows (RTAF). She is one of 16 fellows to receive this award from ASH (American Society of Hematology). Her year-long project, with mentoring from Dr. Katherine Hajjar, will focus on the process that breaks down blood clots, called fibrinolysis, in patients with fatty liver disease -- the leading cause of chronic liver disease in the U.S.

Research Paper Highlights

Cardiology

Narula N, Singh H, Krishnan U, Sciria C, Vohra A, Kim J, Lau C, Feldman D, Kim L, Friedma JL. A Challenging Case of Extensive Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection. *JACC: Case Reports*. Epub 2020 Aug 19;2(10):1437-1442. doi: 10.1016/j.jaccas.2020.07.005.

Kim J, Yum B, Palumbo MC, Sultana R, Wright N, Das M, You C, Moskowitz CS, Levine RA, Devereux RB, Weinsaft JW. Left Atrial Strain Impairment Precedes Geometric Remodeling as a Marker of Post-Myocardial Infarction Diastolic Dysfunction. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2020 Aug 16:S1936-878X(20)30617-3. doi: 10.1016/j.jcmg.2020.05.041. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32828776.

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Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

Goncalves MD, Cantley LC. A 'fast'er way to treat breast cancer. *Nat Metab*. 2020 Jul;2(7):559-560. doi: 10.1038/s42255-020-0225-6. PMID: 32694797.

Shukla AP, Mandel LS, Tchang BG, Litman E, Cadwell J, Kumar RB, Waitman J, Igel LI, Christos P, Aronne LJ. Medical Weight-Loss Outcomes in Patients Receiving Concomitant Psychotropic Medication: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2020 Sep;28(9):1671-1677. doi: 10.1002/oby.22903. Epub 2020 Aug 9. PMID: 32776501. **[Comprehensive Weight Control Center]**

Sharma RB, Darko C, Alonso LC. Intersection of the ATF6 and XBP1 ER stress pathways in mouse islet cells. *J Biol Chem*. 2020 Aug 11:jbc.RA120.014173. doi: 10.1074/jbc.RA120.014173. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 32788214.

Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Zhou W, Sonnenberg GF. Activation and Suppression of Group 3 Innate Lymphoid Cells in the Gut. *Trends Immunol*. 2020 Aug;41(8):721-733. doi: 10.1016/j.it.2020.06.009. Epub 2020 Jul 6. PMID: 32646594; PMCID: PMC7395873.

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Rajan A, Sharaf R, Brown RS, Sharaiha RZ, Lebwohl B, Mahadev S. Association of Search Query Interest in Gastrointestinal Symptoms With COVID-19 Diagnosis in the United States: Infodemiology Study. *JMIR Public Health Surveill*. 2020 Jul 17;6(3):e19354. doi: 10.2196/19354. PMID: 32640418; PMCID: PMC7371406.

Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Shen MJ, Gonzalez C, Leach B, Maciejewski PK, Kozlov E, Prigerson HG. An examination of Latino advanced cancer patients' and their informal caregivers' preferences for communication about advance care planning: A qualitative study. *Palliat Support Care*. 2020 Jun;18(3):277-284. doi: 10.1017/S1478951519000890. Erratum in: *Palliat Support Care*. 2020 Jun;18(3):375. PMID: 31699175; PMCID: PMC7205556.

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General Internal Medicine

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Hematology & Medical Oncology

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Infectious Diseases

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Nephrology & Hypertension

Lubetzky M, Aull MJ, Craig-Schapiro R, Lee JR, Marku-Podvorica J, Salinas T, Gingras L, Lee JB, Sultan S, Kodiyanplakkal RP, Hartono C, Saal S, Muthukumar T, Kapur S, Suthanthiran M, Dadhania DM. Kidney allograft recipients, immunosuppression, and coronavirus disease-2019: a report of consecutive cases from a New York City transplant center. *Nephrol Dial Transplant*. 2020 Jul 1;35(7):1250-1261. doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfaa154. PMID: 32678882; PMCID: PMC7454827.

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Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

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Rheumatology

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