

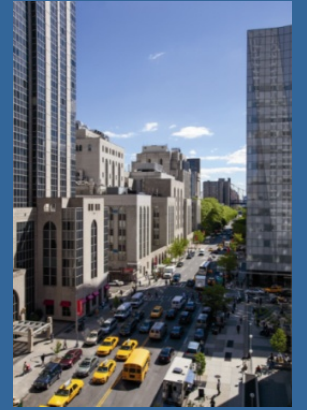


# Weill Cornell Medicine

## Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

# What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • May 2021



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](mailto:suross@med.cornell.edu).*

## Message from the Chair



This is a particularly important time of the year as we celebrate our graduating fellows, chief residents and house staff who have completed their time with us. Clearly, this was a unique and distinct period for training in any field of Medicine, given the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on everything we do.

I want to personally thank every graduate of our training programs and wish them the best as they move to their next professional role. You have all withstood many professional and personal challenges through the last year and have made our institution and the clinical care we provide better through your presence and efforts. We will always remain grateful.

Additionally, we were very happy to be able to celebrate the graduates at last week's grand rounds. At the same time, I want to welcome our incoming trainees. We are pleased to welcome 44 interns to the program (35 in the Categorical track, 4 in the Primary Care track, and 5 in the Medical Research track), as well as 49 fellows across our divisions.

Clearly, this summer will be different than last as we will be able to expand our orientation and integration efforts. We look forward to everyone arriving and joining this outstanding institution.

*Tony*

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

# News



## **Dr. Powell and Colleagues Identify Three Key Inflammatory Proteins Potentially Related to Risk of Acquiring Severe COVID-19**

Drs. Timothy Powell, Douglas Nixon, and Rodrigo Duarte have published a paper in *Clinical & Translational Immunology* that has identified three key inflammatory proteins that may be involved in the risk of acquiring severe COVID-19. [Read more](#)



## **Dr. Martinez Publishes Key Findings in *JAMA* on Treating Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis Using a Novel Trial Design**

IPF develops when the lungs become damaged or scarred, making it difficult to breathe. Researchers have long been searching for a better mechanistic understanding of IPF that could lead to better treatment. [Read more](#)



## **Dr. Landau and Team Publish Findings in *Cancer Discovery* on Mapping Technique that Reveals Epigenetic Drivers of Cancers**

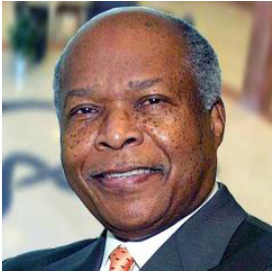
The exciting new algorithm, MethSig, analyzes the thousands of DNA methylation changes detected in tumor cells and infers which ones are likely driving tumor growth. [Read more](#)

## **Weill Cornell's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Diversity Week: Dr. Phillips and Dr. McNairy Receive Prestigious Awards**

The awards represent excellence in research to improve the health of women and underrepresented minorities and/or to reduce health disparities in healthcare systems and in clinical settings, either locally or globally. [Read more](#)

## **Fund for the Future Awards Announced: Advancing Research Careers of Junior Faculty**

The Fund for the Future award supports selected junior faculty during the crucial period of career development spanning completion of research training through the early years of their first faculty position at WCM. [Read more](#)



## **The Dr. Louis Wade Sullivan Diversity Department of Medicine Lectureship: Dr. Sullivan, First African American Resident at NYPH/WCM Speaks on Health Equity**

The Dr. Louis Wade Sullivan Diversity Department of Medicine Lectureship is a newly named lecture in support of diversity and health equity. Dr. Sullivan spoke at WDOM's Medicine Grand Rounds in April. [Read more](#)

## **Doctors and Students Assisting with COVID-19 Vaccine Effort to Address Hesitancy, Access**

Dr. Julianne Imperato-McGinley is leading an effort to help make vaccination for COVID-19 available in trusted spaces within people's own neighborhoods. It is estimated that 70 to 90% of the population needs to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity. [Read more](#)

## **News Flashes**

- Congratulations to WDOM faculty who recently received a promotion:  
**Dr. Arun B. Jesudian**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology  
**Dr. James C. Lo**, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology  
**Antoinette M. Schoenthaler, Ed.D.**, Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Epidemiology in Medicine, Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluative Sciences
- **Dr. Darshana M. Dadhania** moderated and spoke at the Society of Transplantation and International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation joint symposium. The symposium -- Challenges in Heart/Kidney Transplantation -- was held in April of 2021. This was the Society's 41st Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions. Dr. Dadhania's presentation was on sensitization and the role of HLA and non-HLA antibodies in simultaneous Heart-Kidney Transplantation. Dr. Dadhania, an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology and Hepatology, is the Medical Director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program and Program Director of the AST accredited Transplant Nephrology Fellowship.
- The WDOM congratulates **Dr. Choumika Simonis** (PGY-1, 2020-2021, Internal Medicine Residency Training Program) on delivering a talk in Haitian Creole – [translation, "Let's Talk About COVID-19 Vaccines"] – that was held by the YMCA via Zoom on May 4, 2021. Her effort to help in encouraging the community to receive the COVID-19 vaccine is sincerely appreciated!
- **Dr. Joseph J. Fins** authored an editorial, "[COVID-19 Through Time,](#)" for Issues in Science and Technology, a quarterly journal published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and Arizona State University. Dr. Fins asks the question: Have gains in medical knowledge about COVID during the pandemic's first year led to gains in the moral application of that knowledge? Dr. Fins is Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics, WDOM, and the Director of Medical Ethics and an Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

- The WDOM congratulates **Dr. Parag Harinarayan Mehta**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, NewYork-Presbyterian/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital (NYPBMH), on being elected as [President-Elect of the Medical Society of the State of New York \(MSSNY\)](#). MSSNY is New York State's Primary Professional Organization for Physicians. An internist, Dr. Mehta is the Senior Vice Chairman of the Department of Medicine and the Chief Medical Information Officer at NYPBMH. Dr. Mehta holds the title of Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the WDOM at Weill Cornell Medicine.
- **Dr. Susana Morales**, Vice Chair for Diversity, WDOM, has been actively involved with a new campaign from [THE CONVERSATION / LA CONVERSACIÓN](#) that is addressing information needs regarding the COVID-19 vaccine for Latinos and Spanish-speaking people in the United States. Also, Dr. Morales was interviewed on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy on [The Back Story!](#)

## Research Paper Highlights

### Cardiology

Kochav JD, Kim J, Judd R, Kim HW, Klem I, Heitner J, Shah D, Shenoy C, Farzaneh-Far A, Polsani V, Kalil R, Villar-Calle P, Nambiar L, Sultana R, Parker M, Cargile P, Khalique OK, Leon MB, Karpaliotis D, Ratcliffe M, Levine R, Zoghbi WA, Devereux RB, Moskowitz CS, Kim R, Weinsaft JW. Ischemia-Mediated Dysfunction in Subpapillary Myocardium as a Marker of Functional Mitral Regurgitation. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2021 Apr;14(4):826-839. doi: 10.1016/j.jcmg.2021.01.007. Epub 2021 Mar 17. PMID: 33744130; PMCID: PMC8086776.

Kim J, Mitlak HW, Weinsaft JW. Reply: Delivering Ethnic and Racial Diversity in Cardiac Imaging Studies of COVID-19 Patients. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2021 Apr 6;77(13):1701-1702. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2021.02.015. PMID: 33795047; PMCID: PMC8006798.

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### Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluative Sciences Research

Nsanya MK, Ayieko P, Hashim R, Mgema E, Fitzgerald D, Kapiga S, Peck RN. Sustained high blood pressure and 24-h ambulatory blood pressure monitoring in Tanzanian adolescents. *Sci Rep*. 2021 Apr 16;11(1):8397. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-87996-0. PMID: 33864003; PMCID: PMC8052360. **[Center for Global Health]**

## Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

Liang RJ, Taylor S, Nahiyaan N, Song J, Murphy CJ, Dantas E, Cheng S, Hsu TW, Ramsamooj S, Grover R, Hwang SK, Ngo B, Cantley LC, Rhee KY, Goncalves MD. GLUT5 (SLC2A5) enables fructose-mediated proliferation independent of ketohexokinase. *Cancer Metab*. 2021 Mar 24;9(1):12. doi: 10.1186/s40170-021-00246-9. PMID: 33762003; PMCID: PMC7992954.

Aronne LJ, Hall KD, M Jakicic J, Leibel RL, Lowe MR, Rosenbaum M, Klein S. Describing the Weight-Reduced State: Physiology, Behavior, and Interventions. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2021 Apr;29 Suppl 1:S9-S24. doi: 10.1002/oby.23086. PMID: 33759395.

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Tchang BG, Askin G, Sahagun A, Hwang J, Huang H, Mendelsohn Curanaj FA, Seley JJ, Safford MM, Alonso LC, Aronne LJ, Shukla AP. The Independent Risk of Obesity and Diabetes and Their Interaction in COVID-19: A Retrospective Cohort Study. *Obesity (Silver Spring)*. 2021 Mar 11. doi: 10.1002/oby.23172. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33694267. **[Comprehensive Weight Control Center]**

## Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Rendeiro AF, Ravichandran H, Bram Y, Chandar V, Kim J, Meydan C, Park J, Foox J, Hether T, Warren S, Kim Y, Reeves J, Salvatore S, Mason CE, Swanson EC, Borczuk AC, Elemento O, Schwartz RE. The spatial landscape of lung pathology during COVID-19 progression. *Nature*. 2021 Mar 29. doi: 10.1038/s41586-021-03475-6. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33780969.

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Barbet G, Nair-Gupta P, Schotsaert M, Yeung ST, Moretti J, Seyffer F, Metreveli G, Gardner T, Choi A, Tortorella D, Tampé R, Khanna KM, García-Sastre A, Blander JM. TAP dysfunction in dendritic cells enables noncanonical cross-presentation for T cell priming. *Nat Immunol*. 2021 Apr;22(4):497-509. doi: 10.1038/s41590-021-00903-7. Epub 2021 Mar 31. PMID: 33790474.

Barbet G, Nair-Gupta P, Schotsaert M, Yeung ST, Moretti J, Seyffer F, Metreveli G, Gardner T, Choi A, Tortorella D, Tampé R, Khanna KM, García-Sastre A, Blander JM. TAP dysfunction in dendritic cells enables noncanonical cross-presentation for T cell priming. *Nat Immunol*. 2021 Apr;22(4):497-509. doi: 10.1038/s41590-021-00903-7. Epub 2021 Mar 31. PMID: 33790474. **[Jill Roberts Institute]**

## Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Ramer SJ, Viola M, Maciejewski PK, Reid MC, Prigerson HG. Suffering and Symptoms At the End of Life in ICU Patients Undergoing Renal Replacement Therapy. *Am J Hosp Palliat Care*. 2021 Apr 8;10499091211005707. doi: 10.1177/10499091211005707. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33827273.

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Czaja SJ. Current Findings and Issues in Technology and Aging. *J Appl Gerontol*. 2021 May;40(5):463-465. doi: 10.1177/0733464821998579. PMID: 33870749.

## Hematology & Medical Oncology

Astrow AB. Beyond a Child's Question: Physicians and the Existential Unknown in End-of-Life Care. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021 Mar 10;39(8):940-942. doi: 10.1200/JCO.20.02728. Epub 2021 Jan 26. PMID: 33497245.

Csibi A, Fendt SM, Li C, Poulogiannis G, Choo AY, Chapski DJ, Jeong SM, Dempsey JM, Parkhitko A, Morrison T, Henske EP, Haigis MC, Cantley LC, Stephanopoulos G, Yu J, Blenis J. The mTORC1 pathway stimulates glutamine metabolism and cell proliferation by repressing SIRT4. *Cell*. 2021 Apr 15;184(8):2256. doi: 10.1016/j.cell.2021.03.059. Erratum for: *Cell*. 2012 Dec 7;151(6):1345-57. PMID: 33861966.

Zhao X, Kim IK, Kallakury B, Chahine JJ, Iwama E, Pierobon M, Petricoin E, McCutcheon JN, Zhang YW, Umemura S, Chen V, Wang C, Giaccone G. Acquired small cell lung cancer resistance to Chk1 inhibitors involves Wee1 up-regulation. *Mol Oncol*. 2021 Apr;15(4):1130-1145. doi: 10.1002/1878-0261.12882. Epub 2021 Jan 26. PMID: 33320980; PMCID: PMC8024728.

## Infectious Diseases

Corley MJ, Pang APS, Dody K, Mudd PA, Patterson BK, Seethamraju H, Bram Y, Peluso MJ, Torres L, Iyer NS, Premeaux TA, Yeung ST, Chandar V, Borczuk A, Schwartz RE, Henrich TJ, Deeks SG, Sacha JB, Ndhlovu LC. Genome-wide DNA methylation profiling of peripheral blood reveals an epigenetic signature associated with severe COVID-19. *J Leukoc Biol*. 2021 Jan 19;10.1002/JLB.5HI0720-466R. doi: 10.1002/JLB.5HI0720-466R. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33464637; PMCID: PMC8013321.

Fong C, Mateu-Gelabert P, Ciervo C, Eckhardt B, Aponte-Melendez Y, Kapadia S, Marks K. Medical provider stigma experienced by people who use drugs (MPS-PWUD): Development and validation of a scale among people who currently inject drugs in New York City. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2021 Apr 1;221:108589. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2021.108589. Epub 2021 Feb 13. PMID: 33621804; PMCID: PMC8029599.

Pham K, Torres H, Satlin MJ, Goyal P, Gulick RM. Failure of chronic hydroxychloroquine in preventing severe complications of COVID-19 in patients with rheumatic diseases. *Rheumatol Adv Pract*. 2021 Mar 2;5(1):rkab014. doi: 10.1093/rap/rkab014. PMID: 33875975; PMCID: PMC7989153.

## Medical Ethics

Fins JJ. History and Bioethics. *Hastings Cent Rep*. 2021 Mar;51(2):3. doi: 10.1002/hast.1238. PMID: 33840108.

Real de Asua D, Fins JJ. Should healthcare workers be prioritised during the COVID-19 pandemic? A view from Madrid and New York. *J Med Ethics*. 2021 Apr 28:medethics-2020-107050. doi: 10.1136/medethics-2020-107050. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33910974; PMCID: PMC8103555.

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## Nephrology & Hypertension

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Belkadi A, Thareja G, Dadhania D, Lee JR, Muthukumar T, Snopkowski C, Li C, Halama A, Abdelkader S, Abdulla S, Mahmoud Y, Malek J, Suthanthiran M, Suhre K. Deep sequencing of DNA from urine of kidney allograft recipients to estimate donor/recipient-specific DNA fractions. *PLoS One*. 2021 Apr 15;16(4):e0249930. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0249930. PMID: 33857204; PMCID: PMC8049329.

## **Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine**

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## **Rheumatology**

Spiera R, Jinich S, Jannat-Khah D. Rituximab, but not other antirheumatic therapies, is associated with impaired serological response to SARS-CoV-2 vaccination in patients with rheumatic diseases. *Ann Rheum Dis*. 2021 May 11:annrheumdis-2021-220604. doi: 10.1136/annrheumdis-2021-220604. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33975857.

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