

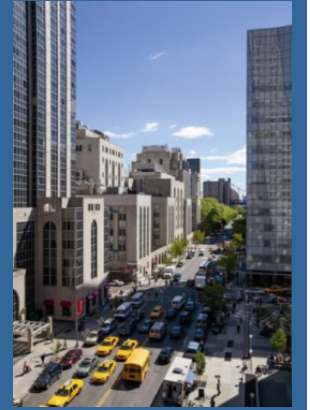


Weill Cornell Medicine

Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • September 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.

Message from the Chair



On October 29th, 2021, the Weill Department of Medicine will host its [6th Annual Research Day](#) which will feature outstanding posters and presentations from our own faculty and trainees. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Drew Weissman from the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Weissman, together with Dr. Katalin Kariko, made the critical discoveries that allowed for the mRNA platform to be utilized to develop vaccines against SARS-CoV2. We are thrilled to host him and celebrate the outstanding research in our own Department of Medicine. Indeed, our research programs continue to grow robustly. Since 2017, our research grant portfolio has more than doubled and, just as importantly, our department features 32 faculty members who are on career development awards from the NIH. Many others have similar awards from foundations or internal

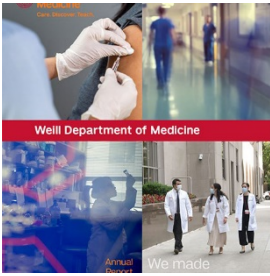
programs, such as Fund for the Future or Jumpstart. This growth will allow the department to continue to make outstanding contributions to meet unmet medical needs in everything we do. I am hoping everyone can attend for at least some part of the day on the 29th. For further information on the 6th Annual Research Retreat, please visit the [Weill Cornell events calendar](#).

Also, please see the live link to our [Annual Report](#). Thanks to Suzanne Ross and her team for its production. We have a lot to be proud of.

Tony

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

News



Weill Department of Medicine Annual Report 2021

Although 2020 was impacted greatly by the COVID-19 pandemic, the WDOM remained steadfastly dedicated to its tripartite mission, which is centered around clinical care, biomedical research, and education. [Read more](#)

The WDOM Launches “Cheers for Peers”: Supporting Well-Being in the Workplace

WDOM is continuing to integrate and align resources to sustain a culture that incorporates best practices and innovation to improve work-life balance, career satisfaction, mental health, and physician engagement. [Read more](#)



The Joan and Sanford I. Weill Center for Metabolic Health Opens: Bringing Together Experts to Catalyze Discovery in Metabolic Disease

The new Center is well-positioned to become a world-renowned leader for scientific discovery in translational and molecular discovery related to the pathogenesis and treatment of metabolic disease. [Read more](#)

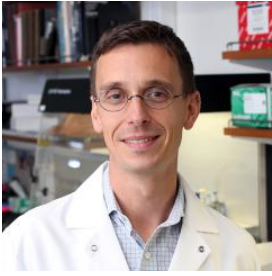
Dr. Martinez and Colleagues Highlighted in NYP’s *Advances* Newsletter: Multipronged Management of Interstitial Lung Disease

With more than 200 pulmonary disorders that fall under the umbrella of ILD, patient evaluation, proper diagnosis, and determining the best treatment is of the utmost importance. [Read more](#)



Dr. Ndhlovu Appointed as Principal Investigator of the HOPE Collaboratory

The HOPE (HIV Obstruction by Programmed Epigenetics) Collaboratory represents a completely new strategy for curing HIV. Utilizing previous knowledge regarding how other viruses have become naturally inactivated over time, the HOPE approach aims to silence and permanently remove HIV from the body. [Read more](#)



Dr. Jones Appointed as Principal Investigator of REACH: \$28.5 Million NIH-funded Grant

As part of The Martin Delaney Collaboratories, which is an NIH flagship funding mechanism, Dr. Jones will be leading REACH (Research Enterprise to Advance a Cure for HIV) in pursuit of a cure for HIV. [Read more](#)



Key Finding Published in *Cell* on ILC3s and Protection Against Colorectal Cancer

Drs. Gregory Sonnenberg, Jeremy Goc, and Manish Shah have discovered that innate lymphoid cells protect against colorectal cancer, in part, by helping to maintain a healthy dialogue between the immune system and gut microbes. [Read more](#)

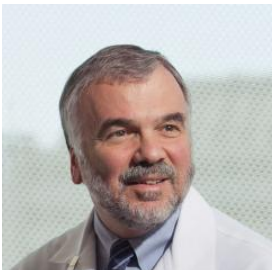


Goncalves Lab at the Forefront of Research Showing How Fructose in the Diet Contributes to Obesity

Dr. Goncalves and colleagues have published a paper in *Nature* demonstrating that a high-fructose diet promotes the elongation of intestinal villi. [Read more](#)

Annual Weill Cornell Medicine Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Poster Symposium Held Virtually

First held in 2012, the event showcases quality and safety projects from all departments across the Weill Cornell uptown, Lower Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn Methodist locations. [Read more](#)



WDOM Announces the Retirement of Dr. Joseph T. Ruggiero: A Remarkably Distinguished Career

Beloved by patients, colleagues, trainees, and staff alike, Dr. Ruggiero is retiring after a 44-year career at Weill Cornell Medicine. [Read more](#)

Residency Diversity Open House Hosts Another Successful Make Your Match Event

Make Your Match provides medical students with important information about the residency match process. Students interact with top experts from Weill Cornell Medicine, and learn about the achievements of current and past residents. [Read more](#)



Drs. Morales and Gonzalez Honored by WHEDco for Tireless Work During COVID-19 Pandemic

Drs. Morales and Gonzalez were celebrated at WHEDco's 2021 Benefit and Ballgame Heroes Honorees event. WHEDco (Building a Greater Bronx!) provides a wide array of beneficial social services to the community. [Read more](#)

News Flashes

- Congratulations to WDOM faculty who recently received a promotion:
Dr. David Wenhan Wen, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
- The WDOM congratulates **Dr. Erica Phillips**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, on receiving the Jack Fishman Associate Professor of Cancer Prevention. [Read more](#)
- On the heels of his appointment as Principal Investigator for the HOPE (HIV Obstruction by Programmed Epigenetics) Collaboratory, part of a \$26.5 million grant from the NIH, **Dr. Lish Ndhlovu** and colleagues have published a pivotal paper on HIV-1 in AIDS. Dr. Ndhlovu and colleagues have found that preexisting host epigenetic states may determine HIV-1 rebound kinetics and reservoir maintenance. It is known that HIV-1, once it is integrated into the human genome, persists in the cellular and anatomical reservoirs during antiretroviral therapy. In this way it can continue to exploit epigenetic mechanisms to enter a latent state that allows HIV-1 to evade the immune system. To date, success has been limited in trying to eradicate HIV-1 in the viral reservoir. However, Dr. Ndhlovu and team have uncovered that by integrating a suite of DNA methylation markers, optimal participant selection and drug regimen may be improved in future HIV cure clinical trials. [Read more](#)

Research Paper Highlights

Cardiology

Gabriels JK, Abdelrahman M, Nambiar L, Kim J, Ip JE, Thomas G, Liu CF, Markowitz SM, Lerman BB, Cheung JW. Reappraisal of electrocardiographic criteria for localization of idiopathic outflow region ventricular arrhythmias. *Heart Rhythm*. 2021 Aug 8;S1547-5271(21)02005-1. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2021.08.003. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34375724.

Sciria CT, Osorio B, Wang J, Lu DY, Amin N, Vohra A, Yeo I, Feldman DN, Cheung JW, Narula N, Wong SC, Kim LK. Sex-Based Disparities in Outcomes With Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms. *Am J Cardiol*. 2021 Sep 15;155:135-148. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2021.06.023. Epub 2021 Jul 19. PMID: 34294407.

Narula N, Devereux RB, Malonga GP, Hriljac I, Roman MJ. Pregnancy-Related Aortic Complications in Women With Marfan Syndrome. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2021 Aug 31;78(9):870-879. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2021.06.034. PMID: 34446158.

Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

Taylor SR, Ramsamooj S, Liang RJ, Katti A, Pozovskiy R, Vasan N, Hwang SK, Nahiyaan N, Francoeur NJ, Schatoff EM, Johnson JL, Shah MA, Dannenberg AJ, Sebra RP, Dow LE, Cantley LC, Rhee KY, Goncalves MD. Dietary fructose improves intestinal cell survival and nutrient absorption. *Nature*. 2021 Sep;597(7875):263-267. doi: 10.1038/s41586-021-03827-2. Epub 2021 Aug 18. PMID: 34408323.

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Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Rosenblatt R, Wahid N, Halazun KJ, Kaplan A, Jesudian A, Lucero C, Lee J, Dove L, Fox A, Verna E, Samstein B, Fortune BE, Brown RS Jr. Black Patients Have Unequal Access to Listing for Liver Transplantation in the United States. *Hepatology*. 2021 Sep;74(3):1523-1532. doi: 10.1002/hep.31837. PMID: 33779992.

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General Internal Medicine

Ghosh AK, Soroka O, Shapiro M, Unruh MA. Association Between Racial Disparities in Hospital Length of Stay and the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program. *Health Serv Res Manag Epidemiol*. 2021 Aug 31;8:23333928211042454. doi: 10.1177/23333928211042454. PMID: 34485622; PMCID: PMC8411641.

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Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Riffin C, Wolff JL, Butterworth J, Adelman RD, Pillemer KA. Challenges and approaches to involving family caregivers in primary care. *Patient Educ Couns*. 2021 Jul;104(7):1644-1651. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2020.11.031. Epub 2020 Nov 28. PMID: 33280966; PMCID: PMC8160020.

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Hematology & Medical Oncology

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Medical Ethics

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Nephrology & Hypertension

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Tummalapalli SL, Mendu ML, Struthers SA, White DL, Bieber SD, Weiner DE, Ibrahim SA. Nephrologist Performance in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System. *Kidney Medicine*. 2021 Jul 21.

Public Health Programs

Mathad JS, Lee MH, Chalem A, Frey MK, Chapman-Davis E, Kopparam RV, Dayal AK, Wald G, Pinheiro LC, Satlin MJ, Goyal P, Safford MM, Salvatore M, Holcomb K. Sex-Related Differences in Clinical Presentation and Risk Factors for Mortality in Patients Hospitalized With Coronavirus Disease 2019 in New York City. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2021 Jul 9;8(8):ofab370. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofab370. PMID: 34381847; PMCID: PMC8344509.

Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

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Suzanne Ross

Associate Director of Communications
Weill Department of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
suross@med.cornell.edu
