

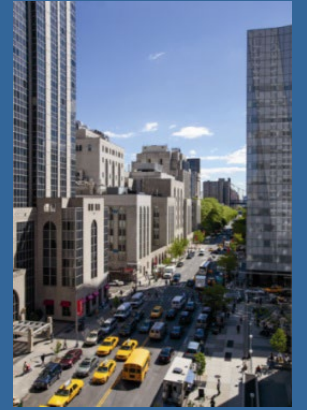


Weill Cornell Medicine

Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • January 2022



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 I write this note, the Omicron surge at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and across our campuses has begun to improve. We still continue to have significant numbers of very ill patients requiring care and expect this to continue as the wave abates. Similarly, the volume of inpatient work at both of our campuses continues to be significant as the disease burden in our communities remains high.

Despite the surge and challenges around staffing, our department continued to provide the usual level of exemplary ambulatory care across all specialties. In addition, our research programs continued to grow. Over the past few years, we have been very fortunate to renew and obtain new NIH training grants (T32 awards) across many of our divisions. Most recently, our Cardiology program received a new T32 award and Endocrinology is in striking range with a very good score after their first submission. These programs are critical for the growth of our physician-scientists and become part of the continuum within the medical research track in our residency program, fellowship programs, and Fund for the Future, as we build an outstanding development program to support the growth of our research base across the Weill Department of Medicine.

Again, I want to thank everyone for all the care and diligent work over the last number of weeks. I am hoping we will begin to get back to in person conferences and meetings in the next few weeks. The department will update you as we hear more.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and celebrate National Women Physicians Day on February 3rd and all of the contributions of our outstanding women faculty and trainees as we move forward to improve everything we do.

I look forward to seeing many of you (virtually) at our faculty meeting next Tuesday.

Tony

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

News



Dr. Cristofanilli Appointed as Director of Breast Medical Oncology in Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology

Dr. Cristofanilli's many scientific advances in the field of breast cancer include novel biomarkers (endocrine), findings on circulating tumor cells, and drug development with a focus on endocrine therapy. [Read more](#)



Dr. Landau Receives The Mark Foundation's 2022 Emerging Leader Award

The award will support Dr. Landau's development of novel technology to study clonal mosaicism in normal tissues. This research will open a critical window into the earliest stages of cancer formation. [Read more](#)



Dr. Prigerson Highlighted in *New York Times* Article on Prolonged Grief Disorder (PGD)

PGD is a syndrome in which people feel stuck in a cycle of mourning that can last for years or even decades. This ongoing cycle can impair an individual's daily life, relationships, and job performance. [Read more](#)



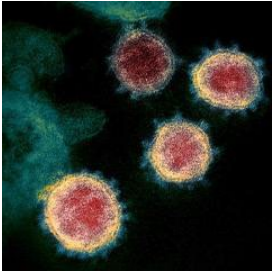
Dr. Sonnenberg and Colleagues Discover Unique Subset of ILC3s and a Connection to Inflammation

The research suggests that countering the activity of inflammatory ILC3s could lead to a therapeutic approach for multiple sclerosis and other brain disorders. [Read more](#)



Dr. Stracher Appointed Chief Medical Officer of Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Stracher will provide clinical leadership and direction on policies and programs that impact the health of faculty, staff, students, board members, and patients at Weill Cornell Medicine. [Read more](#)



Flattening the Curve for COVID-19: Drs. Nixon and Hupert Publish Key Findings in *PNAS*

The study employed a sophisticated computer modeling platform built in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)



Division of Rheumatology: Dr. Bridges Focused on Optimizing Clinical Research and Mentoring

As highlighted in the WDOM's 2021 Annual Report, Dr. S. Louis "Lou" Bridges, Jr., Chief, Division of Rheumatology, WDOM, remains focused on optimizing new approaches in clinical research and mentoring. [Read more](#)



COVID-19 Community Education and Empowerment Internship Receives Gift from Weil, Gotshal & Manges Foundation

The program is part of an effort by diversity and health equity leaders at Weill Cornell Medicine to increase vaccination rates in the Black and Hispanic communities. [Read more](#)



Dr. Wilkin Honored at Medicine Grand Rounds: Promotion to Professor of Medicine

The WDOM congratulates Dr. Timothy Wilkin, Division of Infectious Diseases, on being honored at Medicine Grand Rounds (January 19, 2022) in recognition of his promotion to Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Tony Hollenberg, Chair, WDOM, and Dr. Roy M. Gulick, Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases, WDOM, presented Dr. Wilkin with an honorary chair from the department embossed as follows:

Timothy James Wilkin, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
Cornell University
2020

[POPS](#) | [VIVO](#)

News Flashes

- Congratulations to WDOM faculty who recently received a promotion:
Lindsay Lief, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Debjani Mukherjee, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medical Ethics in Clinical Medicine, Associate Professor of Medical Ethics in Clinical Rehabilitation Medicine, Division of Medical Ethics
Catherine Butkus Small, M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases
- The WDOM congratulates **Dr. Laura Greisman** who has been appointed as co-Director of the Office of International Medical Student Education, formerly known as the Office of Global Health Education. Dr. Greisman, an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine/Section of Hospital Medicine, is a recipient of the “Senior List” teaching award and the Excellence in Medical Education Award at Weill Cornell. She has also served on the Learning Environment Working Group of the WCM Equity and Inclusion Initiative.
- The WDOM congratulates the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine on receiving recognition from the COPD Foundation on January 25, 2022 as a COPD360Net Accredited Center. The COPD Center at Weill Cornell Medicine is led by **Dr. Jamuna Krishnan** and **Dr. Michael Niederman**. Its clinical program provides high-quality patient-centered care and offers advanced therapeutic options, such as Bronchoscopic Lung Volume Reduction, led by **Dr. Ben-Gary Harvey**. As an accredited center, the staff is excited to have the opportunity to work with the COPD Foundation on research studies and clinical trials. The clinic is located at 425 East 61st Street.
- **Dr. David Nanus**, Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, WDOM, and a member of the Meyer Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Medicine, and **Dr. Erica Phillips**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and the Jack Fishman Associate Professor of Cancer Prevention, Division of General Internal Medicine, WDOM, are advancing exciting research that will bring a portable prostate cancer test to underserved men. Their study addresses the need for increasing access to PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) screening among African American men (who are not able to get tested periodically). In collaboration with Dr. Rulla Tamimi and Dr. Kevin Kensler, Department of Population Health Sciences, Weill Cornell Medicine, and colleagues at Cornell University, Ithaca campus, this work is funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. [Read more](#)
- The WDOM congratulates **Dr. Christopher Gonzalez**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, on being selected as a recipient of the 2022 Pilot Grant Award of the Mastercard Diversity-Mentorship Collaborative at Weill Cornell Medicine. This one-time grant, which begins as of January 1, 2022 and runs through December 31, 2022, will support Dr. Gonzalez’s project focused on identifying patient and practice-level factors pertinent to developing and implementing weight-management interventions for Hispanic men in under-resourced settings.
- On the heels of his recently published paper in *Nature* regarding the discovery of a unique subset of ILC3s and a connection to inflammation (see story above), **Dr. Gregory Sonnenberg** and colleagues have published another paper in *Nature Immunology* (January 31, 2022) that has uncovered a key growth factor protein (produced by rare immune cells in the intestine) that protects the gut from Inflammatory Bowel Disease. Dr. Sonnenberg, the study’s senior author, is an Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology in Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, and a scientist at the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Weill Cornell Medicine. Colleagues working on this study included **Lei Zhou, Ph.D.** (first author), who is a Postdoctoral Associate in Medicine in the Sonnenberg laboratory. [Read more](#)
- The Weill Department of Medicine’s newsletter, *What’s New In Medicine* (WNIM), is archived on our [WDOM website](#).

Research Paper Highlights

Cardiology

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Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

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Gastroenterology & Hepatology

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General Internal Medicine

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Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

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Suzanne Ross

Associate Director of Communications

Weill Department of Medicine

Weill Cornell Medical College

suross@med.cornell.edu
