What’s New in Medicine, the newsletter of the Weill Department of Medicine, provides updates on the department’s research breakthroughs, honors and awards, new faculty recruits, and more. To submit your division’s latest news, please email Larissa Breedlove at lab4020@med.cornell.edu.

New Beginnings

Since beginning my role as interim chair, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting many of you as we continue to meet challenges and make a lasting impact in our field. Early this year, I was delighted to share that the Weill Department of Medicine (WDOM) now ranks 19th in annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding - a meaningful climb over the last decade, especially with consideration to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are so proud of our colleagues’ teamwork and dedication.

In this issue, we announce the appointment of Dr. Jonathan W. Weinsaft as our new chief of Cardiology, honor Dr. Monika Safford, the 2023 Jessica M. and Natan Bibliowicz Award winner for excellence in mentoring women faculty, recognize Shentique Brown, RN among the winners of Weill Cornell Medicine’s first annual Nursing Awards, and so much more.

I’m also excited to announce we recently kicked off Vitals, a new video series in which you’ll have the chance to learn more about your colleagues, their work, and the essence of what drives them. We hope you enjoy our first profiles on Elias Baez, Dr. Fred Pelzman and Allison Lasky.

As summer approaches, we look forward to welcoming the incoming 2023-2024 class of residents and fellows. I can’t wait to discover the contributions they’ll no doubt make at our exceptional institution.

Finally, last month we started our Grand Rounds Grand Drawing program. Faculty, staff, and trainees who attend at least two Grand Rounds a month (in person in Uris Auditorium) will be eligible to win a 10th generation iPad. We recently announced our first winner, Dr. John Mancini. We hope you enjoy this issue and take part in our efforts to continue building a live, interactive community here at WDOM.

Warmly,

John P. Leonard, M.D.
Chair (Interim), Weill Department of Medicine
Announcements

Dr. Jonathan W. Weinsaft, an outstanding physician-scientist whose clinical research includes a focus on cardiovascular imaging, has been appointed chief of the Division of Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, effective July 1, 2023.

The Greenberg Division of Cardiology, housed within the Weill Department of Medicine, is dedicated to diagnosing and treating patients with disorders of the heart and blood vessels that comprise the cardiovascular system. Read More

Discoveries

Losing a particularly productive type of beta cell may contribute to the development of diabetes, according to a new study by Weill Cornell Medicine investigators.

In the study, recently published in Nature Cell Biology, Dr. James Lo, associate professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, and colleagues measured gene expression in individual beta cells collected from mice to determine how many different types of beta cells exist in the pancreas. Read More

Notables

Dr. Monika Safford was recently named the 2023 recipient of the Jessica M. and Natan Bibliowicz Award for women mentoring. The Bibliowicz Award recognizes outstanding men and women faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine who demonstrate commitment to advancing the academic careers of women in the areas of clinical care, research, or education.

The individual must have an established record of providing strong mentorship, as well as fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for all faculty. Read More
Dr. James C. Lo, an associate professor of medicine and Dr. Lisa G. Roth, an associate professor of pediatrics, also with an academic appointment in the Department of Medicine, were recently elected members of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) for 2023.

Election into the ASCI, which represents excellence across the breadth of academic medicine, is a milestone for physician-scientists. The nonprofit medical honor society, which is composed of more than 3,000 physician-scientists from all medical specialties, recognizes and supports the scientific efforts, educational needs, and clinical aspirations of physician-scientists to improve the health of all people. Read More

Coinciding with National Nurses Week, Shentique Brown, RN, was among the recipients of Weill Cornell Medicine’s first annual nursing awards. Shentique, a nurse in the division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, received the first annual Rising Star Nursing Award at a ceremony May 11 in the Belfer Research Building.

“It’s an honor to be recognized for this award,” Shentique said. Nursing was not her first career. In fact, she spent years working in the healthcare field in regulatory compliance and coordinator roles before making the transition to nursing. She started out as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) before becoming a full-fledged registered nurse (RN), joining the Weill Department of Medicine in 2018. Read More

Dr. Kyu Rhee, a distinguished Weill Cornell Medicine physician-scientist currently a professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Weill Department of Medicine, has been elected to the esteemed Association of American Physicians (AAP).

Election to the AAP is one of the top honors in health and medicine, recognizing physician-scientists exhibiting excellence in the pursuit of medical knowledge and the advancement of basic or translational science discoveries and their application to clinical medicine. Read More
The **Fund for the Future** award supports selected junior faculty during a crucial period in their career development - the completion of their research training into the early years of their first faculty position at Weill Cornell Medicine. This year’s winners are Drs. Jamuna Krishnan, Bobak Parang, and Lily Yan.

Backed by the generosity of donors to the Weill Department of Medicine (WDOM) and Iris Cantor Center for Women’s Health, the Fund for the Future program provides an initial year of funding to the recipient with a total funding maximum of $300,000. [Read More]

Congratulations to Drs. Thomas Di Vitantonio and Maria Karas, who were recently named 2023 Physicians of the Year by NewYork-Presbyterian’s Department of Nursing. Each year, the Department of Nursing honors a select number of physicians who exemplify Weill Cornell’s values of collaboration and service.

At a ceremony this spring, chief medical resident and instructor in medicine Dr. Di Vitantonio was recognized for being an exceptional partner to the nursing team, proactively seeking nurses’ input. In addition to this and providing exemplary patient care, Dr. Di Vitantonio was lauded for his support of new initiatives, including interdisciplinary cardiac arrest simulations and innovations in blood culture practices in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). Most of all, however, Dr. Di Vitantonio stood out as “an extraordinarily kind individual,” always checking in on colleagues and ensuring his teammates feel supported. [Read More]
**Book Release**


The book tackles the persistent challenges of American health care by weaving together history, sociology, and Dr. Shapiro’s own experiences as a physician. Read More

Dr. Shapiro, below, held a book signing at Lasdon House on June 7. He will continue holding promotional events for the release throughout the year. For more information, contact Jazmine Williams at jaw4006@med.cornell.edu.

---

**40 under 40**

Dr. Gwendolyne Jack, assistant professor of clinical medicine, was recently named to the National Minority Quality Forum 40 under 40 list.

Dr. Jack is Lead of the Ambulatory Diabetes Program at Weill Cornell Endocrinology Faculty Practice. She is passionate about medical education, quality improvement initiatives, health equity, and enhancing the partnership between doctors, patients, and their communities.

---

**Around Campus**

Innovations abound at annual QIPS Poster Symposium

Over the past 12 years, the Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Poster Symposium has become an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary celebration of grassroots quality and patient safety initiatives and innovations. This year’s event was held on May 24, 2023 at the Belfer Research Building.

The evening program included 28 projects from 11 departments across Weill Cornell Medicine, NYP-Lower Manhattan, NYP-Queens, and the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). Read More
Dr. Ari Melnick co-hosts first Health Disparities in Hematologic Malignancies conference

Over the last two years, teams at Weill Cornell Medicine and MD Anderson Cancer Center have been working together on a series of joint projects. Through these conversations, Drs. Ari Melnick and Christopher Flowers identified a broader need for a dialogue among the community of those studying health disparities in hematologic malignancies (HDHM).

The outgrowth of these collaborations was the first Health Disparities in Hematologic Malignancies: From Genes to Outreach conference. Read More

Star Performers & Cheers for Peers

The “STAR Performer” Employee Recognition Program recognizes outstanding non-physician employees who work administration, clinical care, research and more. Congratulations to our Star Performers so far in 2023. It’s easy to nominate a star employee. For questions, contact Nancy Bennett at nbennett@med.cornell.edu.

The medical environment is complex, challenging and often high stress. Cheers for Peers allows physicians, fellows, and residents to celebrate each other’s efforts to support a culture of wellbeing.

Congratulations to our 2023 Cheers for Peers so far this year: Juliet Aizer, Godwin Boaful, Catherine Cai, Kevin Chan, Pamela Charney, Nora Chokr, Benjamin Cote, Swana De Gijsel, Vishal Dodia, Brian Eiss, Emily Fessler, Elise Fraser, Aaron Holmes, Niki Iranpour, Jaya Kanduri, Jennifer Lee, Moshe Lehrer, Han Li, Dana Lukin, Melina Manolas, Alicia Mecklai, Susana Morales, Sharon Parish, Raymond Pastore, Emily Preciado, Anthony Rosen, Blanca Sckell, Zohaib Sckell, Katherine Simon, Vesh Srivatana, and Brittany Toffey. To make a nomination, or to learn more about the program, contact ThuTrang Du at tdu@med.cornell.edu.

Grand Rounds Grand Drawing - May Winner

Dr. Mancini with his brand-new iPad!

Cheers to our first Grand Rounds Grand Drawing winner – Dr. John Mancini.

Faculty, staff and trainees who attend at least two Grand Rounds a month (in person in Uris Auditorium) are entered into a monthly drawing. The winner receives a 10th generation iPad! Grand Rounds are generally held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday mornings – there’s still time to attend a few more before the end of June! We hope to see you there.
As the academic year closes, we enjoy the opportunity to look back and reflect on a wonderful season! A highlight was undoubtedly the privilege of welcoming former chief medical resident Dr. Anthony Fauci back to the WDOM this past spring. Dr. Fauci delivered an inspiring Grand Rounds and was gracious with his time, spending an additional hour with members of the house staff to answer questions and provide advice learned over a decades-long career.

Our residents also presented their original research at numerous national conferences, including the Heart Rhythm Society, American Thoracic Society, Society of General Internal Medicine and Digestive Diseases Week.

We’re especially proud of the changes set for implementation for the 2023-24 academic year! These include increased ambulatory and subspeciality time, further opportunities to individualize training, increased diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and a redesign of the didactic curriculum. We cannot wait to see all the amazing things our Internal Medicine Program will continue to accomplish!

-Tom, Emily, Ben, Rochelle, and MJ

The division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the division of Thoracic Surgery are excited to announce its new Interventional Pulmonology (IP) Service. This service is intended to streamline and expedite the care of patients who may need advanced bronchoscopic or pleural interventions.

For IP consults for inpatients:

- **Order a pulmonary consult in Epic.** Under Orders, type "Inpatient Consult to Pulmonary" and choose WC Pulmonary Consult* in the dropdown.
  
  **Note:** If the appropriate team/location is located at LMH, the Transfer Center can arrange transport to the 68th street campus for the procedure under IP attending’s name. If all discharge criteria are met, the patient will be transferred back to LMH. If necessary, the Transfer Center can also arrange the transfer to a bed and team if the patient needs to stay on 68th street after the procedure. This can be facilitated with the assistance of the pulmonary procedure fellow.

- **Page the pulmonary consult pager:** 14292

Our team will route the consult to the appropriate IP physician on call. Our physicians are on-call 24/7.

For IP consults for outpatients:

- **Order an ambulatory pulmonary referral in Epic.** Under Orders, type "AMB Referral to Pulmonology " and, under reason for referral, choose Interventional Pulmonology in the dropdown.

Awards
**Dr. Laura Alonso** was recently awarded a [T32 grant](#) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This proposed postdoctoral training program (2 fellows/year, 2-year program) in endocrinology and metabolism will provide comprehensive research training for individuals with a serious commitment to a career at the interface of biomedical research and endocrine disorders.

**Dr. Darshana M. Dadhania** recently received the AST Clinical Science Investigator Award at the American Transplant Congress. The Clinical Science Investigator Award recognizes mid-career investigators who have made substantial contribution to the field of transplantation medicine.

**Dr. Altaf M. Pirmohamed** was recently named 2023 Physician of the Year by NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital.

**Dr. Gregory F. Sonnenberg** is the 2023 recipient of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI)-BD Biosciences Investigator Award.

## Service Recognition

We are pleased to recognize **Marisol Valentin** for 20 years of service in the division of Infectious Diseases. Marisol has served in numerous roles over the years, including 11 years an administrative specialist and operations coordinator in the Cornell Clinical Trials Unit (CCTU). She has served for the last nine years as fellowship coordinator. Marisol will transition to a well-earned retirement after her last day on June 30. We thank Marisol for her decades of dedicated service.

To submit, email **Larissa Breedlove** at lab4020@med.cornell.edu.
Appointments & Promotions

ADMINISTRATION
Anna Lezon has been appointed new associate director of Budget and Finance, effective July 1.

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE
Dr. Asia Cordelia Gobourne has been promoted to Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Iris Yolanda Navarro-Millan has been promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine, effective July 1.

HEMATOLOGY AND MEDICAL ONCOLOGY
Dr. John Nathan Allan has been promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli has a new appointment as Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Pinkal Desai has been promoted to Associate Professor of Cancer Genomics Research in Medicine.

Dr. Meng Li has been promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine.

Dr. Peter Martin has been promoted to Professor of Medicine.

Anna C. Pavlick, D.O., has a new appointment as Professor of Medicine.

PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE
Dr. Kelly Marie Griffin has been promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Dr. Robert Jeffrey Kaner has been promoted to Professor of Clinical Medicine.

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
Dr. Yang Lin has been promoted to Instructor of Regenerative Medicine in Medicine (Rafii Lab).

Dr. Xiaofeng Huang has been promoted to Instructor of Molecular Biology in Medicine (Qiao Zhou lab).

Research Highlights

Cardiology

Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
Jack GA, Kashyap SR. "Insulin independence with SGLT2 inhibitor use in Type 2 Diabetes". Endocrinol Metab. 2023 Mar 22:dgad143. doi: 10.1210/clinem/dgad143. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36947088


Gastroenterology & Hepatology


General Internal Medicine

Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Shen MJ, Prigerson HG, Maciejewski PK. Associations between Latino ethnicity and the use of emotional support and completion of advance directives, Palliat Support Care. 2023 Jun;21(3):385-391.

Dr. Sara Czaja was a speaker at the National Academies Science Engineering and Medicine workshop on May 16, 2023 titled Addressing the Rising Mental Health Needs of an Aging Population.

Hematology & Oncology

Infectious Diseases

Medical Ethics

Nephrology & Hypertension


Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine


Regenerative Medicine