



NewYork-Presbyterian

The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell



Department of Surgery

Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery

Chairman: Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Program Director: Kelly Garrett, MD

Program Manager: David Fehling, MA



We are delighted and proud to be an active part of our institution, which is among the top-ranked clinical and medical research centers in the country. Our affiliation with a major academic medical center underscores our department's three-pronged mission: to provide the highest quality of compassionate care, to educate the surgeons of tomorrow, and to pursue groundbreaking research. As members of the clinical staff of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, our team of experienced surgeons practice at the forefront of their respective specialties, offering patients outstanding, humane and personalized care. As faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College, these physicians are educating future generations of surgeons and advancing state-of-the-art surgical treatment.

The history of surgery at the New York Hospital, the second oldest hospital in the United States, reflects the evolution of surgery in America, and is marked by some of the most extraordinary achievements in medicine. The New York Hospital was the cradle of early surgical developments and instruction in America, earning a worldwide reputation for excellence and innovation. Many of today's practices and techniques arose from our institution. Our department continues to build upon our rich legacy of surgical innovations, making important contributions to the advancement of new surgical procedures. Wright Post, MD, one of the first surgeons appointed to the hospital in 1792, was the first in America to successfully treat aneurysms, developing state-of-the-art surgical techniques. In 1878, Lewis Atterbury Stimson, MD, the first professor of surgery at The New York Hospital, performed the first public demonstration of an antiseptic operation in the United States. In 1898, Dr. Stimson organized the charter that established Cornell University Medical College.

William Stewart Halstead, MD, widely regarded as the founder of modern surgery, was trained at The New York Hospital, under the mentorship of Henry Sands, MD, who fostered Dr. Halstead's early interest in anatomy and surgery. Another of our distinguished earliest surgeons was Valentine Mott, MD, a pioneer in vascular surgery.

In 1932, George J. Heuer, MD, joined The New York Hospital as Chief of Surgery and established the nation's second modern surgical training program. During the 1950's, Frank Glenn, MD, the first Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, was internationally recognized as the leading expert in biliary and cardiovascular surgery. In 1963, the first kidney transplant in the metropolitan area was performed by our hospital's surgeons.

Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, who became the Lewis Atterbury Professor of Surgery in 1967, is widely regarded as the father of heart surgery because so many of his innovations were crucial to the evolution of cardiac surgery and cardiopulmonary bypass. He also trained Norman Shumway, MD and Christiaan Barnard, MD, early pioneers of cardiac and organ transplantations.

In 1976, the hospital formed the first comprehensive Burn Center in the New York region— today one of the largest and busiest in the nation. In 1996, we created the first pancreas transplant program in the tri-state area. In 2004 we were the first in the tri-state area to perform minimally-invasive islet cell transplants to cure Type I diabetes. In 2005, the first side-to-side bowel sparing stricturoplasty in the eastern United States was performed in our hospital by the surgeon who pioneered the procedure for patients affected by advanced Crohn's disease of the small bowel. Today our surgeons continues to lead the way in shaping the medical world of the 21st century, and we remain one of the most outstanding academic departments and training programs in the world.

Thank you for applying to our Colon and Rectal Fellowship Program.

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery

Chairman of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College

Surgeon-in-Chief

New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Who Are We?

Thank you for your interest in our program. Our [Colon and Rectal Surgery Residency Program](#) is an ACGME accredited one-year residency that accepts two candidates per year at the PGY-6 level. The resident rotates through three highly-regarded institutions for 4 month blocks each. These include the [Cornell campus](#), the [Columbia campus](#), and [Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center \(MSKCC\)](#). We feel the combination of these institutions creates a unique and truly outstanding training experience that is not only modern and technically advanced, but also wellbalanced. We additionally take pride in our didactic curriculum, which includes not only weekly colorectal Grand Rounds, but an additional weekly core curriculum review.

Weill Cornell Medical College

The Cornell campus is located in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. It features a well-rounded practice in colon and rectal surgery, with significant exposure to [inflammatory bowel disease](#), [malignancies of the colon, rectum and anus](#), [diverticular disease](#), and [other benign/functional diseases of the colon, rectum, and anus](#). The surgeons at Weill Cornell have provided leadership in the advancement of [state-of-the-art minimally invasive colorectal surgery](#) for many years. At the same time, it serves as a tertiary referral center for some of the most complex and challenging clinical cases, including reoperative abdominal and pelvic operations. The faculty members of Cornell have successfully trained of 24 ACGME colorectal residents over 14 years since the initiation of the training program.

Cornell is home to other digestive disease programs such as [the Center for Advanced Digestive Care \(CADC\)](#), [the Jill Roberts Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center](#), and the [Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health](#), and is at the forefront of integrated and multi-disciplinary care for digestive diseases.



NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Who Are We?

Columbia University Medical Center

The [Columbia campus](#) is located in Washington Heights. Together with [Cornell](#) as part of the [NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital](#) system, it remains one of the top institutions for medical and surgical care both nationally and internationally. At Columbia, the entire breadth of [colon and rectal surgery](#) is encountered, with emphasis on [minimally invasive techniques](#) including robotic surgery, reoperative abdominal and pelvic surgery (including the continent ileostomy), treatment of bread-and butter as well as complex anorectal diseases, and endoscopy.

Columbia University was integrated back into the colon and rectal surgery residency in 2015. We are proud of this partnership, which will undoubtedly have a strong positive impact on resident training.



Columbia University Medical Center

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer (MSKCC)



Memorial Sloan-Kettering Center

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center is located in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, close in proximity to the Cornell campus. [MSKCC's Colorectal Surgery Service](#) provides a tremendous opportunity to become expertly trained in the multimodality management of the colorectal cancer patient as well as in the latest techniques in colorectal surgery, such as [minimally invasive surgery](#) (including [colonoscopy](#), [laparoscopy](#), transanal endoscopic microsurgery, and robotics), endorectal ultrasound, peritoneal tumor debulking, and en-bloc exenterative resections for recurrent pelvic disease incorporating intraoperative radiation therapy. The clinical training is organized into one-month rotations in the model of a one-on-one mentorship.

MSKCC also provides a robust didactic experience that includes weekly Grand Rounds, a core course in surgical oncology, surgical oncology conference, and a weekly [Colorectal Disease Management Team](#) conference (which includes a journal club meeting each month). There is in addition a weekly lecture series on topics related to surgical oncology, weekly service discussions, research conferences, and a fellow-run conference dedicated to resident education.

New Fellows 2021



Matthew Symer, MD

In 2008, Dr. Matthew Symer received his BA in Biochemistry from Tufts University. Following this, Dr. Symer received his MD from Stony Brook in 2013. Dr. Symer earned a MS degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the Weill Cornell Graduate School in 2018. Dr. Symer graduated from the General Surgery residency program at NewYork-Presbyterian - Weill Cornell Medicine in 2020.



Vernissia Tam, MD

In 2009, Dr. Vernissia Tam received her BS in Neuroscience from Brown University. She then completed her MD from Johns Hopkins in 2013. Dr. Tam earned a MS in Clinical Research from the University of Pittsburgh in 2018. Dr. Tam completed her General Surgery residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in 2020.

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellow Alumni

All of the graduates of the Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship routinely secure academic and private positions in any one of a number of institutions across the country. Positions obtained by our graduation fellows in past years are as follows:

2020 Graduates

Sarath Sujatha-Bhaskar, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Kaiser Permanente

Glendon Alan Hyde, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of Tennessee Medical Center

2019 Graduates

Gregory Charak, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of Kentucky

John Gahagan, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Stanford University School of Medicine

2018 Graduates

Mark Hanna, MD
Colon and Rectal Surgeon
City of Hope Cancer Center
Duarte, CA

Maria Widmar, MD
Surgical Oncology Fellow
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer
Center, New York, NY

2017 Graduates

Maj. Garrett Friedman, MD
Staff Surgeon
Nellis Air Force Base
Las Vegas, NV

David Kleiman, MD
Staff Surgeon, Lahey Hospital & Medical Center
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Tufts University Medical School

2016 Graduates

Mehran Jafari, MD
Assistant Professor
Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of California, Irvine

Marjun Duldulao, MD
Assistant Professor
Colon and Rectal Surgery
University of Southern CA

2015 Graduates

Emmanouil Pappou, MD
Colon and Rectal Faculty
at Columbia University
Medical Center

Sunil Patel, MD
Attending Surgeon in Colon
and Rectal Surgery at Queens
University in Kingston, Canada

2014 Graduates

Carrie Y. Peterson, MD
Assistant Professor
Colon and Rectal Surgery
Medical College of Wisconsin

Tushar S. Samdani, MD
Research Fellowship
Colon and Rectal Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell

2013 Graduates

Nelya Melnitchouk, MD
Colon and Rectal Attending
Surgeon at Tufts Medical
Center in Boston, Boston, MA

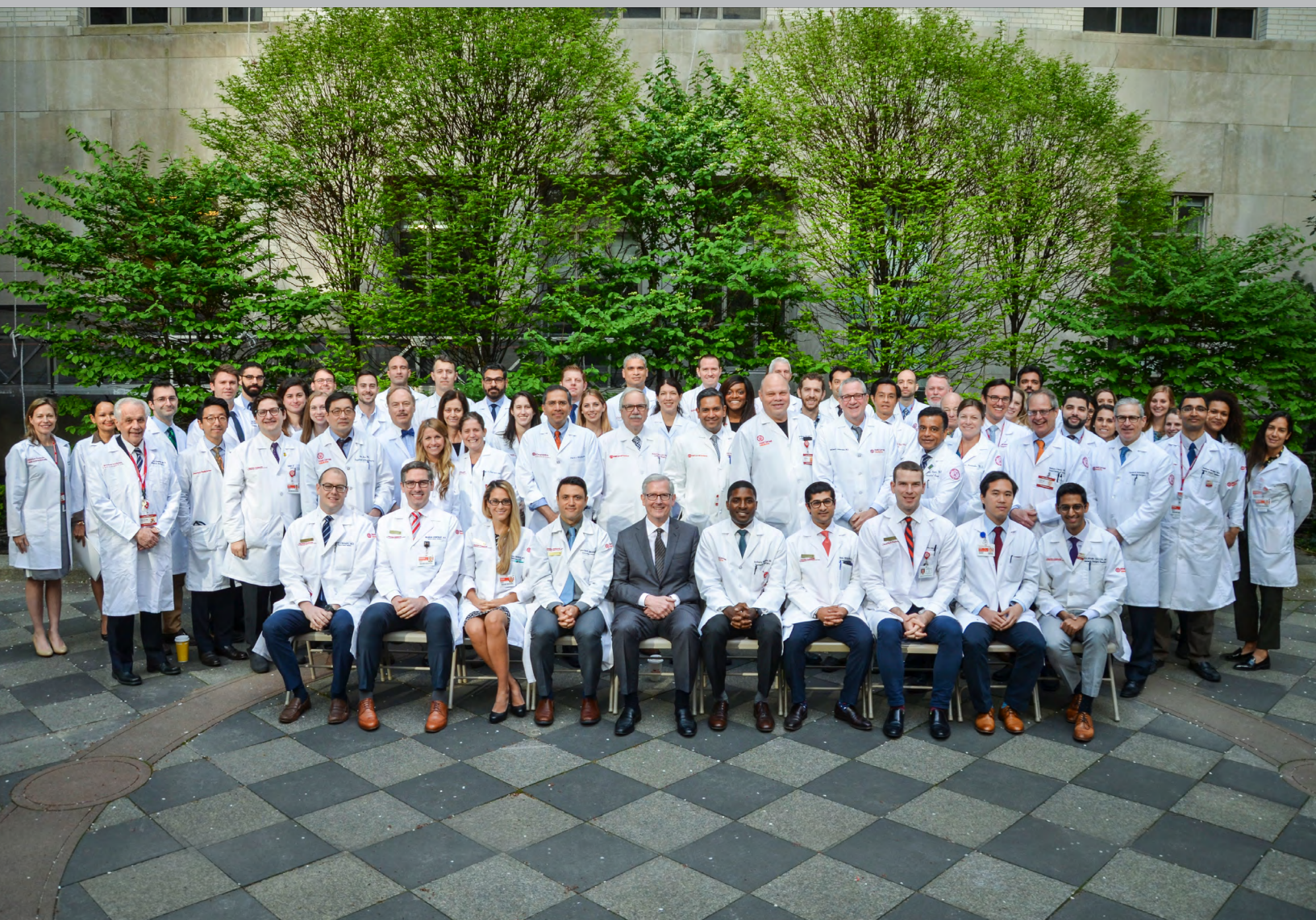
Heather Yeo, MD
Surgical Oncology Fellowship at
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer
Center, New York, NY

2012 Graduates

Steven Lee-Kong, MD
Assistant Professor in Surgery
Columbia University
New York, NY

Joongho Shin, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Keck School of Medicine of USC

Our Faculty



 **NewYork-
Presbyterian**



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
*College of Physicians
and Surgeons*



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Jeffrey W. Milsom, MD

Jerome J. DeCosse MD Professor of Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Chief, Colon and Rectal Surgery

Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Jeffrey Milsom, MD, FACS, is the Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery and the Jerome J. Decosse, MD Professor of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He serves as the Executive Director of the Center for Advanced Digestive Care. He is co-director of MINT, a multidisciplinary group of surgeons, engineers, MBAs, and lawyers dedicated to innovative new approaches to surgery. Dr. Milsom is an internationally renowned pioneer in minimally invasive surgery and state-of-the-art laparoscopic technologies for colorectal cancer, Crohn's disease and other inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Milsom has been repeatedly recognized by Castle Connolly as one of "America's Top Doctors," by New York Magazine as one of New York's "Best Doctors," and as a "New York SuperDoctor", an honor accorded just 5% of all New York physicians.

For Dr. Milsom's publications, click here: [PubMed](#)

Dr. Milsom has unique expertise and unparalleled experience in minimally invasive surgery for complex colorectal diseases. He has performed over 4,000 laparoscopic colon and rectal operations, and has been invited to perform surgeries in over 30 countries. Under Dr. Milsom's leadership, 90 percent of all procedures in the Colon and Rectal Section at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center are now performed using high-tech, minimally invasive technologies. He has published four books, 24 book chapters and over 250 papers, presentations and educational videos.

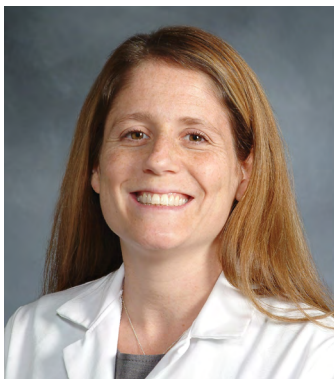
He is a member of 14 prestigious professional societies, and is a Fellow at the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons, the American College of Surgeons and the Society of Surgical Oncology.

After graduating summa cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Milsom received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1979. He fulfilled two years of residency at Roosevelt Hospital in New York and completed his residency at the University of Virginia Medical Center, where he served as Chief Resident. He concluded his advanced training as a Fellow in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Ferguson Clinic, Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1985, and has been a board certified colon and rectal surgeon since 1986. He joined the faculty of New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2001.

Dr. Milsom was Assistant Professor of Surgery at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan from 1986 through 1989. During this period he was also the Director, Department of Surgical Research at the Ferguson Clinic. From 1990 to 1998, he was the Director of Research, Department of Colorectal Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and from 1997 through 1998 he was also the Director of Research, Minimally Invasive Surgery Center at the Cleveland Clinic. In April 1998, Dr. Milsom became a Professor of Surgery at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, Chief of the Division of Colorectal Surgery and Co-Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery.

He has served on the Emerging Technologies Committee for the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons. Dr. Milsom has been a senior examiner for the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. He is a reviewer for Surgical Endoscopy, Diseases of the Colon & Rectum, Annals of Surgery and other surgical journals. His vision for the future of digestive surgery is simple: procedures should be 10 times better, not 10% better. The future of surgery will be endoluminal, using emerging technologies in devices, biomaterials, and imaging to create a new, less costly, and safer era.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Kelly Garrett, MD

Program Director, Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Associate Attending Surgeon

New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Kelly A Garrett, MD is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Attending Surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Garrett's specialty interests include functional bowel disorders, fecal incontinence, pelvic organ prolapse, fistulas and complex pelvic floor dysfunction and she has lectured regionally and nationally on these subjects. She also treats other colon and rectal diseases, such as colon and rectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, diverticular disease, and benign conditions of the rectum and anus.

In 2014-2015 Dr. Garrett was selected by NY Superdoctors as one of "New York's Rising Stars" in Colorectal Surgery – a recognition bestowed to young physicians with fewer than 10 years of practice who have demonstrated outstanding skills and enjoy an excellent reputation in their field. In 2016, Dr. Garrett was named by Castle Connolly as one of New York Metro Area's Top Doctors.

Dr. Garrett graduated from Drew University in 1996 and received her medical degree in 2003 from St. George's University School of Medicine. After completing her general surgery residency at Albany Medical Center in 2008, she completed a fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in 2009. She then went on to serve as Associate Staff at the Cleveland Clinic – Digestive Disease Institute for one year and then joined the division of Colorectal Surgery at New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2010.

Devoting considerable time to teaching, mentoring and the development of physicians in training, Dr. Garrett served as the Associate Clerkship director for the medical students rotating on the general surgery services from 2013-2016. In June 2014 she was given the Award for Teaching Excellence by Weill Cornell Medical College. She is currently the Program Director for the combined New York Presbyterian Hospital/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Colon and Rectal Surgery Residency Program.

Dr. Garrett is active in numerous professional societies and she is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. She serves on the executive council of the New York Society of Colon and Rectal Surgery. She has won awards for her publications while in training and has contributed many peer reviewed journal publications and book chapters.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Daniel H. Hunt, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Assistant Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Daniel H. Hunt, MD is a board-certified surgeon in colon and rectal surgery. Dr. Hunt is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He is the Site Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital.

Dr. Hunt specializes in laparoscopy for benign and malignant colorectal tumors. His expertise also includes cancer prevention, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis, and sphincter preservation for rectal cancer. Dr. Hunt delivers state-of-the-art care using minimally invasive techniques to speed recovery. These advanced procedures and treatment plans, combined with new technologies offer patients improved safety, comfort and the preservation of normal bowel function.

Dr. Hunt earned his M.D degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York in 1999. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from the State University of Albany in 1993. Dr. Hunt began his general surgery residency at St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, New Jersey from 1999 - 2001. He spent two years as a Surgical Oncology Fellow at Weill Cornell from 2001-2003. Dr. Hunt completed his general surgery residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn from 2003-2006. He also completed a Minimally Invasive Colorectal Surgery Fellowship at Lankenau Hospital, Wynnewood, PA from 2006-2007. He completed a Colorectal Surgery Residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell and Columbia from 2007-2008. He was appointed to the attending staff at Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood, PA before joining the staff at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

He is a member of the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is widely published in peer-reviewed journals and has presented his research in abstracts, posters and oral presentations at many professional society meetings.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Parul Shukla, MD

Vice Chief, Section of Colon & Rectal Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine

Professor of Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Parul Shukla, MD is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Shukla is an internationally known expert in gastrointestinal surgical oncology, and in particular hepato-pancreato-biliary pathology. He is an accomplished master surgeon with excellent clinical judgment and operative expertise. He has extensive experience in treating gastrointestinal cancers, and has a strong expertise as a colorectal laparoscopic surgeon.

In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Shukla is a renowned researcher and educator. He is widely published with over 110 articles in peer reviewed medical journals and 11 book chapters. He has served as Editor in Chief of the Journal of Colorectal Diseases since 2006, and is a member of the editorial board for the World Gastroenterology Organization. Dr. Shukla is an invited reviewer for many international journals, and has been an invited lecturer at 128 international institutions.

Among Dr. Shukla's many journal publications, two papers have influenced surgical practice. He is the first author of a clinical review from the International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery regarding standardization in the reporting of pancreatic anastomoses, and his co-authors are two of the leading pancreatic surgeons in the world. The second seminal paper published in the Annals of Surgical Oncology highlights the management experience of gallbladder cancer at the Tata Memorial Hospital; Dr. Shukla analyzed these data to produce a novel scoring system for patients with this pathology. This was recognized as one of the largest series in the world literature regarding this disease.

His current clinical research at NYP/Weill Cornell centers on the application of "needlescopic" procedures to laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery, the expanded role of intraoperative carbon dioxide colonoscopy in the operating room, narrow-band imaging and vascularity of the anastomosis, endoluminal full-thickness closure of intestinal defects, luminal mapping of colorectal tumors and polyps, the role of multi-photon microscopy in luminal diagnosis, the impact of obesity on outcomes of laparoscopic colectomy, and long-term outcomes of colon cancer after open and laparoscopic surgery.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Heather Yeo, MD, MHS, MBA, MS

Associate Professor of Surgery

Frank Glenn Faculty Scholar in Surgery

Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Population Health Sciences/Clinical Evaluation

Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University

Associate Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Heather Yeo, MD, MHS, is Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Professor of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. She is board-certified in general surgery, colon and rectal surgery and complex general surgical oncology. Dr. Yeo specializes in the comprehensive care of colorectal cancer patients as well as those patients with benign colorectal disease.

Because of her specialized training as a surgical oncologist, Dr. Yeo, is involved with her cancer patients throughout the course of their therapy and will help them to understand all of their treatment options. She works with a world renowned group of multidisciplinary specialists to help promote a multifaceted treatment plan for her patients, including radiation oncologists, medical oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, gastroenterologists, and interventional radiologists.

Dr. Yeo has expertise in minimal access techniques, including laparoscopic, needlescopic, colonoscopic-assisted and robotic surgery. In addition, she has special interests in sphincter preserving surgery (helping rectal cancer patients avoid a permanent ostomy), maintaining fertility in cancer patients, and improving quality of life and bowel function after rectal surgery.

Dr. Yeo's clinical research focuses on the whole patient and improving the surgical experience. She has studied patient quality of life and outcome measures and believes incorporating those factors into her treatment decisions is very important.

Dr. Yeo has written extensively and published in many major journals, including the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), Annals of Surgery, and the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Yeo completed her general surgical residency at Yale New Haven Hospital, and her Surgical Oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and her fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. She has a Masters in Health Service Research from Yale University.

Dr. Yeo is actively involved in many national Surgical and Oncologic Societies, including the American College of Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncologists, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, Association of Women Surgeons, and Association of Academic Surgery.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Pokala Ravi Kiran, MD

Director, Center for Innovation and Outcomes Research
Chief and Program Director, Division of Colorectal Surgery

Dr. Kiran received his medical degree from and completed surgical training at Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad, India, and received advanced training in colorectal surgery in the United Kingdom. He completed his general surgery residency at Yale-Saint Mary's Hospital and Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center and fellowship training in colorectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic. He is board certified in surgery and in colon and rectal surgery from the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (FASCRS) and is a fellow of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of England and Glasgow.

The author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Kiran is also an editor and reviewer for numerous prominent journals and textbooks. As a student and physician, he has earned several distinctions, including the National Merit Scholarship and Gold Medals during his medical education and surgical training in India, Resident Researcher of the Year during surgical residency, Teacher of the Year in Colorectal Surgery at Cleveland Clinic in 2011, and the ASCRS Travelling Fellow Award in 2012, and was voted to the list of Best Doctors in Cleveland.



Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Steven A. Lee-Kong, MD, FACS, FASCRS

Assistant Professor of Surgery at CUMC

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship Program

Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program, CUMC

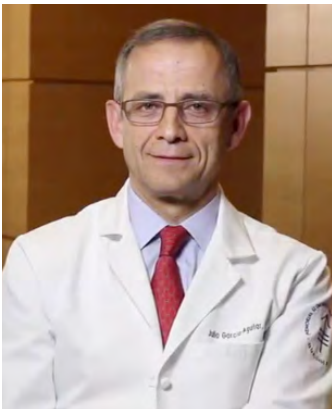
Steven Lee-Kong, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, is trained in all aspects of colon and rectal surgery. With a special interest in minimally invasive surgery, he is the only surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia trained to perform robotic colorectal surgery, and he is responsible for evaluating and adopting new technologies for use in the Colorectal Surgery Division.

Dr. Lee-Kong is also highly trained in advanced surgery for inflammatory bowel disease, which includes ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. He has performed a high volume of surgeries on patients with Crohn's disease, many of whom require removal of the colon, rectum, or anus.

Dr. Lee-Kong completed almost all of his medical and surgical education at NYP/Columbia, including his medical degree in 2004 and residency in general surgery (2004 to 2011). He completed a research fellowship in colorectal surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center from 2007-2009, where he studied rectal cancer and hypoxia and early-age-of-onset colorectal cancer. After completing general surgery residency, he completed a colon and rectal surgery fellowship at a joint program between Weill Cornell Medical College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering.



Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Julio Garcia-Aguilar, MD, PhD

Chief, Colorectal Service

Benno C. Schmidt Chair in Surgical Oncology

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Clinical Expertise Colon & Rectal Cancers; Minimally-invasive Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgery

Languages Spoken English

Education MD, PhD, Universidad Complutense (Madrid, Spain)

Residencies Universidad Complutense (Madrid, Spain); Beth Israel Hospital/Harvard Medical School

Fellowships University of Minnesota

Board Certifications General Surgery; Colon and Rectal Surgery

Dr. Garcia-Aguilar has dedicated his career to the surgical care of people with colon and rectal cancer, and is an expert in minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic techniques for performing these surgeries.

In addition to having treated thousands of patients over the years, Dr. Garcia-Aguilar has a keen interest in research, particularly in examining ways to improve outcomes for peoples with colon and rectal cancers. He has led National Cancer Institute–sponsored studies aimed at improving the quality of life of patients with rectal cancer by performing smaller operations and identifying individuals who might avoid surgery altogether through sufficient elimination of tumors with radiation therapy and chemotherapy.

He is also interested in identifying biomarkers that could predict rectal cancer response to radiation therapy and chemotherapy, and in examining racial disparities in outcomes for people with colorectal cancer.

Over the course of his career, he has contributed to the wider medical knowledge of these cancers, having published more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, abstracts, editorials, and reviews. He has penned chapters for a spectrum of textbooks on surgical therapy for the myriad manifestations of colorectal disease, and also wrote a book for a patient audience titled *Fast Facts – Colorectal Cancer* (Health Press, 2010).

Dr. Garcia-Aguilar has served as associate editor for such publications as *Annals of Surgical Oncology*, as co-editor of *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*, and as an ad-hoc reviewer on a spectrum of journals including the *Lancet Oncology* and the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

He has lectured extensively on the advances in colorectal surgery both nationally and around the world, from grand rounds at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to the Harvard Medical School Postgraduate Course in General Surgery. His participation in continuing medical education courses extends back to the mid-1990s, when he served as a lecturer on the principles of colon and rectal surgery at the University of Minnesota.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Garrett M. Nash, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCRS

Site Director

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Clinical Expertise Gastrointestinal cancers: primary and recurrent colon, rectal, anal, and appendix cancers; carcinoid; peritoneal surface malignancies; pseudomyxoma peritonei. Laparoscopic and robotic surgery for colorectal tumors; endoscopic and minimally invasive removal of large polyps. Preservation of bowel, bladder, and sexual function in patients with rectal cancer. Clinical trials in surgery.

Education MD, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

MPH, Harvard School of Public Health

Residencies University of Massachusetts Medical Center;

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Fellowships NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia and Cornell; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

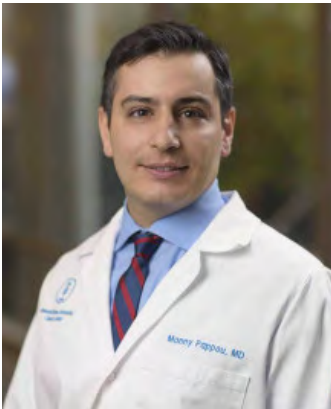
Board Certifications Surgery; Colon and Rectal Surgery

A graduate of the NYPH-Colon & Rectal Fellowship Program, Dr. Nash has specialized training in cancers of the colon, rectum, anus, and appendix. The focuses of his practice include minimally invasive techniques for colorectal cancer, avoiding colostomy while preserving bowel, bladder, and sexual function, and the management of peritoneal surface malignancies (including pseudomyxoma peritonei and peritoneal mesothelioma).

Dr. Nash's clinical research involves prospective clinical trials of new technology and surgical techniques for advanced colorectal and appendiceal malignancies, as well as optimizing surgical margins and lymph node retrieval for colon and rectal cancers. He is the primary investigator for ICARuS, a randomized clinical trial of intraperitoneal therapy for metastatic appendix and colon cancer.

Dr. Nash has co-authored papers on a variety of subjects including minimally invasive surgery, sphincter-sparing rectal surgery, mechanisms of tumor progression, and predictors of outcome following surgery. He is an instructor for other surgeons learning minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Emmanouil Pappou, MD, PhD

Dr. Pappou completed his General Surgery residency training at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 2014, with a Research Fellowship in Surgical Oncology at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (Johns Hopkins). He has completed a Clinical Fellowship in Colon and Rectal Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2015.

His clinical interests include the entire spectrum of colorectal surgery including benign and malignant conditions, anorectal, abdominal and pelvic surgery as well as minimally invasive techniques including laparoscopic, robotic and endoluminal procedures. Dr. Pappou is well versed in utilizing minimally invasive approaches including robotic surgery and sacral neurostimulation (SNS). Dr. Pappou is the surgical lead of the pelvic floor center within the division of colorectal surgery, working with gastroenterologists, urologists and gynecologists to develop a one-stop program for evaluation and treatment of problems related to colon transit, constipation, pelvic floor and evacuatory dysfunction as well as fecal incontinence.

His position also includes leadership in clinical and laboratory research and outcomes within the division of colorectal surgery. He has a keen interest in research and is an author on numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals, published abstracts, oral presentations and book chapters.

Dr. Pappou has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Johns Hopkins George D. Zuidema Research Award for Meritorious Laboratory Research for work on novel chemotherapy treatments in colorectal cancer.

A native of Greece, Dr. Pappou graduated from the Medical School of the Technical University of Munich with honors in 2006 and completed a Ph.D. on human stem cells at the research laboratory of the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center™

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Philip B. Paty, MD

Clinical Expertise Gastrointestinal Cancers: Colon, Rectal, Anal, and Appendix; Preservation of Bowel and Sexual Function in Rectal Cancer Patients; Laparoscopic Surgery for Colorectal Tumors; Colon Cancer in Teenagers and Young Adults; Colorectal Liver Metastases

Education MD, Stanford University School of Medicine

Residencies University of California, San Francisco Medical Center

Fellowships Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

Board Certifications Surgery

Dr. Paty is a surgical oncologist with special training in cancers of the colon, rectum, appendix, and anus. His interests include surgical techniques for rectal cancer that avoid colostomy and preserve bowel and sexual function, laparoscopic surgery for colorectal tumors, colon cancer in children and young adults, and liver metastases.

His laboratory studies the genetic basis underlying the growth and metastatic spread of colorectal cancer and is developing genetic tests to aid in the management of colon and rectal cancers.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center™

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



J. Joshua Smith, MD, PhD

Clinical Expertise Colon cancer; rectal cancer; minimally invasive surgical approaches (laparoscopic and robot-assisted); preservation of bowel, bladder and sexual function in rectal cancer patients and treatment of colorectal liver metastases in concert with our Hepatopancreatobiliary Service

Education MD, University of Texas Medical School at Houston; PhD, Vanderbilt University

Residencies Vanderbilt University

Fellowships Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

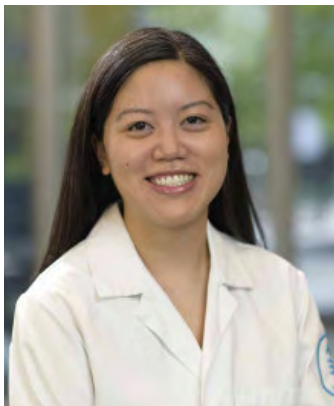
Board Certifications Surgery

Dr. Smith is a surgical oncologist and an assistant attending surgeon on the Colorectal Surgery Service who treats people with colorectal cancer and also conducts research on the genetic basis of this disease. He received his MD degree from the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and his PhD degree in cell and developmental biology from Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he also completed his residency. He joined Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in 2013 as a fellow in complex surgical oncology, with an emphasis in colorectal cancer. He also served as the Chief Administrative Fellow for the Department of Surgery from 2014 to 2015. During his fellowship, he was active with members of the colorectal disease management team (DMT) in improving our understanding of rectal cancer patients undergoing nonoperative management after clinical complete response to neoadjuvant treatment.

While his clinical focus is on the treatment of colorectal cancer patients, the majority of his time is spent pursuing basic and translational research in the laboratory of hematologic oncologist Charles Sawyers.

Through his research efforts, Dr. Smith pursues targeted treatments for patients with colon and rectal cancer who are refractory to standard treatment regimens. He investigates the basic mechanisms and predictive markers in colorectal cancer patients, particularly focusing on the study of Smad4 loss to identify subsets of patients at risk of recurrence.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Iris H. Wei, MD

Clinical Expertise Colon Cancer; Rectal Cancer; Minimally Invasive Surgical Approaches; Preservation of Bowel, Bladder, and Sexual Function in Rectal Cancer Patients

Awards & Honors Michael E. Burt Award for Clinical Excellence (2017)

Education MD, University of Michigan

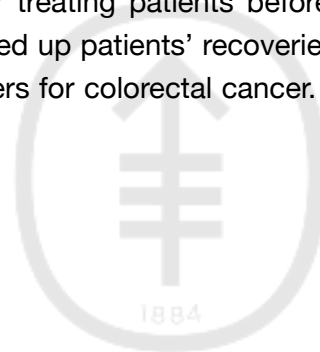
Residencies General Surgery – University of Michigan

Fellowships Complex General Surgical Oncology – Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Board Certifications Surgery; Complex General Surgical Oncology

Dr. Wei is a surgeon who specializes in using minimally invasive techniques to treat colon cancer, rectal cancer, and appendiceal cancer. She has special expertise in helping patients preserve important aspects of day-to-day life, such as bowel, bladder, and sexual function. Dr. Wei works with colleagues in medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology, radiology, and supportive services to provide customized treatment plans to each of her patients.

Dr. Wei's research is focused on developing better methods for treating patients before, during, and after colorectal surgery. A big focus of this work is to improve and speed up patients' recoveries. She is also using computational biology techniques to identify prognostic biomarkers for colorectal cancer. These markers can help inform a patient's likely cancer outcome.



Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center™

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Martin R. Weiser, MD

Clinical Expertise Colon and Rectal Cancer Surgery; Minimally Invasive Surgery

Education MD, University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine

Residencies Brigham and Women's Hospital; Harvard Medical School

Fellowships Harvard Medical School; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Mount Sinai Medical Center (New York)

Board Certifications Surgery; Colon and Rectal Surgery

Dr. Weiser is a surgical oncologist with board specialization in colorectal surgery and an interest in primary, metastatic, and recurrent cancers of the appendix, colon, rectum, and anus. His expertise is in laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgery to remove these tumors with minimal trauma to the patient. He also has an interest in methods to preserve sphincter function and to maintain bladder and sexual function through nerve-sparing surgical techniques.

His clinical research focuses on improved staging and methods to predict outcome following cancer surgery. Dr. Weiser monitors and updates the MSKCC Colorectal Cancer Database, which tracks patient outcome to ensure quality of care. His laboratory research focuses on understanding and targeting mechanisms of tumor spread and metastasis.

Recently, Dr. Weiser was appointed Program Chair of the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. He is a member of the AJCC (American Joint Committee on Cancer) staging committee, which develops the staging system for colorectal cancer, and the NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) colorectal database committee, as well as a cadre member of the GI committee of the CALGB cooperative group.

Living in NYC



Life in New York City

Weill Medical College of Cornell University is located in an attractive residential area on the upper east side of New York City, adjacent to the East River. The center is ideally situated to take advantage of New York's cultural treasures. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, the Frick, Whitney, and Guggenheim museums along with several renowned private art galleries all are within walking distance. Many other cultural attractions including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the American Museum of Natural History, the great playhouses of Broadway, and world famous jazz clubs are just a short bus ride away. Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, MetLife Stadium, and Shea Stadium are easily accessible. Residents are able to enjoy the haven that Central Park provides from the city's pavement since it is located just blocks from the Medical Center. Numerous restaurants and shops of every kind are also just blocks away. Perhaps most appealing is the great diversity represented in New York's many ethnic neighborhoods, each offering their own unique experiences.

Benefits, Housing & Insurance

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Weill Cornell Medical Center offers all residents the option to reside in hospital-owned apartments located on York Avenue directly across the street from the hospital. The modern luxury apartments are offered at a reduced rate that is considered superior to that offered by other medical centers in New York City.

Stipends and Benefits

The stipends for interns and residents at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell are consistent with those offered by other medical centers in the New York City area. The stipends undergo yearly adjustments to keep pace with increases in the cost of living.

Salary (2020 - 2021)

PGY 1	\$ 73,489
PGY 2	\$ 79,359
PGY 3	\$ 85,864
PGY 4	\$ 88,277
PGY 5	\$ 91,276
PGY 6	\$ 92,918
PGY 7	\$ 95,713

Medical, Dental & Malpractice Insurance

Medical insurance is provided for graduate trainees and their dependents free of charge. This insurance includes Blue Cross and Major Medical Insurance covering inpatient and outpatient services, including pediatric care, formulary drugs, laboratory and x-ray services, emergency care, and maternity care. Long-term disability insurance also is provided free of charge. A dental plan is provided at no cost and can cover eligible dependents with a minimal additional fee. Each intern or resident is provided malpractice insurance free of charge at each hospital through which they rotate.

Other Benefits

At no cost, residents and interns are provided with uniforms and laundry service, \$100,000 in life insurance, and four weeks of paid vacation per year.



NewYork-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell Medical College

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New York, NY 10065
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Connect **WCM**Surgery

