



NewYork-Presbyterian
Weill Cornell Medical Center



Department of Surgery

General Surgery Residency Program

Chairman: Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Vice Chair of Education: Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD, FACS

Program Director: Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD, FACS

Associate Program Directors: Abraham Houn, MD, Brendan Finnerty, MD, Christopher Agrusa, MD

Program Manager: David Fehling, MA

General Surgery Residency Coordinator: Jennifer Cleaver

**Welcome from the
Chairman**



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 departments 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 NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, 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 surgical residency training, 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 strictuoplasty 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 General Surgery Residency Program.

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery

Chairman of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College

Surgeon-in-Chief

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Who Are We?

The Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

is internationally recognized for outstanding and innovative surgical expertise. We have seven divisions: Critical Care and Trauma, General Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Transplantation Surgery, and Vascular Surgery. There are also seven sections within General Surgery: Breast Surgery, Burn Surgery, Colon and Rectal Surgery, Endocrine Surgery, GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and Surgical Oncology. We provide our patients with the highest quality, most compassionate care, utilizing state-of-the-art, minimally invasive technologies and techniques to achieve the most successful surgical outcomes.



Many of our esteemed surgeons today in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine have been consistently recognized over the years by their peers as among the best doctors in their respective fields. These honors include being listed as best doctors by Castle Connolly, New York Magazine, and New York Super Doctors.



NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Overview of the Program

The goal of our residency program

is to train exceptionally qualified surgeons who have the skills and ability to function at the highest level and provide state-of-the-art, compassionate patient care. The program is under the supervision of the chairman of the department, the Program Director and a large full-time and volunteer faculty. The faculty believes their mission is not only to produce technically superb surgeons, but in addition, to produce surgeons well grounded in the basic science of surgery and with sufficient clinical judgment to render complete care of the surgical patient.

A broad exposure to all areas of general surgery is provided to ensure development of adequate clinical knowledge. NewYork-Presbyterian serves as the primary teaching facility offering expertise in primary, secondary, and tertiary surgical medicine.

Additional experience in surgical oncology is obtained at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Jamaica Hospital provides experience in acute trauma and elective general surgery in an underserved urban environment. Didactic instruction plays an integral part in the training program and is provided through both departmental and interdepartmental teaching conferences.

The General Surgery Program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College is a 5 year program.



The PGY Years

The PGY 1 & 2 Years

The emphasis during the junior surgical residency is the primary care of the surgical patient. The junior surgical residents are directly responsible for preoperative and postoperative care, with progressive operative responsibilities.

Patient care is supervised by the more senior resident staff and the attending staff, which allows the junior surgical resident to take on the responsibilities of primary patient care in an atmosphere that fosters constant learning from more experienced surgical personnel. The junior resident becomes familiar with physiological and metabolic problems that face each surgical patient. Significant operative experience is obtained under the direct supervision of senior residents and attending surgeons.

During the first year of training, resident rotations are 2-6 weeks long. The rotations include general surgery, surgical oncology, trauma surgery, vascular surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, and care of the burned patient.

During the second year, the resident continues preoperative and postoperative care, and in addition, takes on even more operative responsibilities. Additional exposure to plastics, orthopedics, urology, otolaryngology and neurosurgery is obtained while rotating at Jamaica Hospital. Second year residents have an in-depth experience in surgical critical care on rotations in the SICU and CTICU.

Rotations as the general surgery consult resident provide the junior resident with the opportunity to evaluate surgical patients and gain further experience with acute care surgery.

The hallmark of the junior surgical residents training is a command of basic and intensive care of the surgical patient. Residents in the preliminary track are integrated fully into the junior surgical residency, with variations in their rotation schedules to complement their area of concentration.

The PGY 3 Year

The focus of experiences gained during this year is on the development of advanced surgical judgment in and out of the operating room. The transition from junior resident to chief resident is developed during this year, as the senior resident assumes major responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the surgical inpatients, directly supervising the junior resident staff. Advanced elective and emergency surgery are performed by the third-year resident on the general surgery, bariatric, vascular, endocrine, and trauma services. The third year begins the senior residency's emphasis on advanced laparoscopy and robotic surgery.

The PGY 4 & 5 Years

The chief resident hones his/her surgical judgment and skill during these years but also assumes many other primary responsibilities. These include the supervision of junior and senior surgical residents in the overall care of surgical patients and the direct instruction of medical students and physician assistants assigned to their services.

In the operating room, the Chief Resident becomes skilled with most general surgical procedures, gaining experience in the more complex surgical procedures and is involved in the operative teaching of junior residents.

The fourth-year resident serves as the Chief Resident on the pediatric and transplantation service at NewYork-Presbyterian, as well as the general and trauma services at Jamaica Hospital. The fourth and fifth-year resident also serves as the primary operating fellow on the breast, hepatobiliary, colorectal, gastric mixed tumor and thoracic surgical services at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

During the fifth year, the Chief Resident role continues on the general surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, and trauma services at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Advanced elective time is available during the fourth year in gastrointestinal endoscopy, plastic surgery, and cardiac surgery.

The Chairman of the Department of Surgery designates two Administrative Chief Residents from the group of fifth year Chief Residents. The Administrative Chief Residents are responsible for assisting the Chairman and the Program Director in the overall administration of the division relative to the surgical residency and medical student clerkships.

Our Residents

The General Surgery Program has a residency compliment of 51 residents comprised of 40 Categorical Residents and 11 Preliminary Residents. Currently, 15 residents are in research.

PGY-5

Patrick Dolan, MD
Gregory Eckenrode, MD
Matthew Iyer, MD
Jeremy Leonard, MD
Kendall Lawrence, MD
Caitlin McIntyre, MD
Johnny Stratigis, MD
Timothy Ullmann, MD

PGY-4

Richard Cass, Jr, MD
Mengyuan Liu, MD
Alexander Peters, MD
Matthew Wingo, MD
Nicole Meredyth, MD
Christopher Chandler, MD
Jackly Juprasert, MD
Nicole Croteau, MD

PGY-3

Victoria Aveson, MD
Panpan Chen, MD
Caitlin Finn, MD
Josh Johnson, MD
Gregory Jones, MD
Jessica Limberg, MD
Andrea Mesiti, MD
Dessislava Stefanova, MD

PGY-2

Miseker Abate, MD
Misha Armstrong, MD
Cara Berkowitz, MD
Elizabeth Gilbert, MD
Lamia Harik, MD
Yeon Joo Lee, MD
Evan Lutton, MD
Zachary Whaley, MD
Shaikha Al-Thani, MD
Kamal Turkmani, MD
Dimitrios Xourafas, MD

PGY-1

Arpit Gupta, MD
Sarah Hatfield, MD
Nitin Jethmalani, MD
Alison Kearns, MD
Teagan Marshall, MD
Daniel Metzger, MD
Bradley Pearson, MD
Abhinay Tumati, MD
Omar Al Hussein Alawamlh, MD
Aakanksha Gupta, MD
Muhammad Babar Khan, MD
Stepen Mckeown, MD
Alexia Stamatiou, MD
Mohammad-Kasim Fassia, MD
Mary Elizabeth McLaughlin, MD
Mohamed Soliman, MD

Research Residents

Jake Connolly, MD
Claire Li, MD
Lama Obeid, MD
Bryce Robinson, MD
Paul Shin, MD
Matthew Skovgard, MD
Jessica Thiesmeyer, MD
Caitlin Egan, MD
Genevieve Fasano, MD
Jacques Greenberg, MD
Harry Lengel, MD
Solange Bayard, MD
Nathan Mynard, MD
Pooja Shah, MD
Sarah Breves, MD

Our Faculty



 **NewYork-
Presbyterian**



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
*College of Physicians
and Surgeons*



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Our Faculty

Breast Surgery

Lisa Newman, MD
Rache M. Simmons, MD
Alexander J. Swistel, MD

Breast & Endocrine Surgery

Jennifer Marti, MD

Burn Surgery

James J. Gallagher, MD
Palmer Q. Bessey, MD
Philip H. Chang, MD
Abraham Houn, MD

Colon & Rectal Surgery

Alessio Pigazzi, MD
Kelly Garrett, MD
Daniel Hunt, MD
Lea Lowenfeld, MD
Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
Jeffrey W. Milsom, MD
Parul Shukla, MD
Heather Yeo, MD

Critical Care & Trauma

Robert J. Winchell, MD
Philip S. Barie, MD
Anton Kelly, MD
Nima Maghami, MD
Mayur Narayan, MD
Jian Shou, MD
Cassandra Villegas, MD

Endocrine Surgery

Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD
Brendan M. Finnerty, MD
Rasa Zarnegar, MD

Gastrointestinal, Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgical Oncology

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD

GI Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery

Gregory F. Dakin, MD
Cheguevara Afane, MD
Omar Bellorin-Marin, MD

Pediatric Surgery & Trauma

Nitsana Spigland, MD
Angela Kadenhe Chiweshe, MD
Demetri Merianos, MD
Stephen Oh, MD
Shaun Steigman, MD

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

Robert T. Grant, MD
Leslie Cohen, MD
David Otterburn, MD
Jason A. Spector, MD
Mia Talmor, MD

Surgical Oncology

Michael D. Lieberman, MD
Rohit Chandwani, MD
Fabrizio Michelassi, MD

Transplant Surgery

Francis Sharone Bauldrick-Hernandez, MD
Rebecca Craig-Schapiro, MD
Karim Halazun, MD
Sandip Kapur, MD
Benjamin Samstein, MD
Samuel Sultan, MD

Vascular Surgery

Christopher Agrusa, MD
Peter H. Connolly, MD
John Doolan, DPM
Sharif Ellozy, MD
Deena Blair Horn, DPM
Tikva Jacobs, MD
Soo Rhee, MD
Nicholas D. Salerno, DPM
Herrick Wun, MD

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS

Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery

Chairman of Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Surgeon-in-Chief

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS, is an internationally-renowned, board-certified gastrointestinal surgeon with a strong expertise in the surgical treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancers. He is the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

A prolific author of more than 270 papers, book chapters and abstracts, Dr. Michelassi has contributed new insight in the surgical treatment of pancreatic and colorectal cancers, ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. He has pioneered the development of important new techniques that ensure better outcomes and improved quality of life for patients with rectal cancer and ulcerative colitis. These techniques have resulted in a greater percentage of patients avoiding permanent stomas and maintaining urological and sexual function. His recognized expertise in the surgical treatment of pancreatic cancer has led many patients to seek his counsel; in turn, Dr. Michelassi has contributed new knowledge to this field through clinical trials. His experience and expertise in treating Crohn's disease led him to develop a novel bowel-sparing procedure, now known as the Michelassi strictureplasty, designed to avoid sacrificing large amounts of bowel at the time of surgery and facilitating quiescence of the acute disease affecting the diseased intestinal loops. He has edited a book on "Operative strategies in inflammatory bowel disease" and has produced eleven instructional movies for surgeons on the surgical treatment of complications of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Internationally renowned as an outstanding clinician, researcher and teacher, Dr. Michelassi has been invited to be a visiting professor at close to 50 national and international institutions. He has delivered more than 40 named lectures and keynote addresses. He is Associate Editor of the *Annals of Surgical Oncology* and serves on the editorial board of five prestigious medical journals including: *The Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, *Surgery*, *The British Journal of Surgery*, *Annals of Surgery* and the *World Journal of Surgery*. A recognized leader in the gastrointestinal surgical field, Dr. Michelassi has been appointed to many international and national task forces and panels. A member of more than 50 professional societies and foundations, Dr. Michelassi has been elected to leadership positions in many of them, serving as President in nine of them. Dr. Michelassi is President of the Society for the Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. He has served as President of the Western Surgical Society, the Central Surgical Association and the Central Surgical Association Foundation, the Society of Surgical Chairs, the Society of Surgical Oncology and Society of Surgical Oncology James Ewing Foundation, the Illinois Surgical Society and the New York Surgical Society. He serves as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council for General Surgery of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Michelassi is a senior Director of the American Board of Surgery. He has served as a Director since 2006, as the Chair of the Surgical Oncology Advisory Council (2009-2011) and as the first Surgical Oncology Board Chair (2011-2012). He is a Director and Secretary, US Chapter, of the James IV Association of Surgeons, Inc.

Dr. Michelassi has earned numerous awards for his innovative contributions to advancing the treatment of digestive diseases, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Award, the American Cancer Society Cancer Development Award and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America. Dr. Michelassi has received federal and nonfederal support for his research since 1987. His research on Crohn's disease has been funded by the International

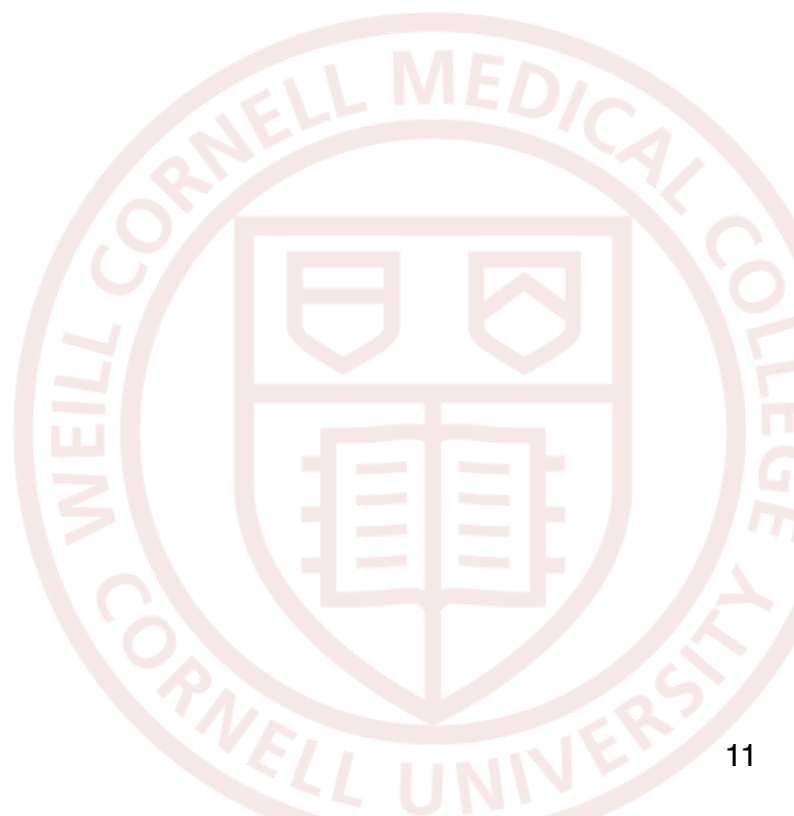
Who's who in the Department of Surgery?

Organization of Inflammatory Bowel Disease and numerous other foundations; his research on the genetics of gastrointestinal cancer has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the American Cancer Society.

He has been repeatedly recognized by Castle Connolly, New York Magazine and Chicago Magazine as one of the “Best Doctors in America.” Dr. Michelassi was selected as one of “America’s Top Doctors” by US News & World Report. He was chosen as one of “American’s Top Surgeons” by the Consumers’ Research Council of America, and has been selected as one of New York’s “Super Doctors” every year since its inception, an honor accorded to just 5 percent of all New York physicians.

Born in Pisa, Italy, and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Pisa School of Medicine, Dr. Michelassi completed his internship and surgical residency at New York University and a research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University. In 1984, he joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago. He became Section Chief of General Surgery in 1994, tenured Professor in 1995, Vice Chair of the Surgery Department in 2000 and the Thomas D. Jones Professor of Surgery in 2001. He also served as Director of the Surgical Oncology Fellowship from 1988 through 1995 and Director of the General Surgery Residency Program from 1997 through 2004. He moved to his current position at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2004.

In 2009, in recognition of his many lifetime achievements, Dr. Michelassi was honored as an Official of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy with the rank of Commendatore, the most prestigious and important distinction awarded by the President of the Republic of Italy to Italian citizens of particular merit. He was also inducted as a member of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit (ASILM), the Italian-American society comprised of those 600 individuals who have been so decorated by the Republic of Italy. Dr. Michelassi received the prestigious 2010 Golden Lion Award from the Order of the Sons of Italy in America and the “Campano d’Oro” medal from the University of Pisa, the highest honor that can be accorded to a University of Pisa alumnus. In 2012, he received the “Grand Award of Merit,” the most prestigious award of the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, in recognition of his accomplishments, dedication and leadership that have improved the lives of numerous Americans, Italians and Italian Americans. Previous recipients of the Grand Award of Merit include H.E. Giorgio Napolitano, President of the Republic of Italy, George W. Bush, former President of the United States, and US Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.



Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD, FACS

Johnson and Johnson Professor and

Vice-Chair, Department of Surgery

Chief, Endocrine Surgery

Director, Endocrine Oncology Program

New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Dr. Fahey is the Johnson and Johnson Professor of Surgery and Vice-Chair for Education in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. He is an Attending Surgeon at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center where he is also the Chief of Endocrine Surgery and the Director of the Endocrine Oncology Program.

Dr. Fahey graduated from Duke University Magna Cum Laude in 1982, and Cornell University Medical College in 1986. He did his surgical residency at The New York Hospital, serving as Administrative Chief Resident. He was a Harvey and Katharine Cushing Fellow in Surgical Physiology from 1988-1990, and an American Cancer Society Fellow in Clinical Oncology from 1989-1990. In addition, Dr. Fahey was a guest investigator at The Rockefeller University, Laboratory of Medical Biochemistry from 1988-1991. He then completed a fellowship in Endocrine and Head and Neck Surgery at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney Australia.

He accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center in the Division of GI and Endocrine Surgery in 1993. He was recruited back to New York Hospital-Cornell in 1996 as the Chief of the Section of Endocrine Surgery and rose to the level of Associate Professor in 1998, and was promoted to Professor of Surgery in 2007. He held positions as the Frank Glenn Faculty Scholar in Minimal Access Surgery and the G. Tom Shires Faculty Scholar before accepting the Johnson and Johnson Professorship in 2015.

Dr. Fahey has been consistently recognized over the years as one of America's Best Doctors by Castle Connolly and one of New York's Best Doctors by New York Magazine. He was named one of New York's Super Doctors in 2008 (an honor given to just 5% of physicians in New York) and has continued to be awarded that accolade for the past 9 years.

As the Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at New York-Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical College from 2000-2015 he played a strong leadership role in physician training and mentoring. He was recently promoted to Vice Chair of Education, a role in which he will continue to oversee the residency and fellowship programs in General Surgery, as well as focus on medical student education. Dr. Fahey also continues on as Chair of the Department of Surgery's Resident Education Committee and Residency Review Committee.

His clinical and research interests lie in the field of endocrine oncology (thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas) and minimally invasive surgery. His articles are widely published in peer-reviewed journals, and he has authored many book chapters. Dr. Fahey belongs to many professional associations, including the American Surgical Association, American College of Surgeons, Society of University Surgeons, American Thyroid Association and American Association of Endocrine Surgeons, where he was honored to serve as Vice-President in 2013.

He holds positions on the editorial board of the International Journal of Endocrine Oncology and the International Journal of Endocrinology, as well as an ad hoc reviewer for Cancer, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, International Journal of Cancer, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Surgery, Thyroid and the Annals of Surgery.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Abraham P. Houg, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery

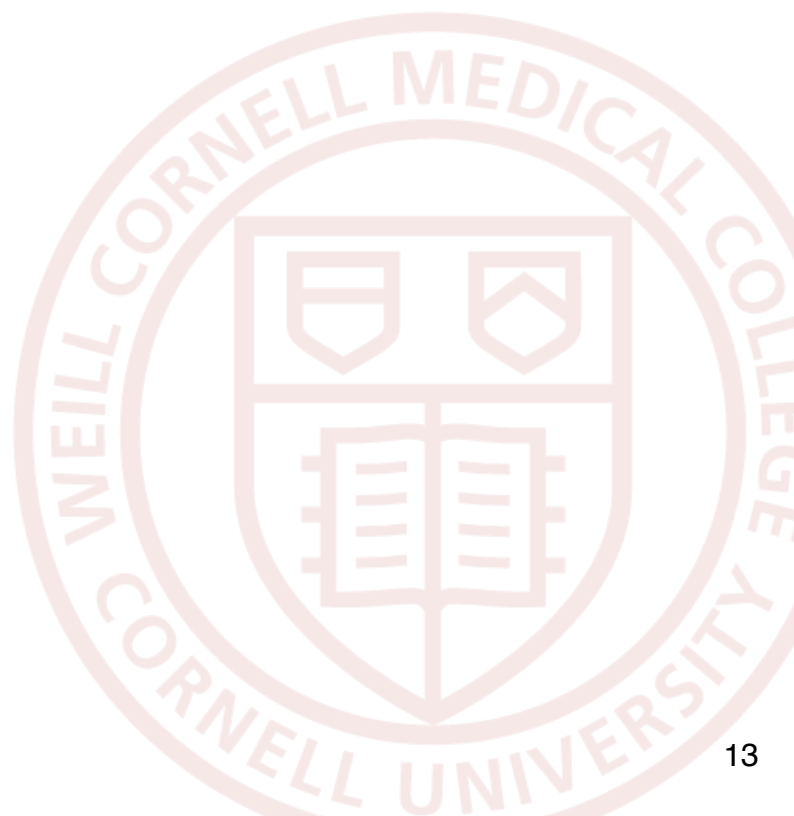
Associate Program Director

Department of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College

Assistant Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Abraham P. Houg, MD is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the division of Burns, Critical Care and Trauma at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. A board- certified, Dr. Houg specializes in the treatment of burns, burn surgery, and surgical critical care. Prior to his arrival in 2015, Dr. Houg was an attending surgeon at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Department of Surgery in Livingston, New Jersey. He obtained his BS from Columbia University in Bioengineering and received his MSE from University of Pennsylvania. He attended New Jersey Medical School, affiliated with Rutgers University, for his MD. He completed his surgical residency at Saint Barnabas Medical Center and continued his training in Surgical Critical Care Fellowship with special emphasis in burn surgery and treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital. He has led multiple teams of fellow surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, and physical therapists on short-term basis to serve the population in need and to further train the physicians in Haiti. Dr. Houg is an active member of many prestigious medical and surgical societies, including the American Burn Association, American College of Surgeon, and Society of Critical Care Medicine. He has also published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and abstracts. Dr. Houg's research interest is in laser scar revision, artificial and biological skin matrix substitute, and ultrasonic wound debridement.



Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



David M. Otterburn, M.D.

Associate Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery (Plastic Surgery)

Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Otterburn is the Program Director for the Weill Cornell Medicine and Columbia University Medical Center Plastic Surgery Residency program and an Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. He is a board-certified plastic surgeon with fellowship training in micro-vascular surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Otterburn received his B.A. in political science with honors from Rutgers College in 1997. During this time, he was selected into the BA/MD program, receiving his M.D. degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in May 2000. He completed his general surgery residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in 2007 and entered into a plastic surgery residency at Emory University Hospital. After completing his plastic surgery residency in June, 2010, he completed a microsurgery fellowship at New York University Medical Center in June, 2011.

Dr. Otterburn is a nationally recognized expert in breast reconstruction, and was one of the pioneers in the development of the PAP flap. Continually attempting to evolve the practice of breast reconstruction, he recently described using a drainless approach to prepectoral breast reconstruction. His current areas of research include surgical education, tissue perfusion, clinical outcomes research in breast reconstruction and re-sensitization of the breast following mastectomy. He has authored multiple chapters on topics including breast reconstruction, head and neck cancer/reconstruction and composite tissue allotransplantation, and has published numerous manuscripts. His research has won awards at national and regional meetings including the AAPS, ASPS and NESPS meetings. He is a member of multiple national, regional and local organizations and for the past 2 years he has served as the Program Chair for the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeon's Spring Symposium on "Rhinoplasty" and "Rejuvenation of the Periorbital Region." He has been a Castle Connolly Top Doctor since 2014 and has won multiple teaching awards throughout his training and career.

He is on the editorial board of a number of journals, including Current Surgery Reports (Plastic Surgery Section editor), Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (Prior Section Editor –Breast). He is on multiple Committees for national and regional societies and has been the Editor of the NESPS newsletter since 2018.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



James Gallagher, MD

Director, The Burn Center

Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery

Associate Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

James Gallagher is an Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. A board-certified surgeon, Dr. Gallagher has extensive experience in the treatment of burns, surgical critical care, and international surgery. His areas of special interest include surgical education, international surgical outreach, the burned hand, burn resuscitation, and surgical care of the burn wound.

James Gallagher, M.D. received his B.S. Summa Cum Laude in Biochemistry from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1988 and his M.D. from SUNY Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, New York in 1992. He completed his internship and residency training in general surgery at Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pennsylvania in June, 1997.

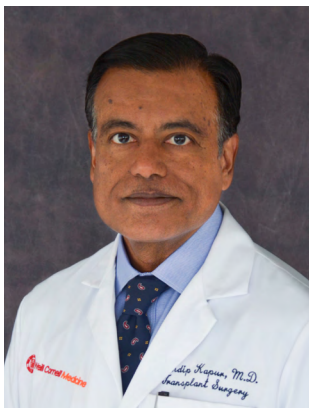
After completing training in General Surgery, he worked in the western fingers small town of Dansville, New York. After four years in private practice in Dansville, the Gallagher family now was two small boys, Mrs. and Dr. Gallagher. They decided to sell their home, and leave Dansville. The Gallaghers moved to Cameroon West Africa. There Dr. Gallagher become the solo surgeon in a rural missionary hospital. The hospital was located at the edge of the Sarah desert in the Extreme Northern Province of Cameroon. The family lived there for over a year. During this time Dr. Gallagher developed his interest in nutrition, and teaching. Cameroon was also his first exposure to patients with burn injury. The care of burn patients is not a usual part of the practice of General Surgery or training in the United States.

Upon returning home to the United States, the Gallaghers moved to Stony Brook on Long Island's North Shore. This allowed them to be near family and Dr. Gallagher became a fellow in surgical Critical care and trauma surgery at the University there. After completing his fellowship the family again moved, this time to Manhattan. Dr. Gallagher became the clinical burn fellow at the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center at New York Hospital.

After completing his burn fellowship, with great conviction and enthusiasm he now was resolved to narrow the focus of his career to the complete care of the burned patient. Dr. Gallagher accepted a position as an attending burn surgeon joining a team of four surgeons and more that 65 research scientists all devoted to the advancement of burn care in Galveston, Texas. Galveston is home to the world's leading academic burn center. The Shriners Burns Hospital for Children and the Blocker Adult Burn Unit at the University of Texas Medical Branch have made an unparalleled contribution to the scientific literature in burn surgery and the metabolism of Critical illness. In this environment, mentored by the chief of staff Dr. David Herndon, Dr. Gallagher thrived. Dr. Herndon is the editor of Total Burn Care text book and a former president of the American Burn Association and The International Society for Burn Injury. Dr. Gallagher was appointed chairmen of performance improvement and infectious disease at the Shriners Hospital. A special part of Dr. Gallagher's time in Galveston was the twice yearly trip to Guadalajara, Mexico. In Guadalajara, Dr. Gallagher was part of a team of American and Mexican burn reconstructive surgeons who provided care to children in need of surgical care to help relieve the long term effects of burn scar on their growing bodies.

On September 13th, 2008 Galveston Island was devastated by a direct hit from Hurricane Ike. Shriners Hospital Burns Hospital for Children was closed for over a year. This disaster forced the Gallaghers and many other families to relocate. From this terrible disaster a home coming was enabled. Dr. Gallagher and his family relocated to New York City and Dr. Gallagher rejoined the team at the Burn Center in New York Hospital. He has been the director of the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center since 2015.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Sandip Kapur, MD, FACS

Chief of Transplant Surgery

Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Programs

Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Professor of Surgery

Jeanette and Jeffrey Lasdon Director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Programs

Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Sandip Kapur is Chief of Transplant Surgery and Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplant programs at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He is a Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Attending Surgeon at NY-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. From 2010 to 2017, Dr. Kapur served as the G. Tom Shires, M.D. Faculty Scholar in Surgery in recognition of his outstanding commitment to clinical surgery, research, and education. In 2017, he became the Jeanette and Jeffrey Lasdon Director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Programs.

An internationally recognized expert in pioneering transplant techniques, Dr. Kapur specializes in adult and pediatric kidney transplantation and whole organ pancreas and islet cell transplantation. Dr. Kapur heads the oldest kidney transplant program in New York State, and one of the highest volume programs in the country. He is a nationally recognized pioneer in developing innovative strategies that allow for successful transplantation in situations where transplants might be contraindicated at most other centers. These include crossmatch and blood type (ABO) incompatible programs, donor exchange for live kidney donation, and facilitating transplantation in older individuals. In February of 2008, Dr. Kapur led the Weill Cornell team that performed one of the nation's first living-donor kidney transplant surgery chains (kidney paired donation). These chains have revolutionized the organ transplant process in the United States and dramatically improve the opportunity for patients in need of kidney transplants to find a compatible living donor. A leader in the area of kidney paired donation, NYP/Cornell is a high volume transplant program participating in the National Kidney Registry, with nearly 1 out of every 5 living donor kidney transplants facilitated through kidney paired donation.

Dr. Kapur's main areas of research include clinical trials on new immune protocols for kidney transplant patients; early corticosteroid withdrawal after kidney transplantation, prevention of delayed graft function after kidney transplantation, and kidney paired donation research. Dr. Kapur has also worked collaboratively with researchers in the NYP/Cornell core transplant immunobiology laboratory in developing and studying a non-invasive test utilizing molecular signatures to more accurately predict organ rejection before outward signs of rejection.

The innovative strategies described above are offered by just a handful of transplant centers in the United States. The skilled transplant team at NYP/Cornell offers progressive therapeutic options not generally available through other transplantation programs, with lower rejection rates and excellent graft survival rates compared to national standards.

Dr. Kapur earned his undergraduate degree from Fordham. He earned his MD in 1990 from Cornell University Medical College, and completed his internship and residency in general surgery at NY-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 1996. He was a research fellow from 1993-1994 in Transplant Immunology at Weill Cornell Medical College, and from 1996-1998, he completed a fellowship in Multi-Organ Transplantation at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Thomas E. Starzl Transplantation Institute. Dr. Kapur is a member of many professional societies and organizations. He has published over 90 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, and plays a strong leadership role in surgical education, having served as Director for the Clinical Clerkship in Surgery for the Medical School. He is a Preceptor for medical student surgical clerkships and serves as a Faculty Mentor for surgical house staff. Dr. Kapur also serves as the Surgical Director of the Weill Cornell Physicians Assistant Program.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Alessio Pigazzi, M.D., PhD

**Chief, Colon and Rectal Surgery,
Assistant Attending Surgeon**

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Assistant Professor of Surgery (Interim)

Weill Cornell Medical College

Dr. Alessio Pigazzi, was appointed chief of colorectal surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Weill Cornell Medicine, effective September 2020. He also serves on Weill Cornell Medicine's faculty. In this role, Dr. Pigazzi leads a world-class team of colorectal surgeons that uses state-of-the-art technologies and innovative surgical techniques to provide patients with the very best in comprehensive colorectal care.

Dr. Pigazzi was previously chief of the Divisions of Colorectal Surgery and Surgical Oncology at the University of California, Irvine (UCI), where he also served as professor in the Department of Surgery and vice chair for research. His new appointment marks a return to NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, where he completed his residency nearly 20 years ago.

Dr. Pigazzi's clinical expertise focuses on the treatment of complex colon, rectal and anal conditions and cancers, including laparoscopic, robot-assisted and open surgical techniques. He performed the world's first robot-assisted tumor removal for rectal cancer in 2004, a procedure that has revolutionized the treatment of this condition. He is also leading clinical research programs combining surgery with immediate postoperative chemotherapy to improve cancer survival.

Dr. Pigazzi is among a small cadre of surgeons skilled in the use of an innovative procedure called cytoreductive surgery with hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC), which involves heated chemotherapy applied directly within the abdominal cavity following removal of cancerous tumors. He is also skilled in robot-assisted surgery for pelvic injuries caused by medical complications, specifically abnormal connections between body parts, or fistulas.

His research is focused on minimally invasive techniques to improve recovery after cancer surgery, postoperative chemotherapy, and the relationship between diet and colorectal cancer development.

Dr. Pigazzi is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons; a member of the Society of Surgical Oncology; and a founding member of the Clinical Robotic Surgery Association.

He earned his joint medical degree and doctorate at Boston University School of Medicine, and completed his internship and residency in general surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He completed a fellowship in minimally invasive surgery at Hackensack Medical Center in Hackensack, N.J., and a fellowship in colorectal surgery at UCI Medical Center.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Gregory Dakin, MD, FACS

**Chief of GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery,
Associate Attending Surgeon**

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Gregory Dakin, MD, FACS, is Chief of GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and serves as the MBSAQIP Director of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. He is an Associate Attending Surgeon at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Dakin is a nationally-recognized expert in advanced laparoscopic surgical techniques. His primary clinical interests include minimally invasive bariatric, foregut, hernia and solid organ surgery.

A graduate of the NYU School of Medicine, he completed his surgical residency and MIS Fellowship training at the Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. He was recruited to join the faculty at Weill Cornell and served as the Medical Student Clerkship Director for 7 years.

Dr. Dakin has written more than 80 PubMed cited articles and has been a speaker at numerous national and international meetings. He contributed as an investigator in NIDDK/NIH Bariatric Surgery Research – LABS (Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery). He is an active member of several national societies and has served on several committees as well as the Board of the NYS Chapter of ASMBS. He is one of Castle Connolly's America's Top Doctors and has won several teaching awards.



Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Benjamin Samstein, M.D.

Chief of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery

Associate Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Associate Professor of Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Benjamin Samstein, MD is Chief of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine and Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University. Dr. Samstein is the Surgical Director of the Living Donor Liver Transplant Program at NYP. Dr. Samstein is a renowned pioneer in minimally invasive liver surgery and state-of-the-art laparoscopic techniques for liver cancer. Dr. Samstein is a Castle Connolly Top Doctor.

Dr. Samstein heads up the multidisciplinary liver transplantation and hepatobiliary surgery team at NYP/Weill Cornell. His specialties include the most advanced laparoscopic procedures for liver cancer, benign liver tumors and hepatobiliary pancreatic disease. He has been invited to talk about minimally invasive liver surgery throughout the world. He is a member of many surgical societies including a founding member of the International Laparoscopic Liver Society (ILLS), American Society of Transplant Surgery, American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA). He is the Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of LiveOnNY and served as the Regional representation to the Liver and Intestine Committee of UNOS from 2014 to 2016. Dr. Samstein is well-published in the field, authoring more than 40 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious medical and surgical journals, books and book chapters.

Other areas of clinical expertise include hepatic adenoma, hepatic hemangioma, cholangiocarcinoma, colorectal metastasis, live donor nephrectomy, laparoscopic living donor nephrectomy, and pediatric liver and organ transplant.

Dr. Samstein received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1992 and earned his MD at the State University of New York at Stonybrook in 1997. He did his internship and residency in general surgery at NYP/Columbia, and completed a research fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in 2001. He completed a fellowship in ASTS Multi-organ transplant at NYP/Columbia in 2006. He was Assistant Professor of Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center from 2006 to 2015. He served as Program Director of the transplant surgery fellowship at Columbia University from 2007 to 2015. He is a reviewer for American Journal of Transplantation, Transplantation, Liver Transplantation, Pediatric Transplantation, Clinical Transplantation among other journals.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Lisa Newman, M.D.

Chief of Breast Surgery

Chief of the Breast Surgical Oncology Programs

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Dr. Newman is the Chief of the Breast Cancer Disease Management Team within the Meyer Cancer Center and Chief of the Breast Surgical Oncology Programs for the Weill Cornell Medicine-New York Presbyterian Hospital Network, serving its Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn sites. Previously, she worked at the Henry Ford Health System, where she served as director of the breast program covering multiple hospitals throughout Michigan since 2015. She is also the Founding Medical Director for the International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes, which became headquartered at Weill Cornell Medicine with Dr. Newman's recruitment. Dr. Newman was Professor of Surgery and Director of the Breast Care Center for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she also served as Program Director for the Breast Fellowship from 2002 to 2015. Dr. Newman holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from Harvard University, and she also obtained her undergraduate education at Harvard University with a major in chemistry. She attended medical school and completed her general surgery residency training at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn. Dr. Newman was recruited to remain at Downstate following completion of her postgraduate training, and served as an Assistant Professor of Surgery with this program for several years. She pursued fellowship training in surgical oncology at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center 1997-99, followed by joining the faculty as an Assistant Professor; she continues to hold an Adjunct Professorship with M.D. Anderson. After leaving the University of Michigan she was appointed Adjunct Professor in the UM Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She also served previously as Associate Director for the Walt Breast Center at Wayne State University/Karmanos Cancer Institute for two years.

Dr. Newman's primary research has focused on ethnicity-related variation in breast cancer risk and outcome, the evaluation and management of high-risk patients; broadened applications for neoadjuvant chemotherapy, and special surgical techniques such as the skin-sparing mastectomy and lymphatic mapping/sentinel lymph node biopsy. Her extensive research related to disparities in breast cancer risk and outcome has been published in numerous peer-reviewed medical journals and was featured in CNN's documentary "Black in America 2". She has also been the featured breast cancer medical expert for NBC's "Today Show" twice (2014 and 2017) as well on CBS Nightly News (2015). She maintains a very active community service record, and currently serves as Chief National Medical Advisor for the Sisters Network, Inc., a national African American breast cancer survivors support organization.

She oversees an international breast cancer research and training program involving a network of physicians and facilities in Ghana, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Haiti, Barbados, and Canada. This program has focused in the study of triple negative breast cancer in women with African ancestry. Her work has been acknowledged via several awards, such as "Top Blacks in Health Care 2018"; Phenomenal African American Women of 2018"; "Esteemed Women of Michigan 2018"; Crain's "Health Care Hero" in 2017; 2012 Triple Negative Breast Cancer Foundation Hero Award; and the 2010 National Medical Association Woman in Medicine Award. She was named "Michiganders of the Year" in 2011; and an "Oprah's Angels" for breast cancer work by Oprah magazine in 2012. She has received the University of Michigan 2012 Community Service Award; the 2013 Sarah Goddard Power Award for Advancement of Women in Academic Medicine; and the 2015 Harold Johnson Diversity Award. She has been named one of Detroit's "Top Docs" and "Top Doctors of America" for several years. Dr. Newman has also been awarded the coveted title of Komen Scholar, and was appointed to the Komen Scientific Advisory Board.

Dr. Newman has been appointed to multiple national and regional leadership positions, including the CDC's Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women (including chaired for its work-group on breast health messages for the general population); the NIH's Clinical Trials Advisory Committee; the Advisory Council to the National Institute of Minority Health and Disparities; chairperson for the Breast Committee of the Michigan Cancer Consortium (MCC). She has held leadership positions in the most prominent of oncologic academic and advocacy organizations: Society of Surgical Oncology (Executive Council; Disparities Committee chairperson); American Society of Clinical Oncology (Health Disparities Advisory Group chair; Health Services Committee chair); American Cancer Society (National Assembly; Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Division); American College of Surgeons Oncology Group (Executive Council; Special Populations Committee chair). Dr. Newman's editorial board service includes: Annals of Surgical Oncology (Breast Section Editor); Cancer (Disparities Section Editor); Journal of Clinical Oncology (Breast Section editorial board member) and she is currently of the editorial board for JAMA Surgery.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Nitsana A. Spigland, MD, FACS

Professor of Clinical Surgery

Weill Cornell Medical College

Chief of Pediatric Surgery

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Dr. Spigland is currently Professor of Clinical Surgery and the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma at the Weill Cornell Medical Center and New York Presbyterian –Weill Cornell Campus. She has maintained that position since July 2006.

Dr. Spigland's areas of clinical expertise include: Neonatal congenital malformations, pediatric thoracic surgery and pediatric surgical oncology. She has special expertise in the management of patients with persistent cloaca and congenital ano-rectal malformations which has culminated in the Pediatric Surgery Division being recognized as a center of excellence for these disorders. This has generated multiple referrals to the division for patients with complex congenital anorectal malformations, persistent cloacas and re-do cloacas from all over the world.

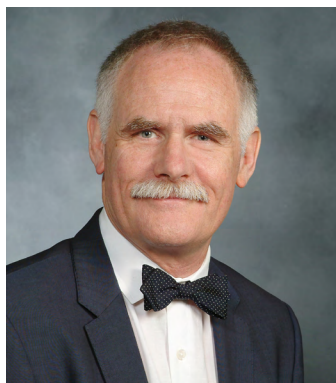
Dr. Spigland is also an active participant in the Children's Oncology Group and is on staff at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. In collaboration with her colleagues at Memorial Sloan Kettering, they have a large referral base for children with solid tumors.

Dr. Spigland has an extensive bibliography and has authored numerous publications and book chapters on a wide variety of pediatric surgical conditions. She has been an invited speaker and has numerous presentations at national and international meeting. She also serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Pediatric Surgery, Annals of Surgery and Annals of Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Spigland has received national recognition with numerous regional and national honors and awards. She has repeatedly been recognized by Castle and Connolly as one of "America's top doctors", "America's top doctors for Cancer", and was awarded the "Exceptional Women in Medicine Award." She also has repeatedly been named "Best Doctors in New York" by New York Magazine and was selected as a "New York Superdoctor", an honor given to just 5% of all New York physicians. She was cited as one of "America's Top doctors" by US News and World report, an honor which recognizes the top 1% of all physicians in the country. In addition, Dr. Spigland is in Marquis Who's Who in America, and received a Compassionate Doctor's Award, an honor accorded to just 3% of doctors in America.

In her role as Chief of Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Spigland has built up the division to include 5 busy faculty members. The division performs the full spectrum of pediatric surgical procedures including an endosurgery program which pioneered advanced laparoscopic and thoracoscopic techniques. The group has established a busy perinatal program which provides multidisciplinary antenatal counseling for pregnant women with fetal anomalies. The division is a major referral center for complex congenital malformations, rare gastrointestinal disorders, pediatric surgical oncology, thoracic surgery and trauma.

Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



Robert J. Winchell, MD, FACS

Professor of Surgery

Chief of Trauma, Burns, Acute, and Critical Care

Weill Cornell Medical College

Director, Trauma Center

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Robert J. Winchell, MD, FACS, received his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology, his MD from Yale University, and did his internship, General Surgery residency, and Trauma and Critical Care Fellowship at the University of California, San Diego, where he remained on the faculty as Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Division of Trauma through 1999. After leaving the University of California, Dr. Winchell established, developed and subsequently directed the Tacoma Trauma Center in Tacoma, Washington, which continues to operate successfully as a joint venture between two previously competing hospitals. In 2001, Dr. Winchell accepted a post at the Maine Medical Center, as Associate Professor of Surgery with the University of Vermont School of Medicine, and became Head of the Division of Trauma and Burn Surgery in 2004. He remained in that position for 10 years, also as Associate Professor of Surgery at the Tufts University School of Medicine. Under his direction, Maine Medical Center became a verified Level I trauma center in 2007. After leaving Maine, Dr. Winchell served as Chief of Trauma and Visiting Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and Chief of Trauma at Memorial Hermann -Texas Medical Center. In July 2015, Dr. Winchell joined the faculty in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College as Chief of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care and Director of the Trauma Center at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Winchell is a leading authority in the development and evolution of trauma systems. He has been involved in trauma center and trauma systems design and operation in a wide variety of settings, covering the spectrum of system development, for his entire career. He was instrumentally involved in leadership roles with both the day-to-day operations and ongoing development of the seminal San Diego County trauma system for over ten years and served as chair of the San Diego and Imperial County Committee on Trauma. He participated in the leadership, operation and ongoing development of the Washington state trauma system, serving on the state advisory board, and as chair of the Southwest EMS region. During Dr. Winchell's tenure in Maine, he helped develop the Maine state system, serving as a member of the state advisory board and as a chairman of the Maine State Committee on Trauma. In Texas, he served on the Trauma Systems subcommittee of the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. Dr. Winchell is immediate past chair of the Trauma Systems Evaluation and Planning Committee of the American College of Surgeons and currently serves as a special consultant to the ACS COT for international trauma quality programs. He is a senior site reviewer for the trauma center verification program of the College. Dr. Winchell is also a leader in international trauma systems development, and has worked with the World Health Organization's Global Alliance for the Care of the Injured since its inception.

Dr. Winchell's academic foundation is as scientist and engineer, starting as a research associate at the Jet Propulsion Lab at Caltech, through a small startup engineering firm in Chicago, and work in the early development of magnetic resonance imaging at Yale. His current research interests involve signal analysis in the ICU setting, spectral analysis of heart rate variability, and computer assisted decision making. Dr. Winchell is also interested in the use of large-scale administrative data to look at injury epidemiology and trauma system function, as well as focused clinical investigations, both single and multi-institutional.

Dr. Winchell is Board certified in General Surgery, with added qualifications in Surgical Critical Care. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons as well as a member of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the Association for Academic Surgery, the Southwest Surgical Congress, the Society of Critical Care Medicine and the New England Surgical Society. Dr. Winchell is author of more than 50 scientific papers and book chapters, and has given over 100 regional, national and international presentations. He is an ad hoc reviewer for the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, the Archives of Surgery and the World Journal of Surgery.

Research & Clinical Trials

Clinical Trials

Weill Cornell Medical College's mission is to support, advance, and promote clinical and translational research enterprises. Faculty members in the Divisions of the Department of Surgery are engaged in robust research programs, many of which include cutting-edge clinical trials.

You are encouraged to pursue clinical research and to be involved in clinical trials. The Department of Surgery is supported by the Joint Clinical Trials Office (JCTO). The JCTO was created to provide support to investigators involved in clinical research and is available to assist with study contracts, finance, research integrity, study activation, social media and community outreach. The goal of this partnership is to increase the number of quality clinical trials within the Department of Surgery that have a lasting influence on healthcare.

Kristina Hosi serves as the Clinical Trials Administrator for the Department of Surgery to provide administrative support for clinical trials to all of the divisions. She has extensive experience with regulatory and administrative maintenance for clinical trials as well as data management and analysis, and is available to assist with both investigator-initiated and sponsor-initiated trials. She can assist you with protocol development, IRB submissions, cohort discovery, and study maintenance. Please feel free to contact her with any research related questions and she can help guide you through Research at WCM:



Kristina Hosi
Clinical Trials Administrator

Basic Research

Physicians and scientists of Weill Cornell Medical College are engaged in cutting-edge research in such areas as stem cells, genetics, gene therapy, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and cancer. Our faculty members run world-class research programs studying the molecular basis of disease in an effort to develop novel diagnostics and therapeutics. Weill Cornell is the birthplace of many

medical advances including the development of the Pap test for cervical cancer, the synthesis of penicillin, the first successful embryo-biopsy pregnancy and birth in the US, the development of a new bowel sparing procedure for advanced Crohn's disease, and the world's first clinical trials for gene therapy for Parkinson's disease.

The mission of the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College is threefold: to provide the highest quality, state-of-the-art, personalized patient care; to train tomorrow's surgeons; and to conduct important research to advance the field of medical science and develop new procedures and techniques. The superior clinical services offered by the department's faculty members are enhanced by an extensive and innovative research program.

Physicians and faculty members are actively involved in a broad range of basic, translational and clinical research.

Engendering Collaborative Research with Engineers and Basic Scientists

Over the past 10 years, a cadre of basic and translational science researchers have joined Surgeons in building collaborative and translational research programs here in the Department of Surgery.

These laboratories provide an outstanding environment for Surgery Residents on the research track to carry out cutting-edge mentored research in stem cell biology, regenerative medicine, and cancer biology among other fields of relevance to our clinical mission.

Active basic science research programs in the Department of Surgery include:

Researcher Descriptions



Todd Evans, Ph.D.

Professor of Surgery and
Vice Chair for Research
Chief, Division of Research
Associate Dean for Research, WCM

Organogenesis & Regeneration

The overall goal of research in the Evans Laboratory is to understand the molecular regulation of normal organ development during embryogenesis, and thereby reveal

Research & Clinical Trials

the underlying genetic programs that, when deregulated, cause developmental defects and organ-based disease throughout life.

We focus primarily on hematopoietic and cardiovascular programs, but also other organ systems including liver, gut, and pancreas. Our goal is to use a developmental biology perspective to develop genetic, pharmacological, or cellular therapies to impact diseases, such as heart failure, liver disease, and cancer.

Our experimental focus is on the key developmental signaling pathways (TGF-beta, Wnt, etc.) and the gene expression machinery that controls stem cell commitment, cell differentiation, and organ morphology (transcription factors and epigenetic regulators of DNA methylation).

We use two primary experimental systems: pluripotent stem cell models that are optimal for studying stem and progenitor cell biology, and zebrafish, which provides an exceptional animal model for studying organ development and morphogenesis. We have developed a number of disease models and then use them to identify genes or chemicals that impact disease phenotypes. These then form the basis for targeted therapeutics, including for patient-specific drugs (precision medicine). Dr. Evans is also the Vice Chair for Research and Associate Dean for Research at WCM, and is always available to meet for discussion or consult on your research projects or to make connections with expert collaborators.



Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD

Chief of Endocrine Surgery
Professor of Surgery

Endocrine Oncology Lab

Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD is the chief of endocrine surgery and Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. He is an Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

His clinical and research interests lie in the field of endocrine (thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas) and minimally invasive surgery. His articles are widely published in peer-reviewed journals, and he has authored many book chapters.

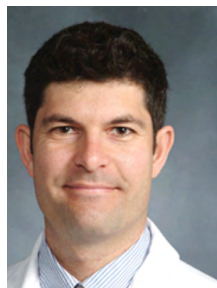
Dr. Fahey belongs to many professional associations, including the American College of Surgeons, Society of University Surgeons, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons and the American Thyroid Association.

He serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Oncology, the Journal of Thyroid Research and the Journal of Surgical Radiology. He is the Associate Editor for Endocrine Surgery for the Year Book of Surgery, and an ad hoc reviewer for Cancer, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, International Journal of Cancer, Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism, Journal of Clinical Oncology, Surgery, Thyroid and the Annals of Surgery.

The aims of the Endocrine Oncology Lab are twofold: To improve the pre-operative diagnosis of endocrine tumors and identify novel therapeutic targets for endocrine cancers. The group uses a translational approach to understand endocrine pathology. They focus on: Thyroid tumors, Neuroendocrine tumors of the stomach, pancreas & gastrointestinal tract, Adrenal tumors, Parathyroid tumors.

The laboratory is located in the Weill Cornell Medical College and collaborates with several other groups at the institution and worldwide.

They have accrued a vast collection of endocrine tumors and cell lines. The laboratory utilizes advanced technology that allows for a comprehensive approach to endocrine tumor biology. In addition, they have maintained an extensive database that permits correlative studies of molecular markers and clinical parameters.



Marco Seandel, MD, PhD

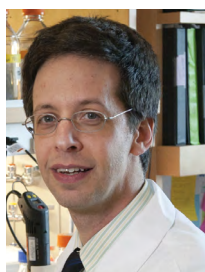
Associate Professor of Surgery & Medicine

Probing the Micro-environment of Stem Cells & Tumor Cells

The Seandel Laboratory is interested in the origin of de novo germline mutations that confer increased risk of various disorders, including congenital heart disease, autism, and childhood cancers. The majority of such de novo mutations originate in the fathers' spermatogenic cells. We study the mechanisms by which such disease susceptibility mutations arise in the spermatogonial stem cells in the father and become enriched through positive selection at the stem cell level, thereby leading to a higher probability of affected children from older fathers. We also probing the underlying mechanisms that

Research & Clinical Trials

enable self-renewal of stem cells, including specific growth factor signaling pathways that are implicated in de novo disorders. Our studies are designed to enhance the basic understanding of disease pathogenesis and approaches to diagnosis and treatment in the future.



Yariv Houvras, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Surgery and Medicine

Genetics and Epigenetics of Cancer Progression

The Houvras laboratory uses genetic approaches to study cancer initiation and progression. The laboratory has developed models of thyroid cancer in zebrafish to study the effects of oncogenes and tumor suppressors and to identify novel drug targets. A zebrafish model of melanoma permits scientists to perform genetic studies and identify new mechanisms that initiate cancer. Complementary approaches using human cancer cell lines are used to study biochemistry. The lab uses CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing to test specific mutations found in human cancer. Dr. Houvras is a practicing medical oncologist and has trained multiple physician-scientists.



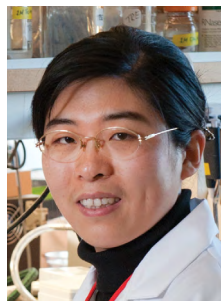
Rohit Chandwani, MD, PhD

Asst. Professor of Surgery

Cancer Epigenetics

The Chandwani Laboratory investigates how cell fate decisions in the preneoplastic epithelial cell are articulated in chromatin and defined by modifiers of the epigenome.

We combine genetic models and chromatin-based approaches to delineate how normal cells are rewired to become cancerous as a means to in turn uncover the molecular susceptibilities of premalignant cells. Our particular disease interest is in pancreatic cancer, where the chromatin landscape features unusual plasticity that shapes the gene expression programs that confer aggressive biological behavior. Overall, our research program aims to highlight epigenetic reprogramming as a driver of tumor initiation and to uncover the means by which to target these critical chromatin-based events.



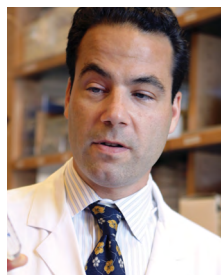
Shuibing Chen, PhD

Associate Professor of Surgery and Chemical Biology

Pluripotent cells for directed differentiation-based cellular therapies and disease modeling

The major research interest in the Chen The major research interest in the Chen Laboratory is to manipulate stem cell fate using chemical and biological approaches and to generate functional tissues and organs that can be used for translational research. Our current main focus is on human pluripotent stem cells (PSCs), including human embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). We combine our knowledge of stem cell biology, developmental biology, chemical biology, medicine chemistry and tissue engineering to derive functional cells, tissues and organs from human pluripotent stem cells. Our long-term goal is to apply patient specific PSC-derived tissues or organs for replacement therapy and build up “disease in a dish” platforms for drug discovery. Our major interests include human pancreatic beta cells, cardiomyocytes and conduction system cells, as well as other clinically relevant cell types.

Jason Spector, MD, FACS



Professor of Plastic Surgery and Otolaryngology

Adjunct Professor, Nancy E. and Peter C. Meinig School of Bioengineering, Cornell University

Director, Laboratory of Bioregenerative Medicine and Surgery

Bioregenerative Medicine and Surgery

The Laboratory for Bioregenerative Medicine & Surgery is the research arm of the Weill Cornell Medical College's Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery. Our aim is to advance various aspects of tissue engineering from the bench to the bedside. Current research projects are focused on tissue engineering for wound healing, overcoming ischemia/reperfusion injury, hydrogel scaffolds for dermal replacement, and ultrasound as a wound healing modality.

Career Paths of Program Graduates



Department of Surgery

The majority of the program's general surgery graduates continue their training in a specialized area of surgery. Chief Residents routinely secure prestigious fellowship positions in any one of a number of academic programs across the country. Fellowship positions obtained by Chief Residents graduating in the recent past are as follows:

2020 Graduates

Dalia Alqunaibit, M.D.

Surgical Critical Care
Maimonides Medical Center

Adham Elmously, M.D.

Vascular Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian

William Hammond, M.D., M.Sc.

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
University of Calgary

Matthew Symer, M.D., M.S.

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian - Weill Cornell Medicine

Dagny von Ahrens, M.D.

Transplant Surgery Fellowship
Mount Sinai, NY

Katherine Gray, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Maureen Moore, M.D.

Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian - Weill Cornell Medicine

2019 Graduates

Jonathan Abelson, M.D.

Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
Washington University in St. Louis

Neel Chudgar, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

John Creasy, M.D.

Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Duke University School of Medicine

Jason Gardinier, M.D.

Plastic Surgery
Massachusetts General Hospital

Brandon Guenthart, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Stanford Medicine

Oriana Petruolo, M.D.

Breast Surgery Fellowship
Match pending

Saurabh Saluja, M.D.

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
Yale School of Medicine

Marc Vimolratana, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian – Cornell

2018 Graduates

Marco Bertucci Zoccali, M.D.

Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
University of Chicago

Andreas de Biasi, M.D.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
Stanford Medicine

Elinore Kaufman, M.D.

Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
University of Pennsylvania

Jennifer Minneman, M.D.

General Surgeon

Michael Pezold, M.D.

Vascular Surgery
New York University

Matthew C. Smith, M.D.

Vascular Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian – Cornell/Columbia

2017 Graduates

Anna Aronova, M.D.

Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
Mount Sinai (NYC)

Career Paths of Program Graduates

Filippo Filicori, M.D.

Advanced GIMIS Fellowship
Portland Medical Center

Brendan Finnerty, M.D.

Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Jamie Green, M.D.

Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Cedars-Sinai (LA)

Robert McMillan, M.D.

Transplantation Fellowship
UCLA

Michael Morton, M.D.

Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
Brigham & Women's Hospital

Jennifer Murphy, M.D.

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Patrick Seastedt, M.D.

General Surgeon
United States Air Force

2016 Graduates

Christopher James Agrusa, M.D.

Vascular Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Hasan Ali Aldailami, M.D.

Vascular Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Daniel Robert Fish, M.D., M.S.

Colon and Rectal Fellowship
The Cleveland Clinic

Kareem Ibrahim, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Residency Program
Texas Heart Institute/Baylor College of Medicine

David A. Kleiman, M.D., M.S.c.

Colon & Rectal Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center

Gregory Gordon Salzler, M.D.

Vascular Fellowship
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

2015 Graduates

Laurence Belin, M.D., M.P.H.

Active Duty General Surgeon
United States Navy

Toni Beninato, M.D.

Endocrine Surgery Fellowship

University of California, San Francisco

Antonio Coppolino, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Douglas Jones, M.D.

Vascular Surgery Fellowship
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Eric Sorenson, M.D.

Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Samuel Thomas Sultan, M.D.

Abdominal Transplant Surgery Fellowship
The University of Maryland Medical Center

Yusuke Terasaki, M.D.

Cardiac Surgery Fellowship
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Harna Khachig Turbendian, M.D.

Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship
The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

2014 Graduates

Cheguevara Afaneh, M.D.

Complex Gastrointestinal Surgery Fellowship
NewYork Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

David Anderson, M.D.

Breast Surgery Oncology Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Alyssa Reiffel Golas, M.D.

Plastic Surgery Residency
New York University

Stefan Kachala, M.D.

Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
The Cleveland Clinic

Starr B. Koslow, M.D.

Breast Oncology Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Peter W. McWhorter, M.D.

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellowship
North Shore Hospital System/Long Island Jewish

Katrina B. Mitchell, M.D.

Breast Surgery Fellowship
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Barrie S. Rich, M.D.

Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
North Shore/LIJ Cohen Children's Hospital

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, Giants Stadium, and Shea Stadium are easily accessible. Residents are able to enjoy the haven that Central Park provides from the City's pavements 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.

Housing

NewYork Presbyterian-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.

East Campus

NewYork-Presbyterian owns and leases 1,400+ residential apartments located in close proximity to the East Campus on the Upper East Side of Manhattan (primarily a residential neighborhood). Our buildings are within walking distance of Central Park and the East River Promenade, and to all types of stores and restaurants in the neighborhood. We are also convenient to mass transportation (the Lexington Ave. subway line, uptown, downtown and crosstown buses). For car travel, the FDR Drive offers easy accessibility to and from the East Campus to the West Campus and out of the city. 9 additional Pre-War properties are available from 70th Street to 75th Street and York Avenue.

Living in NYC

Benefits and Malpractice Insurance

At NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP), we offer a competitive benefit package to our employees. Core benefit include medical, dental, basic group life insurance, short and long-term disability, accidental death and dismemberment coverage and supplemental life products. NYP makes significant contributions to employee's medical and dental benefits.

Each graduate staff is provided malpractice insurance free of charge at each through MCIC Vermont, Inc. (MCIC), a insurance company jointly owned by Columbia University, Cornell University, and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, as well as University of Rochester, Johns Hopkins University and Yale University. The insurance program has been in existence for over 25 years.

In addition, \$100,000.00 in life insurance is provided and four weeks of paid vacation per year.

Stipends

The stipends for interns and residents at NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center 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.

2019 - 2020

Salary Scale for General Surgery

Graduate Staff Level 1 \$73,489

Graduate Staff Level 2 \$77,048

Graduate Staff Level 3 \$83,363

Graduate Staff Level 4 \$85,706

Graduate Staff Level 5 \$88,617

Graduate Staff Level 6 \$90,209

Graduate Staff Level 7 \$92,925

The NYP benefit plans include features and services such as: vision care, Rx prescription coverage, IVF program, term life insurance living benefit, portable life insurance products at group rates, a 24/7 Nurse Line, Disease Management programs and financial planning services to beneficiaries of group life insurance.

There is also an array of voluntary benefits including flexible spending accounts for transportation, adoption, health and dependent care, universal and dependent life insurance, critical illness plans for employees and dependents, long-term care for employees and family members, financial planning, legal services, ASPCA pet insurance, identity protection and college savings. And, with a focus on preparing employees for a secure financial future, NYP sponsors the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Retirement Plan, a competitive 100% Hospital paid portable pension. In addition, employees can participate in a TSA 403(b) savings plan and have access to retirement planning services.



NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine

525 East 68th Street
New York, NY 10065
surgery.weill.cornell.edu



Columbia University Medical Center

622 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032