

**NewYork-  
Presbyterian**



**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**



# **Combined Plastic Surgery Residency Program Cornell & Columbia**

Program Director: Robert T. Grant, MD, MSc, FACS  
Program Manager: David Fehling, MA  
Program Coordinator: Aleks Karnick, MPH

# Welcome



Weill Cornell Medical College



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 NewYork-Presbyterian/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 which is 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. Today our surgeons continue 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 Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program.

## **Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS**

*Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery*

*Chairman of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College*

*Surgeon-in-Chief*

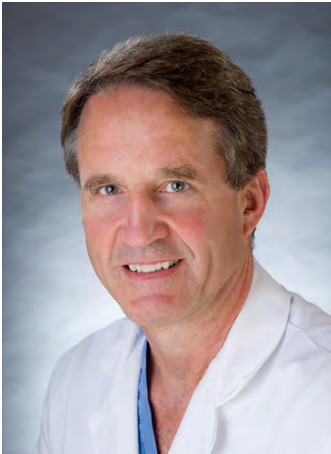
*NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center*

# Welcome



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Columbia University Department of Surgery. With a roster of nearly 100 full-time faculty members with specialties ranging from basic science research to the most advanced minimally invasive surgical procedures, 89 fellows and residents, and more than 330 staff members, the Department draws on a tradition of more than 225 years marked by some of the most extraordinary achievements in medicine.

We are committed to the belief that multidisciplinary collaboration leads to a higher level of care, and that such teamwork promotes meaningful interaction between faculty members as well as crossfunctional fertilization among staff. Over the past 25 years, the Department has evolved from a loose federation of private practices to a sophisticated network of creative alliances. Collaboration with medical and scientific experts at Columbia University and globally, as well as with the biotech industry, has resulted in many “firsts” and enhanced our reputation for providing the highest quality patient care.

Another defining element of the Department’s culture is innovation, an area in which it is the beneficiary of a rich legacy, and in which it continues to foster the transition from scientific discovery to clinically relevant application. With the university’s dedication to translational research, we are able to move promising new advances from the laboratory bench to the patient’s bedside with greater speed. We then use our clinical observations to fine-tune these treatments and to monitor their acceptance into mainstream practice. In short, we are involved in every aspect of the innovation process.

In recent years, the surgical discipline has been witness to a trend of increasing specialization. Here at Columbia, this sea change has led us to undertake accelerated program development in multiple areas. I am pleased with the payoff of these efforts, which have engendered greater clinical capability, streamlined service for our patients and referring physicians, and yielded an enhanced interface between our surgeon-investigators and clinical research centers within Columbia University Medical Center.

I invite you to explore our website, where you will find in-depth mini-sites dedicated to each of our clinical specialties; a broad range of multimedia items including animations of surgical procedures, surgical videos, and presentations by our faculty; calendars of community and physician education events, articles on our current research and innovations, and a directory of faculty and staff with a map of the Department of Surgery’s organizational structure.

## **Craig R. Smith, MD, FACS**

*Valentine Mott Professor of Surgery*

*Johnson & Johnson Distinguished Professor*

*Chairman of Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*

*Surgeon-in-Chief*

# Greetings from the Division Chief



Welcome to the Division of Plastic Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Amazing things really do happen here!

The mastery of ‘cutting-edge’ technologies, the provision of compassionate and confidential care, along with the pursuit of clinical and academic excellence defines our Division’s philosophy. As academically focused plastic surgeons our team of full-time and private practice surgeons is recognized as being leaders in plastic surgery education, research and clinical outcomes. We value and enjoy our interactions with patients, professional colleagues, resident doctors-intraining and medical students.

The needs and concerns of our patients and resident trainees are our primary concerns. Working in affiliation with New York-Presbyterian Hospital-acknowledged annually for each of the last 15 years by US News and World Report as the leading Hospital in our region-we’re dedicated to patient advocacy and satisfaction, as well as creating the finest educational experience for you.

The current integrated residency program is a product of the amalgamation of what once were three separate residency programs: The Columbia- Presbyterian Medical Center program, the New York Hospital- Cornell Medical Center program, and the Harlem Hospital program. Each of these was an independent program with a long history and tradition of education and clinical excellence in plastic surgery. The Columbia program was founded in 1939, the Cornell program in 1948 and the Harlem Hospital program in 1972. Founding chairman of the Departments of Plastic Surgery at Columbia include Jerome Webster, MD and Herbert Conway, MD at Weill Cornell. These were giants of their time in plastic surgery and have educated generations of plastic surgeons who now practice throughout the United States and the world.

When the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center and the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center merged, an opportunity to enhance the residency program training in plastic surgery became evident. With the full cooperation of the founding residency program director, Dr. Ferdinand Odofile, MD, the independent Harlem Hospital program was combined with the two Ivy League programs to create the current educational paradigm. In this way, the program exposes residents to all facets of plastic surgery training in a broad array of all potential learning environments from the quaternary referral hospital to the major academic medical center to the city hospital. Each campus has its own particular focus and allows our residents the opportunity to experience the depth and breadth of plastic surgery practiced in ways unparalleled elsewhere. The training program has completed its transition to a fully integrated model. Resident performance on the certifying and qualifying exams has met and exceeded expectations. The goal of all of us on the faculty is to produce the next generation of leaders in plastic surgery. Residents have assumed leadership positions in their communities, in organized plastic surgery and in academic medical centers. The faculty will work with each resident to formulate a plan to facilitate development of their desired plastic surgery practice after graduation from the program.

Plastic Surgery is about quality of life. Our surgeons enhance body image and appearance. Or, as necessary, we can address the full spectrum of reconstructive problems patients face, from birth throughout one’s lifetime.

Thank you for your interest in our New York-Presbyterian Hospital Plastic Surgery training program. I look forward to meeting with each of you.

**Robert T. Grant, MD, MSc, FACS**

*Plastic Surgeon-in-Chief*

*NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital*

*The University of Columbia and Weill Cornell Medicine*



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



Weill Cornell Medical College

# Who Are We?

## NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is one of the largest, most comprehensive hospitals in the nation, with more than 2,600 beds across six campuses, and one of the foremost academic medical centers in the world. With its two Ivy League medical school affiliates, [Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons](#) and [Weill Cornell Medicine](#), the Hospital is committed to pursuing clinical excellence, engaging in groundbreaking biomedical research, offering outstanding medical education, and providing prevention and wellness services to the community.

NewYork-Presbyterian offers expertise in every area of medicine. Among its highly regarded specialty centers and services are a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, two premier sites for pediatric care, the oldest and largest organ transplantation program in the country, and centers of excellence in many other areas.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital ranks #1 in New York and is consistently among the top hospitals in the nation, according to [U.S. News & World Report](#). Out of nearly 5,000 hospitals evaluated by U.S. News for its 2018-19 Best Hospitals rankings, NewYork-Presbyterian was ranked 10 out of 20 on their prestigious [Honor Roll](#).

## Weill Cornell Medical College

Founded in 1898, and affiliated with what is now NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital since 1927, Weill Cornell Medical College is among the [top-ranked](#) clinical and medical research centers in the country. In addition to offering degrees in medicine, Weill Cornell also has [PhD programs in biomedical research and education](#) at the [Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences](#), and with neighboring Sloan-Kettering Institute and The Rockefeller University, has established a joint MD PhD program for students to intensify their pursuit of Weill Cornell's triple mission of education, research, and patient care.

[The Department of Surgery](#) of Weill Cornell Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medicine is internationally recognized for outstanding and innovative surgical expertise. There are 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, Gastrointestinal Metabolic Surgery, Laparoscopy 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.



# Who Are We?

## Columbia University Medical Center

The [Columbia University Medical Center](#) is a clinical, research, and educational enterprise located on a campus in northern Manhattan. We are home to four professional colleges and schools that provide global leadership in scientific research, health and medical education, and patient care, including:

- [Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons](#)
- [College of Dental Medicine](#)
- [School of Nursing](#)
- [Mailman School of Public Health](#)

The [Vagelos Education Center](#) is a new, state-of-the-art medical and graduate education building at [Columbia University Irving Medical Center](#). The building, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, in collaboration with Gensler as executive architect, is a 100,000-square-foot, 14-story glass tower that incorporates technologically advanced classrooms, collaboration spaces, and a modern simulation center to reflect how medicine is

taught, learned, and practiced in the 21st century. The design seeks to reshape the look and feel of the Medical Center, and to create spaces that facilitate the development of skills essential for modern medical practice.

CUMC is especially proud of its relationship with the surrounding [Washington Heights community](#), many of whose members have roots in the Dominican Republic and other Spanish-speaking countries. CUMC serves a local, largely uninsured population in addition to patients traveling to the hospital from the greater tri-state area. The opportunity to work with a wide spectrum of patients and patient problems is one of the great strengths of the residency program. Our plastic surgical residents participate in the diagnosis, treatment, and initial patient education for a variety of common and complex plastic surgery conditions.



Columbia University Irving Medical Center

# Who Are We?

## Skill Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL)

The Department of Surgery, in collaboration and partnership with the Departments of Anesthesiology and Interventional Radiology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, recently opened our newly-renovated, expanded Skills Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), which is a unique educational resource designed for residents, fellows, medical students, attending surgeons and other healthcare professionals to improve patient safety through simulation. A vital, 24-hour, 7 days a week teaching and research laboratory, SAIL is part of our Department's strong commitment to providing unique, personalized training, which uses the most advanced, state-of-the-art technology within the framework of surgical simulation science. Since its opening in 2008, SAIL has played a major role in helping our Department teach generations of surgeons acute patient care, surgical techniques and procedures. With developments in the field of surgery occurring at a rapid pace, SAIL provides a critical training component, enabling new and seasoned surgeons to become acquainted with new technologies and to maintain and broaden their surgical skill set.

Under the directorship of Jay Rosenberg, DVM, our newly renovated and expanded facility offers simulation technologies and is designed for immersive simulation and fully functional connectivity, utilizing transparent technology which records and collects metadata to assess performance for training

purposes. SAIL enables us to recreate a wide array of patient care situations where residents and fellows can practice and perfect many surgical techniques prior to their operative experience. They can also practice and pass surgical simulation tests that are now required for board certification in General Surgery. Medical students can practice basic skills prior to their clinical rotations in order to be prepared to be integral and safe members of the healthcare team.

SAIL includes thirty high definition cameras, fifteen large, high definition LED flat screens, two dozen omni-directional microphones, and a command center, which controls all the cameras from a central location. It offers a large OR simulation room, which contains a full bodied mannequin that breathes, blinks, talks and responds to medications and procedures.

The Lab also has a simulation patient care/ER room, and a simulation procedural skills lab, with inanimate tissue models and the most advanced minimally invasive surgery and technology equipment to practice surgical procedures. The state-of-the-art conference room, equipped with a wall of high definition flat screens, enables the highest quality broadcast and is designed for interactive teaching sessions and live operations from the hospital's ORs and from anywhere in the world.



# Overview of the Program

The Combined Divisions of Plastic Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital offer a fully ACGME-accredited Integrated Plastic Surgery Residency Program of six years duration.

The residency program ensures experience in all of the core subject areas in the discipline of plastic and reconstructive surgery including cosmetic surgery, hand surgery, pediatric surgery and craniofacial surgery, and microsurgery.

The goal of the residency program is to attract and produce highly moral, ethical and skilled surgeons, who will become leaders in the specialty of plastic surgery during their professional careers.

Participating institutions include both NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia Irving University Medical Center. Residents also rotate through Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Hospital for Special Surgery, and Harlem Hospital Center. Each of these outstanding facilities exposes the resident to the diverse nature of clinical disorders managed by plastic surgeons, ranging from complex tertiary care reconstructions to a resident run aesthetic surgery clinic. Exposure to burn care, trauma and the interdisciplinary nature of cancer care and traumatic injuries is realized. Additional time is devoted to an out-patient office experience where residents participate in the care of private practice patients under the direct supervision of the reputable and experienced Weill Cornell voluntary faculty, increasing their exposure to ethical practice, the business side of plastic surgery and outpatient safety.

During the first three years of training, rotations in dermatology, otolaryngology and head and neck surgery, orthopedics, hand surgery, anesthesia, oculoplastic surgery and ophthalmology and core surgical experiences are highlighted. The final three years of the training paradigm focus on the graded assumption of responsibility for care of plastic surgery patients across the entire spectrum of the specialty. Junior and senior level rotations at the sponsoring and participating institutions allows for appropriate realization of rotation specific goals and objectives in the specific competencies required of a practicing plastic surgeon.

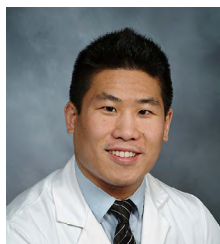
The division is among the first to use milestones, 360 degree evaluations and education in quality and patient safety and key components of its educational programs. Through electives residents can participate in scheduled surgical missions as many of the faculty, and each of the participating institutions have long-standing relationships with service organizations and hospitals throughout the world.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's locations in Manhattan with access to subsidized Hospital housing in New York's famed Upper East Side location adds a quality of lifestyle experience difficult for other training programs to match. The program has a full-time faculty at each participating institution that directly supervises the resident's experience during each rotation. A large and diverse voluntary faculty, including practitioners from related disciplines like dermatology, otolaryngology, orthopedics and urology are also privileged within the division. Over the past decade our resident graduates have either followed career pathways in academic plastic surgery, taken additional fellowship training in craniofacial Surgery, microsurgery of the hand or have pursued private practice opportunities in equal numbers. All resident graduates participate in the certification process offered by the American Board of Plastic Surgery with 100% of the graduates becoming board-certified over time.

The program has two residents each year for a total complement of twelve residents. The two positions are filled through the NRMP PGY-1 match each year. Residents are required to pursue independent clinical or basic science research during their time in the program. Presentation and/or publication of their research at a national meeting or prominent journal is a requirement for graduation. The program is in complete compliance with all ACGME, New York State, and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital rules and regulations regarding resident supervision and work hour limitations.



# Current Plastic Surgery Resident Profiles



## James C. Lee, MD (PGY-6)

Hometown | Placentia, CA  
Undergraduate | University of California, Berkeley  
Medical School | David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA  
Clinical/Research Interests | Craniofacial surgery, health economics, outcomes research  
Hobbies/Interests | Drawing, painting, basketball, swimming, wrestling



## Adam Levy, MD (PGY-5)

Hometown | Denver, CO  
Undergraduate | University of Colorado - Boulder  
Medical School | Boston University  
Clinical/Research Interests | Reconstruction from head to toe, microsurgery  
Hobbies/Interests | Running, skiing, hiking, travel, exploring NYC, always on the move!



## Andrew L. Weinstein, MD, MS (PGY-5)

Hometown | New York, NY  
Undergraduate | Cornell University  
Medical School | NYU School of Medicine  
Graduate School | Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health  
Clinical/Research Interests | Patient-reported outcomes  
Hobbies/Interests | Sports, movies, art



## Philip Lotfi, MD (PGY-5)

Hometown | New York, NY  
Undergraduate | Emory University  
Medical School | NYU School of Medicine



## Philipp Franck, MD (PGY-4)

Hometown | Stuttgart, Germany  
Undergraduate/Medical School | Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany  
Clinical/Research Interests | Orthoplastic surgery  
Hobbies/Interests | Sports, movies, art



## Jarrod T. Bogue, MD (PGY-4)

Hometown | Oxford, CT  
Undergraduate/Medical School | University of Rochester  
Clinical/Research Interests | Microsurgery, reconstruction, breast  
Hobbies/Interests | Saxophone, photography, hiking, fine coffee

# Current Plastic Surgery Resident Profiles



## **Drew Marano, MD (PGY-3)**

Hometown | Chatham, NJ  
Undergraduate | Brown University  
Medical School | Rutgers - New Jersey Medical School  
Clinical/Research Interests | Gender reaffirming surgery, microsurgery  
Hobbies/Interests | Sailing/windsurfing, classical piano, hockey



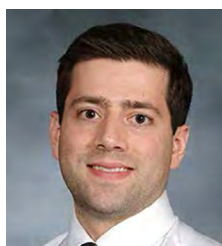
## **Nicholas Brownstone, MD (PGY-3)**

Hometown | Westfield, NJ  
Undergraduate | Cornell University  
Medical School | Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Clinical/Research Interests | Craniofacial surgery, hand surgery, resident education  
Hobbies/Interests | Golf, traveling, skiing, photography



## **Robert Van, MD (PGY-2)**

Hometown | Saratoga, CA  
Undergraduate | University of California, Davis  
Medical School | UT Houston McGovern Medical School  
Clinical/Research Interests | Breast reconstruction  
Hobbies/Interests | Listening to music, travel, exercise



## **Luke P. Poveromo, MD (PGY-2)**

Hometown | Circleville, NY  
Undergraduate | Cornell University  
Medical School | Duke University  
Clinical/Research Interests | Microsurgery  
Hobbies/Interests | Hiking, traveling, exercising, snowboarding



## **Seth Aschen, MD, MBA (PGY-1)**

Hometown | Pleasantville, NY  
Undergraduate | Tufts University  
Medical School | Weill Cornell Medical College  
Graduate School | Johnson College of Business at Cornell University  
Clinical/Research Interests | Microsurgery, wound healing, lymphatic biology, traumatic hand injuries, abdominal wall reconstruction  
Hobbies/Interests | Physical product entrepreneurship, running marathons, hiking, skiing, repairing cars



## **Jaime L. Bernstein, MD, MS (PGY-1)**

Hometown | Fairfield, CT  
Undergraduate | Syracuse University  
Medical School | Weill Cornell Medical College  
Graduate School | Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences  
Clinical/Research Interests | Tissue engineering, 3D printing, microsurgery, reconstruction  
Hobbies/Interests | Singing, performing, running, traveling

# Our Faculty



**NewYork-  
Presbyterian**



**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

# Our Faculty

## **Columbia University Irving Medical Center**

Dr. Robert T. Grant

Dr. Jeffrey A. Ascherman

Dr. Christine H. Rohde

Dr. Melvin Rosenwasser

Dr. Robert J. Strauch

Dr. June K. Wu

Dr. Thomas Imahiyerobo

## **Weill Cornell Medical College**

Dr. Robert T. Grant

Dr. Leslie Cohen

Dr. David Otterburn

Dr. Jason A. Spector

Dr. Mia Talmor

## **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

Dr. Peter G. Cordeiro

Dr. Joseph J. Disa

Dr. Colleen M. McCarthy

Dr. Evan Matros

Dr. Babak J. Mehrara

Dr. Andrea L. Pusic

## **Harlem Hospital**

Dr. Norman Morrison

Dr. Beth A. Preminger

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Robert T. Grant, MD, MSc, FACS**

**Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery**  
Weill Cornell Medical College

**Professor of Surgery**  
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Chief, Combined Divisions of Plastic Surgery**  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

**Associate Attending Surgeon**  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Robert T. Grant, MD, MSc, FACS is Chief of the combined Divisions of Plastic Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia Irving Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He is also a Professor of Surgery at Columbia University, Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery (Plastic Surgery) at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Grant has been Plastic Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork Presbyterian Hospital since 2004. He has been the Hospital's Plastic Surgery Residency Program Director since 1999. Board-certified in Plastic Surgery and General Surgery Dr. Grant maintains active Maintenance of Certification (MOC) in both specialties. He is a member of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons (AAPS), the Association of Academic Chairmen of Plastic Surgery (ACAPS), the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS), and the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ASAPS). He is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Grant is named annually by both Castle-Connolly and US News and World Report as one of the 'Best Doctors in America'.

After receiving his MD degree from Albany Medical College in 1983 Dr. Grant completed his General Surgery and Plastic Surgery residencies at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He then complemented this training with a Microsurgery fellowship at NYU Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital. He received his Management degree from NYU in 2000.

Dr. Grant's outstanding work and commitment to Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery has resulted in leadership positions at North Shore University Hospital, NYU School of Medicine, and all campuses of the NewYork Presbyterian Hospital Network. In addition to his clinical roles he serves as the Hospital's Physician Advisor for Care Coordination as well as Medical Director of the Hospital's Medical Staff Office. He is the inaugural President of the Association of Physician Leaders in Care Management (APLCM).

Dr. Grant's clinical expertise has made him a sought-after expert not only for local and nation radio and TV appearances but also magazine and newspaper articles and interviews. He has been named to New York Magazine's list of 'Best Doctors in New York' on multiple occasions. "Plastic Surgery is about quality of life" says Dr. Grant, "and about a man and woman's overall health and wellbeing. I partner with each and every one of my patients to identify and reach that balance of inner and outer beauty that is theirs and theirs alone-and to maintain that balance through every life stage."



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



Weill Cornell Medical College

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. Jeffrey A. Ascherman, MD, FACS**

### **Professor of Surgery**

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

### **Attending Surgeon**

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

### **Site Chief, Division of Plastic Surgery**

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

### **Adjunct Surgeon**

New York Eye and Ear Infirmary

### **Director, Cleft/Craniofacial Center**

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

Dr. Jeffrey Ascherman is the Site Chief of Plastic Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center and is also a Professor of Surgery. He is an internationally-recognized expert in the full spectrum of diagnosis and treatment in Plastic Surgery with specializations in breast & chest wall reconstruction, craniofacial surgery, and aesthetic surgery.

Dr. Ascherman received his BA from Harvard University and then went on to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons where he earned his MD in 1988. He decided to continue his medical training at Columbia University where he spent the next 6 years completing his general and plastic surgery residencies. Following his surgical training, Dr. Ascherman headed abroad to France where he completed a Craniofacial fellowship at the Hospital Necker-Enfants Malades in Paris followed by a Pediatric Plastic Surgery fellowship at Hospital Saint Vincent de Paul of Paris.

Dr. Ascherman has shared his expertise with the world through his international humanitarian missions in countries such as Colombia and China. He has published 10 book chapters, numerous journal articles, and has been asked to do presentations on various plastic surgery topics throughout the world. Dr. Ascherman is also a member of numerous professional organizations such as the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, Plastic Surgery Research Council, Association for Academic Surgery, American College of Surgeons, and American Association of Plastic Surgeons. He is also a Past-President of the Northeastern Society of plastic surgeons and has served as the national principal investigator for both US multicenter AirXpander studies examining a new remote control tissue expander.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Leslie E. Cohen, MD**

### **Assistant Attending Surgeon**

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

### **Assistant Professor of Surgery**

Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University

### **Adjunct Assistant Professor of Surgery**

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

Dr. Leslie Cohen is originally from Long Island, New York. She graduated as a Presidential Scholar from Stanford University in 2006 and went on to obtain her medical degree from Mount Sinai Medical School in 2010. She then completed her residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery in 2016 at Weill Cornell/Columbia University, New York Presbyterian Hospital where she was awarded the Dicran Goulian Award for Academic Excellence in Plastic Surgery. She went on to complete a fellowship in microsurgery for reconstruction of oncologic and traumatic defects at NYU Langone Medical Center and at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer.

Her clinical expertise is in microsurgical perforator flaps (DIEP flap, SGAP/IGAP flap, PAP flap) and implant based reconstruction after breast cancer as well as complex reconstruction for adults and children who have defects after surgery of the head and neck, abdominal wall, spine, pelvis and extremities. She also offers aesthetic surgery for the face and body with the goal to enhance appearance with a natural un-operated look using the most advanced surgical techniques available.

In her free time, Dr. Cohen enjoys live music, cooking, hiking and spending time with her husband, son and family. Dr. Cohen has a passion for providing medical care to underserved regions. She has participated in numerous surgical missions for reconstructive plastic surgery across the world including Angkor Children's Hospital in Cambodia, El Salvador and rural Belize.



Weill Cornell Medical College

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Thomas A. Imahiyero, MD**

### **Co-Director, Craniofacial Surgery**

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

### **Instructor in Surgery**

Columbia University Medical Center

### **Assistant Professor of Plastic Surgery**

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Imahiyero received his B.A. from Harvard University where he graduated with Honors, cum laude. After also receiving his M.D. from Harvard Medical School, Dr. Imahiyero entered the combined Plastic Surgery Residency at New York Presbyterian/Columbia and New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. During his residency, Dr. Imahiyero was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Dicran Goulian award for academic excellence in Plastic Surgery, as well as the Weill Cornell Alumni Council award for Distinguished House Staff. During his final year of residency Dr. Imahiyero served as chief resident in Plastic Surgery and was recognized by New York Presbyterian Hospital for his outstanding patient care.

Dr. Imahiyero's areas of expertise include the treatment of cleft lip, cleft palate, craniosynostosis, frontal facial advancement and orthognathic (jaw) surgery. He also specializes in the care of adult cosmetic and reconstructive surgery of the head and neck. He will be taking an active role in the Craniofacial Center at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital, where he is committed to providing comprehensive, cutting-edge, compassionate care to patients of all ages with craniofacial differences. He has completed additional training in Craniofacial and Pediatric Plastic Surgery during his fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. While there, he was an integral part of one of the largest cleft and craniofacial teams in the country.

Dr. Imahiyero is the author of numerous academic publications. He has been a speaker at national meetings of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, The American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery and the Plastic Surgery Research Council. In 2014 he was awarded the prestigious Gaspar Anastasi Award for best presentation during the Resident and Fellows Forum at the meeting of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. His current research interest includes the use of innovative approaches to treat global midface hypoplasia and severe Class III malocclusion. He is also focused on outcomes research for cleft lip and palate surgery, as well as the effects of craniosynostosis on pediatric cognitive development.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Babak J. Mehrara, MD**

### **Chief, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Service**

Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK)

Babak J. Mehrara, MD, is the Chief of the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Service and the William G. Cahon Endowed Chair in the Department of Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK), with a joint appointment as Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. Dr. Mehrara is an oncologic reconstructive surgeon with a broad background in both the clinical management and the biology of cancer. After receiving his medical degree from Columbia University, he completed his general surgery and plastic surgery residencies at New York University, where he also completed a research fellowship in craniofacial biology. He completed advanced training in microsurgery through a fellowship at the University of California–Los Angeles. Dr. Mehrara is a well-recognized expert in reconstructive microsurgery and complex reconstruction procedures. He has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, and he has lectured nationally and internationally on a broad range of topics related to plastic and reconstructive surgery. He also serves as the Director of the National Institutes of Health-funded Lymphatic Biology Laboratory at MSK, researching the pathophysiology of lymphedema and the mechanisms regulating lymphatic function. Dr. Mehrara is the President-Elect of the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons and a former Chairman of the Plastic Surgery Research Council.



Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Norman G. Morrison, MD, FACS**

**Chief, Plastic Surgery**  
Harlem Hospital

Norman G. Morrison, MD, FACS is an acclaimed and highly sought after Plastic and Reconstructive surgeon in the greater New York City area and throughout Jamaica. Having been in private practice for over 20 years, Dr. Morrison has helped hundreds of patients to transform their lives through minor and major surgical enhancements.

As one of a select few plastic surgeons that is board certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, the American Board of Surgery and by the Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Morrison has developed a talent for transforming women and men of all demographic and racial backgrounds. With a focus in patient care and results, Dr. Morrison is hands on in guiding each patient through their surgical journey and ensuring individual satisfaction with their results.

Dr. Morrison received his Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Surgery (MBBS) from University of the West Indies Faculty of Medicine in 1980 and later moved to New York City to continue his surgical training and experience. He later served as a resident in General Surgery at North General Hospital and completed a Plastic Surgery Fellowship at Harlem Hospital in before founding Morrison Plastic Surgery Practice in 1994 in New York City's popular and affluent Upper East Side neighborhood.

Since then, his patient list of hundreds of satisfied customers range from every day mothers ready to reclaim their bodies, to men electing to transform parts of their bodies they are unhappy with, celebrities throughout the world, and domestic and international dignitaries. In addition to his clinical success in patient results, Dr. Morrison's professional success includes continuing to educate medical residents as the Chief of Plastic surgery at the prestigious Harlem and NewYork-Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital in New York City.

He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgery and a member of the New York Regional Society for Plastic Surgeons, a rare and prestigious achievement for any physician. Dr. Morrison's achievements have also included lecturing, and the publication of numerous professional articles.

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. David M. Otterburn**

**Assistant Professor of Surgery (Plastic Surgery)**

Weill Cornell Medical College

**Assistant Attending Surgeon**

New York-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Otterburn is board-certified in both plastic surgery and general surgery. His clinical expertise includes plastic and reconstructive surgery, and he has additional training and specialization in microvascular surgery for complex reconstructions throughout the body, utilizing 3-D imaging and other state-of-the-art technologies to obtain optimal outcomes. A special focus includes microvascular breast reconstruction with perforator flaps from the abdomen (DIEP), buttocks (SGAP, IGAP) and thigh (PAP).

Dr. Otterburn performs breast reductions, lifts and augmentations, utilizing minimally invasive methods such as endoscopic and short scar techniques when possible. His surgical expertise also includes oculoplastic reconstruction and reconstruction following Mohs surgery. He offers patients both facial aesthetic and body-contouring procedures, as well as Botox and injectables.

A board-certified general and plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Dr. Otterburn has received numerous honors and awards in academics, teaching and research. He received his B.A. in political science with honors from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey in May 1997. During his program, he was selected into the BA/MD program from 1995 through May 1997. Dr. Otterburn received his M.D. degree from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Piscataway, New Jersey in May 2000. He completed his internship in general surgery at Cooper University Hospital, Camden, New Jersey in June, 2001, and his general surgery residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia in June, 2007. Dr. Otterburn completed a plastic surgery residency training program at Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia in June, 2010, and a microsurgery fellowship at New York University Medical Center, Department of Plastic Surgery, New York in June, 2011.



Weill Cornell Medical College

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Christine H. Rohde, MD, MPH, FACS**

**Associate Professor of Surgery**  
Columbia University Medical Center

**Attending Surgeon**  
NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center

**Chief of Microvascular Services**  
CUMC Department of Surgery

**Vice Chair of Faculty Development and Diversity**  
CUMC Department of Surgery

**Chief of Plastic Surgery**  
NYP-Lawrence Hospital

Dr. Rohde graduated from Harvard Medical School in 2000. Following her medical school education, she began her general surgery training at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. After three years of general surgery training, Dr. Rohde accepted a plastic and reconstructive surgery residency position at Montefiore Medical Center. Interested in microsurgery, Dr. Rohde completed a microsurgical fellowship at New York University Medical School's Institute of Reconstructive and Plastic Surgery in 2006. Her research focuses primarily on outcomes of plastic surgical interventions, particularly as they relate to cancer reconstruction and post-surgical care. In 2013, Dr. Rohde graduated from the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health with a Masters in Public Health, focusing on comparative effectiveness research.

She is the author of numerous publications and book chapters, as well as a member of multiple national plastic surgical committees. Dr. Rohde has been awarded local and national plastic surgical research grants, including a National Endowment for Plastic Surgery grant. As a committed researcher and educator, she has been invited to give lectures across the world.

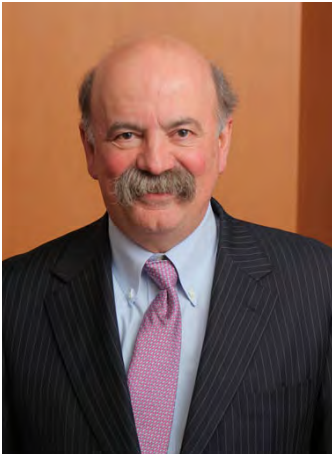
A highly skilled clinician, researcher and teacher, Dr. Rohde is trained in the diagnosis and treatment of the full range of plastic reconstructive and aesthetic surgery, specializing in microsurgery, cosmetic surgery, and breast, trauma, and cancer reconstruction.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Melvin P. Rosenwasser, MD**

**Robert E. Carroll Professor of Surgery of the Hand, Orthopaedic Surgery**  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center

**Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon**  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

**Director, Trauma Training Center, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery**

**Director, Hand Fellowship, Orthopaedic Surgery**  
Columbia Univeresity

Melvin P. Rosenwasser, MD, has expertise in orthopaedic hand, elbow, and trauma surgery, which makes him a unique specialist because he can accommodate any traumatic orthopaedic extremity problem as well as arthritic and congenital anomalies of the upper extremity.

Dr. Rosenwasser has been co-principal investigator on numerous NIH grants and awards and has authored many book chapters and peer-reviewed articles on surgery of the upper extremity as well as trauma-related surgery for both upper and lower extremities. He presents scientific lectures on his specialty both here and abroad. Dr. Rosenwasser has also served as Chairman of many national and local hand and trauma conferences. Dr. Rosenwasser has been recognized in New York Magazines "Best Doctors in New York" Hall of Fame. Dr. Rosenwasser is also the hand consultant for the New York Yankees.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Jason A. Spector, MD, FACS**

**Professor of Plastic Surgery and Otolaryngology**  
Weill Cornell Medical College

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

**Director, Laboratory of Bioregenerative Medicine and Surgery**  
New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine

Jason A. Spector, M.D., F.A.C.S. is a Professor of Surgery and Otolaryngology at Weill Cornell Medical College, and Adjunct Professor in the Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University. He is a nationally recognized board-certified plastic surgeon at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medicine where his primary clinical interests include reconstructive microsurgery of the head & neck, breast and lower extremities as well as cosmetic surgery. For the last several years Dr. Spector has been recognized as a top plastic surgeon by U.S. News & World Report, Castle and Connelly and locally by New York Magazine. Dr. Spector is a member of several regional and national plastic surgery societies including the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, American Association of Plastic Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, Plastic Surgery Research Council, Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons, American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery, and the Biomedical Engineering Society. Dr. Spector serves as an oral board examiner for the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

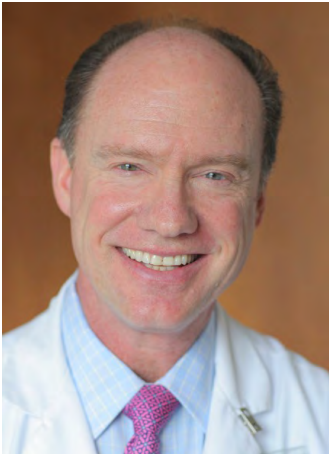
A native of New York City, he completed his undergraduate degree at Cornell University in 1991, where he graduated with distinction and was named to Cornell's Golden Key National Honor Society. Dr. Spector graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 1996, where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and winner of the Valentine Mott Award for his outstanding research. In 1999, he won the Best Resident Research Presentation at the Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons, and in 2003 he won the Best Research Presentation at the New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons' Residents Competition. Dr. Spector obtained his medical degree from New York University Medical Center, where he also received his training in general surgery under Frank Spencer, M.D., plastic surgery at NYU's Institute of Reconstructive Plastic Surgery under Joseph G. McCarthy, M.D. and completed a post-doctoral research fellowship under Michael T. Longaker, M.D. and a clinical fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery (IRPS).

In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Dr. Spector is the Director and Principal Investigator of the Laboratory for Bioregenerative Medicine and Surgery (LBMS) at Weill Cornell Medicine. The LBMS focuses on novel approaches for tissue engineering, wound healing and precision medicine as well as the development of various translational technologies from bench to bedside. Dr. Spector has published more than 110 peer reviewed articles and has received funding for his research from the National Institutes of Health, where he is also a standing member of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering SBIR/STTR study section. In 2013 Dr. Spector was awarded the World Technology Award, in Health & Medicine by the World Technology Network for his pioneering work in ear tissue engineering. Dr. Spector has 6 patents issued or in process. In his role as surgeon and scientist, Dr. Spector has mentored dozens of high school, undergraduate and medical students as well as numerous residents, Ph.D. students, and post-docs. Dr. Spector and his wife Beth have two boys, Josh, 14, and Sam, 11, and live in Greenwich Village in New York City.



Weill Cornell Medical College

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Robert J. Strauch, MD**

**Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery**  
Columbia University Medical Center

**Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon**  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Robert J. Strauch, specializes in the diagnosis and surgical and non-surgical treatment of hand, wrist and elbow problems in adults and children. He has a special interest in nerve problems of the upper extremity (including carpal tunnel syndrome) and in treating congenital hand disorders. The specialty of Hand Surgery melds together elements and principles of orthopedic, plastic, neurological and vascular surgery to restore and maximize hand and upper extremity function, whether wielding a jackhammer, throwing a baseball, or playing the violin. Dr. Strauch has authored and co-authored numerous articles in the field of hand surgery and is actively engaged in basic and clinical research. He served as President of the New York Society for Surgery of the Hand in 2006-2007.

Dr. Strauch has been included in the list of New York Magazine's "Best Doctors in New York" in addition to being regularly listed in America's Top Doctors. Dr. Strauch is also an accomplished amateur magician and has been known to entertain as well as to diagnose and treat his patients. Children, especially, actually look forward to a return office visit with the 'magician'.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Mia Talmor, MD**

**Associate Professor of Surgery (Plastic Surgery)**

Weill Cornell Medical College

**Associate Attending Surgeon**

New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Dr. Mia Talmor is the first female surgeon appointed to the full-time faculty of the Division of Plastic Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Talmor is one of the few double Board certified surgeons in the country. She is a diplomat of both The American Board of Surgery, as well as of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, having completed the recertification process with both Boards in 2011. Dr. Talmor is a member of The American Association of Plastic Surgeons, representing an elite group of academic plastic surgeons throughout the country.

In addition to her excellence as a plastic surgeon, Dr. Talmor has distinguished herself in the scientific community through her research, scientific presentations and publications. She has received numerous prestigious grants and awards from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, The American College of Surgeons, The American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, The New York Regional Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons, as well as from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Talmor specializes in aesthetic and reconstructive surgery. She offers the most technologically advanced procedures available to enhance the appearance and self-esteem of her patients. She has been recognized by New York Magazine as a “Best Doctor” since 2013, and by Castle Connolly as a “Top Doctor for Cancer” since 2013. She was an inaugural recipient of the “Exceptional Women in Medicine” award in 2017. She appears regularly in multiple media outlets including Dr. Oz, The Today Show, CBS this Morning, Vogue and The New York Times.

Dr. Mia Talmor graduated Cornell University Medical College with a doctor of medicine with honors in research in May of 1993. She is currently a Professor of Clinical Surgery at The Weill Cornell Medical School, and an Attending Surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital. In September of 2010, Dr. Talmor became the president of The New York Regional Society of Plastic Surgeons, which represents 180 board-certified plastic surgeons in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. She remains on their Board of Trustees.

On July 1, 1996, Mia was appointed a research fellow after receiving the American College of Surgeons Resident Research Scholarship. She worked under Dr. Ralph Steinman at Rockefeller University in New York. Dr. Steinman was awarded the Noble Prize in Medicine in 2011. She continued her study of the dendritic cell in rat allograft limb transplantation, which earned her the Peter J. Gingrass, MD Memorial Award from the Plastic Surgery Research Council in medical school. This research led to numerous publications and another grant research grant from the Plastic Surgery Education Foundation. To her credit, Mia has authored over fifty scientific papers, five book chapters and has made numerous scientific presentations.

Her most recent research focuses on new techniques in breast reconstruction, safety issues related to cosmetic surgery, as well as on new technologies.





# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **June K. Wu, MD**

### **Assistant Professor of Surgery**

Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons

### **Attending Surgeon**

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center

June K. Wu, M.D., is a Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon and an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at Columbia University in New York City. She graduated from Princeton University and went on to enroll at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

After obtaining her medical degree, she completed an integrated residency in plastic surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and the Montefiore Medical Center in New York. Further training included fellowships in craniofacial surgery and vascular anomalies at Children's Hospital Boston.

Dr. Wu's clinical interests are in pediatric plastic surgery and congenital head and neck malformation, including cleft lip and palate, craniosynostosis and vascular anomalies. In addition, she is interested in body contouring procedures after massive weight loss.

Dr. Wu's research interests include the contribution of abnormal angiogenesis in aberrant wound healing processes, developing animal models to investigate the role of negative pressure on wound healing, and the use of genetic knockout mice in wound healing experiments.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Clinical Research

## Research Activities

The Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory is currently conducting numerous research studies, including those related to gene therapy in wound healing, tissue engineering, and the study of bone substitutes.

A major focus of the laboratory is on applications of gene therapy to wound healing. Using gene therapy, growth factor genes (such as PDGF and VEGF) are introduced to wounds using different techniques, including retroviral vectors, and used to expedite healing. Recent publications and presentations have included the use of this gene therapy in the healing of both ischemic and diabetic wounds, with improved healing seen in these treated wounds. The laboratory is also investigating the use of stem cells for tissue regeneration. We have used in vitro manipulation of these stem cells to successfully differentiate these cells into osteocytes, chondrocytes, and adipocytes. The use of various bone substitutes is also being investigated to expedite bone healing.

### Research Activities Include:

- Tissue Engineering
- Gene Therapy
- Wound Healing
- Bone Substitutes
- Outcomes Assessment in Cosmetic & Reconstructive Surgery

## Tissue Engineering

Current studies in tissue engineering are focusing on the use of stem cells derived from fat which can be differentiated into bone, cartilage, and fat. We have shown that these stem cells can be isolated from adult fat tissue, and differentiate into bone, cartilage, or fat depending on the tissue culture conditions. This work will be presented at the upcoming Plastic Surgery Research Council meeting.

## Gene Therapy

We are focusing on the use of gene therapy in the treatment of diabetic wounds. We have treated diabetic animal wounds with cultured fibroblasts retrovirally transduced with the platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) gene, and have shown improved healing in these wounds. This study "Accelerated diabetic wound healing using cultured dermal fibroblasts retrovirally transduced with the PDGF-B gene" was presented at the recent Northeastern Society of Plastic Surgeons.

## Wound Healing

A recent study conducted in the Plastic Surgery Research Laboratory examined the histologic effects of retention sutures in a rat model. As retention sutures increased the early inflammatory response and long-term disorderly collagen formation in this model, the results did not support the use of retention sutures.

## Bone Substitutes

Numerous studies have been conducted within the Plastic Surgery Division in the area of cranial bone formation. One study showed that absorbable plates and screws, a relatively new technology, do not inhibit new bone formation. Another study has shown that absorbable plates can be safely used as a scaffold for a hydroxyapatite resin bone paste to reconstruct large cranial defects.

# Career Paths of Residents



## 2018

**Briar Dent, MD**  
WestMed Medical Group  
Plastic Surgeon

**Natalia Fullerton, MD**  
Hand Surgery Fellowship  
University of Miami Health

## 2017

**Rose Fu, MD**  
Microsurgery Fellowship  
University of Pennsylvania School of  
Medicine

**John Bast, MD**  
Microsurgery Fellowship  
University of Southern California,  
Los Angeles County

## 2016

**Leslie Cohen, MD**  
Microsurgery Fellowship  
NYU Langone Medical Center

**Peter Henderson, MD**  
Microsurgery Fellowship  
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

## 2015

**Olushola Olorunnipa, MD**  
Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship  
Texas Children's Hospital –Baylor

**Ryan Engdahl, MD**  
Private Practice  
Lenox Hill Hospital

**Jerry Chao, MD**  
Craniofacial Surgery Fellowship  
Children's National Medical Center  
Washington, DC

## 2014

**Stephanie D. Malliaris, M.D.**  
Hand Fellowship  
Hospital for Special Surgery  
New York, NY

**Thomas A. Imahiyerobo, M.D.**  
Craniofacial Fellowship, Children's  
Hospital of Los Angeles Junior Faculty,  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA

**Robyn Sackeyfio, M.D.**  
Reconstructive Microsurgery  
Fellowship, Clinical Instructor  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer

**Kevin H. Small, M.D.**  
Aesthetic Fellowship  
University of Texas, Southwestern

## 2013

**Whitney Alexis Burrell, M.D.**  
Microsurgery Fellowship  
City of Hope Medical Center  
Duarte, CA

**Lara Lakshmi Devgan, M.D., MPH**  
Private Practice  
New York, NY

## 2012

**Melissa A. Doft, M.D.**  
Private Practice  
New York, NY

**Shwetambara Parakh, M.D.**  
Baystate Medical Center  
Springfield, MA

**Kristen Parker Broderick, M.D.**  
Breast Fellowship Washington  
University Division of Plastic and  
Reconstructive Surgery  
Saint Louis, MO

## 2011

**Sophie Bartsich, M.D.**  
Group Practice  
Great Neck, NY

**Tara L. Huston, M.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery,  
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery,  
SUNY

**Karly Kaplan, MD**  
Fellowship, Breast Reconstruction/  
Microsurgery at Memorial Sloan-  
Kettering Cancer Center

## 2010

**Nicholas Vendemia, M.D.**  
The W. Grant Sterns Aesthetic  
Surgery, Fellowship  
Los Angeles, CA

**Brian Cohen M.D.**  
Aesthetic Surgery Fellowship  
New York Eye & Ear Infirmary  
New York, NY

# 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. Residents are additionally able to obtain housing at the Columbia Irving campus as an alternative to housing at Weill Cornell Medicine. 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 (2018-2019)

PGY-1	\$71,349
PGY-2	\$74,804
PGY-3	\$80,935
PGY-4	\$83,210
PGY-5	\$86,036
PGY-6	\$87,582
PGY-7+	\$90,218

## 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.

# Meet Our Surgical Education Staff

The administrative staff at Weill Cornell Medical Center provides support for the residencies, fellowships, and medical students rotating in the department of surgery. The staff ensures that programs comply with requirements mandated by the ACGME, LCME, and other governing bodies. Additionally, the administrative support staff is available to assist residents and fellows regarding questions about institutional and departmental policies and credentialing issues, as well as provide information regarding support services for a variety of challenges that may arise.



L-R: Aleksandrs Karnick - Plastic Surgery Residency and Fellowship Program Coordinator, David Fehling, MA - Surgical Education Administrator, Faith Ebel, MPH, RD - Research Program Coordinator, Vanessa Mejia- Residency Fellowship Coordinator



L-R: Jay Rosenberg - Manager Skills Acquisition & Innovation Lab (S.A.I.L.), Xiomara Garcia - Simulation Program Coordinator for S.A.I.L., Iskander Bagautdinov - Senior Audio Visual Specialist for S.A.I.L.



**New York-Presbyterian/  
Weill Cornell Medical College**

525 East 68th Street  
New York, NY 10065  
[www.med.cornell.edu](http://www.med.cornell.edu)



**Columbia University Medical Center**

622 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032  
[www.cuimc.columbia.edu/](http://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/)