I am very pleased to share with you the 2019 Winter Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue, we report on the 50-year anniversary of the Annual Benjamin S. Park Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Memorial Lectureship, notable accomplishments, and special events within the Department of Surgery.

We were fortunate to welcome nationally renowned speaker, Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, FACS, as the 50th Annual Benjamin S. Park Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Memorial Lectureship guest lecturer. The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center established this Visiting Professor Lectureship in 1969 in memory of Dr. Benjamin S. Park, Jr.’s life and in honor of all surgeons who perished while discharging their duties during war.

This issue also features the 14th Annual Department of Surgery Friends and Donors Dinner, a program highlight on the Center for Hernia and Gallbladder Surgery, our faculty’s recent honors and awards, and the latest media coverage.

I hope you find this issue of interest and welcome your feedback about our newsletter. Please be sure to follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for the latest updates and information in the Department of Surgery.

Sincerely yours,

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS
Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
The Struggle Is Real: Resident Autonomy & Conditional Independence

March 18, 2019 | 8:00 – 9:00 AM | Uris Auditorium

Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, FACS
Dallas B. Phemister Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief
The University of Chicago Medicine

The Department of Surgery’s 50th Annual Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship was held on March 18, 2019. The lecture entitled, “The Struggle Is Real: Resident Autonomy & Conditional Independence” was delivered by Jeffrey B. Matthews, MD, FACS. Dr. Matthews is currently the Dallas B. Phemister Professor of Surgery, Chairman in the Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at the University of Chicago Medicine.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Matthews completed his surgical residency at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston in 1991 and a hepatobiliary fellowship at the University of Bern. During his appointment at Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Hospital, Dr. Matthews rose to the rank of Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Division of General Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. In 2001, he was appointed Christian R. Holmes Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Cincinnati until assuming his current position at The University of Chicago Medicine in 2006.

Dr. Matthews is a leading expert in pancreaticobiliary and gastrointestinal surgery. His research interests include cell biology of epithelial transport and barrier function as well as inflammatory, ischemic, and diarrheal disorders of the intestine. He led a federally funded research laboratory for two decades. Dr. Matthews is an ad hoc reviewer for 16 journals. Dr. Matthews is a member of several national and international organizations including the American Surgical Association, the Society of University Surgeons, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the Society of Surgical Chairs, Surgery Biology Club, the Southern Surgical Association and the Halsted Society. In many of these organizations, Dr. Matthews has held distinguished leadership positions including past President of the Society of Surgical Chairs, the Society of University Surgeons and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT).

Dr. Matthews is an inspiring educator, dedicated to teaching and mentoring medical students, residents, research trainees and new faculty. He has been recognized with prestigious awards for excellence in teaching and is a faculty member of the Alpha Omega Alpha national medical society. He is the Chair of the Surgery Residency Review Committee (RRC-S) of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). He is a Senior Director of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Matthews has been a visiting professor and distinguished lecturer throughout the world and has been consecutively recognized in Best Doctors in America.

The Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship is supported by the Department of Surgery. The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center established this visiting Professor Lectureship in 1969.
50th Annual Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD, Alumni Banquet Dinner

Dr. Jeffrey B. Matthews, Sue Park-Label, Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

Drs. George J. Tsioulias, Rajeev Dayal, Charles A. Mack, Martin McCarter, Mia Talmor

Dr. Mia Talmor

Dr. Louis G. Prevosti

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi interviewing 2019 Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD Lecturer, Dr. Jeffrey B. Matthews

Drs. Brandon Guenthart, John Creasy, Fabrizio Michelassi, Mayur Narayan, Jonathan Abeleson, Saurabh Saluja

Drs. James C. Lee, Nicholas Brownstone, Robert Grant, Leslie Cohen

Drs. Nitsana Spigland, Lisa Newman

Drs. Jeffrey Drebin, Jeffrey B. Matthews, Fabrizio Michelassi

Drs. Rajeev Dayal, George J. Tsioulias, Martin McCarter, Najjia Mahmoud, Charles A. Mack

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi interviewing 2019 Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD Lecturer, Dr. Jeffrey B. Matthews

www.flickr.com/photos/WCMSurgery/albums
The **14th Annual Department of Surgery Friends and Donors Dinner** was held at the Columbus Citizens Foundation located on New York City’s Upper East Side. Over 50 guests attended to celebrate the accomplishments of the Department over the past year and to hear about exciting new plans for the Department’s future growth.

We were honored to have guest speaker, **Mr. Martin Solomon**, President of JMB Energy/P&S Equities/P&S Energy, who spoke about the impact of philanthropy and what compels him to give.

In addition, the program included remarks from **Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D.**, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine, Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University and **Laura Forese, M.D.**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian.

At the conclusion of the program, **Fabrizio Michelassi, M.D.**, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, summarized the accomplishments of the Department over the previous year, talked about future plans for the Department in the areas of clinical care, education and research, and thanked all friends and supporters.
Program Highlight: Center for Hernia and Gallbladder Surgery

Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Surgery’s, Center for Hernia and Gallbladder Surgery delivers the latest techniques in hernia and gallbladder surgery. Our multidisciplinary group of highly trained board-certified surgeons use a comprehensive range of surgical procedures, including minimally invasive procedures, open surgery, robotic surgery and complex repairs.

Within 24 hours of the initial request, patients are able to secure an appointment with one of our surgeons. We carefully monitor our work to continuously improve the care we provide, and ensure that we continue to be considerate and receptive to each patient’s values and requests. Exceptional care is brought to all patients from admission, with the assurance of continued care long after discharge from the hospital.

The Center for Hernia and Gallbladder Surgery offers a full range of diagnostic and treatment services designed to provide hernia and gallbladder patients with the most effective care possible. Located both on the Upper East Side and Downtown Manhattan, our team is dedicated to providing the highest level of surgical care, while upholding the Department’s mission of clinical practice, clinical research, and education.

Over the past six months, our center has earned the reputation of being a local resource for world-class hernia and gallbladder care. Regardless of the diagnosis, we will work with each patient individually to create a treatment plan that is perfect for them and speeds up their recovery to return to normal activity.

To learn more about the Center for Hernia and Gallbladder Surgery, visit our website here.

Currently, of 123 total scheduled appointments, 44 successful surgeries have been completed.

Meet Our Team

To schedule an appointment or refer a patient, please contact (833) 5HERNIA or submit a request online here.
Dr. Philip Chang joins the Division of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Chang is board-certified in burn and critical care surgery, specializing in the treatment of burns [for adults and children], burn surgery, surgical critical care, burn reconstruction, laser treatment of burn scars, and selected skin conditions that require the wound care expertise of a burn unit. He also has areas of special interest in surgical education, international burn care, scar rehabilitation, and burn patient advocacy.

Dr. Chang completed his general surgery residency at the University of Illinois Hospital in Chicago, Illinois in 2008. He went on to a further specialized fellowship training in burn surgery and trauma/surgical critical care at the Shriners Hospitals for Children-Northern California and the University of California at Davis Medical Center from 2009 to 2011. Dr. Chang began his surgical career as an attending burn surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital Sumner Redstone Burn Center and the Shriners Hospital for Children-Boston. He was appointed an Instructor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and served as interim medical director of the pediatric burn service at Shriners-Boston from 2014 to 2015.

In 2016, Dr. Chang joined the burn teams at the Shriners Hospitals for Children-Cincinnati and the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He cared for patients from over 22 U.S. states and international patients from several countries including Israel, Ivory Coast, Honduras, Guatemala, and Colombia. Dr. Chang has treated hundreds of patients during his time at the Cincinnati Shriners, doing numerous reconstructive surgeries to restore range of motion and limb function as well as laser treatments to ameliorate the dyschromia and hypertrophy of burn scar.

weillcornell.org/philip-chang-md
Alumni Updates

Jon R. Cohen, M.D., class of 1984 was the inaugural speaker of Weill Cornell Medicine’s Leadership Development Speaker Series, a monthly forum featuring executives and mentors from healthcare, business, law, the military, and academic medicine. Dr. Cohen’s lecture was entitled, “From the Operating Suite to the C Suite; How to make the Career Transition from Medicine to Business”. Dr. Cohen most recently was the Sr. VP/Group Executive of Quest Diagnostics and was named one of the nation’s top 50 most powerful physician executives by Modern Healthcare in 2010. In addition, Dr. Cohen’s TEDMED talk, “Why Don’t Patients Act Like Consumers?” was recently ranked #1 TEDMED talk that every healthcare executive needs to watch.

Introducing, Eli Mathew Hurtado! The newest member to the family of Dr. Romulo Hurtado, Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology Research in the Department of Surgery and his wife Lauretta Lacko.
"We are actually identifying some truly fascinating patterns that may not only explain race-associated variation in breast cancer, but the root causes of disease progression as well," noted Dr. Newman. The ICSBCS now includes several sites in Africa. Much of Dr. Newman's research focuses on Ghana, which is in Western Sub-Saharan Africa, and Ethiopia, in the eastern part of the continent. Her research has shown that triple-negative breast cancer is associated with African ancestry, and in particular with Western Sub-Saharan African ancestry. Some of the highest incidence of triple-negative breast cancer is seen in Ghanaian women, where more than half of the breast cancers are triple-negative.

To read the full story on Health Matters, click here.
Patrick Hellen is an avid golfer who was in good health when he underwent a routine colonoscopy in 2017. The procedure revealed a polyp in the cecum - the first section of the large intestine. His gastroenterologist attempted twice to remove it, but was unsuccessful due to its large size and location.

At that point, Dr. Parul Shukla, the Vice Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, got involved. He recommended an endoscopic procedure using a new technology developed at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine called the DiLumen, which uses a pair of inflatable balloons attached to an endoscope to stabilize the colon. This allows doctors to better see and take out large or difficult to remove polyps.

This minimally invasive endoscopic procedure completely removed Patrick's polyp and allowed him to go home the very same day. His prognosis is excellent, and the NewYork-Presbyterian team is delighted he suffered no pain or adverse events in the months after the procedure.

Click here to watch this Medical Marvels segment.
Patient Story Update: Super Jake
(as seen on facebook.com/newyorkpresbyterian)

Superheroes aren’t just found in comic books and movies. Sometimes you find them in pediatric intensive care units. When four-year-old Jake LaRose arrived at the Emergency Department at NewYork-Presbyterian, he was near death. A virulent strain of E. coli destroyed nearly half of his digestive system. A team of pediatric specialists led by Dr. Nitsana Spigland, stopped the infection and rebuilt Jake’s gastrointestinal tract, ultimately saving his life.

“Hemolytic Uremic syndrome (HUS) occurs when E. coli bacteria circulates in the bloodstream and attacks the intestines and the kidneys. It causes severe colitis and, in such cases, the entire colon dies and needs to be removed. It also attacks the kidneys and can cause kidney failure and the need for dialysis. HUS affects blood pressure and causes septic shock, where the bacteria takes over the body and affects blood clotting and all the critical organs. If left untreated, it can lead to death. HUS is treated with antibiotics, medicines that help support the blood pressure, surgery to remove the damaged colon, and dialysis until the kidneys recover”, explained Dr. Spigland, Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine.

Today, Jake is a happy, healthy nine-year-old who loves video games, snowboarding, rock-climbing and baseball! “I feel so privileged to have had my child treated at an institution that embraces patient and family-centered care at the core of its culture in pediatrics. My husband and I were so impressed by this and the incredible caliber of care Jake received, that we have both decided to give back to NewYork-Presbyterian by volunteering our time”, stated Jake’s Mom, Kim.

Learn more about Dr. Nitsana Spigland and the Division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma.
Dr. Lisa Newman, Chief, Section of Breast Surgery, Chief, Breast Cancer Disease Management Team, Chief, Breast Surgical Oncology Programs, Medical Director, International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes (ICSBCS) at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was a featured speaker at the 2019 Mentorship Meal, sponsored by Tri-Institutional Minority Society (TIMS) on February 11th at the Rockefeller Research Labs. Dr. Newman discussed how her minority status influenced her journey throughout the medical field, as well as becoming Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian’s new Chief of the Section of Breast Surgery. TIMS brings together students, administrators, researchers and faculty members from the Rockefeller University, the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City to make scientific opportunities available to all underrepresented groups and bring together all members of our scientific tri-institutional community.

Dr. Palmer Bessey, Aronson Family Foundation Professor in Burn Care and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was featured on WABC-TV’s “Operation 7: Save a Life”. This segment is dedicated to teaching New York area viewers about fire safety. As first responders continue to answer thousands of emergency calls, there is still a need to get the word out and encourage people to take responsibility for their own safety. To watch the entire half hour special, click here.

Drs. Adham Elmously, Katherine Gray, Fabrizio Michelassi, Cheguevara Afaneh, Anthony Watkins and Alfons Pomp, recently published an article in Journal of the American College of Surgeons, titled “Operating Room Attire Policy and Healthcare Cost: favoring Evidence over Action for Prevention of Surgical Site Infections”. The data demonstrates once and for all that current surgical attire guidelines substantially increase hospital costs on the order of millions with absolutely no tangible effect on surgical site infection rates. To view the full article, click here.
Dr. Darren Schneider, Chief, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was a speaker at the 2018 VEITH Symposium on the topic of “New Information With Longer Follow-Up From The Multicenter Trial Of The Gore IBD For Iliac Aneurysms”. Dr. Schneider presented the three-year outcomes of the IBE US IDE Trial which showed excelled midterm results for iliac branch devices support hypogastric artery preservation in patients with appropriate anatomy. The VEITH symposium provides vascular surgeons, interventional radiologists, interventional cardiologists and other vascular specialists with a unique and exciting format to learn the most current information about what is new and important in the treatment of vascular disease. The event featured rapid-fire presentations from world renowned vascular specialists with emphasis on the latest advances, changing concepts in diagnosis and management, pressing controversies and new techniques.

Dr. Jonathan Abelson, Administrative Chief Resident, Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine was honored with the Distinguished Housestaff Award, presented annually to one member of the housestaff from each department for all around-excellence. Award recipients are selected by Department Chairs and Residency Program Directors.

Drs. Brendan Finnerty, Maureen Moore, Katherine Gray, Toni Beninato, Anthony Watkins, Rasa Zarnegar and Thomas J. Fahey III, recently published an article in Surgery, titled “Parathyroidectomy versus Cinacalcet in the Management of Tertiary Hyperparathyroidism: Surgery Improves Renal Transplant Allograft Survival”. It was determined that parathyroidectomy for tertiary hyperparathyroidism is associated with lesser rates of renal allograft failure compared with cinacalcet management. Patients with inadequate parathyroid hormone control on cinacalcet at one year posttransplant should be considered for parathyroidectomy to prevent potential allograft failure. To view full article, click here.
Dr. Aakanksha Gupta, research fellow in the Division of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was selected to present her study: “Stop the Bleed, Development of a Synthetic Perfused Cadaver Model” at the 14th Annual Academic Surgical Congress in Houston, Texas. Over the past 14 years the ASC has become the premier gathering place for surgeon-scientists—offering unparalleled opportunities for scientific exchange and networking with peers. Each year the ASC registration grows and the program has become more diverse, with programming in basic science, education, health policy, outcomes research, global health, leadership, and many other topics relevant to academic surgery.

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, Chairman Department of Surgery, Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was recently featured on the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation Perspectives on Reach MD, where he provided his perspective on new surgical approaches to treat strictures and fibrostenotic complications. This series is produced in collaboration with the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation. To watch the full interview, click here.
Future Events Calendar

April | 2019
4th Annual Diversity Lectureship
Lecturer | Haile Debas, M.D.

April | 2019
Annual Meeting of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons
Local Program | Uris Auditorium

May | 2019
8th Annual Stanley J. Behrman, DMD Lectureship
Lecturer | Sidney B. Eisig, DDS

May | 2019
3rd Annual NYP Surgical Resident Research Symposium
Griffis Faculty Club | 1300 York Avenue

June | 2019
46th Annual Preston A. Wade Visiting Professor Lectureship
Lecturer | Ronald M. Stewart, M.D.

June | 2019
NYPH-WCMC Department of Surgery Annual Resident Graduation
The Water Club (invitation & RSVP card to follow)

June | 2019
18th Annual Golf Tournament
Pelham Country Club