

SurgeryNews

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I am very pleased to share with you the 2019 Fall Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue, we report on several important events, which took place since the distribution of the spring issue:

- We were fortunate to welcome several nationally and internationally recognized speakers over the past few months. **David Rivadeneira, MD, MBA, FACS, FASCRS**, visited as the 19th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship guest lecturer; **Alberto Ferreres, MD, PhD, JD, MPH, FACS (Hon.), ASA (Hon.)**, visited as the Annual Corinne & Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professor Lectureship in honor of Peter Guida, MD guest lecturer; **Nathaniel J. Soper, MD, FACS**, visited as the 37th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD,

Visiting Professor Lectureship guest lecturer; and **Lisa Newman, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO** as the 3rd Annual Chairman Distinguished Lecture guest lecturer.

- The 105th Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress meeting, where many department faculty and residents played an important and active role.
- The 4th Annual Department of Surgery System-Wide Retreat to review the Department of Surgery's integration and standardization at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.
- Welcoming the new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Department of Surgery, Ms. Lorraine Pistorino.
- Barbara L. Bass, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, and the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Chair and Professor, Department of Surgery, Houston Methodist Hospital has accepted the position of Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at George Washington University as of January 2020.
- The IDE Clinical Trial of Endovascular Repair of Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms treated its 100th patient!
- The 4th Annual Big Apple Bootcamp which welcomed distinguished faculty from both regional and national training programs for a hands-on skills course.
- A new Diabetes Program in Surgery was established with the goal to find new treatments for diabetes.
- Lisa Newman, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO elected to the position of Second Vice President of the American College of Surgeons.
- Honors, awards and highlights of scholarly productivity earned by our surgery faculty.

I hope you find this issue of interest and welcome your feedback about our e-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



Weill Cornell Medicine



NewYork-Presbyterian

3rd Annual Chairman Distinguished Lecture

“Genetics and Genomics in the Study of African Ancestry and Breast Cancer Risk”

September 9, 2019 | 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Uris Auditorium

Lisa Newman, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO

Chief, Division of Breast Surgery

Director, Interdisciplinary Breast Program

Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian

The 3rd Annual Department of Surgery's Chairman Distinguished Lecture was held on September 9, 2019. The lecture, “Genetics and Genomics in the Study of African Ancestry and Breast Cancer Risk” was presented by Lisa Newman, MD, MPH, FACS, FASCO, Chief of Breast Surgery and attending surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian.

Dr. Newman is a surgical oncologist with a practice dedicated to breast cancer management. In August 2018 she was appointed to oversee the breast program for Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, serving its Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn sites. Previously, she worked at the Henry Ford Health System, where she served as breast program director, 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 a 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. Most recently, Dr. Newman was named a “Rock Star of Science and Medicine” by the European Society for Medical Oncology.”

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. 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.

19th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh Memorial Lectureship



“Building, Branding and Burnout: Lessons Learned”

September 30, 2019 | 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Uris Auditorium

David E. Rivadeneira, MD, MBA, FACS, FASCRS

Vice Chair, Surgical Strategic Initiatives, Northwell Health System

Director, Surgical Services and Colorectal Surgery, Huntington Hospital

Professor of Surgery, Hofstra School of Medicine

Woodbury, New York

The Department of Surgery's 19th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship was held on September 30, 2019. The lecture “Building, Branding and Burnout: Lessons Learned”, was presented by David Rivadeneira, MD, MBA, FACS, FASCRS, Vice Chair, Surgical Strategic Initiatives, Northwell Health System, Director, Surgical Services and Colorectal Surgery, Huntington Hospital, Professor of Surgery, Hofstra School of Medicine, Woodbury, New York.

Dr. David E. Rivadeneira is a Professor of Surgery at Hofstra University School of Medicine. He is the Vice Chair of Surgical Strategic Initiatives for Northwell Health System and Director of Surgical Services and Colorectal Surgery at Huntington Hospital. Dr. Rivadeneira received his medical degree with honors in 1995 from Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC and an MBA from Adelphi University in Garden City, NY in 2013. He completed his residency in surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Department of Surgery in 2002 and served as Chief Resident. In addition, Dr. Rivadeneira spent two years as a NIH funded research oncology fellow at Cornell University School of Medicine. Following his residency, he completed a fellowship at the Lahey Clinic Medical Center, Department of Colon and Rectal Surgery in Burlington, MA and received an award for academic achievement in 2003. Prior to his current appointments, Dr. Rivadeneira served as Associate Professor of Surgery at State University at Stony Brook School of Medicine in Stony Brook, NY and as Director of Colorectal Surgery at St. Catherine Hospital in Smithtown, NY.

Recognized as a leader in colon and rectal surgery and for his advanced skills in minimally invasive surgery, Dr. Rivadeneira has a major interest in laparoscopic and other minimally invasive procedures including advanced robotic procedures for the treatment of colon and rectal diseases, including cancer. He has published extensively with more than 60 peer-reviewed articles, 20 book chapters and is co-editor of four textbooks on colorectal surgery. He is board certified in General Surgery and Colon and Rectal Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) and an active member of several prestigious surgical societies. Dr. Rivadeneira has served on numerous committees for the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons, including Quality Assessment and Safety Committee, Clinical Practice Guidelines Committee and Chair of the Awards Committee. With extensive experience teaching laparoscopic colon surgery to hundreds of surgeons throughout the

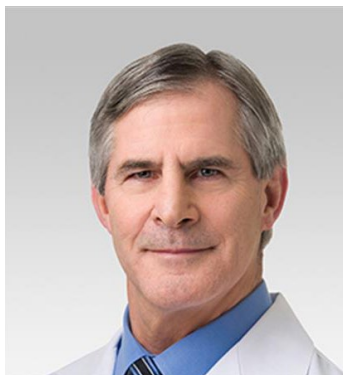
U.S. and abroad, he has served as director of numerous laparoscopic educational courses for industry, academic institutions and for the ACS and the ASCRS. His international reputation has led him to be an invited Visiting Professor in Turkey, China, Portugal, Mexico, Egypt and Venezuela. He has received numerous honors and consistently awarded each year Castle & Connolly's Top Doctors, New Yorker Magazine Best Doctors, and Best Doctors in America, New York's Top Doctors, New York Super Doctors, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and American Association of Cancer Research Scholar Award. Dr. Rivadeneira serves also as a reviewer for 5 peer-reviewed surgical journals.



He established the Dr. David and Mrs. Anabela Rivadeneira Surgical Scholarship at Howard University School of Medicine. The scholarship was established in 2016 and gives preference to students with a Hispanic or Latino background in the third or fourth year of medical school with the intention of entering a surgical career. Dr. Rivadeneira is the youngest of 3 sons from Ecuadorian immigrants and the first to attend college in his immediate family. Married to his college sweetheart, Anabela, they have 2 daughters Sophia and Gabriella and live in Lloyd Harbor, New York.

The Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship was established by the Department of Surgery in 2002 to honor the memory of Dr. Naama, who completed his surgical residency training at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in June, 2001 and tragically died two months later while jogging in Central Park. Our Chief Residents have also established a yearly teaching award to memorialize Dr. Naama.

37th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship



“Engendering Operative Autonomy in Surgical Trainees”

October 7, 2019 | 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Uris Auditorium

Nathaniel J. Soper, MD, FACS

Loyal and Edith Davis Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery
Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

The Department of Surgery's **37th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship** was held on Monday, October 7, 2019. The lecture “**Engendering Operative Autonomy in Surgical Trainees**” was presented by **Nathaniel J. Soper, MD, FACS**, Loyal and Edith David Professor of Surgery and Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program in the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois.

Dr. Soper was raised in Iowa City, Iowa as the son of a pediatric surgeon. After receiving his M.D. from the University of Iowa School of Medicine in 1980, Dr. Soper completed a residency in General Surgery, including a year of laboratory investigation under the mentorship of Dr. Layton F. Rikkers, at the University of Utah Hospitals in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Soper then spent two years as an NIH-funded fellow at the Digestive Disease Center at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, mentored by Drs. Keith Kelly and Michael Sarr. He joined the faculty of the Department of Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine in 1988 and rose to the rank of Professor of Surgery. Dr. Soper was a staff surgeon at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and the Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) at Washington University. He was one of the first academic surgeons performing laparoscopic surgery, which has defined his subsequent career. Dr. Soper was Director of the Washington University Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery, an industry-funded multi-disciplinary group of surgical researchers working towards improving minimally invasive surgical techniques and technologies.

In December 2003, Dr. Soper was appointed Professor of Surgery, Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs and Director of MIS at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He was named Interim Chair and Residency Program Director for General Surgery in 2006. On July 1, 2007 he was appointed the Loyal and Edith Davis Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University and Surgeon-in-Chief at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He resigned as Chair in March 2019 but continues as Program Director for the general surgery residency at Northwestern.

Dr. Soper's research interests have revolved around the applications of MIS for gastrointestinal disease, gallstones and benign esophageal disorders, as well as ultrasound and motility of the gastrointestinal tract.

More recently, he has been involved in the early clinical experience with Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery, including peroral esophageal myotomy (POEM) for achalasia. He has published more than 200 manuscripts, edited 17 textbooks and authored more than 100 book chapters. Dr. Soper is on the editorial boards of *Annals of Surgery*, *Surgical Endoscopy*, *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery* and *Surgical Innovation*.

Dr. Soper has been named in “The Best Doctors in America” from 1991 through the present and has lectured extensively throughout the world. He has won ‘Excellence in Teaching’ awards from the Northwestern Department of Surgery every year and received the Andrew L. Warshaw Master Educator Award from the SSAT in 2017.

He is a member of numerous professional societies, including Alpha Omega Alpha, American College of Surgeons (including its Board of Governors), American Surgical Association, Society of Clinical Surgeons and the Society of University Surgeons. Dr. Soper is Past-President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the International Society of Digestive Surgery, the Central Surgical Association and the St. Louis Surgical Society. Dr. Soper was elected as a Founding Member of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators in 2018.



The Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College established this Visiting Professor Lectureship in 1983 as a reminder of the importance of surgical education.

Annual Corinne & Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professor Lectureship In Honor of Peter Guida, MD



“Futility in Surgical Care”

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

Alberto R. Ferreres, MD, PhD, JD, MPH, FACS (Hon.), ASA (Hon.)

Professor of Surgery, University of Buenos Aires
Chair, Department of General Surgery, Dr. Carlos A. Bocalandro Hospital
Director, General Surgery Residency Training Program and Director, Training Center for Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Surgery, University of Buenos Aires
President, Argentine Surgical Academy

The Annual Corinne and Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professorship in Honor of Peter Guida, MD, was held on Monday, November 18, 2019 in Uris Auditorium at Weill Cornell Medical College. The lecture “Futility in Surgical Care” was delivered by Dr. Alberto Ferreres.

Alberto R. Ferreres, MD, PhD, JD, MPH, FACS (Hon.), ASA (Hon.), is a Professor of Surgery at the University of Buenos Aires and Chair, Department of General Surgery at the Dr. Carlos A. Bocalandro Hospital. He also serves as Director of the General Surgery Residency Training Program and the Training Center for Minimally Invasive and Endoscopic Surgery at the University of Buenos Aires.

Dr. Ferreres specializes in minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery. He received his medical degree summa cum laude from the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine and trained there in general surgery and surgical oncology. He also received a JD from the University of Buenos Aires School of Law, a Master of Public Health degree from Salvador University, and a Master of Health Administration from Austral University. He has lectured extensively around the world and has been distinguished as a Visiting Professor in Europe and the United States.

Dr. Ferreres maintains an avid interest in public health policy, surgical ethics, and patient safety. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Ethics and was an International Guest Scholar of the ACS in 1991. He also holds an appointment as Professor of Surgery and Ethics for the University of Washington Medicine Department of Surgery.

Dr. Ferreres has authored four textbooks, 30 book chapters, and more than 100 contributions to medical literature. He is a member of the editorial boards of the *Annals of Surgery*, *JAMA Surgery*, the *Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery*, and the *American Journal of Surgery*.



A reminder of the importance of international collaboration in medical education and surgery, the Corinne and Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professorship in Honor of Peter Guida, MD, has been made possible by the generous support of Corinne and Maurice Greenberg.

Special appreciation to Steven J. Corwin, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian, Herbert Pardes, MD, Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, NewYork-Presbyterian, and Augustine M.K. Choi, MD, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine, for their support to establish this lectureship.



Corinne and Maurice Greenberg



Dr. Peter M. Guida and his wife, Bernadette

Barbara L. Bass, MD | Named Vice President for Health Affairs & Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at GW



After 15 years as Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York and the Carolyn and John F. Bookout Distinguished Chair of the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital, Dr. Barbara L. Bass has accepted the position of Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences at George Washington University as of January 2020.

Dr. Bass received her medical degree from the University of Virginia in 1979. She completed her internship and residency at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in June 1986. During this time, Dr. Bass also completed a two-year gastrointestinal surgical research fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington from 1982 to 1984 where she held the title of Surgical Investigator Chief in the Department of Experimental Surgery and the simultaneous title of research fellow in surgery at the Uniformed Services at the University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Bass served for two years as a Major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C. from 1984 to 1986. In 1986, Dr. Bass was appointed Assistant Professor of Surgery at both the Uniformed Services at University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda and at the George Washington University and as Staff Surgeon at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, D.C. In 1987, she was appointed Chief of Gastrointestinal Surgical Research at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and in 1990 became Chief of General Surgery. In 1992, she was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at George Washington University.

In 1994, Dr. Bass joined the University of Maryland School of Medicine as a Professor of Surgery with tenure, and served as Interim Chair of the Department of Surgery from January 1997 through October 1997. In addition, she served as Program Director of Surgical Residency of the University of Maryland Medical Systems and Associate Chair for Research and Academic Affairs in the Department of Surgery from 1999 to 2005. In August

2005, Dr. Bass was recruited by The Methodist Hospital in Houston.

Dr. Bass has had and continues to have a major impact on Medicine and Surgery. She has been a national leader, a supporter of quality improvement initiatives in surgical care, a sponsor of changes in surgical training and a promoter for stringent specialty privileging, credentialing and certification standards. She was present at the inception of the National VA Surgical Risk Study (NVASRS), a surgical quality improvement program for the VHA under the intellectual leadership of the late Shukri F. Khuri, M.D. As a member of the American Surgical Association she participated to the Blue Ribbon Panel on the future of surgical training and was the Chair of an Ad hoc Committee on Surgical Privileging and Credentialing. She became a Director of the American Board of Surgery and eventually, in recognition of her leadership qualities, she was elected to the position of Chair of the American Board of Surgery. As an immediate past chair of the American Board of Surgery, Dr. Bass participated to a committee of the ABS, ACS, APDS and ASE to construct a national surgical resident training curriculum (SCORE). Within the American College of Surgeons, she was elected to Chair of the Board of Governors and then served as Regents. For her contributions to the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Bass received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition awarded by the College, and was later on elected President of the American College of Surgeons, a term which she served with extreme distinction nationally and abroad. In addition, Dr. Bass has been President of the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, President of the Society of Surgical Chairs and Treasurer of the American Surgical Association. She has also received many honorary fellowships in prestigious international surgical societies.

As one of the most distinguished women in academic surgery, Dr. Bass has mentored and helped innumerable younger female surgeons through difficult decisions aimed at achieving a balance between academic development and personal commitments. A couple of years ago, she participated to the American Surgical Association Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion which resulted in a white paper entitled "Ensuring Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Academic Surgery" published in *Annals of Surgery*. As the President of the American College of Surgeons she has been a vocal and convincing ambassador for the principles of gender equality in Surgery during her travels to foreign Countries attending surgical meetings. Recently she has helped the American College of Surgeons focusing on surgeons' wellbeing and on the toll of Intimate Partner Violence and on ways to detect it and prevent it. In total, Dr. Bass is recognized nationally and internationally for her role model for women in surgery and for espousing the principles of diversity in our work force and institutions. For her generous and valuable counsel, Dr. Bass received the Distinguished Member Award and the Nina Starr Braunwald Award of the Association of Women Surgeons. The prestigious Braunwald Award is given annually to the individual

who has done the most to foster the career of women in surgery. In 2015, she was chosen to deliver the Olga Jonasson Invited Lecture at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress.

Dr. Bass is a highly accomplished clinical surgeon with expertise in endocrine, breast and gastrointestinal surgery, a gifted researcher and an inspirational teacher for medical students and residents. As a researcher, prior to joining Houston Methodist, Dr. Bass conducted research on gut permeability and mucosal repair in gut surgical disorders, for which she was funded uninterruptedly through the NIH or the VHA for almost twenty years until she had to relinquish her VA Merit Review award when she moved to Houston. Since joining Houston Methodist, Dr. Bass has conducted research in the field of Computational Science on Thermal Imaging to measure procedural competence and on Breast Modeling in Breast Conserving Surgery for Breast Cancer. For her interest and expertise in computational science she is the co-Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Computational Surgery*. As an educator, she has mentored endless students, residents and postdoctoral research fellows first as the General Surgery Residency Program Director at the University of Maryland (1999-2005) and then as the Founding Director of the General Surgery Residency Program at Houston Methodist in 2006. At Houston Methodist, her innovative and visionary talents in education led her to be the driving force in the ideation and construction of a state-of-the-art 50,000 square feet comprehensive simulation training facility, complete with a virtual hospital, operating rooms and trauma bays. This center has been used for advanced training of thousands of medical students, residents, fellows, physicians, surgeons and health-care providers. In recognition of her reputation as an educator, Dr. Bass was elected to the inaugural class of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. She has been invited as a visiting professor to close to 65 institutions, both national and international, has delivered many named lectures and has addressed graduating classes of several medical schools.

During the past 15 years, Dr. Bass has developed a vibrant Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist, where she has initiated and developed the majority of all clinical, educational and research programs. Houston Methodist holds an academic affiliation with Weill Cornell Medicine. Through this affiliation, the respective Departments of surgery have enjoyed a fruitful and successful collaboration.

We wish Dr. Bass a successful tenure at George Washington. We believe that her leadership qualities, her understanding of the academic missions of a medical institution, her appreciation for diversity and inclusion, and her record of achievements as an experienced chairperson for the last 15 years, will prove extremely useful to George Washington University in her new role as Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Ms. Lorraine Pistorino | Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)



Ms. Lorraine Pistorino has joined the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Department of Surgery.

Ms. Pistorino comes to us as an accomplished hospital administrator from the Department of Surgery at the University of California School of Medicine in Irvine where she has worked since 2015. While maintaining her role in the Department of Surgery, she recently served as the Executive Director of the Center for Clinical Research, overseeing clinical research centralization across the School of Medicine. Ms. Pistorino is a proven leader and motivator with experience in implementation of strategic initiatives, results-driven process improvement and financial management with outstanding skills in relationship building across all levels. She received her Master of Business Administration in Healthcare from the University of California, Irvine, a Bachelor Of Science in Business Management from Babson College in Massachusetts and is a Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt. Prior to her work at the University of California School of Medicine, Ms. Pistorino worked at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center from 2007 - 2015 where she served in a variety of roles ranging from clinical operations, research, and Human Resources.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Pistorino. We believe that her leadership skills and past work experience will be instrumental to the ongoing success of our department.

4th Annual Department Surgery System-Wide Retreat

On **October 3, 2019**, the **4th Annual Surgery System-Wide Retreat** was held at the Griffis Faculty Club. The full-time faculty at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital came together to review the Department of Surgery's integration and standardization.

The program included remarks from **Fabrizio Michelassi, MD**, Lewis Atterbury Stimson professor of Surgery, Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and **Michael E. Zenilman, MD** Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.

In addition, several presentations were given, including:

"Breast Network Integration & Programmatic Updates" by Lisa Newman, M.D.

"Pediatric Surgery & Pediatric Regionalization Update; Early Recovery After Surgery (ERAS)" by Stephen Oh, M.D.

"Surgical Quality Collaborative Surgical Quality Collaborative" by Pierre F. Saldinger, M.D.

"Trauma Program Integration" by Robert J. Winchell, M.D.



Milestone: 100th IDE Patient Treated

On July 23, 2019, **the IDE Clinical Trial of Endovascular Repair of Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms treated it's 100th patient!** With **Dr. Darren Schneider**, Chief, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian as the principal investigator, Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian provide minimally invasive options for treatment of complex aortic aneurysms that isn't available anywhere else in New York or the tristate area. There are only about 10 sites in the United States who are allowed to do this, and our team of vascular surgeons get referrals from the entire tristate region of patients who have no other options.

This unique program is a prospective single center IDE (individual device exemption) clinical study approved by the FDA that Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian sponsors and runs themselves. Many of these patients wouldn't have been candidates for conventional aneurysm treatment options. Our vascular surgeons use custom built stent grafts, providing a personalized approach to each patient. Since launching the program about six years ago, our team has reached the 100-patient enrollment milestone with really outstanding outcomes to date.

The goal for this clinical trial when it was started in 2013 was to enroll 100 patients by December 2022. The efforts in last six years have led to keep up with this goal and it is a major milestone to have treated the 100th patient. To commemorate this milestone, a reception was held in the Griffis Faculty Club where the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, OR team, Anesthesia and the ICU were in attendance.

To learn more about this FDA approved clinic trial [click here](#).



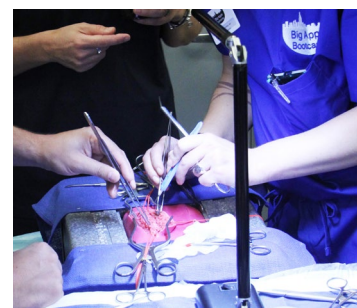
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4th Annual Big Apple Bootcamp

Senior vascular residents, first year vascular fellows and distinguished faculty from both regional and national training programs came together for a hands-on skills course on September 19 - 21, 2019 at Weill Cornell Medicine for the **4th Annual Big Apple Bootcamp!**

The event was sponsored by the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine and endorsed by the New York Society for Vascular Surgery. The event which was held in SAIL (Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory) was led by **Dr. Darren Schneider**, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and **Dr. Sharif Ellozy**, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, in the role of Bootcamp Director.

The vascular skills course provided a thought-provoking and fast-paced exchange of ideas and surgical technique by renowned faculty from regional and national training programs. The goal of the course was to provide participants with a foundation for success in their training and beyond. Over the two-day course, trainees participated in open surgical simulation using both cadavers and models, endovascular simulation using multiple platforms, planning workshops, arterial closure workshops, and hands-on device deployment. Overall, Big Apple Bootcamp proved to be a memorable and enjoyable learning experience for all.



Program Highlight | Diabetes Program in Surgery at WCM

To learn more about the Diabetes Program, please visit our website:
www.weillcornelldiabetes.com



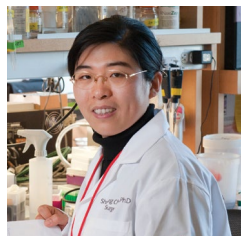
Message from the Directors

For the first time in history, we are in position to define the molecular basis for each patient's disease, and to search for therapies that can treat that specific cause. This is possible due to three transformative technological breakthroughs. We can now generate stem cells from a small donation of patient blood cells. We can use the stem cells to generate diabetes-relevant cells (such as insulin-secreting beta cells) that are genetically identical to the patient. Finally, we can edit patient-specific gene variants in order to determine if and how these variants contribute to the disease. With these research tools in hand, we developed a platform to use our understanding of the patient-specific disease to screen for possible drugs to treat that specific cause.

Sound simple? It's all feasible but definitely not simple. And so, we need your help. We are collecting blood samples from patients with diverse forms of diabetes to generate a bank of stem cells that will reflect the genetic and medical diversity of diabetes. The research is expensive, so your financial contributions are also greatly appreciated – 100% of which goes directly to support the research program.

We invite patients, family members, physicians, scientists, and anyone interested in finding new treatments for diabetes to learn about our current efforts, and to contact us with questions or ideas. Whichever group you belong to, you are likely aware of two facts: First, that diabetes is a terrible epidemic, placing a tremendous burden on patients, their loved ones, and our entire health care system. Second, that diabetes is a very complex disease, which can affect many organ systems, impacted by both genetics and environment, so that nearly every patient has a somewhat unique disease. For this reason, we believe that progress in diabetes research can be best achieved in the context of "patient-specific" or "precision" medicine.

Sincerely,



Shuibing Chen, Ph.D.

Kilts Family Associate Professor in Surgery,
Director



Todd Evans, Ph.D.

Peter I. Pressman Professor in Surgery,
Co-Director



Your support is very important for us. If you are interested in supporting us, please use any of the methods below. Please mark the donation to "Diabetes Program in Surgery".

Online | [Click here](#) to make a secure gift by credit card

Call Us | Call 646-962-9476 to make a credit card gift by phone, or if you have questions about giving.

Email Us | [Click here](#) to email us to request instructions for making a cash or stock transfer.

Mail Your Gift | Download a gift form [here](#). Please mail it, along with a check payable to Weill Cornell Medical College to:

Weill Cornell Medicine
Office of External Affairs
1300 York Avenue, Box 314
New York, NY 10065

Honor Someone With Your Gift

Any gift can be made in honor or in memory of someone special. Upon receipt of your gift, we will send notification to the person(s) you designate.

SurgeryNews

Volume 7 No. 2

Lisa Newman, MD | Elected Second Vice President of the American College of Surgeons



Lisa Newman, MD, Chief of the Section of Breast Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was **elected to the position of Second Vice President of the American College of Surgeons** in October at the Clinical Congress in San Francisco. The Second Vice-President will, in the absence or inability to act of the President and of the First Vice-President, preside at all meetings of the Fellows of the College and perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President and shall be invited to attend all meetings of the Board of Regents except executive sessions (to which this officer may be invited by the Board of Regents). The Second Vice-President succeeds to the First Vice-Presidency if the First Vice-President succeeds to the Presidency or is otherwise unable to serve.

An ACS Fellow since 1994, Dr. Newman has been an active member of the Commission on Cancer (CoC) (2001–2009), serving on the CoC Scientific Review Subcommittee (2005–2007) and as a CoC Liaison (2001–2009). She also has been member of the Scholarships Committee (2013–2019), the Nominating Committee of the Fellows (2009–2010), and the Committee on Diversity Issues (2005–2008).

Dr. Newman's research interests include cancer incidence and outcome disparities, with a focus on breast cancer disparities related to racial/ethnic background and socioeconomic resources; triple negative breast cancer; neoadjuvant systemic

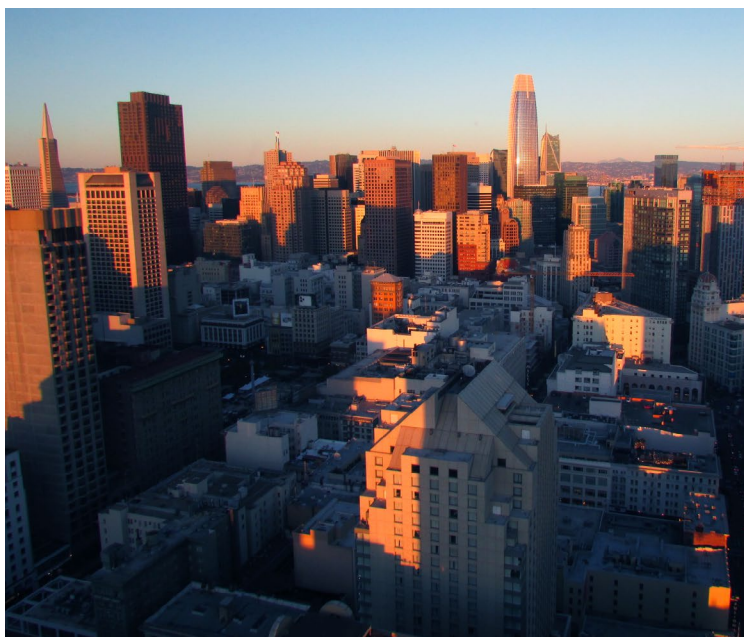
therapy for breast cancer; lymphatic mapping and sentinel lymph node biopsy for breast cancer; and breast cancer risk assessment. She has been awarded 13 research grants from the NIH, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and other funders. She has authored or co-authored 142 peer-reviewed publications. She serves on the editorial board for JAMA Surgery, and she is a Komen Scholar, as well as scientific advisory board member for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. At present, she is a peer reviewer for Annals of Surgical Oncology, JAMA Surgery, Journal of Clinical Oncology, and Clinical Oncology.

In addition to the ACS, Dr. Newman is a member of the Association of Women Surgeons, American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Breast Surgeons, Society of Surgical Oncology, Society of Black Academic Surgeons, and American Surgical Association, among others.

Dr. Newman earned a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, and her medical degree from State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn. She completed her general surgery residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and her surgical oncology fellowship at the UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston. Her master of public health degree is from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston.

105th Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress Meeting

Many of the Department of Surgery's faculty and residents played an active role at the **105th Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress** meeting in San Francisco, California this past October, giving lectures, presentations and video talks, participating in panel discussions, moderating sessions and teaching post-graduate courses.



DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI (FACULTY) PRESENTED ON "Future Relevance of Quality Programs" in The Healthcare Landscape in the Future Session at the Joint Session of ACS Board of Governors with ACS Board of Regents

DR. ALEXANDER PETERS (PGY-3 RESIDENT) PRESENTED AT SP-105 Session on: "The Pakistani National Vision for Surgery Care 2025: A Series of Firsts"

DR. HEATHER YEO (FACULTY) PRESENTED AT PS101 Session "Diverticulitis Are the Answers Changing: Evolving Nonoperative Treatments"

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI GAVE A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE AT AASA Conference "In Memory of Tony Trimarchi" in the Intercontinental Ballroom at Intercontinental Hotel San Francisco

DR. MISEKER ESHETU ABATE (PGY-1 RESIDENT) PRESENTED ABSTRACT #1063 ORAL PRESENTATION ON "Predictors of Mortality in Trauma Patients with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation" at Session: SF113 - Trauma/ Burn/Critical Care I at Moscone Convention Center

DR. MICHAEL ZENILMAN (FACULTY) MODERATED PS 111 "Vulnerable Elderly: Optimizing Care for the Frail Patient"

DR. HEATHER YEO (FACULTY) PRESENTED ON "Update on Colon and Rectal Malignancies" at ACS General Surgery Review Course

DR. MENGYUAN (Marion) LIU (PGY-3 RESIDENT) PRESENTED E-POSTER #633 AT SESSION SP115-4 E-POSTERS II, STATION 4 -"Type I interferon signaling contributes to antitumor immune response and is reduced by imatinib in gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST)" @ Moscone Convention Center

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI (FACULTY) PANEL PARTICIPANT Session: Time to venture out into the world – A program director's guide to giving residents career advice – Title of his Talk: "The Traditional Large Academic Department of Surgery"

DR. MAUREEN MOORE (CHIEF RESIDENT) PRESENTED ON "Identifying Risk Factors for Venous Thromboembolism after Adrenalectomy for Primary Adrenal Malignancy"

DR. JESSICA LIMBERG (RESEARCH RESIDENT) PRESENTED A QUICK SHOT ORAL PRESENTATION ON "Not All Laparoscopic Adrenalectomies Are Equal: Analysis of Postoperative Outcomes Based on Tumor Functionality" during the SF302-Endocrine Surgery II Session

DR. TONI BENINATO (FACULTY) PRESENTED SF302-Endocrine Surgery II Session

DR. KATHERINE GRAY (CHIEF RESIDENT) PRESENTED SF312-Thoracic Surgery II on "Improved Preoperative Risk Assessment is Needed to Guide Informed Decision Making prior to Esophagectomy"

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI (FACULTY) MODERATED Session PS323: Should Surgeons Care for their Family Members?

DR. LISA NEWMAN (FACULTY) INDUCTED AS 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF ACS at Annual Business Meeting of Members at Moscone Convention Center

2019 American College of Surgeons Annual Alumni Reception

On Tuesday, October 29, 2019, surgical alumni, faculty and friends of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, gathered at the **105th Annual American College of Surgeons host hotel for our Annual Alumni and Friends Cocktail Reception**. The Reception was co-hosted by **Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi**, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; **Dr. Leonard N. Girardi**, O. Wayne Isom, MD Professor and Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; **Dr. Barbara Lee Bass**, John F. and Carolyn Bookout Chair and Professor, Department of Surgery, Houston Methodist Hospital; **Dr. Pierre F. Saldinger**, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and **Dr. Michael E. Zenilman**, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Our reception this year attracted one of the largest amount of guests, over 130 alumni and friends, and was held in the Vista Lounge located on the 45th Floor of the Hilton San Francisco Union Square Hotel overlooking the beautiful San Francisco skyline!

We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our co-host, **Dr. Barbara Lee Bass**, who will become the new Dean of the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Vice President for Health Affairs at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. on January 15, 2020. Dr. Bass, a widely respected academic medicine leader, surgeon and researcher who completed her residency and served on faculty at the George Washington University will be the first woman to lead SMHS.



Highlights of Scholarly Productivity & Awards



Weill Cornell Medicine Overseer James Kilts

Kilts Family Professorship of Surgery

“I’m proud of the way the Department of Surgery has evolved over the years since I’ve been associated with Weill Cornell Medicine,” Mr. Kilts says. “Surgery is a highly competitive area, but Dr. Michelassi has made this one of the premier departments in the world. I’m proud of Weill Cornell and for his contributions in making a difference to the world of medicine.”

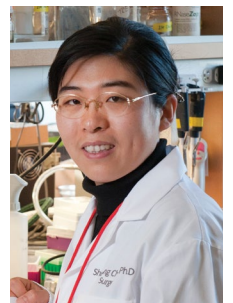
Overseer James Kilts’ involvement with Weill Cornell Medicine was inspired by the care his mother received by Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi nearly 20 years ago. Practicing in Chicago at the time, Dr. Michelassi is now chairman of surgery at Weill Cornell. During Mr. Kilts’ mother’s treatment, the two men became friends and Mr. Kilts began supporting Dr. Michelassi’s work in Chicago and then transitioned his support to New York when Dr. Michelassi came onboard at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Mr. Kilts has been impressed by the Department of Surgery and Weill Cornell’s growth over the past decade. In support of Dr. Michelassi’s leadership, Mr. Kilts has provided contributions to Weill Cornell Medicine which have benefited major initiatives within the Department of Surgery, including educational facilities and the recruitment of a surgeon-scientist dedicated to pancreatic cancer and regenerative medicine.

“I have always respected Dr. Michelassi’s work, his bedside manner, his scholarship, and his connection to patients,” says Mr. Kilts. “He has a dedication to always making medicine as good as it can be.”

Mr. Kilts has a long history of philanthropy at Weill Cornell, and his most recent gift of \$3 million has established the Kilts Family Professorship of Surgery. Endowed professorships are held by outstanding faculty members who embody the highest standards of a physician or researcher. It is a great honor that **Dr. Shuibing Chen**, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery and Department of Biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medicine has been appointed as the Kilts Family Associate Professor of Surgery. This endowed professorship recognizes Dr. Chen’s outstanding internationally renowned pioneering work with stem cells and chemical biology, as well as her exemplary efforts as an educator and mentor. Dr. Chen’s accomplishments bring distinction to Weill Cornell Medicine.

[Read more about the Kilts Family Professorship of Surgery](#)



Highlights of Scholarly Productivity & Awards

Nina G. Von Maltzahn Professorship of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery



“I have been very fortunate in my life,” says Ms. Nina Von Maltzahn. “I am so happy to contribute to enhancing the wonderful breast-cancer care that Weill Cornell Medicine already provides – and to help women feel good about themselves and their future health.”

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer a few years ago, she immediately sought medical care at Weill Cornell Medicine, confident that the institution would offer her the best options for a successful outcome.

With gratitude to Dr. Alexander Swistel, an associate professor of clinical surgery and a pioneer in breast-cancer care, who treated her, Ms. Von Maltzahn has made an impactful gift of \$7 million to establish a program in oncoplastic breast surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine.



Oncoplastic breast surgery is an approach that allows for the combination of plastic surgery techniques with breast surgical oncology. Patients typically undergo a single procedure that includes cancer removal and immediate reconstruction of the breast.

The gift from Ms. Von Maltzahn will endow the Nina G. Von Maltzahn Professorship of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery, provide for the recruitment of a leading plastic surgeon with a specialty in oncoplastic breast surgery and support the Nina G. Von Maltzahn Fellowship in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery. We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Alexander Swistel** has been appointed as the Nina G. Von Maltzahn Professorship of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery. This endowed professorship recognizes Dr. Swistel's prominent work with breast-cancer care, as well as his exemplary efforts as an educator and mentor.

[Read more about the Nina G. Von Maltzahn Professorship of Oncoplastic Breast Surgery and the Innovative Oncoplastic Breast Surgery Program](#)

Surgery Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff for their many years of dedicated service to the Department of Surgery and to ensuring that we always deliver the highest quality, most compassionate care to our patients!

35 Years

Dr. Philip Barie

Dr. David Behrman

30 Years

Alice Harper

25 Years

Dr. Michael Lieberman

15 Years

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

Dr. Gregory Dakin

Polonia Davila

Tatiana Londono

Dr. Marsha Rubin

Yuko Tonohira

Kimberly Wu

10 Years

Brandoch Cook, PhD

Todd Evans, PhD

Miriam Gordillo, PhD

Daniel Hunt, MD

Tiffany Jackson

Hendy Jean-Pierre

Ritu Kumar, PhD

Carol Lauture

Vanessa Mejia

Maritza Negron-Mercado

Erica Rivera

Edward Rosenbaum, DDS

Ingrid Torregroza-Hornak

New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian



Photo: John Abbott

Melissa B. Davis, PhD

Cell and Developmental
Biology Research

(646) 962-2855



Philip Chang, MD

Trauma, Burns, Critical Care, and Acute
Care Surgery

(646) 962-2580

weillcornell.org/philip-chang-md



Maryam Farag, DMD

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery &
Dentistry

(212) 746-5175

weillcornell.org/maryam-farag-dmd



Angela Kadenhe-Chiweshe, MD

Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma

(646) 962-2599

weillcornell.org/angela-kadenhe-chiweshe-md

New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian



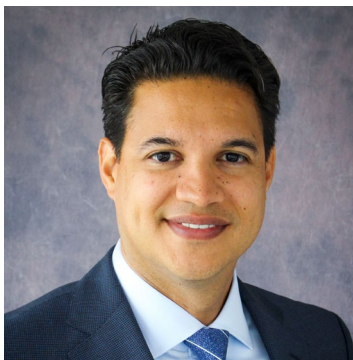
Rebecca Craig-Schapiro, MD

Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation

Liver Transplantation, Hepatobiliary
and Pancreatic Surgery

(212) 746-3099 | (212) 746-2127

weillcornell.org/rebecca-craig-schapiro-md



Omar Bellorin-Marin, MD

GI Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery

(646) 962-8462

weillcornell.org/omar-bellorin-marin-md



Lea Lowenfeld, MD

Colon and Rectal Surgery

(646) 962-2270

weillcornell.org/lea-lowenfeld-md

New Surgery Faculty Recruitment



Weill Cornell Medicine/ NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital



Vivian J. Bea, MD
Breast Surgery



Rabih A. Nemr, MD
Bariatric Surgery



Justin G. Steele, MD
Hernia Repair & Abdominal
Wall Reconstruction



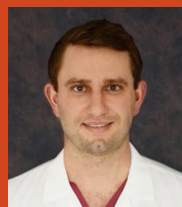
Michael G. Wayne, MD
Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery



Weill Cornell Medicine/ NewYork-Presbyterian Queens



Michael Awadallah, DDS
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery and
Dentistry



C. Taylor Lewis, MD
Vascular Surgery



Agnes Radzio, MD
Breast Surgery

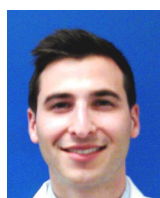
New Surgery Residents



Miseker Abate
General Surgery



Shaika Al-Thani
General Surgery



Alex Anatone
HSS



Prashant Angara
General Surgery



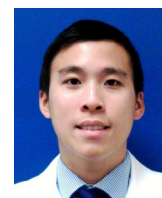
Misha Armstrong
General Surgery



Kathryn Barth
HSS



Cara Berkowitz
General Surgery



Patawut Bovonratwet
HSS



Peyton Cramer
Interventional Radiology



Tara Chadab
Plastic Surgery



Sanjit Datta
Interventional Radiology



Andrew Garton
Neurosurgery



Elizabeth Gilbert
General Surgery



Lamia Harik
General Surgery



David Janhofer
Plastic Surgery



Yusef Jordan
HSS



Mia D. Kutner
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery



Alexandra Larson
Neurosurgery



Clara Lee
ENT



Yeon Joo Lee
General Surgery



Evan Lutton
General Surgery



Elliot Morse
ENT



Aaron Oswald
ENT



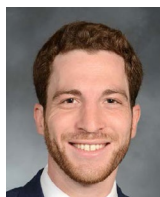
Mohamed Ramadan
General Surgery



Ashwin Ramasway
Urology



Julia Retzky
HSS



Andrew Shomoromy
ENT



Vincentius (Jeremy) Suhardi
HSS



Ryan Thacher
HSS



Samantha Thorogood
Urology



Tyler Uppstrom
HSS



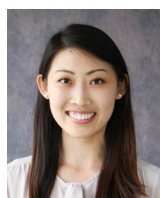
Darshan Vora
General Surgery



Andy T. Vu
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery



Zachary Whaley
General Surgery



Jenny Yan
Interventional Radiology



Brian Yang
HSS



Tenny Zhang
Urology



Alec Zhu
Urology

New Surgery Fellows



Sarina Bains
Endocrine Surgery



Matthew Bronstein
Critical Care



Cameron Gibson
Critical Care



Glendon (Alan) Hyde
Colon & Rectal Surgery



Adam Johnson
Vascular Surgery



Christina Lee
Burn Surgery



Nicole Rich
Vascular Surgery



Sarath Sujatha-Bhaskar
Colon & Rectal Surgery



Mariana Vigiola Cruz
GI-MIS

Alumni Updates



Congratulations, Dr. Amit R.T. Joshi (class of 2006), residency Program Director and Vice-Chair for Academic Affairs for the Department of Surgery at Einstein Healthcare Network in Philadelphia on being elected as Director of the American Board of Surgery.

The American Board of Surgery is an independent, nonprofit organization founded in 1937 for the purpose of certifying individuals who have met a defined standard of education, training and knowledge in the field of surgery. Surgeons certified by the ABS have completed at least five years of surgical training following medical school and successfully completed a written and oral examination process administered by the ABS. They must then maintain their board certification through ongoing learning and practice improvement activities. The directors of the American Board of Surgery are elected for a single six-year term from ABS nominating organizations or through an at-large open nomination process. All directors are surgeons in active practice, currently certified by the ABS and participating in the ABS Continuous Certification Program. They receive no remuneration for their service. To read the official ABS announcement [click here](#).



Dr. John M. Daly, was appointed Interim Dean of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University, returning to the role he held for nine years previously from 2003 to 2011. An internationally renowned surgeon whose clinical work and research span the fields of surgical oncology, metabolism, and nutrition, John M. Daly, MD, FACS, served from 1993 to 2002 as chairman of the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine.

Highlights of Scholarly Productivity & Awards



Dr. Gwendolyn Reeve, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Attending Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian has been **named a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons**. This means that the surgeon's education and training, professional qualifications, surgical competence, and ethical conduct have passed a rigorous evaluation, and have been found to be consistent with the high standards established and demanded by the College. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is a scientific and educational association of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient by setting high standards for surgical education and practice.



Dr. Guy Minoli, one of the Department of Surgery's long-standing voluntary dentists and former GPR Program Director, was presented with **The Outstanding Service Award at the American Dental Association National Meeting** in San Francisco this September. This is the second highest award presented by the American College of Dentists which is an honorary organization that elects the top 3 ½ percent of dental leaders across the country. The Outstanding Service Award is occasionally presented to an individual for outstanding service to the dental profession, community and humanity.



Dr. Vivian Bea, Chief of Breast Surgical Oncology at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, **received grant funding from the American Cancer Society and Pfizer Inc. on her proposal for the project Sister, Give Me Your Hand**. This was a very competitive process with over 100 letters of intent submitted in response to the RFP, and 38 of those applicants invited to submit a full proposal. The review panel recommended 9 full proposals for funding, awarding over \$2.5 million in breast health equity community grants. Congratulations on being part of this select group!

Highlights of Scholarly Productivity & Awards



Dr. Maureen Moore, Administrative Chief Resident in the Department of Surgery, **received the Surgery Resident Award at the Cornell Alumni Council (CAC) Awards Dinner** on November 19, 2019 at the Griffis Faculty Club. The CAC was established in 1976 to create a collegial association for healthcare professionals at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The CAC honors colleagues who have made notable achievements at the Medical Center or elsewhere. Also recognized are new members of the Medical Center Circle who have made a significant philanthropic commitment to the Medical Center.

Dr. Philip Barie, Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian was **inducted as a Member in the ACS Academy of Master Educators** on October 4, 2019 in the Murphy Auditorium in Chicago. Developed by the ACS Division of Education, the Academy recognizes surgeon educators who have devoted their careers to surgical education. The Academy's mission is to play a leadership role in advancing the science and practice of education across all surgical specialties, promoting the highest achievements in the lifetimes of surgeons. Academy membership carries an obligation for commitment to the Academy's goals, which are to identify, recognize, and recruit innovators and thought leaders committed to advancing lifelong surgical education; translate innovation into actions; offer mentorship to surgeon educators; foster exchange of creative ideas; disseminate advances in surgical education; and positively impact the quality of surgical care and patient safety. (Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi was inducted as a Member in the Inaugural Class of 2018 and Drs. Thomas J. Fahey, III and Mayur Narayan were inducted as Associate Members in the Inaugural Class of 2018).



Dr. Lisa Newman, Chief of the Section of Breast Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine was **named one Crain's 2019 Notable Women in Healthcare in New York City**. Dr. Newman oversees a team of breast surgeons providing patients with comprehensive breast cancer care through a multidisciplinary approach. She also supervises the Breast Surgical Oncology Program at NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, where she extends that multidisciplinary approach to breast cancer treatment so patients across the boroughs receive the same high-quality care. Dr. Newman's research focuses on ethnicity-related variation in breast cancer risk and outcome, and the evaluation and management of high-risk patients. To read the full article, [here](#).

In Memoriam



In Memoriam Pauline Hecht, MD

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of our distinguished colleague, **Dr. Pauline Hecht**, dynamic surgeon and powerful advocate of breast health awareness and education, who died late September 2019. She was 88 years old. Dr. Hecht graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 1954, specializing in breast surgery. Dr. Hecht retired from clinical care as Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Attending Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital as of May 2019. A service was held on Sunday, September 22, 2019 at the Manhattan Jewish Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, contributions were asked to be made to [The Fistula Foundation](#) or [RIP Medical Debt](#).

In Memoriam

In Memoriam Bjorn Thorbjarnarson, MD

It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of our esteemed colleague, **Bjorn Thorbjarnarson, MD, FACS**, who died on October 4, 2019. He was 98 years old. Dr. Bjorn Thorbjarnarson served from 1974 to 1975 as chairman of the Department of Surgery at The New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center. He was born on July 9, 1921, the seventh of eight children of Thorbjorn Thordarson and Gudrun Palsdottir, in the village of Bildudalur in the remote Westfjords region of northwestern Iceland. His father was a doctor who visited distant patients on horseback; his mother was a homemaker. Dr. Thorbjarnarson went to a boarding school in the city of Akureyri in northern Iceland, to which he traveled by fishing boat or on horseback, his family said. He graduated from the University of Iceland's medical school in 1947, trained in the Icelandic countryside and then moved to New York.

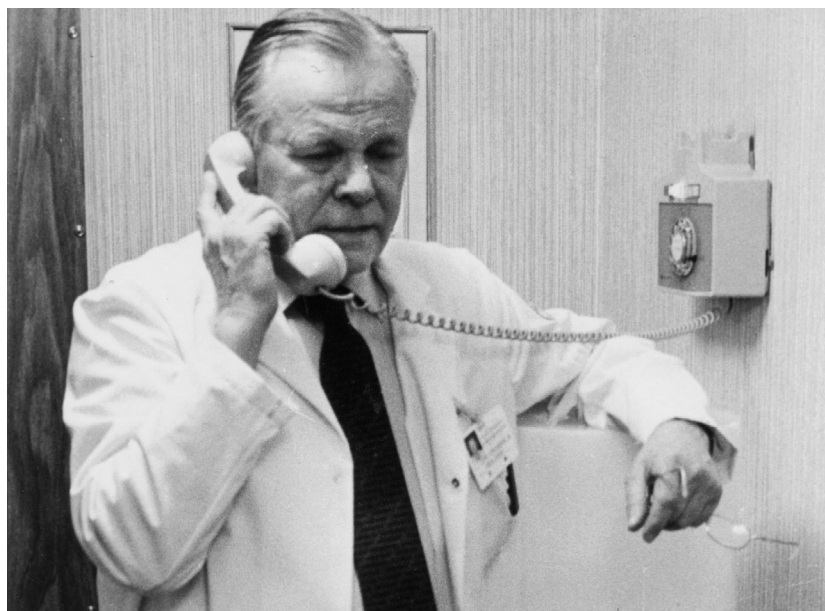
Although Dr. Thorbjarnarson's plan was to stay in New York for one year and then return to Iceland, he decided to stay at The New York Hospital to complete his residency because he became accustomed to New York City. He served as intern in 1948 (studying under [Dr. Frank Glenn](#), former chairman of the Department of Surgery and surgeon who treated the shah in the early 1950's), assistant resident surgeon from 1949 to 1952, first assistant resident surgeon from 1952 to 1953, and then resident surgeon in 1954. He completed residency in 1954 and was board certified by the American Board of Surgery that same year.

Dr. Thorbjarnarson was then hired at Cornell University Medical College as an instructor and as an assistant attending surgeon at The New York Hospital in 1954. He served in this position for two years when he was drafted into the Navy in 1956. He was stationed in Chelsea, Massachusetts as a lieutenant commander and general surgeon from 1956 to 1958 and was never deployed overseas. After serving in the Navy, he returned to The New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center and was ultimately called upon to serve as interim chairman in 1974 after Dr. Paul Ebert left The New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center after three years of being chairman to become chairman of the Department of Surgery at University of California San Francisco. Dr. Bjorn Thorbjarnarson served as interim chairman from 1974 to 1975 until he was replaced by Dr. G. Thomas Shires who served as chairman from 1975 to 1991. When asked about his time as interim chairman, Dr. Thorbjarnarson recalled that he was not supposed to make any dramatic changes to the department; he was only supposed to hold the department together until the next chairman was hired. He noted that his primary functions were to deal with complaints about doctors and nurses, and attend board meetings for the hospital and university.

Dr. Bjorn Thorbjarnarson is best remembered by several surgery residents, now long-time faculty at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine who trained with him, for having excellent technical skill. When they operated with Dr. Thorbjarnarson, they always felt comfortable and confident because they knew he could handle anything that happened in the operating room. He made them feel like they knew how to operate; only when he left the room did they realize how much Dr. Thorbjarnarson's direction contributed to their confidence.

After serving as interim chairman from 1974 to 1975, Dr. Thorbjarnarson resigned from academic practice in 1976. Dr. Thorbjarnarson transitioned to private practice surgery at The New York Hospital although he remained very busy clinically. He was eventually appointed Clinical Professor Emeritus of Surgery at Cornell University Medical College in 1990 and ultimately retired from practice in 1991 at age 70.

In 1955 Dr. Thorbjarnarson married Margaret Brown, a nurse he had met at the hospital. She survives him. In addition to his wife and his daughter Lisa, he is survived by three other daughters, Kathryn Thorbjarnarson and Kristin and Gudrun Bjornsdottir; 11 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. A son, Paul, died in 1996, and another son, John, [a renowned expert on crocodilians](#), died in 2010.



Surgery in the News



Save A Life By Stop The Bleed

(as seen on icnnational.com)

“Whether it’s in New York City or in India, Weill Cornell Medicine is committed to doing all we can to save lives,” said **Dr. Mayur Narayan**, Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Trauma Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. “I’m honored to be part of such a caring institution.”

Weill Cornell Medicine has a history of excellence in patient care, offering cutting-edge therapies and individualized care throughout New York City. Surgeons at Weill Cornell Medicine are widely recognized and respected for their expertise and for being at the forefront of advances in the field.

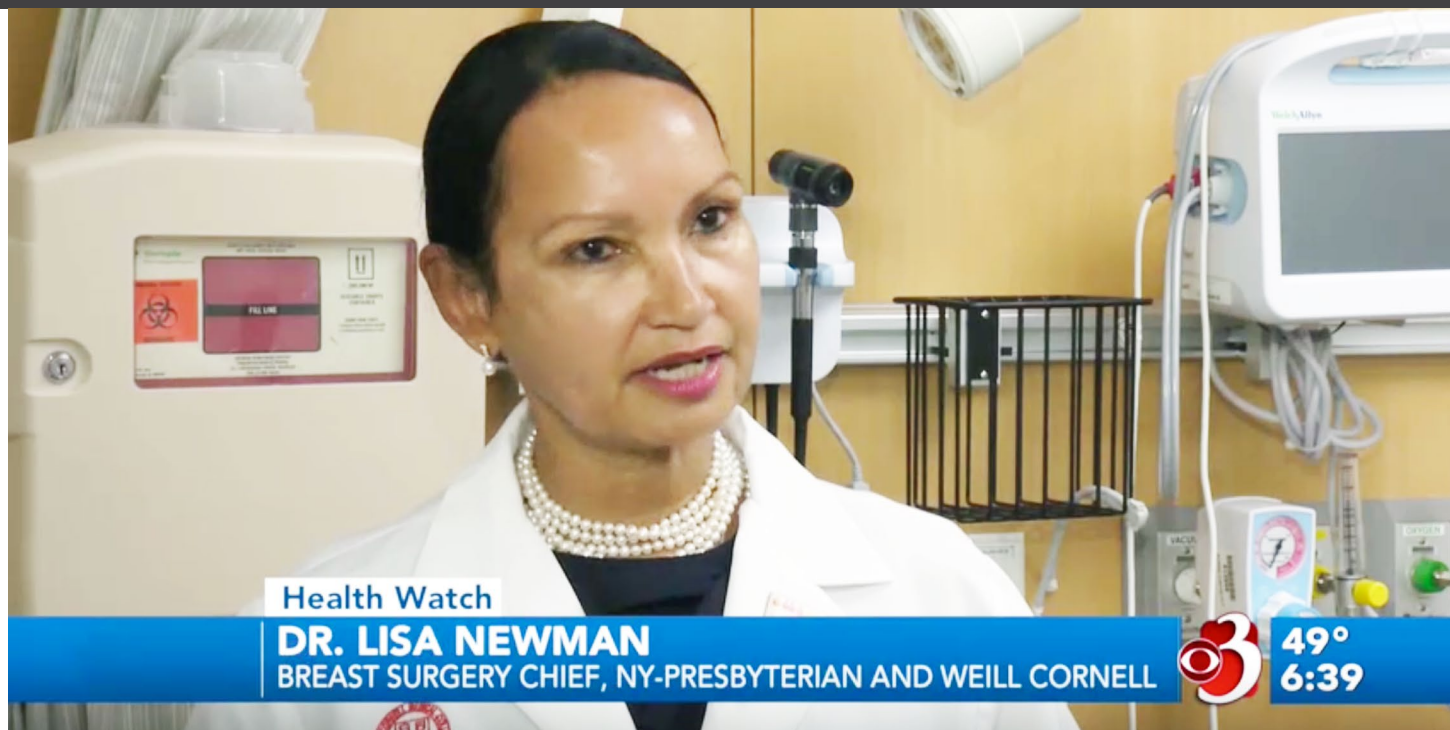


Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) joined in for the training of trainers in Stop the Bleed program of the American College of Surgeons. This was introduced to the institute by Dr. Mayur Narayan. During this training, Prof Sandeep Tiwari-KGMU, Dr. Sandeep Sahu-SGPGI and Weill Cornell Medical College worked as a team to train the public and volunteers for this program.

[Learn more about Stop the Bleed initiative and upcoming training courses](#)



Surgery in the News



Black Women Far More Likely to Die From Breast Cancer

(as seen on CBS HealthWatch)

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October) a new American Cancer Society report shows that while deaths continue to decline, new cases are inching up. And researchers say the disparity between black-white breast cancer deaths remains a big concern.

Breast cancer death rates are 40% higher for African American women. They are more likely to be diagnosed at younger ages and with triple-negative cancer.

"None of these features can be ascribed to socioeconomic status, and so it is imperative, it's critical that we look at genetics and ancestry in trying to totally understand these types of disparities," Dr. Lisa Newman said.

Dr. Newman is the Chief of the Section of Breast Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine. In addition, at

the NewYork-Presbyterian David H. Koch Center, Dr. Newman leads the multidisciplinary breast oncology programs which provides the finest, most compassionate care to women and men affected by breast cancer. Its international breast cancer research program is conducting outreach in Africa and in the NYC community. It's also working with African American breast cancer groups like the Sisters Network. "We've actually identified some genetic markers that are associated with African ancestry and that are associated with the risk of having a triple-negative breast cancer," Dr. Newman said.

It's estimated more than 41,000 women in the United States will die of breast cancer this year.

Watch the full segment [here](#).

Surgery in the News

How One Woman Regained Sensation 10 Years After a Double Mastectomy

(as seen on [Healthline.com](#))

“We have noticed as we switched to less aggressive mastectomy design, and now to nipple-sparing mastectomy (which preserves all of the skin of the breast including the nipple), patients report that they regain much more sensation in general regardless of the type of reconstruction,” noted **Dr. Mia Talmor**, Professor of Clinical Surgery (Plastic Surgery) and Attending Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian.

After losing her mother, three maternal aunts, and grandmother to breast cancer, Tara Dalton decided to seek out genetic testing in 2008. At 28 years old, Dalton underwent a prophylactic double mastectomy and had reconstruction with implants. While recovery went as expected, she didn’t anticipate losing complete sensation in her chest. Numbness following mastectomy is common. During surgery, nerves that supply feeling to the chest are removed in addition to breast tissue.

After a while, she realized she wouldn’t regain sensation.

Dr. Talmor explained how sensation has been a focus for the past several years, particularly in reference to autologous reconstruction. She adds that reconnecting a sensory nerve as part of autologous reconstruction when a more aggressive mastectomy has been performed is something more plastic surgeons have been focusing on in recent years. However, she said, “The problem is that it is very hard to study the outcomes, and so we don’t have great data to say whether or not the procedures are working.”

Ten years after Dalton’s mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, her left implant ruptured.



It was suggested that she undergo autologous “flap” reconstruction surgery with the technique Resensation. Resensation uses a processed nerve allograft as a bridge to reconnect nerves in the chest to the reconstructed breast tissue. The processed nerve allograft is believed to guide regrowth of nerve fibers and help regain sensation over time.

The procedure uses skin and fat from one part of the body and transfers it to the chest wall. Then an artery, vein, and nerve in the chest wall are secured to a nerve connector, which reconnects the nerve from the flap and chest wall to restore sensation. Dalton underwent the surgery in 2018. Over time, she began to feel itches or sensations when something brushed up against her chest. Slowly she gained more and more sensation. However, she never gained full sensation in her chest.

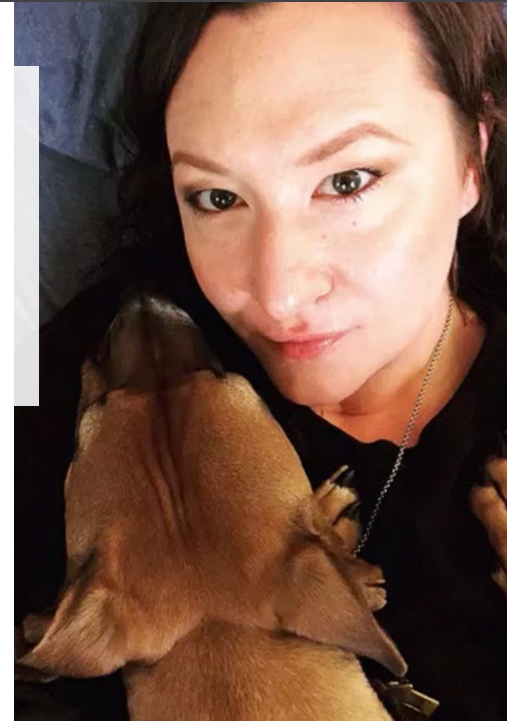
Dr. Talmor believes anything that restores a feeling of normalcy and comfort to a patient who has undergone a mastectomy is important. However, she added, “Whether this procedure, which uses a commercially available cuff to reconnect the nerve, is better than just reconnecting the nerve with stitches is unknown.”

Regaining sensation is more about feeling to Dalton. She says it brings her closer to her pre-mastectomy body. Because she couldn’t feel her implants, she says she avoided a number of activities out of fear of rupturing them.

While Dr. Talmor is hopeful that procedures like Resensation will help more survivors, she says women undergoing mastectomy pre- or postcancer diagnosis should keep in mind that there are many options for breast reconstruction. They should thoroughly investigate each before making any decisions.

“The decision-making is complex and should involve some research on the part of the patient and a lengthy preoperative discussion between the plastic surgeon and the patient,” Dr. Talmor said.

[Click here to read the full story](#)



Future Events Calendar



51st Annual Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship

Lecturer | Dr. Diana Lee Farmer



5th Annual Diversity Lectureship

Lecturer | Dr. Melina Kibbe



47th Annual Preston A. Wade Visiting Professor Lectureship

Lecturer | Dr. Ernest Moore



NYPH-WCMC Department of Surgery Annual Resident Graduation

At The Water Club (invitation & RSVP card to follow)

