I am very pleased to share with you the 2019 Spring Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue, we report on several important named visiting professor lectures, distinguished awards and significant highlights.

We were fortunate over the past few months to welcome two nationally renowned speakers, Haile T. Debas, MD, as the 4th Annual Diversity Lectureship and 2019 Claude Organ, M.D. Lectureship guest speaker (co-sponsored by the Southern Surgical Association and the Society of Black Academic Surgeons) and Ronald M. Stewart, MD, FACS as the 46th Annual Preston A. Wade, M.D. Visiting Professor Lectureship guest speaker.

The Department of Surgery was honored to host the Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS) for the 29th Annual Meeting. The meeting took place in New York City on April 25-28 and was attended by close to 200 SBAS members, Weill Cornell Medicine faculty, New York-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine leadership, residents and guests.

Many of our full-time faculty have recently been honored for their clinical expertise nationally and regionally. I am proud to report that this year 19 surgeons were named as “America’s Top Doctors”; 33 were recognized among the “Regional Top Doctor”; 10 were cited as “America’s Top Doctors for Cancer” by Castle Connolly and 37 were chosen as “New York Super Doctors”. In addition, in recognition for being on Castle Connolly’s list of awardees for each one of the previous ten years, 5 of our surgeons were acknowledged as Hall of Fame nominees.

This issue covers many departmental events including: the 11th Annual Women in Surgery Dinner; the 3rd Annual NYP Surgical Resident Research Symposium; the PALP 2019 Symposium; National Stop the Bleed Day 2019; 18th Annual Golf Tournament and the 2019 Surgery Resident Graduation. We also highlight our faculty’s recent honors, awards and media coverage.

I hope you find this issue of interest and welcome your feedback about our newsletter.

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 Department of Surgery’s 4th Annual Diversity Lecture and 2019 Claude Organ, M.D. Lectureship (co-sponsored by the Southern Surgical Association and the Society of Black Academic Surgeons) was held on Monday, April 22, 2019. The lecture entitled "The Evolution of Surgery in the 21st Century", was presented by Haile T. Debas, M.D.

Dr. Haile T. Debas is recognized internationally for his contributions to academic medicine and is widely consulted on issues associated with global health. At the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), he served as the Founding Executive Director of Global Health Sciences (2003-2010), Dean of the School of Medicine (1993-2003), Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs for six years, and Chancellor for one year. A gastrointestinal surgeon by training, Dr. Debas chaired the UCSF Department of Surgery (1987-2003), and is the Maurice Galante Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Emeritus. He also was the Founding Director of the University of California Global Health Institute from 2009 to 2016.

A native of Eritrea, Dr. Debas received his M.D. from McGill University, completed his surgical training at the University of British Columbia (UBC), his post-doctoral fellowship at UC Los Angeles, and has held faculty positions at UBC, UCLA and the University of Washington. Under his stewardship, the UCSF School of Medicine became a national model for medical education, an achievement for which he was recognized with the 2004 Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). Dr. Debas was a lead editor of the Essential Surgery volume of Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (DCP3), published by the World Bank in 2015.

Dr. Debas’s prescient grasp of the implications of fundamental changes in science led him to create several interdisciplinary research centers instrumental in reorganizing the scientific community at UCSF. He played a key role in developing UCSF’s new campus at Mission Bay and was awarded the UCSF Medal for his academic and leadership contributions to the University in 2012. Dr. Debas has held leadership positions with numerous organizations and professional associations, including serving as President of the American Surgical Association and Chair of the Council of Deans of the AAMC. He served for two terms as a member of the Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy of the National Academy of Sciences; served four years on the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health; and was a member of the United Nations’ Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa.

Dr. Debas is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Aga Khan University and previously served on the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He was instrumental in the creation of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health, where he served as Founding Chair of the Board of Directors (2009-2012).

The Diversity Lecture is supported by the Department of Surgery. The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine established this Diversity Lectureship in 2016 as a reminder of the importance of a culture of inclusiveness, diversity and equality. By instituting this lectureship, the Department of Surgery wants to stress the importance of a culture of inclusiveness through recruitment, mentoring, promotion, retention and selection for leadership roles to develop and sustain diversity among residents, staff and faculty in surgery.

This year, the Department of Surgery was awarded the 2019 Claude Organ, M.D. Lectureship Award sponsored by the Southern Surgical Association and the Society of Black Academic Surgeons which was established in 2013. This award is sponsored by the Claude Organ Special Collection Fund supported by these two societies to celebrate the contributions to the field of medicine made by many African-Americans. It is intended to encompass the entire field of medicine from early history to the current era. Previous recipients of this award include Drs. L.D. Britt, Dr. Steven Stain, Dr. Selwyn Vickers, Dr. Carla M. Pugh and Dr. Patricia Turner.

Contribution checks to this annual Diversity Lecture should be payable to: Department of Surgery-WCMC and mailed to: Chairman’s Office, Dept. Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine, 525 East 68th Street, Box 129, New York, NY 10065 or please call 646-962-8427 for further information.
The 29th Annual Society of Black Academic Surgeons Scientific Meeting

April 25-27, 2019

The 29th Annual Society of Black Academic Surgeons Scientific Meeting, was hosted by the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian on April 25-28, 2019. The event was attended by SBAS members, Weill Cornell faculty, New York-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell leadership, guests, residents and students. The Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS) was founded in 1989 with the goal of stimulating academic excellence among its members by providing a forum of scholarship in collaboration with the leading Departments of Surgery in the United States. It encourages and supports professional development of black surgical residents and attempts to recruit the best and brightest medical students into a career in surgery.

This year’s meeting, featured guest speakers Drs. Mae Jemison, graduate of Cornell Medical School and first African-American astronaut, and Louis Sullivan, first African-American resident at New York Hospital.

The Department of Surgery is indebted to the following individuals for the success of the meeting: Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D. & Weill Cornell Medicine, Steven J. Corwin, M.D., Laura Forese, M.D. & NewYork-Presbyterian, The Center Alumni Council (CAC), Weill Cornell Medicine, Drs. Daniel H. Hunt, Anton Kelly, Tracy-Ann Moo & Anthony C. Watkins, Planning Committee and Sheila Maletta, Managing Administrator.
On May 9th, 2019, the 3rd Annual NYP Surgical Resident-Research Symposium was held at the Griffis Faculty Club. This was an opportunity to celebrate the great research done by surgical residents across the NYP Hospitals through research presentations. The program included remarks by 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 Thomas J. Fahey III, MD, Vice Chair of Education, Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine and Attending Surgeon, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

As part of the event, several talks were given by residents of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. At the conclusion of the event, two awards were given to the best submissions: Best Clinical Presentation Award to Jessica Limberg, MD on “Does Aggressive Variant Histology Alone Predict Overall Survival in Papillary Thyroid Cancer? A National Cancer Database (NCDB) Analysis” and Best Laboratory/Translational Presentation Award to Timothy Ullmann, MD on “The Nonreceptor Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase SHP2 Mediates Adaptive Resistance to RET-inhibitors in Thyroid Cancr.”
Ronald M. Stewart, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery
Dr. Witten B. Russ Endowed Chair in Surgery
Professor of Surgery and Anesthesia with Tenure
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

The Department of Surgery’s 46th Annual Preston A. Wade, M.D. Visiting Professor Lectureship was held on June 3, 2019. The lecture entitled “Firearm Injury Prevention Strategy and Process from the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma”, was presented by Ronald M. Stewart, M.D., F.A.C.S., Dr. Witten B. Russ Endowed Chair in Surgery and Professor of Surgery and Anesthesia with Tenure at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Stewart received his M.D. and completed his general surgery residency at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He then completed a fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical Care at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Returning to San Antonio in 1993, Dr. Stewart built the University Health System’s trauma program. He currently serves as the American College of Surgeons Medical Director of Trauma Programs.

Over the past three decades, Dr. Stewart has actively led the development of an integrated civilian-military trauma system that serves all of South Texas, covering more than 26,000 square miles. In 2001, Dr. Stewart was appointed by then Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Governors EMS and Trauma Advisory Council where he served for 15 years as the Chair of the Trauma Systems Committee. He was a founding member and the first Chair of the National Trauma Institute. For the past 20 years, he has served on the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Committee on Trauma (COT), serving as its national Chair from March 2014 to March 2018. During his tenure as the ACS COT Chair, the COT developed a range of innovative firearm injury prevention programs and policy recommendations through a collegial, professional and inclusive dialogue centered around how best to reduce firearm injury, death and disability.

Dr. Stewart has published more than 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters and abstracts. He has been funded as principle investigator since 1995 by federal agencies and a multitude of private foundations and pharmaceutical companies. In 2013, Dr. Stewart was the recipient of the National Safety Council’s Surgeons Award for Service to Safety and the American College of Surgeon’s Arthur Ellenberger Award for Excellence in State Advocacy. Dr. Stewart is a member of many surgical societies among which he counts the American Surgical Society, the Southern Surgical Society and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He is past President of the Southwestern Surgical Congress and the immediate past President of the Texas Surgical Society.

The Preston Wade M.D. Visiting Professor Lectureship was established in 1974 as a reminder of the importance of surgical expertise in the prevention of trauma and in the treatment of the trauma victim. After Dr. Wade’s death in 1982, this lecture became a memorial to his life and his contributions.
On Friday, June 14, 2019, our surgical residents, faculty, friends and family gathered at the Water Club in New York City to celebrate the graduation of our chief residents:

Jonathan Simon Abelson, M.D., M.S., Neel Pankaj Chudgar, M.D., John M. Creasy, M.D., Jason C. Gardenier, M.D., Brandon A. Guenthart, M.D., Oriana Adele Petruolo, M.D., Saurabh Saluja, M.D., M.P.P., & Marc Vimolratana, M.D.

The Annual Department of Surgery award presentations included:

18th Annual Hassan A. Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Resident Award presented to BRANDON GUENTHART, M.D.

Annual Faculty of the Year Teaching Award presented to JEFFREY CHAN, M.D.

14th Annual William T. Stubenbord, M.D., Resident Award presented to SOLANGE BAYARD, M.D.

11th Annual Resident Student Teaching Award presented to KENDALL LAWRENCE, M.D.

4th Annual ABSITE Achievement Award presented to MARC VIMOLRATANA, M.D.

13th Annual Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, Chief Surgical Resident Award presented to JOHN CREASY, M.D.

9th Golden Apple Award presented to EUGENE NOWAK, M.D., for his exceptional commitment and service to the Department of Surgery.

The graduating chief residents presented the 13th Annual Chief Residents Outstanding Intern Award to PANPAN CHEN, M.D.

15th Annual Surgery Clerkship Resident Teaching Award presented to NICOLE MEREDYTH, M.D. & TIMOTHY ULLMANN, M.D.
As we say good-bye to our 2019 general surgery program graduates, we want to acknowledge the next step in their careers:

Jonathan Simon Abelson, M.D., M.S.
Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
Washington University in St. Louis

Neel Pankaj Chudgar, M.D.
Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

John M. Creasy, M.D.
Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Duke University School of Medicine

Jason C. Gardenier, M.D.
Plastic Surgery Fellowship
Massachusetts General Hospital

Brandon A. Guenthart, M.D.
Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
Stanford Medicine

Oriana Adele Petruolo, M.D.
Breast Surgery Fellowship
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Saurabh Saluja, M.D., M.P.P.
Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
Yale School of Medicine

Marc Vimolratana, M.D.
Thoracic Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian – Cornell

www.flickr.com/photos/WCMSurgery/albums
May was the first ever National Stop the Bleed Month, featuring training courses around the country to teach bleeding control techniques to the general public and empower them with the skills and knowledge to assist severely bleeding persons. During this month, an additional focus was directed to May 23, which is the nation’s 2nd Annual National Stop the Bleed Day.

On May 23, 2019, the Level 1 Trauma Team at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine celebrated National Stop the Bleed Day in the Griffis Faculty Club. Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign that encourages, educates, and provides the tools necessary to the community to stop life-threatening hemorrhage following unintentional injuries, crashes, acts of violence, or natural disasters.

This event highlighted Stop the Bleed achievements across all NewYork-Presbyterian campuses while honoring all employees whose efforts and dedication continue to be the pillar of this campaign. The program included remarks by Dr. Robert Winchell, Chief of the Division of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care, Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Director of the Trauma Center at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Mayur Narayan, Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and a Trauma Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Laura Forese, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian; Rick Evans, Senior Vice President and Chief Experience Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian; Diego Rodriguez, Vice President of Security and Emergency Management; Dr. Christopher Kelly, Chief, Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital; Mark A. Dekki, MPA, Trauma Outreach & Education Coordinator; DiLenney Roca, MPH, Injury Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, NYP/ Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital Department of Pediatric Trauma; Juan Mejia SVP and COO, NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital; Robert Curran, Injury Prevention & Outreach Coordinator, Trauma Program, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center; and Lauren Tufts, 4th year Weill Cornell Medicine medical student.

Dr. Laura Forese, showed her support for this campaign by announcing that NewYork-Presbyterian leadership will be installing Stop the Bleed kits at all campuses. Lower Manhattan Hospital was honored for being the first hospital under NewYork-Presbyterian to reach 100% training with all employee. Lastly, Stop the Bleed Champion Certificates were handed out to all instructors at all campuses for the time they commit to this cause.

As people continue to experience unexpected injuries in their daily lives, and with violence as a persistent threat in the workplace, schools, and other public places where they gather with an expectation of safety, the Stop the Bleed program has continued to grow since the ACS Committee on Trauma first publicly introduced training courses for its members in October 2016.
The 18th Annual Department of Surgery Golf Tournament to support surgical education and research was held on June 25, 2019 at Pelham Country Club in Pelham, New York. Monies raised help benefit programs in surgical education and research, including our Skills Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), named lectures and resident presentations at medical conferences. There was a great turnout this year with a total of 39 tournament participants. We extend our deepest appreciation to our 13 sponsors for their support: Dr. Leonard Girardi & the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; East River Medical Imaging, Drs. Jon Cohen and Karen Kostroff; Dr. Hugh Hemmings and the Department of Anesthesiology; NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital; Dr. Laura L. Forese and NewYork-Presbyterian Administration; NewYork-Presbyterian Queens; Dr. Peter Schlegel & the Department of Urology; Dr. Daniel M. Knowles and the Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine; Dr. Zev Rosenwaks, Ronald O. Perelman, Claudia Cohen and the Center for Reproductive Medicine; Dr. Robert J. Min and Weill Cornell Imaging; and an anonymous sponsor.

We would like to thank our patrons:
Dr. Kevin Morrissey and the Rogosin Institute.

We are grateful for our supporters:
Dr. Robert Grant; Dr. Faith Menken; Dr. Demitri Merianos; Dr. Gerardo Zullo; Dr. Michael Zullo.

Golf Tournament Results

2019 Best Golf Foursome (Tie for 1st place)
John Tsiouris, Anthony Ferrandino, Johnathan Kazam, Greg Coleman
and
Dr. Benjamin Golas, Dr. Dan Labow, Joseph Covill, Michael Bartolotta

2019 Closest to the Pin
Dr. Peter Connolly

2019 Longest Drive
Dr. Peter McWhorter

2019 Straightest Drive
Bob Montpetit
The 11th Annual Women in Surgery Dinner was held on May 28, 2019 at The Cosmopolitan Club in Manhattan on the Upper East Side and hosted by Dr. Rache Simmons, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion and Dr. Toni Beninato, Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian. This event was started ten years ago to provide professional and academic support to women in their career in surgery. Each year faculty, residents and alumni gather together to share with each other their insight, knowledge and experiences in the field. The evening was attended by 24 Weill Cornell Medicine women faculty from the Department of Surgery who shared ideas on better ways to support women in Surgery.
On May 17-18, 2019, the Weill Cornell Medicine Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery’s Program for Advanced Limb Preservation (PALP) held a two-day educational event for physicians and healthcare professionals devoted to the care of patients suffering from the ravages of critical limb-threatening ischemia and diabetic foot conditions. PALP 2019 offered an inclusive, balanced and provocative program covering the latest controversies and approaches to limb revascularization and amputation prevention.

The world-renowned PALP faculty discussed the latest techniques in limb preservation and wound healing. They also tackled the intricacies of endovascular and surgical revascularization for CLTI, as well as conducted wound care and podiatry deep dive sessions.

For more information about this event, click here.
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine

Department of Surgery Faculty
Named Top Doctors by Castle Connolly

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<th>Faculty Named Top Doctors</th>
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**33 of our full-time faculty were named “Regional Top Doctor, 2019” by Castle Connolly**

- Philip S. Barie, MD, MBA
- Palmer Q. Bessey, MD
- Peter Connolly, MD
- Gregory F. Dakin, MD
- Sharif Ellozy, MD
- Thomas J. Fahey III, MD
- James J. Gallagher, MD
- Kelly Garrett, MD
- Robert Grant, MD
- Karim Halazun, MD
- Abraham P. Houng, MD
- Daniel H. Hunt, MD
- Sandip Kapur, MD
- Tikva Jacobs, MD
- Michael D. Lieberman, MD
- Jennifer Marti, MD
- Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
- Jeffrey W. Milsom, MD
- Lisa Newman, MD
- Alfons Pomp, MD
- Benjamin Samstein, MD
- Rache M. Simmons, MD
- Nathan A. Spector, MD
- Nitsana Spigland, MD
- Alexander J. Swistel, MD
- Mia Talmor, MD
- Anthony Watkins, MD
- Robert J. Winchell, MD
- Heather Yeo, MD
- Rasa Zarnegar, MD

**19 of our full-time faculty were named “America’s Top Doctors 2019” by Castle Connolly**

- Philip S. Barie, MD, MBA
- Palmer Q. Bessey, MD
- Gregory Dakin, MD
- Sharif Ellozy, MD
- Thomas J. Fahey III, MD
- Robert Grant, MD
- Sandip Kapur, MD
- Michael D. Lieberman, MD
- Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
- Jeffrey W. Milsom, MD
- Lisa Newman, MD
- Alfons Pomp, MD
- Benjamin Samstein, MD
- Darren B. Schneider, MD
- Rache M. Simmons, MD
- Jason A. Spector, MD
- Nitsana Spigland, MD
- Alexander J. Swistel, MD
- Mia Talmor, MD

**10 of our full-time faculty were named “America’s Top Doctors for Cancer, 2019” by Castle Connolly**

- Thomas J. Fahey III, MD
- Michael D. Lieberman, MD
- Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
- Jeffrey W. Milsom, MD
- Lisa Newman, MD
- Benjamin Samstein, MD
- Rache M. Simmons, MD
- Nitsana Spigland, MD
- Alexander J. Swistel, MD
- Mia Talmor, MD
### Top Doctor Recognition

37 of our full-time faculty were named **“New York Super Doctors, 2019”**

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<th>Cheguevara Afaneh, MD</th>
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<td>David Behrman, MD</td>
<td>P. Stephen Oh, MD</td>
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<td>Toni Beninato, MD</td>
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<td>Gwendolyn Reeve, MD</td>
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<td>Peter Connolly, MD</td>
<td>Darren Schneider, MD</td>
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<td>Vanessa Coupet, DMD</td>
<td>Jian Shou, MD</td>
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5 of our full-time faculty were named to the **“New York Super Doctors Hall of Fame”**. This honor is awarded to individuals who have made it to ten or more separate annual ‘Super Doctors’ lists.

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<th>Thomas J. Fahey III, MD</th>
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Alumni Updates

Dr. Julie Miller, Specialist Endocrine Surgeon and President, ANZ Endocrine Surgeons, class of 2001, visited us from Australia and enjoyed a dinner with Department of Surgery faculty members.

Dr. Sebastian D. Schubl, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Surgery and Chief, Division of Emergency General Surgery at UC Irvine Health, class of 2011, will be promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery after just two years at the University of California. Dr. Schubl will continue to serve in leadership roles for the Department, the School of Medicine, hospital administration as well as several national organizations. On a personal note, Dr. Schubl and his wife are doing wonderfully well and their two-year-old boy, Christian, is thriving in beautiful southern California. Happily, they will be adding a second boy to their family come November!

Welcome back, Dr. Stephanie L. Mick, class of 2009, to Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian! Dr. Mick will be joining the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, Assistant Attending Cardiothoracic Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian and the new Director of Robotic Cardiac Surgery. During her nearly 10-year tenure in Cleveland at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation as an Attending Surgeon, she established herself as a national leader in robotic cardiac surgery and mitral valve disease in addition to myocardial protection and the full spectrum of cardiovascular surgery.
Alumni Updates

Four past trainees (Dr. Najjia Mahmoud, Dr. Vivian Strong, Dr. Stephen Grobmeyer, and Dr. Patricia L. Turner) and one current faculty member (Dr. Jason Spector) became members of the American Surgical Association at its last meeting in Dallas on April 11-13, 2019. As a premier academic surgical society, the American Surgical Association strives for excellence and leadership in science, education, and patient care while promoting diversity, integrity, and innovation.

Dr. Patricia L. Turner was a MIS fellow at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in 2004-2005 and she currently is the Director of the Division of Member Services at the American College of Surgeons in Chicago.

Dr. Jason Spector, Professor of Surgery, and current faculty in the Division of Plastic Surgery.

From right to left: Dr. Najjia Mahmoud, graduated from our General Surgery Residency Program in 2000, now Chief of Colorectal Surgery at Penn in Philadelphia; Dr. Vivian Strong, graduated in 2004, now Attending Surgeon at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Professor of Surgery and Associate Dean at Weill Cornell Medical College; and Dr. Stephen Grobmeyer, graduated in 2002, and now Professor of Surgery at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He is co-leader of the Cleveland Clinic Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program.

Congratulations Dr. Nicholas A. La Gamma, Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell & Associate Program Director of the Colorectal Surgery fellowship at North Shore University Hospital, class of 2012, on the birth of his baby boy, Alexander Joon La Gamma!

Introducing, Luke Joseph Decotiis! Congratulations to Dr. Toni Beninato, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Attending Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian on the birth of her baby boy!
In Memoriam   |   Anthony (Tony) Trimarchi

Anthony “Tony” Trimarchi  
1950 - 2019  
In Memoriam

Tony Trimarchi joined our organization in 2009 and quickly became universally beloved and appreciated for his wisdom, maturity, common sense, loyalty, honesty and support of the institution and each one of its members. He became a respected and trusted colleague among the administrators and an equilibrating, stabilizing voice in the Department, Medical College and Hospital.

In the 10 years Tony was with us, he helped transform the Department of Surgery by first setting up the infrastructure we have today and then guiding the growth that we have enjoyed. In the Department, he was a wonderful boss, mentor, facilitator for all, friend to many, and father figure to some. He was always kind, professional, generous with help and advice, and always respectful. Tony was friendly, smart, funny, and loved to smile. It was a joy to work with him and for him.

Tony rejoiced in the success of others by being a constant participant at the annual golf outing, the Holiday party, the annual Faculty Social of the Department, the yearly Employee Recognition Party, and the Resident Graduation Party.

He passed at the end of April, in the comfort of his home and the love of his family, the most important thing to him. A class act until his very last breath. He passed away but he lives in our hearts and our minds with many wonderful memories of camaraderie and friendship. We will always remember his great spirit, his smile, his zest for life.
“My mom’s just an incredible person. I gave her 65 percent of my liver and that doesn’t even cover two percent of what she’s done for me my whole life.”

Kate Murdock didn’t think twice when her mother, Bridget Hogan, was in need of a liver transplant after being diagnosed with primary biliary cirrhosis.

Just one year after giving birth to twins, Kate donated a portion of her liver to her mom in January 2018. Kate’s decision not only helped improve Bridget’s life, but gave her own children the opportunity to spend time with their grandmother.

“I got to give them the gift of getting to know her, it was as much for them as it was for myself. The biggest reward for our family is the joy she gets out of being with her grandkids,” Kate says.

Thanks in part to Drs. Benjamin Samstein and Karim Halazun of the Department of Surgery and the Center for Liver Disease and Transplantation at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine and the rest of their NYP Transplant team, both Kate and Bridget were able to celebrate another Mother’s Day together with their family.

Now, Bridget is able to play hide and seek, go to batting practice to run around with her young grandchildren, and enjoy time with her children and husband.

“I had been given the gift to be able to do something about my mom’s and my family’s suffering, a gift that any family who has lost a loved one hopes and prays for,” Kate says. “I am grateful to my mom every day for allowing me to do this.”

Click here to learn more about the Living Donor Liver Transplantation program at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine.
Surgery After Systemic Therapy Tied to Improved Outcome of HER2+ Advanced Breast Cancer
(as seen on Reuters Health)

Most women with HER2+ breast cancer are now treated with chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or hormonal therapy. Surgery may be offered, but previous studies demonstrated “mixed results” about the survival benefit of excision of the primary tumor.

Dr. Lisa Newman, chief of the section of breast surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, in New York City, explained that the study was “noteworthy because it provides additional data regarding the possible role of breast surgery in women diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. Improvements in systemic and targeted therapy for breast cancer have resulted in prolonged survival among women with Stage IV disease, and resulted in a resurgence of interest regarding the role of surgery in women found to have metastatic disease when newly diagnosed.”

Dr. Newman, who was not involved in the work, said it “confirms the improved outcomes that we can achieve in HER2-overexpressing cancer through targeted anti-HER2 therapy, even in the setting of metastatic disease. Surgery to the breast may possibly contribute to this improved outcome, but each case should be evaluated individually to assess for evidence of response to initial/primary systemic therapy and overall fitness for surgery. Most importantly, each patient should be fully informed that surgery is optional, and definitive evidence of any survival benefit is lacking at this point in time.”

“Since this was a retrospective study, it is subject to selection bias, which means that surgery was more likely to have been offered to patients that appeared to have the better-prognosis disease,” she cautioned.

Learn more about the Section of Breast Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian or click to get to know Dr. Lisa Newman.
There was really no other option other than surgery, from what I could tell, except to do nothing.” That was the mindset of 97-year-old Dora Fisher, when she knew she wanted to proceed with treatment for a cancerous tumor in her colon. She felt confident after NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine’s Vice-Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery, Dr. Parul Shukla, evaluated her cancer and entire physiology, noting that she could undergo surgery, recover well and that is exactly what she did.

Five years later, in February 2019, Dora underwent routine bloodwork and a stool test that showed abnormalities. After a colonoscopy, she was informed that there was a new tumor. Once again, Dora wanted to be proactive with treatment. “Doing nothing was not an option,” she said and she sought care from Dr. Shukla for a second time. Another thorough evaluation concluded that Dora was very strong, sharp and surgery was possible. After a successful procedure, she recovered in the hospital for only a few days. With the help of her NYP care team, Dora is now fully recovered and recently celebrated a very special milestone, her 103rd birthday!

Click here to learn more about Dr. Parul Shukla.
America Is Too Glib About Breast Implants
(as seen on theatlantic.com)

“Not everybody putting breast implants in across the country is a board-certified plastic surgeon,” Dr. Jason Spector, a Professor and Plastic Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medical Center says. “You have variation in state laws, and if you're doing things in your own office, all you need is a medical license.”

Given how casually breast augmentation is often talked about and advertised, it can seem like skipping the lifetime of follow-up is no big deal. But patients can suffer from the less-than-serious cultural attitude toward cosmetic modifications—and unscrupulous doctors can benefit.

Untrained surgeons performing cosmetic procedures in high-volume, low-cost settings can have deadly results.

In February, USA Today published an investigation into a group of Miami clinics where eight women had died from surgical complications. (The owner of the clinics has denied any wrongdoing.)

Augmentations are frequently performed on very young women, and those patients are likely to need additional procedures to maintain their health. “I tell young implant patients who are coming in for augmentation, this will not be the last surgery they have on their breasts,” says Dr. Spector. Modern implants can require replacement less than 10 years after a patient’s initial surgery. The FDA recommends that patients have follow-ups with their doctors and MRI surveillance throughout the life of the implant, something that Spector says not all doctors insist on and not all patients adhere to.

To read the full article, click here.
Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, delivered the State of the Art Lecture at the 25th Annual Meeting of the AHPBA in Miami on March 23, 2019 on "Development of Standards for High Risk GI Surgery" upon invitation by Dr. Charles Vollmer, President of the AHPBA. The Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA), is an independent organization dedicated to advancing HPB care to improve patient lives.

Dr. Thomas J. Fahey III, Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, was elected as President-Elect [2019-2020] of The American Association of Endocrine Surgeons (AAES). The AAES is dedicated to the advancement of the science and art of endocrine surgery. Members have clinical expertise and research interests that focus on endocrine surgical diseases. The AAES is committed to providing surgical expertise in diseases of the thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal glands as well as in neuroendocrine tumors of the pancreas and GI tract.

Dr. Rasa Zarnegar, Professor of Surgery and Frank Glenn Faculty Scholar in Surgery was named Director of the Robotic Programs in the Department Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Zarnegar has dedicated himself to this novel technology since its inception, has developed a substantial expertise and has helped colleagues to initiate and grow similar programs in foregut, bariatrics, general, colorectal, hepatobiliary and acute care.

Given the growth of these programs, the Executive Committee of the Department of Surgery thought that it was timely to put forth steps for standardization, implementation, access, teaching, proctoring, research and quality control of this new technology. Consideration of appropriate indications and overall cost needs to be better evaluated to determine and identify areas where robotics offer advantages over other more conventional minimally invasive techniques for further improvement, development and growth. As Director of the Robotic Programs, Dr. Zarnegar will facilitate this agenda.
Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine was awarded the Society of Black Academic Surgeons Honorary Fellowship at the SBAS Honorary Fellowship Luncheon in Dallas on April 12, 2019. Dr. Michelassi gave the following remarks upon receiving this award: “I am extremely honored by the award of the SBAS Honorary Fellowship. I have always admired this organization. Born three decades ago to increase representation of African-American Surgeons in Academic Centers, it has met this need with mentoring, development of talent, networking and nominations for academic and leadership positions. I applaud this effort as I believe that there is no excellence without diversity”. The Society of Black Academic Surgeons’ mission is to improve health, advance science, and foster careers of African American and other underrepresented minority surgeons.

The photo above depicts Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi and co-awardee, Dr. Mary Hawn, Stanford Medicine Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Stanford University, together with Dr. Malcolm Brock, SBAS President (right of Dr. Michelassi) and Dr. L.D. Britt, SBAS Executive Director (left of Dr. Hawn). SBAS was founded in 1989 to stimulate academic excellence among its members by providing a forum of scholarship in collaboration with leading Departments of Surgery in the U.S.

Dr. Melissa Davis, Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology and Scientific Director, International Center for the Study of Breast Cancer Subtypes at Weill Cornell Medicine, was awarded the Dean's Diversity and Disparity Research Award. As a recipient of this award, Dr. Davis was recognized by the Dean for her innovative approach to diversity and health disparities research at the Diversity Awards Celebration on April 22, 2019 in the Griffis Faculty Club. As a 2019 grant award recipient, Dr. Davis will present her results and/or project status in a poster during Diversity Week next year (April 2020).

Patricia A. Sullivan-Jakubauskas, Senior Administrative Aide to Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, was chosen by the Irish Echo newspaper as an "Irish Community Champion" of 2019. An awards dinner was held at Rosie O’ Grady’s, The Manhattan Club on April 5, 2019. This was open to people from all walks of life, every kind of job, and shined a light on the efforts of those who serve and advance worthy concerns and causes, and by doing so are living up to the best traditions of the American Irish.
**Highlights of Scholarly Productivity & Awards**

**Dr. Heather Yeo**, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Healthcare Policy and Research at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine was awarded the 2019 Health Care Disparities Research Award at the 60th Annual Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) on May 18-21, 2019 in San Diego, CA for the project entitled “Understanding Disparities in Surgical Academic Health Center and Their Association with Sub Specialty Choice”. This award is to assist in the development of young faculty members engaged in disparities research in digestive diseases. The SSAT award of $20,000 per year for two years is meant to support health disparities/diversity investigators within 10 years of faculty appointment. The supported research will be focused on health care disparities. This includes, but is not limited to, investigating the effect on race/ethnicity, access to healthcare, socio-economic status, gender, age, disability, geographic location, or sexual orientation on health care outcomes and developing methodology to decrease these disparities.

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**Dr. Parul Shukla**, Vice Chief in the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center was chosen as the Clinical Preceptor of the year by the Weill Cornell Physician Assistant Class of 2019. Dr. Shukla was awarded this distinction during a certificate ceremony on May 29, 2019.

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The Department of Surgery was honored to have guest lecturer **Shailesh V. Shrikhande, MS, MD, FRCS (Hon)**, Head, Division of Cancer Surgery, Chief, GI and HPB Surgery, Professor of Surgical Oncology and Deputy Director at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai, India present on “Pancreatic Cancer Surgery at Tata Memorial Hospital: Current Status and Future Directions” on March 25, 2019 at the Department of Surgery's weekly grand rounds.

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**India Long**, Finance Administrator in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine, completed her Master of Public Administration (MPA) in Health Policy & Management from the NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service. This program gave the unique opportunity to study health policy and management in a school of public service where you can see these interplays. With New York City and its diverse populations, Ms. Long is ready to take on the most challenging issues in any healthcare environment.
Highlights of Scholarly Productivity & Awards

After 21 years in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, Diana Paris, Senior Account Administrator is retiring. She was an exemplary employee and a pleasure to work with. Wishing you all the best, Diana!

Dr. Demetri Merianos, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Surgeon, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, received the Richard A. Herrmann Teaching Award at the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences Convocation ceremony, which honored students, alumni faculty and staff for their exceptional academic achievements, scholarships, research, teaching and services. This award is given to one faculty member (in any department) each year, and is "chosen by vote of the third-year class, for outstanding teaching, dedication, and concern for the students".

Dr. Toni Beninato, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Surgeon, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, completed her Master of Science in Health Policy and Economics from Weill Cornell Medicine. This program provides Dr. Beninato with the tools to become a leading policy analyst and researcher working to identify the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality healthcare. This will be a huge asset for the Department of Surgery which currently serves populations at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Hospital for Special Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian in Queens, NewYork-Presbyterian at Lower Manhattan and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital.

Dr. Heather Yeo, Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center has been appointed as a Frank Glenn Scholar in Surgery. This appointment recognizes Dr. Yeo’s outstanding research and clinical activities in the field of minimal access surgery.
Bidding farewell to Dr. Alfons Pomp, Leon C. Hirsch Professor, Vice Chairman, Department of Surgery, Chief of GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine as he retires and heads home to Canada! Dr. Pomp has worked in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine for 16 years (2003-2019). Nationally recognized as an expert in advanced laparoscopic techniques and minimally invasive weight loss surgery. Dr. Pomp will be sorely missed. Wishing Dr. Pomp all the best for the future!
Future Events Calendar

**Chairman Distinguished Lecture**
Lecturer | Dr. Lisa Newman

**19th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship**
Lecturer | Dr. David Rivadeneira

**4th Annual Networking Surgery Retreat**
Griffis Faculty Club | 1300 York Avenue

**36th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship**
Lecturer | Dr. Nathaniel Soper

**2019 American College of Surgeons Annual Alumni Reception**
Location | San Francisco, California

**Corrine & Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professor Lectureship in honor of Peter Guida, MD**
Lecturer | Dr. Alberto Ferreres