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Inside the Issue

Chairman Message

I am very pleased to share with you the 2017 Fall Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue, we highlight several events which took place since the printing of the Spring issue:

- **Dr. Thomas J. Fahey III**, presented at the first Chairman Distinguished Lecture.

-We were privileged to welcome back **Dr. Alessio Pigazzi** for the 17th Annual Hassan Naama, MD, BCh, Memorial Lectureship.

- **Dr. Barbara Lee Bass**, the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Presidential Endowed Chair and chair, Department of Surgery at the Houston Methodist Hospital, TX, was installed as the 98th President of the American College of Surgeons.

This issue also features many departmental events including: the 2nd Annual Department of Surgery System-Wide Retreat, the 2nd Annual Big Apple Bootcamp, the ACS Trauma Verification celebration, the 16th Annual Golf Tournament and the 2017 Surgery Graduation.

In addition, we welcome new faculty, residents and fellows to the Department of Surgery. We also highlight our faculty's recent honors and awards, as well as their recent media coverage, Department of Surgery Service Milestones, and the recently completed Department floorplan renovations.

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 from the Department of Surgery!

Sincerely yours,

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Weill Cornell Medicine NewYork-Presbyterian

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Chairman Distinguished Lecture

First Annual Chairman Distinguished Lecture
"Update in Endocrine Surgery: Current and Future Management Strategies in Thyroid Cancer"

September 11, 2017 | 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Uris Auditorium

Thomas J. Fahey III, MD
Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor
Vice Chair, Department of Surgery
Chief of Endocrine Surgery
Director of the Endocrine Oncology Program
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

The First Department of Surgery's Chairman Distinguished Lecture was held on September 11, 2017. The lecture, **"Update in Endocrine Surgery: Current and Future Management Strategies in Thyroid Cancer"** was presented by Dr. Thomas J. Fahey III, the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, where he also acts as the Chief of Endocrine Surgery and Director of the Endocrine Oncology Program.

Dr. Fahey graduated from Duke University Magna Cum Laude in 1982, and Cornell University Medical College in 1986. He did his surgical residency at The New York Hospital, serving as Administrative Chief Resident. He was a Harvey and Katharine Cushing Fellow in Surgical Physiology from 1998-1990, and an American Cancer Society Fellow in Clinical Oncology from 1989- 1990.

Dr. Fahey was a guest investigator at The Rockefeller University, Laboratory of Medical Biochemistry from 1988 - 1991. He then completed a fellowship in Endocrine and Head and Neck Surgery at the Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney Australia.

He accepted a position as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center in the Division of GI and Endocrine Surgery. He was recruited back to New York Hospital-Cornell in 1996 as the Chief of the Section of Endocrine Surgery and rose to the level of Associate Professor in 1998, and was promoted to Professor of Surgery in 2007.

In 2015, Dr. Fahey became Vice Chairman for Education in the Department.of Surgery. In such capacity, Dr. Fahey provides oversight and guidance to the Department of Surgery's four residency and seven fellowship programs, Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), the Medical Student Clerkship, and our newly formed Academy of Educators (AOE).

His clinical and research interests lie in the field of endocrine (thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal and pancreas) and minimally invasive surgery. His articles are widely published in peer-reviewed journals, and he has authored many book chapters. Dr. Fahey belongs to many professional associations, including the American College of Surgeons, Society of University Surgeons, American Association of Endocrine Surgeons and the American Thyroid Association. In 2013 he became the Director of the Endocrine Oncology Programs at New York-Presbyterian Hospital Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Fahey has been consistently recognized over the years as one of America's Top Doctors by Castle Connolly and US News & World Report. He has been cited as one of New York's Best Doctors by New York Magazine, and was named one of New York's Super Doctors, an honor given to just 5% of physicians in New York.

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

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17th Annual Hassan Naama, MD, BCh, Memorial Lectureship

"Prevention of Intestinal Anastomotic Dehiscences: Current State of the Art"

October 2nd, 2017 | 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Uris Auditorium

Alessio Pigazzi, MD, PhD, FACS
Professor of Clinical Surgery
Vice Chair of Research and
Chief, Division of Surgical Oncology
Department of Surgery
University of California, Irvine , Orange, CA

The Department of Surgery's 17th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship was held on October 2, 2017. The lecture, **"Prevention of Intestinal Anastomotic Dehiscences: Current State of the Art"**, was presented by Alessio Pigazzi, MD, PhD, FACS, Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, Vice Chair of Research and Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Pigazzi earned both his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Boston University School of Medicine in 1998, was inducted in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and received the Savenor Prize for Student Excellence in Surgery. In 2003, he completed his general surgery internship and residency training in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He then completed a laparoscopic and robotic surgery clinical fellowship at Hackensack Medical Center-University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in 2004.

Dr. Pigazzi joined the faculty at City of Hope National Medical Center in 2004 as staff surgeon and the Head of Minimally Invasive Surgery in the Department of General and Oncologic Surgery until 2011. Dr. Pigazzi then completed a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center. From 2012-2016, Dr. Pigazzi was the Division Chief of Colon and Rectal Surgery and received the Department of Surgery's Division of the Year Award. In 2015, he became the current Division Chief of Surgical Oncology and current Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Surgery at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Pigazzi also served as program director for colorectal surgery in 2016.

Dr. Pigazzi is an international expert in minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery. He performed the world's first robotic total mesorectal resection for rectal cancer and has published extensively in this field. The procedure results in faster recovery, better cosmesis and improved preservation of urogenital function. Besides being skilled in robotic surgery, he has developed several NOTES procedures such as transvaginal colectomy in women who wish to avoid an abdominal scar. He also offers hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy, combined with cytoreductive surgery, for peritoneal carcinomatosis. For his ongoing research, presented nationally and internationally, Dr. Pigazzi received the ASCRS General Surgery Forum Best Paper Award in 2017. Dr. Pigazzi is board-certified in general surgery and colon and rectal surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the Society of Surgical Oncology. Dr. Pigazzi is a member of several prestigious surgical societies and participates to committees within these societies.

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.

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Barbara Lee Bass, MD, FACS, FRCS(Hon), installed as 98th ACS President

Barbara Lee Bass, MD, FACS, FRCS (Hon)
John F. and Carolyn Bookout Presidential Endowed Chair
Chair, Department of Surgery,
Houston Methodist Hospital, TX
98th President of the American College of Surgeons (ACS)

Published as a featured article in the ***American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress News***, Barbara Lee Bass, MD, FACS, FRCS(Hon), the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Presidential Endowed Chair and chair, department of surgery at the Houston Methodist Hospital, TX, **was installed as the 98th President of the American College of Surgeons (ACS)** on October 22, 2017 at the San Diego Convention Center. **Dr. Bass is the third Cornell faculty to become President of the American College of Surgeons, following in the steps of Drs. Wade and Shires.**

Dr. Bass is highly regarded for her outstanding clinical and academic contributions to general surgery and her commitment to teaching the next generation of surgeons. She is the executive director of the Houston Methodist Institute for Technology, Innovation and Education (MITIE), a state-of-the-art education and research facility developed to safely train practicing health care professionals in new technologies and procedures. She is professor of surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY, and the Houston Methodist Institute for Academic Medicine, and senior member of the Houston Methodist Hospital Research Institute. Dr. Bass was elected to honorary fellowship in the Royal College of Surgeons earlier this year.

Before taking on her roles at Houston Methodist Hospital in 2005, Dr. Bass was professor of surgery (1994–2005), associate chair for research and academic affairs, and general surgery residency program director, department of surgery, University of Maryland, Baltimore (1999–2005). While at the University of Maryland, Dr. Bass also served as chief, gastrointestinal surgical research (1994–2005) at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Baltimore. Earlier appointments included faculty positions at the George Washington University School of Medicine, the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS), the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

A Fellow of the College since 1988 and the 2013 recipient of the College's highest honor—the Distinguished Service Award—Dr. Bass served as an ACS Regent (2001–2010) and on the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents (2005–2009). As a Regent, she was a member of the Finance Committee (2005–2010), Member Services Liaison Committee (2004–2008), Central Judiciary Committee (2002–2005), and the Scholarship Committee. She is a Past-Chair of both the ACS Committee on Education (2003–2006) and the Clinical Congress Program Committee (2005–2011).

Prior to becoming a Regent, Dr. Bass served on the ACS Board of Governors (1995–2001), as a member of the Governors Executive Committee (1998–2001), and ultimately as Chair (1999–2001). She chaired the Governors Committee on Surgical Practice (1997–1998) and was a member of the Governors Committees on Socioeconomic Issues (1996–1998) and Physician Competence (1999–2001). In addition, she served on the ACS Health Policy Advisory Committee (2008–2010) and the Transition to Practice workgroup (2012). She served on the ACS Women in Surgery Committee for many years as a member and then as a consultant until 2014. She delivered the Olga Jonasson, MD, Lecture at the 2014 Clinical Congress.

Dr. Bass has been a champion of the National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) since its inception at the VA. While at VA Medical Center in Baltimore, she helped to launch the program, and served as a principal investigator at a participating institution in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's

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98th ACS President Installed

testing of the program (1994–2002). She went on to serve on the ACS NSQIP® Steering Committee (2004–2010).

A contributor to a number of ACS educational initiatives, Dr. Bass was an author for the Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (1996–2002). During her term as an ACS Regent and Chair of the American Board of Surgery, she served on the American Surgical Association's Blue Ribbon Committee, cosponsored by the ACS, to evaluate and recommend changes in surgical training. As Chair of the Program Committee, she led the Clinical Congress strategic planning process in 2006. As a result, the annual meeting was restructured progressively in 2007–2010 to facilitate access to high-quality specialty and program-specific content tracks. Programmatic review, targeted expansion, a review course for board examination preparation, Meet-the-Expert Sessions, and Town Hall meetings were added to the Clinical Congress during this process. Dr. Bass continued to serve as a consultant to the Program Committee until 2014.

She serves as Co-Chair of the Committee on Skills Training for Surgeons in Practice with Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FACS, FRCSC, Director, ACS Division of Education. This committee is working to address retooling strategies for practicing surgeons who need to acquire new skills. To launch this effort, she hosted the "Retooling Reimagined" symposium at MITIE in 2016, and a national invitational meeting of stakeholders at the ACS this summer.

Dr. Bass has held leadership roles in other professional organizations, including serving as chair, American Board of Surgery; president, Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract; president, Society of Surgical Chairs; and treasurer of the American Surgical Association. She has inspired other women in surgery and as a result has received the Nina Starr Braunwald Award and the Olga Jonasson Distinguished Member Award from the Association of Women Surgeons.

A mentor to more than 50 pre- and postdoctoral fellows, she has authored or co-authored 145 peer-reviewed papers, delivered more than 60 named lectureships and many other invited lectureships in the nation and around the globe. Dr. Bass' research programs in gastrointestinal cell biology, computational surgery, surgical outcomes sciences, and clinical research have been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the VA Research program, the National Science Foundation, and other groups. Her first grant was an ACS Faculty Research Award (1987). She has served as a member of the NIH Surgery and Bioengineering Section and has served on the editorial boards or as associate editor of many surgical journals, including the Journal of the American College of Surgeons, Annals of Surgery, and Surgery. Her continuing practice in endocrine and breast surgery affords her the opportunity to enjoy the rewards of serving patients as a surgeon and to contribute to the education and training of residents and medical students.

Dr. Bass graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree from Tufts University, Medford, MA (1975). She earned her medical degree (1979) from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She completed her surgical internship and general surgery residency at George Washington University, Washington, DC (1986), while completing a gastrointestinal surgical research fellowship and serving as Captain, U.S. Army Medical Corps (1982–1984).

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16th Annual Golf Tournament

The **16th Annual Golf Tournament** to support surgical education and research was held on **September 14, 2017** 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 35 tournament participants. We extend our deepest appreciation to our 12 sponsors for their support: Dr. Leonard Girardi & the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Drs. Jon Cohen and Karen Kostroff; Dr. Michael G. Stewart and the Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery; NewYork-Presbyterian/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital; Dr. Laura Forese, Dr. Cam Patterson, NYP Administration; New-York Presbyterian Queens; Dr. Zev Rosenwaks and Ronald O. Perelman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine; Dr. Robert J. Min and Weill Cornell Imaging at NewYork-Presbyterian; East River Medical Imaging; Dr. Philip Stieg and Department of Neurological Surgery, Dr. Kevin Morrissey; and an anonymous sponsor.

We would like to also thank our patrons: Peter Crean, ESQ. and Martin; Clearwater and Bell, L.L.P.; and the Rogosin Institute. We are also grateful for our supporters: Dr. Robert Grant; Dr. Faith Menken; Dr. Demitri Merianos; Dr. Gerardo Zullo; Dr. Michael Zullo; Dr. Hugh Hemmings and Department of Anesthesiology; Hospital for Special Surgery; Dr. Daniel M. Knowles and Department of Pathology; and Dr. Michael Zenilman.

2017 Golf Tournament Results

2017 Best Golf Foursome: Dr. Gregory Dakin, Dr. Andrew Meltzer, Justin Orlando, Dr. David Otterburn
2017 Longest Drive: Dr. Brendan Finnerty
2017 Closest to the Pin & Straightest Drive: Greg Coleman







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2nd Annual Surgery System-Wide Retreat

On September 19th, the 2nd 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 Methodist came together to further refine the Department of Surgery system strategy for all 3 campuses.

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-Presbyteran/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Laura L. Forese, MD, MPH, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian.

In addition, an update on the "State of the Network" was shared by Karen Westervelt and Matthiew Fink, MD, followed by presentations on Service Integration/HPB Surgery by Dr. Michael Zenilman, MD; Service Integration/Pediatric Surgery by Stephen Oh, MD; Burn and Trauma Consortium by Robert Winchell, MD; Quality Collaborative by Pierre Saldinger, MD; and the Education and Research by Thomas Fahey III, MD.

As part of the event, groups were divided into tables each discussing one of the following topics; Network Support; Future of Network; Medical Student & Resident Education; Acute Care, Burn & Trauma; Bariatrics/MIS; Endocrine; Breast; Colon & Rectal; General/Surgical Oncology; Transplant; Oral; Vascular/Podiatry; Plastics; and Pediatrics.

Like the previous one, this event was a success, with ongoing system-wide integration and quality improvement for all 3 campuses.

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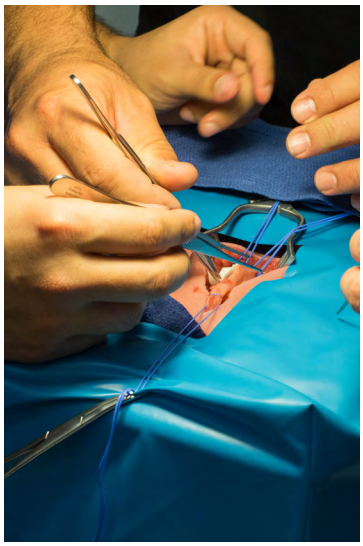
Big Apple Bootcamp

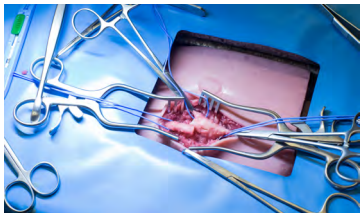
Senior vascular residents, first year vascular fellows and distinguished faculty from both regional and national training programs came together for a hands-on skills course on September 7-9 at Weill Cornell Medicine for the **2nd Annual Big Apple Bootcamp!**

The event was sponsored by the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/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, the Big Apple Bootcamp delivered an unforgettable and gratifying experience to all.







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ACS Trauma Verification

Level I Adult, Level II Pediatric Trauma Center

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On September 28th, the Department of Surgery celebrated NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center's verification as a **Level I Adult and a Level II Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma (COT)**. These verifications recognize NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell's dedication to providing high quality, multidisciplinary care to injured patients in our community and across the region.

"Meeting the rigorous standards of the ACS COT requires development of a structure that relies on teamwork and commitment encompassing every department in the hospital, as well as a robust process of data-driven quality improvement that strengthens the entire institution," said Dr. Robert J. Winchell, director of the Trauma Center at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and professor of surgery and chief of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care at NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medicine. "Beyond the walls of the hospital, being an ACS COT verified trauma center requires active engagement with regional emergency medical services (EMS) and the local community, aiming to decrease the impact of injury as a public health problem."

"Improving access to high quality pediatric trauma care is not only a major priority for our team, it's an imperative for our community," said Dr. Nitsana Spigland, chief of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and chief of Pediatric Trauma at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and professor of clinical surgery in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. "These new verifications formalize the commitment we've always had to serving New York City and the surrounding region."

Established by the American College of Surgeons in 1987, the COT's Consultation/Verification Program for Hospitals promotes the development of trauma centers in which participants provide not only the hospital resources necessary for trauma care, but also the entire spectrum of care to address the needs of all injured patients. This spectrum encompasses the pre-hospital phase through the rehabilitation process.

Verified trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance, as outlined by the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma in its current "Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient" manual.

The ACS Committee on Trauma's verification program provides confirmation that a trauma center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality trauma care for all injured patients. The establishment and designation of trauma centers is the function of local, regional or state health care systems agencies, such as the local EMS authority.

There are five separate categories of verification in the COT's program. Each category has specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of verification. Each hospital has an on-site review by a team of experienced site reviewers, who use the current Resources for the Optimal Care of the Injured Patient manual as a guideline in conducting the survey.

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Renovations & Expansions

The renovation and expansion of the Department of Surgery encompasses space distributed over two floors in four wings of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Cornell campus at 68th Street. The expansion includes a new out-patient clinic, departmental administrative and academic offices, conference and library space, supporting clinical and educational endeavors, and a new surgical simulation suite dedicated to state-of-the-art surgical training techniques.

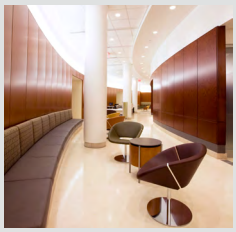
The project achieves a cohesive, unified and distinguished identity for the Department of Surgery; provides a clear sense of entry; and encourages and facilitates collaboration and cross-pollination among the department's specialties and faculty.

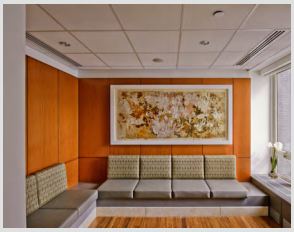
The design incorporates finishes, furnishings, spatial configurations, and light to meet these goals. Balancing the departmental needs with facilities were critical to the success of each phase of this project. Defining efficient phasing and decant options were key project requirements.

Phase I included renovation of the Starr-8 outpatient facility with a refurbished primary entrance, reception and waiting areas, exam rooms, and a physician education conference room. Phase II, Center for Advanced Digestive Care, houses the colorectal faculty and staff. Phase III, Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), encompassed the integration of a new, high-tech surgical simulation suite. Currently, phases IV and V are being addressed for academic and administrative space needs on the 7th and 8th floors.

Tying together space distributed over two floors, has created a cohesive, unified and distinguished identity for the Department of Surgery.Please come and visit!

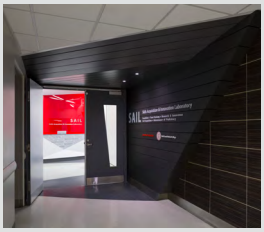
Starr 8 - 8th Floor



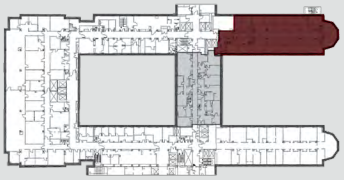


K Wing - 8th Floor

Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL) - 8th Floor



Payson - 7th Floor



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Surgery Graduation

On Wednesday, June 14, 2017, our surgical residents, faculty, friends and family gathered at the Water Club in New York City to celebrate the commencement of our eight graduating chief residents: Drs. Anna Aronova, Filippo Filicori, Robert McMillan, Michael Morton, Jennifer Murphy, Kenneth Seastedt and administrative chiefs, Dr. Brendan Finnerty and Dr. Jamie Green.

The annual Department of Surgery award presentations included:

The Annual Faculty of the Year Teaching Award presented to **Dr. Cheguevara Afaneh**

The 16th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Resident Award presented to **Dr. Matthew C. Smith**

The 9th Annual Resident Student Teaching Award presented to **Dr. Brendan Finnerty**

The 11th Annual Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, Chief Surgical Resident Award presented to **Dr. Kenneth P. Seastedt**

The 7th Annual Golden Apple Award was presented to **Dr. Gregory Dakin**, for his exceptional commitment and service to the Department of Surgery.

The graduating chief residents presented the 11th Annual Chief Residents Outstanding Intern Award to **Dr. Gregory Jones.**

The 12th Annual William T. Stubenbord, MD, Resident Award was presented to **Dr. Alexander Peters**

The 2nd Annual ABSITE Achievement Award was presented to **Dr. Richard Cass, Jr. and Dr. Robert McMillan**

The 3rd Annual Surgery Clerkship Resident Teaching Award presented to **Dr. Mathew Symer and Dr. Jonathan Abelson**

The majority of our program graduates continue their training in a specialized area of surgery. Here's an update on the career paths of the 2017 alumni of our general surgery residency program:

Anna Aronova, MD
Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
Mount Sinai (NYC)

Filippo Filicori, MD
Advanced GIMIS Fellowship
Portland Medical Center

Brendan FInnerty, MD
Endocrine Surgery Fellowship
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine

Jamie Green, MD
Surgical Oncology Fellowship
Cedars-Sinai (LA)

Robert McMillan, MD
Transplantation Fellowship
UCLA

Michael Morton, MD
Colorectal Surgery Fellowship
Brigham & Women's Hospital

Jennifer Murphy, MD
Pediatric Surgery Fellowship
Johns Hopkins

Kenneth Seastedt, MD
General Surgeon
Air Force

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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!

25 Years

Dr. Thomas J. Fahey III
Thalysia Moore
Lenear Phillips

20 Years

Dr. Edmund Kessler
Joanne Brebnor
Adrienne Gomes

15 Years

Flor Suero

10 Years

Dr. Cheguevara Afaneh
Dr. Rasa Zarnegar
Catherine Acevedo
Heidi Bawayan
Alice Chen
Ashley Graham
Francen Ong
Erica Rodriguez
Julie Rodriguez

5 Years

Dr. Laura Ancelson
Dr. Laura Andres-Martin
Dr. John Doolan
Dr. Jim Kim
Dr. Andrew Meltzer
Dr. Soo Rhee
Dr. Parul Shukla
Dr. Anthony Watkins
Iskander Bagautdinov
Sakina Battle-Sullivan
Lillian Garcia
Rosalyn Hernandez
Ping Huang
Nalini Sadhu
Karen Meekins
Jennifer Parker
Aaron Powell

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New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

Rohit Chandwani, MD, PhD

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Please join us in welcoming our newest faculty member, Dr. Rohit Chandwani, who is joining the Division of Liver Transplantation, Hepatobiliary, and Pancreatic Surgery, as Assistant Professor in Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Chandwani is board-certified in surgical oncology and specializes in hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) surgery, with a specific clinical focus in pancreatic cancer and metastatic colorectal cancer. He also has significant clinical expertise in the care of patients with pancreatic cysts, pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors, and intrahepatic and extrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.

Dr. Chandwani received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in 2001 and earned his medical degree at the Yale University School of Medicine in 2005. He then trained in General Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center and in Complex General Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he served as Chief Fellow for the Department of Surgery.

A surgeon-scientist, Dr. Chandwani is also the Principal Investigator of the Laboratory of Cancer Epigenetics at Weill Cornell Medical College, where he studies the epigenetic dysregulation of pancreatic cancer. Prior to his research at Cornell, Dr. Chandwani earned his Ph.D. from The Rockefeller University in the laboratory of Alexander Tarakhovsky and was a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Steven D. Leach in the David M. Rubinstein Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

weillcornell.org/rohit-chandwani-md-phd

Leslie Cohen, MD

Office Telephone | 646-962-4275
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Email | lec9030@med.cornell.edu

Please welcome our newest faculty member, Dr. Leslie Cohen, who is joining the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Cohen's clinical expertise is in microsurgical perforator flaps (DIEP flap, SGAP/IGAP flap, PAP flap) and implant based reconstruction after breast cancer as well as complex flap reconstruction for adults and children who have defects after surgery of the head and neck, abdominal wall, spine, pelvis and extremities.

Dr. Cohen graduated as a Presidential Scholar from Stanford University in 2006 and went on to obtain her medical degree from Mount Sinai Medical School in 2010. She then completed her residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery in 2016 at Weill Cornell/Columbia University, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital where she was awarded the Dicran Goulian Award for Academic Excellence in Plastic Surgery. She went on to complete a fellowship in microsurgery for reconstruction of oncologic and traumatic defects at NYU Langone Medical Center and at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer. Dr. Cohen has a passion for providing medical care to underserved regions, where she has participated in numerous surgical missions for reconstructive plastic surgery across the world including Angkor Children's Hospital in Cambodia, El Salvador and rural Belize.

weillcornell.org/leslie-e-cohen-md

SurgeryNews
Volume 5 No. 2

New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

Mayur Narayan, MD, MPH, MBA, MHPE, FACS, FCCM, FICS

Office Telephone | 646-962-8490
Office Fax | 212-746-6995
Email | man9137@med.cornell.edu

Please join us in welcoming our newest faculty member, Dr. Mayur Narayan, who is joining the Division of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care as Assistant Professor [Interim] in Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Narayan specializes in Acute Care Surgery.

Dr. Narayan was previously Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX, where he also served as Chief of Acute Care Surgery, Chief of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit and Associate Program Director for the General Surgery Residency Program. Dr. Narayan received a B.S. from Old Dominion University and his MD from the Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) as a member of the highly competitive joint BS/MD program. He stayed on to complete his internship and general surgery residency at EVMS.

Dr. Narayan completed his Surgical Critical Care and Traumatology Fellowships at the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. He received a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and a Master of Business Administration from the Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School. Dr. Narayan has also received his Master of Health Professions Education from Harvard Macy and the MGH Institute of Health Professions.

weillcornell.org/mayur-narayan-md-mph-mba-facs-fccm-mhpe-fics

Kira Smith, MD

Office Telephone | 646-962-8490
Office Fax | 212-746-7291
Email | kes9144@med.cornell.edu

Please join us in welcoming our newest faculty member, Dr. Kira Smith, who is joining the Division of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care as an Instructor in Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Smith specializes in Surgical Critical Care, Trauma, and Acute Care Surgery.

Dr. Smith completed her surgical residency training at Nassau University Medical Center, where she served on a busy trauma and critical care service. Following residency, Dr. Smith pursued a two-year fellowship in Acute Care Surgery at UT Southwestern/Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas. In the final year of her fellowship, she joined the faculty as an instructor in the department of trauma and critical care at Parkland.

weillcornell.org/kira-smith-md

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Volume 5 No. 2

New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

John Joseph Doolan, DPM

Office Telephone | 646-962-8450
Office Fax | 212-746-5812
Email | jod9114@med.cornell.edu

Please join us in welcoming our newest faculty member, Dr. John Joseph Doolan, who joined as a full-time faculty staff member in September of 2017. Prior to this he headed a large private practice in NYC. Dr. Doolan is the Co-Director and one of the founding members of PALP (Program for Advanced Limb Preservation) at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Doolan's passion and expertise are in the field of wound care and limb salvage. He has been a pioneer in a multi-disciplinary (team) approach to wound care.

Dr. Doolan received his BS in Biology form Binghamton University. He then went on the New York College of Podiatric Medicine and earned his DPM degree. He Finished 5 years of residency in Podiatric Medicine and foot and ankle surgery in 2001. Dr. Doolan is an executive board member of The New York State Podiatric Medical Association. He is Chief of Podiatry at both Weill Cornell Medicine and Gramercy Surgical Center, where he also serves on the Medical Advisory Board. As an educator he is the on-site residency director for three Podiatric Residency Programs, and is a National and International speaker on the topic of Limb Salvage.

Dr. Doolan is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association, The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and is a Fellow of The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons. He is Board Certified by The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

In addition to limb salvage Dr. Doolan is considered an expert on the surgical treatment of Brachymetarsia, a rare and challenging foot deformity.

weillcornell.org/john-joseph-doolan-dpm

Tikva Jacobs, MD

Office Telephone | 646-962-8450
Office Fax | 212-746-5812
Email | tij9024@med.cornell.edu

Please welcome our newest faculty member, Dr. Tikva Jacobs, who is joining the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Jacobs' clinical expertise is in the treatment of venous disease.

Dr. Jacobs completed her general surgery residency at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Following her residency, she continued her career at Mount Sinai Medical Center, where she completed a fellowship in vascular surgery and was an Attending Surgeon. Prior to joining the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery and the Comprehensive Vein Program at Weill Cornell Medical Center she was in private practice on the Upper East Side, where her focus was on cosmetic and medical treatment of varicose veins and venous disease.

Dr. Jacobs is a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery and the American College of Phlebology. She has published in academic vascular surgery journals and textbooks and is a speaker at conferences and seminars on the treatment of varicose veins and venous disease.

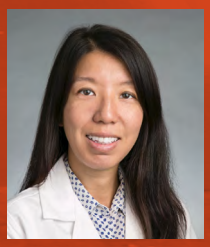
weillcornell.org/tikva-jacobs-md

Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Queens

Miroslav Kopp, MD

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Trauma and Critical Care

Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital



Roseanna Lee, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Assistant Attending Surgeon
General Surgery and Trauma

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New Surgery Faculty Appointments

Rasa Zarnegar, MD and Andrew J. Meltzer, MD

Rasa Zarnegar, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Andrew J. Meltzer, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery (Vascular Surgery) and Assistant Professor of Surgery in Healthcare Policy and Research at Weill Cornell medical College were both **appointed as the Frank Glenn Faculty Scholar in Surgery.** These appointments recognize Drs. Zarnegar's and Meltzer's innovative scholarly research activities.

Yariv J. Houvras, MD, PhD

Yariv J. Houvras, Assistant Professor of Medicine in Surgery, of Medicine, and of Cell & Developmental Biology at Weill Cornell Medical College was ***appointed at the Mildred L. and John F. Rasweiler Research Scholar in Cancer Research.*** This appointment recognizes Dr. Houvras' outstanding research in cancer genetics and development of clinical models to improve therapeutic responses for individual patients. Research Scholar Awards are established through the support of generous donors to Weill Cornell Medicine. As a holder of a Research Scholar Award, Dr. Houvras will be required to provide a yearly report on his activities, which the Development Office submits to the donor to illustrate the impact of their give.

Darren B. Schneider, MD

Darren B. Schneider, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery (Vascular Surgery) at Weill Cornell Medical College was ***appointed as the G. Tom Shires, MD Faculty Scholar in Surgery.*** This appointment acknowledges Dr. Schneider as a true academic surgeon and recognizes his outstanding activities in research, teaching and patient care.

Gregory Dakin, MD

Gregory Dakin, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College has been **appointed as Director of the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Program in the Department of Surgery.** In his new leadership position, Dr. Dakin will continue to nurture this program with surgical innovation through modern technology, will strengthen the multidisciplinary care of the patient with endoscopy and medical obesity management and will implement enhanced post-bariatric surgery recovery protocols to shorten length of stay.

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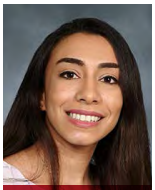
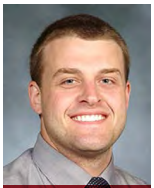
New Surgery Residents

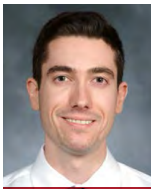

Parwiz Abrahimi
Urology


Alaa Alibrahim
General Surgery


John Apostolakos
HSS Orthopedics


Amit Arunkumar
ENT


Lauren Barber
HSS Orthopedics


Christopher Barnett
Interventional Radiology


Spyridon Basourakos
Urology


Solange Bayard
General Surgery


Alyssa Blood
General Surgery


Christopher Brusalis
HSS Orthopedics


Joseph Carnevale
Neurosurgery


Sei Yi Chiung
ENT


Jake Connolly
General Surgery


Daniel Driscoll
HSS Orthopedics


Catlin Egan
General Surgery


Briget Ellsworth
HSS Orthopedics


Jacob Goldberg
Neurosurgery


Jacques Greenberg
General Surgery


Neha Grewal
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery


Mark Langhans
HSS Orthopedic


Harry Lengel
General Surgery


Patrick Lewicki
Urology


Claire Li
General Surgery


Kyle Morse
HSS Orthopedics


Mostafa Naguib
General Surgery

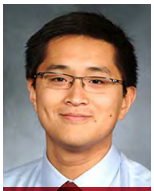

Quincy Nang
Urology


Emery Nicholas
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

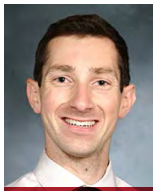

Luke Poveromo
Plastic Surgery


Bryce Robinson
General Surgery

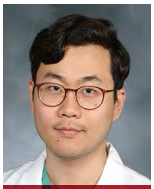

Patrick Scanlon
Interventional Radiology


Tony Shen
HSS Orthopedics


Joseph Sparapani
Interventional Radiology


Daniel Spielman
ENT


Joshua Sturm
ENT


Peter Sur
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery


Robert Van
Plastic Surgery


Joshua Wright-Chisem
HSS Orthopedics

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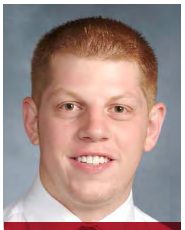
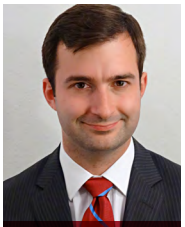
New Surgery Fellows

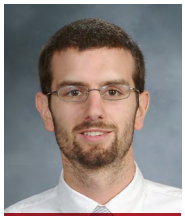

Christopher Agrusa
Vascular Surgery


Hasan Aldailami
Vascular Surgery


Lilian Azih
Burn Surgery


John Baber
Vascular Surgery

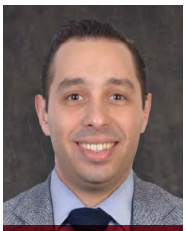

Michael Choi
GI MIS


Dustin Donley
Critical Care

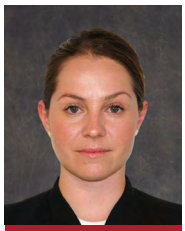

Brendan Finnerty
Endocrine Surgery


Mark Hanna
Colon & Rectal Surgery


Carlton Taylor Lewis
Vascular Surgery


David Parizh
Burn Surgery


Rohan Policherla
Critical Care


Maria Widmar
Colon & Rectal Surgery

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Alumni Updates

left to right: Jeff Chan (Jamaica attending Surgeon) Phillip Frank (Plastic surgery resident) with wife Maureen Moore (general surgery resident) Oriana Petruolo (general surgery resident) Yan Cui (anesthesia resident) Jacob Jackson (anesthesia resident) Neeti Arora (anesthesia resident) Rasa Zarnegar (surgery attending) Danielle McCullough (anesthesia resident) Nicole Coteau (general surgery resident) Katherine Gray (bride, general surgery resident)) Adham Elmously (groom, general surgery resident)) Caitlyn McIntyre(general surgery resident) Kendall Massengil (general surgery resident) Matthew Smith (general surgery resident) and Wife Natalie Weathered (Cornell Neurology attending) Mark Vimolratana (general surgery resident) Jessica Pierce (Cornell SICU nurse)

The Surgery residency training programs at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine's Department of Surgery are nationally-recognized as among the best in the country. The collegial learning environment is fast-paced, time-intensive and very challenging. Strong, lifelong bonds are often formed as a result of working so closely together for many years. Some alumni have gained not only outstanding surgical expertise by matching into our program, but managed to find a "love match" as well. **Spanning nearly three decades here are the residents who have gotten married during residency in Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital;**

Dr. Karen Kostroff and Dr. John Cohen (both class of 1984)

Dr. Stephen Martin (class of 1990) **and Marisa Lawrence** (class of 1989)

Dr. Michael Banbury and Dr. Jilian Hickling-Banbury (both class of 1995)

Dr. John Berne (class of 1996) **Dr. Evelyn Gonzalex-Berne** (class of 1999)

Dr. Glen Jones (class of 2000) **and Dr. Margaret Young** (class of 1997)

Dr. Eric Edwards (class of 2005) **and Dr. Andrea Barrio** (class of 2006)

Dr. Stephen Broderick (class of 2010) **and Dr. Kristin Parker** (class of 2012)

Dr. Vanessa Ho (class of 2012) **and Dr. Christopher Towe** (class of 2011)

Dr. Stacy Ugras (class of 2013) **and Dr. David Anderson** (class of 2014)

Dr. Benjamin Golas (class of 2011) **and Alyssa Reiffel** (class of 2014)

Dr. Leslie Cohen (class of 2016) **and Dr. Brendon Finnerty** (class of 2017)

Dr. Katherine Gray (class of 2020) **and Dr. Adham Elmously** (class of 2021) **got married on July 8, 2017 (Photo featured above)**

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Alumni Updates

Scott Hollenbeck, MD, class of 2007 was selected by peer review as a Duke Health Scholar, which provides research support and career mentoring for faculty for their continued success as clinician-scientists. Dr. Hollenbeck is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery at Duke University School of Medicine.

Amit Joshi, MD, FACS, class of 2006 was recently appointed to Vice Chair for Academic Affairs for the Department of Surgery at Einstein Healthcare Network in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Joshi has been working at Einstein Healthcare Network since 2010, and Program Director Since 2013. In addition, he has also been promoted to Associate Professor at Jefferson Medical College.

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Surgery in the News

Dancer returns to stage after her leg was crushed by a bus

(as seen on nypost.com)

Amy Jordan wouldn't let a devastating accident keep her from dancing.

The Manhattan ballet and hip-hop dancer is back in the spotlight for the first time since her right leg was crushed and mangled by a 15-ton city bus eight years ago.

She'll showcase her good-as-new leg — which underwent 18 surgeries — at the Manhattan Movement & Arts Center in June.

On May 1, 2009, Jordan was walking to her job at brokerage firm Citi Habitats when she stepped into the crosswalk on 72nd Street at Amsterdam Avenue. Then, an MTA express bus turned onto 72nd and ran her over.

"I couldn't feel my right side, and all I could think was, 'no more dancing,' " said Jordan, 47, who's been a dancer, instructor and choreographer for 42 years. "I didn't know what was happening, but I knew it was not a good situation."

Medics freed Jordan's leg from under the bus' front wheel, revealing a horrific injury. The skin from her ankle to her thigh was completely ripped off, her shin bones were shattered and her knee ligaments and nerves were torn.

"I remember asking one of the nurses, 'Is it still attached?' " recalls Jordan, who has performed with Steps on Broadway and Tremaine Dance Company in Los Angeles.

Doctors installed metal rods to stabilize shredded bones. After 11 days, they wanted to amputate.

"I felt like I was going to die," Jordan said.

She was transferred to NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, where doctors agreed to try and save the limb.

Though Jordan's leg "looked like a dead bodies [museum] exhibit" to **Dr. Jason Spector**, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon, he moved forward with the operation.

Spector removed muscle tissue from Jordan's lower back to replace the lost leg tissue, covering it with skin grafts from her leg, butt, back and belly — 18 percent of her body surface area.

Four years later, the Upper West Side resident could finally walk again. And in March 2014, Jordan made her tentative return to the dance floor.

"I did a fan kick with my leg across the floor and couldn't believe what I was capable of," she said.

Now, Jordan will finally return to the stage, along with dancers from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Juilliard and Cirque Du Soleil on June 15, 17 and 18 to commemorate her company's three-year anniversary.

In the show, "From This Moment On," Jordan will dance a contemporary number set to a Buddhist chant meant to portray a woman's growth.

"I feel like I've made the impossible possible with the power of dance," Jordan said. "I've come full circle."

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Surgery in the News

Researchers Identify Strong Drug Candidate for Treatment of Zika Virus

(as seen on contagionlive.com)

A compound used in traditional Chinese medicine to lower blood pressure also strongly combats Zika virus infection of the brain, and may protect against Zika-associated birth defects, according to a new study by Weill Cornell Medicine and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center scientists. The compound is the first to show a powerful ability to eliminate, not just prevent, Zika virus infection.

Mosquito season is underway in the southern United States, but it is a year-round proposition in certain regions of South America and the Caribbean.

Which is why the lack of an effective treatment for Zika virus infection, the mosquito-borne disease that has plagued Brazil since 2014 and Puerto Rico since 2016—and even appeared in Florida and Texas last summer—remains a confounding clinical challenge.

In the study, published July 20 in Cell Stem Cell, the scientists screened more than 1,000 U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs and traditional medicines for their ability to block Zika virus infection in human fetal brain cells. Zika virus is particularly damaging to the developing brain, where its growth-slowing, cell-killing effects can lead to microcephaly, a severe birth defect in which the brain fails to develop to normal size.

The screen revealed the powerful anti-Zika activity of hippeastrine hydrobromide, an active ingredient of the medicinal plant Lycoris radiata (red spider lily). The compound blocked Zika infection of the fetal brain cells and eliminated pre-existing infection. It also showed strong activity against Zika virus in the infected brains of adult mice.

"We are very excited about this drug candidate, because we think it could be the first to be useful in treating Zika-infected patients, rather than just preventing infection," said study co-senior author **Dr. Shuibing Chen**, an associate professor of chemical biology in surgery and of biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medicine.

An outbreak of the mostly mosquito-borne Zika virus began in Brazil in 2015, and has since spread as far as the southern United States. Over this period it appears to have caused several thousand cases of microcephaly in children born to infected mothers. Zika also has been linked to serious neurological complications in some infected adults. Current

public health efforts emphasize infection-prevention strategies such as vaccine development and mosquito control, but there is a need for a treatment for people who are already infected.

In the study, the Weill Cornell Medicine and Memorial Sloan Kettering scientists, including co-senior author Dr. Lorenz Studer, director of the Center for Stem Cell Biology at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, used human embryonic stem cells to generate immature brain cells known as neural progenitors. These are common in the fetal brain and are particularly vulnerable to Zika infection. Of the 1,120 compounds screened, hippeastrine hydrobromide performed best at protecting the neural progenitor cells from the virus. Even when the cells were already infected by Zika, a modest dose of the compound eliminated all molecular evidence of the virus within three days, without harming the cells. The treatment allowed the cells to proliferate and mature normally.

In other experiments, the compound eliminated Zika infection in large clusters of fetal brain cells—"organoids" that model the developing brain—and also greatly reduced signs of infection in the brains of adult mice.

"Our focus now is to understand how this compound is effective against Zika, and we also hope to work with chemists to see if we can optimize it prior to further tests," said study co-author **Dr. Todd Evans**, associate dean for research, the Peter I. Pressman, M.D. Professor in Surgery, and a professor of cell and developmental biology in surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine.

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Surgery in the News

Mobile Health Technology: Tracking Post-Op Recovery to Improve Outcomes

(as seen in NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, Advances in Gastroenterology and GI Surgery)

Following major surgery, the aftercare instructions that patients must follow can be complex. They must remember to stay hydrated, take their medications, and change their bandages, among other requirements. If they don't follow these guidelines closely they risk dehydration, infection, and other serious complications prompting hospital readmission. "Readmission after gastrointestinal surgery is a common problem for patients," says Heather L. Yeo, MD, MHS, a colorectal surgeon in the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. "However, many readmissions are potentially preventable. They can occur due to ileus or surgical site infection, with dehydration among the most common problems after colectomy." Dr. Yeo, who trained in both surgical oncology and colon and rectal surgery with a particular focus on rectal cancer, focuses much of her clinical research on improving the surgical experience for patients. "As we've become better at treating disease, patients are living longer and so quality of life and how they spend their life is very important," says Dr. Yeo. "GI cancers can result in a high rate of postsurgical complications and readmissions, with older patients having the highest rate. There is clear evidence that intense follow-up and monitoring can reduce these problems, however, few physician practices have the resources to do that." To address this issue, Dr. Yeo turned to mobile health technology with help from Cornell Tech, the technology campus of Cornell University – and with input from physicians and nurses – to develop a mobile app specific to patients undergoing GI surgery and conduct a pilot study of an encrypted mobile app for patients with GI cancer following surgery.

She worked with Cornell Tech to develop an iPhone app, dubbed mHEALS (for mobile app Helping Engage Adults after Surgery), that allows patients to input information about their health and habits, then sends it to doctors; it also generates reminders to help patients stick to their aftercare regimens. Well aware of the need to protect patient privacy and security in the digital world, she tapped the expertise of Deborah Estrin, PhD—a professor of computer science at Cornell Tech and of healthcare policy and research at Weill Cornell Medicine who is a pioneer in mobile healthcare technology—who offered advice on available software frameworks that use state-of-the-art techniques and encrypt data while remaining user-friendly.

The application has a wide range of functionalities, including collecting patient-reported outcomes, generating alerts for concerning symptoms, transmitting photos of surgical incisions, and recording a daily step count with a Fitbit. "We decided to keep the app simple and easy to use with large fonts and big buttons that don't require complex dexterity," says Dr. Yeo. "It couldn't take a lot of time or energy to use."

Dr. Yeo believes that the face-to-face interaction between a patient and physician and the use of mobile technology are not mutually exclusive. "Our app is a first proof of concept designed to empower patients to communicate with their physicians in order to improve post-op care. We believe that mobile apps will define the future of healthcare," says Dr. Yeo. "The app also gives patients a sense of self empowerment. Patients tend to be more active in recovery and in their own care if they know it is partly dependent on them. And we want to make sure that when our patients are having issues, we can identify them at the right time. Some patients will call in and tell you that they're having a problem, but some won't. They wait until things get too far along when they are already quite sick. This will allow us to gauge who needs to come in and be triaged."

Click here to read the full article.

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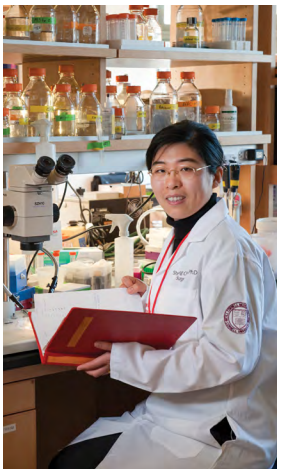
Highlights of Scholarly Productivity

Dr. Jason Spector, professor of surgery (plastic surgery) and of plastic surgery in otolaryngology at Weill Cornell Medicine, an adjunct professor in the Meinig School of Bioengineering and a plastic surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center received a grant from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR) to advance the development of a high-tech platform for creating, testing and imaging 3-D tissue cultures for reconstructive medicine and diagnostic screening. **To read the full article click here.**

In addition, Dr. Spector published a new study on the "Transient phase behavior of an elastomeric biomaterial applied to abdominal laparotomy closure" in **Acta Biomaterialia** with long-time collaborator **Dr. David Putnam**, an associate professor of biomedical engineering at Cornell University, who works at the Ithaca Campus. The collaborators and their colleagues demonstrated that the compound was strong enough to protect mouse intestines during suturing of the abdomen and quickly dissolved in the body. The next step for the collaborators will be to try to replicate the results with further preclinical testing. If further study of the device shows it to be safe and effective, Drs. Spector and Putnam hope to pursue commercial development. Cornell University has filed a patent for the device.

Dr. Todd Evans, the Peter I. Pressman, M.D. Professor in Surgery, and Associate Dean for Research at Weill Cornell Medicine and **Dr. Shuibing Chen**, associate professor of chemical biology in surgery and of biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medicine, published a paper in Nature Medicine. The scientists used human-induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), which can in principle differentiate into any type of cell in the body, that were derived from the skin of two patients with an inherited form of colorectal disease called familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). With FAP, large intestine cells develop into numerous polyps that for these patients eventually become colon cancer. Using iPSCs, they developed 3D structures called colonic organoids that closely represented large intestine tissue systems and then performed drug testing. The investigators confirmed through a variety of steps including genomic DNA sequencing and gene expression profiling that they had grown large intestine cells with either of two different FAP mutations, FAP8 or FAP9, and that a gene that when mutated allows FAP cells to grow out of control, called APC, was inactivated. They also created colonic organoids using stem cells derived from a person without FAP for comparison. **To read the full article click here.**



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Faculty Achievements, Appointments & Awards

Dr. Heather Yeo, assistant professor of surgery, assistant professor of public healthcare policy and research, Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Healthcare Policy and Research/ Clinical Evaluation at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center was selected as co-editor, social media for the Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery. Dr. Yeo was selected following a very thorough process that included a large number of extremely talented nominees. This section comes following the restructuring of the editorship for this Journal. The Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery is a scholarly, peer-reviewed journal that updates the surgeon on the latest developments in gastrointestinal surgery.

Congratulations to **Dr. Toyooki Sonoda** as he becomes the Chief of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery at NYU Winthrop Hospital in Mineola, New York.. Dr. Sonoda has been practicing at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center since 2001 and is the Vice Chief of the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery. He is an expert in minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery and known for his outstanding technical skills. Dr. Sonoda is a model surgeon and a pleasure to work with. Wishing you all the best for the future!

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Dr. Todd Evans, the Peter I. Pressman, M.D. Professor in Surgery, and a professor of cell and developmental biology in surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine has been **appointed Associate Dean for Research**. Dr. Evans will play key roles as Weill Cornell Medicine focuses on developing research alliances with the biopharmaceutical industry and on strengthening partnerships with neighboring institutions NewYork-Presbyterian, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and The Rockefeller University, as well as Cornell Tech and Cornell University. He will help to expand and enhance a wide-ranging research portfolio as the institution begins to define its next strategic plan and negotiate ongoing challenges surrounding federal research funding.

Congratulations, **Dr. Robert Winchell** on receiving the NewYork-Presbyterian Physician of the Year Award. This award is the Nursing Department's annual celebration of collegiality, collaboration and the physicians' contributions to nursing practice across the various campuses. The Award recognizes physicians, fellows, house staff and medical students who show competence and caring in the clinical setting and work together with the nurses to attain the highest standards of quality patient care.

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Future Events Calendar

Nov | 2017
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35th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship

Lecturer | Daniel Dent, MD

March | 2018
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3rd Annual Diversity Lectureship

Lecturer | Caprice C. Greenberg, MD, MPH

March | 2018
12

2nd Annual Corinne and Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professorship

Lecturer | Jacques Himpens, MD, PhD

March | 2018
26

49th Annual Benjamin Park, Jr. MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship and Banquet

Lecturer | L.D. Britt, MD, MPH

April | 2018
30

45th Annual Preston A. Wade Visiting Professor Lectureship

Lecturer | Grace Rozycki, MD