The Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian was founded in 1898. As we celebrated the 120th anniversary this year, we summarized the Department’s accomplishments during the period 1898 to 2018 with a publication. The book, entitled “A History of the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian” was just published. I am pleased to share with you the electronic version (e-book).

The Fall Issue of the Department of Surgery News reports on several named visiting professor lectures that were delivered by renowned speakers:

- **Dr. Darren B. Schneider**, Chief, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Associate Professor of Surgery, Attending Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, was the 2nd Annual Chairman Distinguished Lecture guest lecturer.

- **Dr. Robert E. Merritt**, Director, Division of Thoracic Surgery, Program Director, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Associate Professor of Surgery, Department of Surgery at The Ohio State University-Wexner Medical Center, was the 18th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship.

- **Dr. Leonard Washington Amango**, Head, General Surgery Department, Bugando Medical Centre, at the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences was the Annual Corinne and Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professorship in Honor of Peter Guida, MD.

- **Dr. Karen J. Brasel**, Professor of Surgery, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Medicine, Program Director in General Surgery, Vice-Chair of Education and Professional Development, Department of Surgery, Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education at Oregon Health & Science University - OHSU, was the 36th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship.

This issue also features many departmental events including: the 3rd Annual Department of Surgery System-Wide Retreat, the 17th Annual Golf Tournament and the 3rd Annual Big Apple Bootcamp.

In addition, we welcome new faculty, residents and fellows to the Department of Surgery. We also highlight our faculty’s recent honors and awards, recent media coverage about our faculty, as well as note Department of Surgery Service Milestones.

As always, please be sure to follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr and YouTube for the latest updates and information in 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
Many of the Department of Surgery’s faculty and residents played an active role at the 104th Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress meeting in Boston, Massachusetts this past October, giving lectures, presentation and video talks, participating in panel discussions, moderating sessions and teaching post-graduate courses.


DR. HEATHER YEO  (FACULTY) PRESENTED AAS Fall Course on “Using Social Media Effectively”.

DR. ADHAM ELMOUSLY  (RESIDENT) PRESENTED “Operating Room Attire Policy and Healthcare Cost: Favoring Evidence Over Action for Prevention of Surgical Site Infections” - the authors are Adham Elmously MD, Katherine D. Gray MD, Fabrizio Michelassi MD, Cheguevara Afaneh MD, Arash Salemi MD, Anthony C.Watkins MD, Alfons Pomp MD.

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI  FACILITATOR at Meet the Expert Video Session ME109: Crohn’s Disease: Complex Issues.

DR. TIMOTHY M. ULLMAN  (RESIDENT) PRESENTED “Rates of Hemithyroidectomy for Cancer After the Release of the 2015 ATA Guidelines: Has our Practice Changed?”

DR. POOJA SHAH  (RESIDENT) PRESENTED “Payer Type Predicts Hospital Admission for Trauma Patients in a Sub-Saharan African Country” in the Global Surgery and Humanitarian Outreach.

DR. HEATHER YEO  (FACULTY) MODERATOR for Session SF119, HSR III.

DR. CHEGUEVARA AFANEH  (FACULTY) PANELIST at Video Session on “VE109 Highlights from ACS Video Library 1.”

DR. PAOLO DEANGELIS FOR DRS. R. WINCHELL, M. NARAYAN, P. BARIE  E-POSTER ON “Disparities in Timing of Trauma Consultation: A Trauma Registry Analysis of Patient and Injury Factors.”

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI  CO-MODERATOR at Panel Session with Dr. Jeffrey Matthews: Occult Gastrointestinal Bleeding: Dealing with a Difficult Situation.


DR. TONI BENINATO  MODERATOR for Session on Geriatric and Palliative Care.

DR. STEPHEN OH  (FACULTY) PRESENTED “Laparoscopic Rectopexy: A Safe, Minimally Invasive Approach to Treat Pediatric Rectal Prolapse.”

DR. BRENDAN FINNERTY  (FACULTY) PRESENTED POSTER on “Thyroidectomy for Multinodular Goiter in the Elderly: Age Is Just a Number.”

DR. JESSICA L. BUICKO  (FELLOW) E-POSTER PRESENTATION on “Risk Factors and Costs Associated with Nationwide Nonelective Readmissions After Thyroidectomy.”

DR. AHMED AL-MAZROU  PRESENTED “Sustained Positive Impact of ACS NSQIP Program on Outcomes after Colorectal Surgery over the Last Decade.”

DR. JENNIFER MARTI  (FACULTY) PANEL PARTICIPANT on “Thyroid Nodules and Cancer: How Does Molecular Profiling Influence Surgery.”

POSTER PRESENTATION “Healthcare Disparities Limit Access to Surgical Care in Patients with Potentially Resectable Gastric Cancer” by Drs. K. Gray, T. Ullmann, C. Afaneh, TJ Fahey III, Zarnegar Z., T. Beninato.

POSTER PRESENTATION “Laparoscopic Adenectomy is Safe in Elderly Patients” by Drs. K. Gray, T. Ullmann, BM Finnerty, TJ Fahey III, R Zarnegar, T. Beninato.

POSTER PRESENTATION “Clean or Contaminated: Strategies to Improve the Documentation Accuracy of Wound Classification” by Drs. C. Kwock, N. Paracha, J. Rucinski, ME Zenilman, T Beninato.
On Tuesday, October 23, 2018, Surgical Alumni, Faculty and Friends of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, gathered at the 104th Annual American College of Surgeons for the 2018 Annual Alumni Cocktail Reception.

The reception was co-hosted by Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Leonard N. Girardi, O. Wayne Isom, MD Professor and Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Barbara Bass, the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Chair and Professor, Department of Surgery, Houston Methodist Hospital; Dr. Pierre F. Saldinger, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens; and Dr. Michael E. Zenilman, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. Our reception this year attracted over 120 alumni and friends, and was held at The Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts.
Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Dr. Thomas J. Fahey III, and Dr. Mayur Narayan, were inducted into the inaugural class of the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators. Dr. Michelassi was inducted as a Member and Drs. Fahey and Narayan were inducted as Associate Members. The Induction Ceremony was held on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at the Murphy Auditorium in Chicago. The Academy of Master Surgeon Educators has been created to continually advance the science and implementation of education—teaching, learning, assessment, and scholarship—across all specialties of surgery through innovation and promotion of the highest achievements in lifelong learning. Approved by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Board of Regents in 2014, the Academy has been charged to identify and recruit innovators and thought leaders committed to education and to translate innovation into action.

The Mission of the Academy is to “play a leadership role in advancing the science and practice of education across all surgical specialties, promoting the highest achievements in the lifetimes of surgeons.” The Goals of the Academy are to identify, recognize, and recruit innovators and thought leaders committed to advancing lifelong surgical education; translate innovation into actions; offer mentorship to surgeon educators; foster exchange of creative ideas; disseminate advances in surgical education; and positively impact the quality of surgical care and patient safety. The Academy plans to organize an annual, one-day Scientific Program for Members and Associate Members and publish a journal, “Proceedings of the Academy of Master Surgeon Educators” in 2019.

Members of the Academy are selected through a rigorous peer-review process and induction into this prestigious academy is a high honor, with only 92 members inducted after a national vetting process. Members of the Academy will be expected to engage actively in activities to address the aforementioned goals. Academy membership will be open to Master Surgeon Educators from across the surgical specialties. A steering committee was appointed by the ACS Division of Education to provide the overall direction for this program, develop the standards and criteria for induction, and define the range of activities of the Academy.

The Academy of Master Surgeon Educators is a unique program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), and induction into the Academy demonstrates the highest achievements in the domain of surgical education, as evaluated by stringent peer review. Membership will be open to master surgeon educators from across the surgical specialties. There are three categories of membership:

- A Member of the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators must be a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) who is a nationally or internationally recognized master surgeon educator, and who is committed to: Actively participating in activities of the Academy; Identifying and implementing megatrends in surgical education and training; Steering the future directions in the field; Serving as a nationally or internationally recognized mentor; Spearheading, supporting, and championing innovation; Fostering exchange of creative ideas within and across disciplines; Promoting collaboration among surgical educators and other professionals; Supporting development and recognition of faculty; And exploring new education and training opportunities within the rapidly changing milieu of health care.
- An Associate Member of the ACS Academy of Master Surgeon Educators must be a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) who is a regionally or locally recognized surgeon educator, and who is committed to: Participating in activities of the Academy; Excelling in surgical education and training; And pursuing scholarship to advance this field.
- An Affiliate Member is an individual who will commit to supporting the goals of the Academy. An Affiliate Member does not need to be a Fellow of American College of Surgeons.

The next class will be selected in the summer of 2019 and inducted in October 2019. To learn more about the American College of Surgeons Academy of Master Surgeon Educators:

www.facs.org/education/academy
The 2nd Annual Department of Surgery’s Chairman Distinguished Lecture was held on September 10, 2018. The lecture, “Lessons Learned in the Management of Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms” was presented by Dr. Darren B. Schneider, the Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Associate Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian.

Dr. Schneider received his B.S. degree from Stanford University in June, 1988 and his M.D. from the University of California, San Diego, in June, 1992. He completed his general surgery residency training at the University of California, San Francisco in June, 2000, taking time out to complete a Postdoctoral fellowship at Gladstone Institutes of Cardiovascular Surgery, San Francisco, from July 1995 to June 1998. Dr. Schneider also completed a fellowship in interventional radiology at the University of California, San Francisco, from July, 2000 to June, 2001 and a Vascular Surgery fellowship from July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

His clinical research is focused on the design and development of endovascular devices for the treatment of aortic aneurysms and dissections and lower extremity arterial occlusive disease (PAD). Additional clinical expertise includes treatment of venous thoracic outlet syndrome, endovascular treatment of chronic venous occlusions and carotid artery stenting. He has led many clinical trials investigating new stent grafts and other new devices for treatment of carotid artery disease, aortic aneurysms, and lower extremity artery blockages. He also directed an NIH-funded laboratory research program studying stem cell therapy for the treatment of limb-threatening vascular disorders.

Dr. Schneider is widely published, with 82 articles in peer-reviewed medical journals, 13 review articles, and 14 book chapters. Dr. Schneider’s expertise is demonstrated by the more than 273 invited lectures he has given to other medical professionals both nationally and internationally. He also serves as a reviewer for 4 professional journals.

A leader in his field, Dr. Schneider is a member of many prestigious professional surgical organizations including: the Society for Vascular Surgery, where he serves on several committees; the International Society of Endovascular Specialists; the Society of Interventional Radiology; the Association for Academic Surgery; the International Society for Vascular Surgery; the Society of University Surgeons and the Western Vascular Society. Dr. Schneider was also the President-elect and Program Chair of the Northern California Vascular Society.

Dr. Schneider is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and serves as a committee member on the ACS Committee on Emerging Surgical Technology. He is also a member of the Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society, where he chaired and served as a member of several committees.
The Department of Surgery’s 18th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh, Memorial Lectureship was held on September 24, 2018. The lecture “Minimally Invasive Esophagectomy 2.0: Strategies for Rapid Recovery and Improved Outcomes”, was presented by Robert E. Merritt, MD, FACS, Associate Professor of Surgery and the Director of the Division of Thoracic Surgery at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

Dr. Merritt graduated from Cornell University School of Medicine in 1998 with an M.D. degree. He completed his general surgery residency at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2005. During his residency, he completed a two-year research fellowship in cancer therapeutics at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Dr. Merritt was elected to serve as the administrative chief resident for the Department of Surgery in 2004 to 2005 at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He was awarded the Distinguished Resident Award for Surgery in 2004. Dr. Merritt completed his cardiothoracic surgery residency at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 2007, where he completed a General Thoracic Surgery Track.

Dr. Merritt joined the faculty as an assistant professor in cardiothoracic surgery at the Stanford Hospitals and Clinics from September 2008 to January 2014. He was recruited to join the Division of Thoracic Surgery at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in January 2014. During his tenure, he quickly built a successful minimally invasive esophagectomy program and robotic thoracic surgery program. In 2016, he was promoted to Director for the Division of Thoracic Surgery at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Merritt is also the current program director for the cardiothoracic residency program.

Dr. Merritt’s clinical interests include robotic surgery for lung cancer and minimally invasive esophagectomy for esophageal cancer. The Division of Thoracic Surgery at Ohio State is among the highest volume programs for robotic thoracic surgery in the country. The clinical outcomes for the minimally invasive esophagectomy program are among the best in the country. His research interests include outcomes research and identifying unique biomarkers for lung cancer. From his research work, a brief review of his curriculum vitae reveals 35 peer-reviewed journal articles, 29 abstracts and 11 book chapters. Dr. Merritt is also a member of the editorial board of Frontiers in Thoracic Surgery and also an invited reviewer for six peer-reviewed surgical journals. Dr. Merritt is board certified in General Surgery and Thoracic Surgery, and he is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He is a member of prestigious surgical societies and participates to committees within these societies. As a member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, Dr. Merritt serves on the General Thoracic Surgery Workforce.

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.
The Annual Corinne and Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professorship in Honor of Peter Guida, MD, was held on October 1, 2018 in Uris Auditorium at Weill Cornell Medical College. The lecture “Global Surgery” was delivered by Leonard Washington Amango, MD.

Leonard Washington Amango, MD, is the Head of General Surgery at Bugando Medical Centre, the teaching hospital of the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in Mwanza, Tanzania. His specialties include endocrine, breast, hepatobiliary, and colorectal procedures. Dr. Amango currently leads the university’s surgical residency program and also teaches undergraduate and international students who come from affiliate institutions in Germany. He received his medical degree at the University of Dar Salaam and completed a residency in general surgery at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. Prior to his current position, Dr. Amango was a lecturer at the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences and the Deputy Head of Surgery. He is an active member of the Tanzania Surgical Association, Tanzania Medical Association, and the Tanzania Christian Medical Association.

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

Special appreciation to Steven J. Corwin, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian, Herbert Pardes, MD, Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, NewYork-Presbyterian, and Augustine M.K. Choi, MD, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine, for their support to establish this lectureship.
The Department of Surgery’s 36th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship was held on October 8, 2018. The lecture “EPAs: Evaluation as an Entrustment Conversation” was presented by Dr. Karen J. Brasel, Professor of Surgery in the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care; Vice-Chair of Education and Professional Development; General Surgery Residency Program Director in the Department of Surgery; and Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Brasel received a B.A. degree in Biology with Honors, summa cum laude, from Macalester College in Minnesota in 1987. She graduated from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in 1991 and subsequently completed a general surgery residency at the University of Minnesota in 1998, which included a two-year Surgical Infectious Disease fellowship and a Master’s degree in Public Health (MPH). She went on to a fellowship in surgical critical care at the University of North Carolina in 1999.

Dr. Brasel joined the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) with a dual appointment as Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Professor of the Health Policy Institute. She became Associate Professor of Surgery in 2003, Associate Professor of the Health Policy Institute in 2004, and Professor of Surgery and Professor of Population Health in 2008. During her tenure at the MCW, Dr. Brasel also served as Medical Student Clerkship Director, Director of Resident Research, Director of the Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Program and as a member of the Society of Teaching Scholars. In 2010, Dr. Brasel became Professor of Bioethics and Medical Humanities. Dr. Brasel joined the faculty at Oregon Health & Science University as Professor of Surgery and Program Director in General Surgery in 2014. In 2016, she was named Chief of the Transition to Practice Program. In 2017, Dr. Brasel was appointed Assistant Dean of Graduate Medical Education and, in 2018, became Vice-Chair of Education and Professional Development.

Dr. Brasel is a nationally renowned educator. She has been a Contributing Author and Sub-Committee Chair for the Surgical Education and Self-Assessment Program (SESAP) for many years and Chair of the ACS Committee on Trauma ATLS Sub-Committee. She served two years as Chair of the Curriculum Committee for the Association of Surgical Education. Dr. Brasel is a Director of the American Board of Surgery. She currently leads the American Board of Surgery’s pilot program on establishing Entrustable Professional Activities in General Surgery. Dr. Brasel is the recipient of multiple teaching awards by medical students and residents as well as nationally including the Association of Surgical Education’s Outstanding Teacher Award.

Dr. Brasel’s clinical practice is in trauma/critical care and emergency general surgery. She has published over 245 scientific articles and 34 book chapters. Her research interests, funded by the NIH and the CDC, include post-injury quality of life and functional outcomes, surgical palliative care, ethics and education. She belongs to many prestigious surgical societies, has served on several committees for the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, including current Chair of the Critical Care Committee and member of the Board. She also has served on the Executive Committee of the American College of Surgeons Board of Governors.

The Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College established this Visiting Professor Lectureship in 1983 as a reminder of the importance of surgical education.
Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) has a long tradition of promoting diversity and gender equity. “I am so honored that Dean Choi has asked me to take on a larger role as Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion with a particular interest in women’s initiatives,” states Dr. Rache Simmons. Over the past few years, Dr. Simmons was instrumental in establishing the WCM child care centers, parental leave policy with salary continuance, academic pause on tenure track for birth/adoption of a child, and unconscious bias training for search committees.

The new ‘Office of Women’ will be housed in the Office of Faculty within the renovated space of Lasdon Faculty Offices. “The Office of Women is committed to nurturing a culture of inclusiveness, diversity and equity in academic leadership. It works with the entire Weill Cornell Medicine community to spread diversity within the faculty and leadership to invite and support all the talented individuals who can contribute to our mission of excellence in education, research and patient care.”

“There are specific issues that face our women students, trainees, physicians and scientists at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian (NYP). Our medical school classes, most residency programs, and junior faculty are about half women. However, there are fewer women who achieve promotion to associate professor, full professor and tenure. This is not an exclusive phenomenon for WCM – this is true across all academic medical schools. There are many potential reasons why this is the case, but I am working to change this at Weill Cornell Medicine. There are so many initiatives currently underway or planned to foster career development for our women medical students, trainees and faculty. Both the medical college and NewYork-Presbyterian are extremely supportive of these initiatives,” states Dr. Simmons.

Dr. Simmons also works with NewYork-Presbyterian as the co-chair of Women Physicians of NYP with Dr. Laura Forese, which has sponsored several educational and networking events for women across the WCM and Columbia campuses of NYP. Topics have included Microagressions in the Workplace, Financial Planning for Women Physicians, and Wellness.

Women Physicians of NYP hosted its inaugural “Women of NYP Symposium” at the New York Academy of Medicine on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. This symposium was attended by almost 300 women faculty, residents and students from all our NYP campuses including Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University Irving Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Hudson Valley Hospital, Lawrence Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens.

The daylong symposium consisted of multiple lectures, panel discussions and breakout sessions with phenomenal local, national and international speakers. Symposium topics included negotiation, professional development and mentoring, the promotions process, finances for women, equity in the workplace, and wellness and work-life balance. “The feedback from the attendees of the event was so positive that we plan to make it an annual event with the next symposium scheduled for September 25, 2019” noted Dr. Simmons.

Last year, as Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. Simmons worked with Dean Choi to establish the inaugural Diversity Week with keynote speaker Dr. Hannah Valentine. Many aspects of diversity were celebrated during that week including gender diversity. For Diversity Week 2019, WCM is hosting 3 outstanding female keynote speakers – Dr. Dana Richardson Heron, Dr. Joan Greene and Dr. Sian Beilock.

In addition to the annual Cyima Rubin lectureship and Lila Wallace lectureship featuring outstanding women from outside of WCM, the Office of Women is planning an annual achievement award for a woman WCM faculty member which will be celebrated during diversity week. Several years ago, Dr. Simmons was involved with the establishment of the annual Laurie Glimcher Award given to a faculty member for mentorship of female faculty.

The Office of Women is also planning quarterly lectureships/networking sessions for the upcoming year including Time Management and other topics of interest to our women students, trainees and faculty.
On September 27, 2018, the 3rd Annual Surgery System-Wide Retreat was held at the Griffis Faculty Club. The full-time faculty at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital came together to review the Department of Surgery’s on-going system-wide integration.

The program included remarks from Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, Lewis Atterbury Stimson professor of Surgery, Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Laura L. Forese, MD, MPH, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian, and Peter N. Schlegel, MD, James J. Colt Professor and Chairman of the Department of Urology and Urologist-in-chief NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

In addition, several presentations were given, including:

“Multidisciplinary tumor boards integration” by Daniel Barchi and Michael Zenilman
“Quality cooperative” by Pierre Saldinger

Pediatric Surgery Integration: “Project Regionalization” by Stephen Oh and “Network Development” by Nitsana Spigland

“Project on Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery System integration” by David Behrman
“Integration of Bariatric Program” by Gregory Dakin
“Vision for Breast Oncology Programs System Integration” by Lisa Newman
3rd Annual Big Apple Bootcamp

Senior vascular residents, first year vascular fellows and distinguished faculty from both regional and national training programs came together for a hands-on skills course on September 13 - 15, 2018 at Weill Cornell Medicine for the 3rd Annual Big Apple Bootcamp!

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

The vascular skills course provided a thought-provoking and fast-paced exchange of ideas and surgical technique by renowned faculty from regional and national training programs. The goal of the course was to provide participants with a foundation for success in their training and beyond. Over the two-day course, trainees participated in open surgical simulation using both cadavers and models, endovascular simulation using multiple platforms, planning workshops, arterial closure workshops, and hands-on device deployment. Overall, Big Apple Bootcamp proved to be a memorable and enjoyable learning experience for all.
The 17th Annual Department of Surgery Golf Tournament to support surgical education and research was held on September 12, 2018 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; East River Medical Imaging, 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 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 also thank our patrons: Dr. Kevin Morrissey and the Rogosin Institute.

We are also grateful for our supporters: Dr. Hugh Hemmings and Department of Anesthesiology; Dr. Robert Grant; Dr. Faith Menken; Dr. Demitri Merianos; Dr. Gerardo Zullo; Dr. Michael Zullo.

---

2018 Golf Tournament Results

2018 Best Golf Foursome - Dr. Benjamin Golas, David Golas, Jon Golas, Dr. Daniel Labow
2018 Closest to the Pin - Bill DeBois
2018 Longest Drive - Jon Golas
2018 Straightest Drive - Dr. Robert Min
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!

40 Years
Marian Napoletano

25 Years
Emelita Lorenzo
Dr. Rache Simmons
Dr. Mia Talmor

15 Years
Vanessa Acevedo
Elizabeth Goldenberg
Dr. Alfons Pomp

10 Years
Dr. Meredith Aull
Lawanda Bazemore
Dr. James J. Gallagher
Anne Marie Mallon
Dr. Irene Min
Michael Mitchell
Patricia Rojas
Dr. Marco Seandel
Natalie Suero

20 Years
Barbara Buonanno
Shelley Cutrone
Diana Paris
Please join us in welcoming, Dr. Lisa Newman, an internationally renowned breast surgeon and researcher, on her new appointment as Chief of the Section of Breast Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Weill Cornell Medicine. In her role, Dr. Newman will lead multidisciplinary breast oncology programs and provide the finest, most compassionate care to women and men affected by breast cancer.

Dr. Newman will lead a team of breast surgeons that uses state-of-the-art screening and imaging technologies, innovative surgical and reconstruction techniques, and radiation therapies to provide patients with comprehensive breast cancer care. As chief of the Breast Surgical Oncology Program, she will also extend this multidisciplinary approach—which is tailored to patients’ specific needs and personal preferences—to NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. Her goal is to provide a multidisciplinary approach to breast cancer treatment through a standardized clinic and tumor board system implemented in each hospital so that patients receive the same high-quality care and have equally optimal experiences and outcomes across the boroughs. In addition, Dr. Newman will seek to expand research efforts of the Section of Breast Surgery—housed within the Department of Surgery—and will foster the mentorship and training of the next generation of breast surgeons. She will also broaden regional as well as international breast health outreach and education through global cancer initiatives.

A board-certified surgeon, Dr. Newman specializes in the application of the most advanced breast surgical techniques, such as skin-sparing and nipple-sparing mastectomies, to enhance cosmetic results from breast reconstruction, and lymphatic mapping/sentinel lymph node biopsy to evaluate the extent of breast cancer spread. Her expertise also includes the use of medications to shrink tumors before surgery, known as neoadjuvant chemotherapy.

A New York City native, Dr. Newman received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Harvard University in 1981, a medical degree in 1985 from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine and a master’s degree in public health in 2001 from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Newman completed a general surgery residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, joining its faculty as an assistant professor of surgery before pursuing fellowship training in surgical oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 1997. After completing her fellowship, she joined MD Anderson's faculty as an assistant professor and staff surgical oncologist in 1999. She served as associate director of the Walt Breast Center at the Karmanos Cancer Institute/Wayne State University from 2000 to 2002, when she was recruited to serve as director of the Breast Care Center for the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor from 2002 to 2015. Dr. Newman left the University of Michigan in 2015 to become director of the Breast Oncology Program for the multi-hospital Henry Ford Health System, and has retained adjunct professorships with both the University of Michigan and the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

weillcornell.org/lisa-newman-md-mph-facs
New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

Dr. Christopher Agrusa, joins the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Agrusa is a board-certified surgeon with expertise in vascular and endovascular surgery. He also specializes in advanced minimally invasive endovascular procedures for the treatment of many vascular conditions.

Dr. Agrusa completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. During his residency, Dr. Agrusa dedicated two years as a Research Fellow in the Neuberger Berman Lung Cancer Research Center where he studied the cellular and molecular pathways involved in non-small cell lung cancer metastasis. After residency, he completed a two-year ACGME accredited fellowship in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Columbia University Medical Centers. Dr. Agrusa hopes to contribute his clinical expertise and his clinical research efforts towards improving the care of patients with vascular disease.

weillcornell.org/christopher-agrusa-md

Dr. Samuel Sultan joins the Division of Transplantation Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Sultan is board-certified in general surgery and specializes in abdominal transplant surgery, with a specific clinical focus in kidney and pancreas transplantation. He also has interest and experience in other less common aspects relating to abdominal transplant surgery, including auto-transplants. Dr. Sultan completed his residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.

Dr. Sultan is excited to have the opportunity to return to Weill Cornell Medicine and join the transplant program. The transplant program has played a leading role in the field for numerous years, particularly the living-donor program. Dr. Sultan hopes to build up additional facets of the kidney transplant program, including the optimal use of deceased donor kidneys, as well as research interests that include the predictive value of the biochemical profile at the time of organ reperfusion, the use of organs from donors with hepatitis C, and the utilization of donors with acute kidney injury.

Dr. Sultan completed his general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where he trained in general surgery and developed his initial interest in transplant surgery. Following his residency, he attended a fellowship in Abdominal Transplant Surgery at the University of Maryland, which he completed in 2017, and then remained on staff as assistant professor.
Dr. John Costandi joins the Division of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery as an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens.

Dr. Costandi graduated from Boston University School of Dental Medicine, where he was nominated and inducted into the BU Chapter of OKU Honor Society. He then completed his Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training at Columbia University/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. During his time at Columbia University, he earned his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, completed a one-year internship in General Surgery, acted as Chief Resident during his last year of training and received the interdepartmental resident of the month award for his exemplary patient care.

Dr. Costandi practices full scope of oral and maxillofacial surgery including dentoalveolar surgery, dental implant surgery, oral rehabilitation and reconstruction, corrective jaw surgery, benign maxillofacial pathology, and pediatric oral and maxillofacial surgery. His specific interests are in the use of virtual surgical planning and 3D technology to reduce operating room times and improve clinical outcomes.

Dr. Costandi has published peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts and book chapters. He is an active member of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Dental Association, New York State Dental Association, Queens County Dental Society, and Academy of Osseointegration.

weillcornell.org/john-joseph-costandi-dds

Dr. Deena Horn joins the Division of Vascular and Endovascular as an Assistant Professor of Podiatry in Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and Assistant Attending Podiatrist at NewYork-Presbyterian. Dr. Horn is board certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery/American Board of Podiatric Surgery in Foot Surgery and Rearfoot and Ankle Reconstructive Surgery. She specializes in all aspects of podiatry with special interest in limb salvage.

Dr. Horn received her podiatric medical degree at Scholl College of Podiatric Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago, IL where she graduated top of her class. Following podiatry medical school, she was selected to one of the most reputable and prestigious residency programs in the field of podiatric medicine and surgery at Inova Fairfax Medical Campus in Virginia, where she completed a three-year residency in Foot and Ankle Surgery. She also completed a rotation at Georgetown in a lower extremity plastic surgery and diabetic limb salvage.

weillcornell.org/deena-blair-horn-dpm

Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

Hirra Ali, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Assistant Attending Surgeon
General Surgery/Trauma & Critical Care
weillcornell.org/hirra-ali-md

Gokhan Ozuner, MD
Chief, Colon and Rectal Surgery
Assistant Professor of Surgery (Interim)
Assistant Attending Surgeon
weillcornell.org/gokhan-ozuner-md
New Surgery Faculty Recruitment

Weill Cornell Medicine/NewYork-Presbyterian Queens

Talat Addasi, MB, ChB
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Surgical Critical Care
weillcornell.org/talat-addasi-mb-chb

Manmeet K. Malik, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Breast Surgery
weillcornell.org/manmeet-k-malik-do

Chun-Chen (Richard) Chen
Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Acute, Trauma and Critical Care
weillcornell.org/richard-chen-md-phd

Stephen Merola, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Bariatric Surgery
weillcornell.org/stephen-merola-md

Michael Coomaraswamy, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Trauma and Critical Care
weillcornell.org/michael-coomaraswamy-md

Joel Ricci-Gorbea, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Bariatric Surgery
weillcornell.org/joel-ricci-gorbea-md

Rajeev Dayal, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Assistant Attending Surgeon
Vascular Surgery
weillcornell.org/rajeev-dayal-md

Jason M. Sample, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Surgical Critical Care
weillcornell.org/jason-m-sample-md

Litong Du, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Bariatric Surgery
weillcornell.org/litong-du-md

James Satterfield, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
General Surgery
weillcornell.org/james-satterfield-md

Christopher Foglia, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Assistant Attending Surgeon
Colon and Rectal Surgery
weillcornell.org/christopher-foglia-md

Beth M. Siegel, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Assistant Attending Surgeon
Breast Surgery
weillcornell.org/beth-m-siegel-md

Konstantin Khariton, DO
Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Acute, Trauma and Critical Care
weillcornell.org/konstantin-khariton-do

Varuna Sundaram, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Assistant Attending Surgeon
Vascular Surgery
weillcornell.org/varuna-sundaram-md

Andy M. Lee, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
Attending Surgeon
Vascular Surgery
weillcornell.org/andy-m-lee-md
New Surgery Residents

Ahmed Abouarab  
General Surgery

Jennifer Adeghate  
General Surgery

Ahmed Al-Mazrou  
General Surgery

Seth Aschen  
Plastic Surgery

Jennifer Bido  
HSS Orthopedics

Aaron Brant  
Urology

Sarah Breves  
General Surgery

Jaime Bernstein  
Plastic Surgery

Edward Carey  
HSS Orthopedics

Panpan Chen  
General Surgery

Alex Chern  
ENT

Jungsuk Choi  
Dent & Maxillofacial Surgery

Arron Cole  
ENT

Christopher DiFrancesco  
HSS Orthopedics

Sonam Dodhia  
ENT

Ameer Elbuluk  
HSS Orthopedics

Genevieve Fasano  
General Surgery

Caitlin Finn  
General Surgery

Neha Grewal  
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

Josh Johnson  
General Surgery

Gary Kochhar  
Neurosurgery

Drake Lebrun  
HSS Orthopedics

Sallie Long  
ENT

Sophie McKenney  
Interventional Radiology

Andrea Mesiti  
General Surgery

Nathan Mynard  
General Surgery

Nathaniel Ondeck  
HSS Orthopedics

Yuri Pompeu  
HSS Orthopedics

Adriana Valera Reyes  
General Surgery

Maricruz Rivera  
Neurosurgery

Ammar Saigal  
General Surgery

Gregory Schimizzi  
HSS Orthopedics

Karim Shafl  
HSS Orthopedics

Pooja Shah  
General Surgery

Vishal Sinha  
Interventional Radiology

Jeffrey Sung  
Interventional Radiology

Christina Sze  
Urology
New Surgery Fellows

John Baber
Vascular Surgery

Jessica Buicko
Endocrine Surgery

Gregory Charak
Colon & Rectal Surgery

Francesca Dimou
GI-MIS

John Gahagan
Colon & Rectal Surgery

Cameron Gibson
Burn Surgery

Kevin Kniery
Vascular Surgery

Christina Lee
Critical Care

Carlton Taylor Lewis
Vascular Surgery

Rachelle Lodescar
Burn Surgery

Matthew Smith
Vascular Surgery

Cassandra Villegas
Critical Care
Alumni Updates

Welcome to the world little Luca Quentin Robert Morris! Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Marti, Assistant Attending Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian.

Congratulations to Dr. Anna Aronova, (Class of 2017) Attending Physician in the Department of Surgery at Northern Westchester Hospital on the birth of her baby girl Lila Emilie!
Alumni Updates

Introducing Benjamin Dov Steigman! The newest member to the family of Dr. Shaun Steigman, Assistant Attending Surgeon and Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, and his wife Yaffa!

Welcome baby girl Dylan Eliana Rand! Congratulations Jamie Green, MD, (Class of 2017) and husband, Ethan on the birth of their daughter.
It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of our distinguished alumnus (class of 1989), **Dr. William Michael Canning**, noted surgeon and humanitarian, who died on September 26, 2018 at his home in Miami. He was 61. Dr. Canning attended Phillips Academy, Andover; Harvard College, where he majored in biochemistry and molecular biology; and Harvard Medical School, where he graduated with honors. He was a general surgeon with special interest in laparoscopic surgery and oncologic surgery.

For more than twelve years Dr. Canning delivered volunteer surgical care to Living Hope Haiti. On his charitable trips to Haiti he was often accompanied by his brother, Dr. Robert Canning, also a general surgeon, and his children, Caroline and William. At the Double Harvest Health Clinic in Croix-des-Bouquets, Dr. Canning’s patients were adults and children who would otherwise have very limited access to surgery. He enriched the lives of those who knew him. Throughout his career, his patients and colleagues praised his skill, knowledge, kindness, gentleness, devotion to his profession, and tireless advocacy for his patients. Dr. Canning is survived by his mother, Edna; his children, Caroline and Will; his former wife, Hillary; and his siblings, Madeline Kraft, Joan Boris, Barbara Muñoz, Robert Canning, Susan Canning, and Mark Canning.
In large, crowded cities such as New York, the average response time for first responders is between seven and 10 minutes, but a person who is seriously bleeding can die from loss of blood within five minutes. So, bystanders are often in the best position to take immediate action to preserve life until professional help arrives.

“The need for immediate help in a bleeding emergency can’t be overstated, whether the cause is an automobile or pedestrian accident, severe fall, gunshot or stab wound, or even a terrorist attack,” said Dr. Mayur Narayan, an assistant professor of surgery (interim) at Weill Cornell Medicine and a trauma surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center who led the training. “This program is an outstanding tool for saving lives. We want to be the first medical school in the country where every student and faculty member is certified in this vital course.”

First-year Weill Cornell Medical College student Yende Grell is not yet a medical professional, but could have easily been mistaken for one this summer when she was working as a medical assistant at an orthopedic practice. “I wore scrubs on the bus to work and sensed that people felt I could step in if there were an emergency,” the 24-year-old said. “But I wasn’t ready.”

Now she is empowered to do just that after learning basic bleeding-control techniques on August 20, the first day of orientation for the 106 students in Weill Cornell Medical College’s Class of 2022. The workshop, which took place in the Weill Education Center and is part of the American College of Surgeons’ Stop the Bleed program, trained students on how to pack wounds, deliver continuous pressure and apply tourniquets to help people who have been injured and are bleeding severely.

As a trauma surgeon, Dr. Narayan has seen the value of Stop the Bleed first-hand. His commitment to improving trauma care is also personal: His aunt and uncle both died from injuries sustained from a car accident in India, all because medical professionals missed the signs of internal hemorrhage. That tragedy motivated Dr. Narayan to provide the best trauma care to patients in need. Now with Stop the Bleed, he’s taking it a step further, teaching physician trainees, nurses and the public how they can help.

This effort is also global: Earlier this summer, Dr. Narayan and Dr. Robert Winchell, chief of Weill Cornell Medicine’s Division of Trauma, Burns, Acute and Critical Care, along with a group of Weill Cornell Medicine staff and students traveled to India to train more than 1,500 people in three cities.

“Whether it’s in New York City or in India, Weill Cornell Medicine is committed to doing all we can to save lives,” Dr. Narayan said. “I’m honored to be part of such a caring institution.”

To read the entire article: news.weill.cornell.edu/news/2018/09/new-medical-students-gain-hands-on-training-literally-to-stop-the-bleed
Cancer patients’ close relatives might be willing to get tests to see if they share genetic mutations that put them at risk for tumors, too, if testing were accessible and affordable, a U.S. experiment suggests.

“Cascade genetic testing - where relatives of people who carry a gene mutation are tested to find out if they also carry it - is one of the highest-yield ways to identify carriers and ultimately reduce their risks,” said lead study author Jennifer Caswell-Jin of Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California.

Typically, only about one-third of relatives get tested, Caswell-Jin said by email.

The current experiment set out to improve this by making the process easier and cheaper. People with cancer risk mutations could initiate testing online and then let laboratories contact relatives directly.

For example, women with BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutations, who have a vastly increased risk of developing breast or ovarian cancers, may choose to undergo mastectomies or have their ovaries removed even without a diagnosis of cancer. Other types of mutations, such as those that increase one’s risk of colon cancer, may indicate the need for increased or more frequent screening.

One limitation of the study is that researchers only followed people for a year, and it’s unclear how many relatives who got tested might go on to develop cancer.

“Tests may have less risk when genetic counselors are able to help with the decision to get tested and to put any positive or negative results in the right context for patients,” said Dr. Lisa Newman, Chief of Breast Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian.

“Those relatives that undergo genetic testing and are found to also carry the mutation might opt to pursue prevention strategies to reduce their cancer risk, or they might adopt enhanced cancer screening practices for early detection of disease,” Dr. Newman, who wasn’t involved in the study, said by email. “However, they will not have any of these choices if they are not aware of the familial/hereditary cancer risk.”

To read the full article: reuters.com/article/us-health-cancer-genes/many-cancer-patients-relatives-might-get-gene-tests-if-price-is-right-idUSKCN1LY00K
Khelani Cain’s first year of life has been nothing short of miraculous. At five months pregnant, her mom, Tynee Weeks, received news that Khelani had a rare birth defect called Gastroschisis, which is where the intestines are found outside of the baby’s abdomen – Khelani’s case was even more rare because her stomach and bladder were also outside her body. Another hospital told Tynee they were not able to treat her, so she turned to NewYork-Presbyterian Komansky Children’s Hospital.

Following her delivery, Khelani spent the first 300 days of her life in the NICU and underwent more than 15 procedures, including 3 major surgeries. Confronted with the dilemma of trying to fit all of Khelani’s organs into her tiny abdomen, her lead surgeon, Dr. Nitsana Spigland, Chief, Division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma, Professor of Clinical Surgery and an Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, was in search of an innovative solution. She found the solution in a wound vac, typically used to drain fluid from a wound, in which she used a sponge to reduce Khelani’s intestines with suction while they waited for her abdominal wall to grow. During this time, Khelani was unable to move, but still found ways to let her bright and bubbly personality shine through, winning over the hearts of her doctors, nurses and child life specialists.

After four months, Dr. Spigland went back into the operating room and successfully reinserted Khelani’s intestines and closed up her abdomen. Last month, Khelani reached another milestone – she went outside for the first time! And this first taste of sunshine was just the start for Khelani, as Dr. Spigland and the rest of her care team are confident Khelani will make a full recovery.

To learn more about our Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma team: weillcornell.org/services/pediatric-surgery-and-pediatric-trauma
Tetraphase Pharmaceuticals announced that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Xerava (eravacycline) for injection for the treatment of complicated intra-abdominal infections (cIAI) in patients aged ≥18 years.

Xerava, a fully-synthetic fluorocycline antibacterial that is structurally similar to tetracyclines, showed potent activity against multi-drug resistant pathogens in the Phase 3 IGNITE (Investigating Gram-Negative Infections Treated with Eravacycline) programs.

Eravacycline was well-tolerated in both trials and achieved high cure rates in patients with Gram-negative pathogens (including resistant strains). The most common adverse events observed in clinical trials were infusion site reactions, nausea, and vomiting.

“Eravacycline also has a favorable safety profile as observed in clinical trials, and no dose adjustment is required when given to patients with renal impairment, which is advantageous for seriously ill patients who may have impaired kidney function. Additionally, the drug may be given safely to patients who are allergic to penicillin,” stated Philip S. Barie, MD, MBA, Professor of Surgery and Professor of Public Health in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, and an attending surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Xerava will be available as 50mg strength single-dose vials for IV infusion after reconstitution and dilution. It is expected to launch in the fourth quarter of 2018.

For the full article: bit.ly/2yY73S1
Dr. Bruna Babic, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens, was awarded the Excellence in Medical Education Award for the Surgery Clerkship, having served as the Site Director for the Surgery Clerkship at NYP Queens for the past 2 years. Dr. Babic has displayed great enthusiasm and dedication to teaching, and takes pride in making sure that the students have an educational and enjoyable experience.

Dr. Jason Spector, Professor of Plastic Surgery and Otolaryngology and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and his team performed two complex reconstructive procedures 6 months apart. This is only the second case in the world of a patient that has successfully undergone 2 successive free flaps, according to the published literature. NewYork-Presbyterian was the first to publish. Click here for reference e18-e19.

Dr. Lisa Newman, Chief, Division of Breast Surgery, Director of Interdisciplinary Breast Program at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian and the Breast Cancer program at WCM and NYP was named a beneficiary of funds through the Fashion Footwear Association of New York/QVC breast cancer research program. From the first event in Central Park in 1994 and working with QVC since the second year, “FFANY Shoes on Sale” has distributed over $55 million and sold over 2 million pairs of shoes to benefit breast cancer research and educational programs nationwide. Currently in its 25th year, the event supports scientists at a number of our country’s premier hospitals and foundations leading in breast cancer research. These distinguished organizations continue life-saving research and testing that will ultimately lead to new advancements in early detection, effective treatment and assist with finding a cure for breast cancer.
Dr. Shuibing Chen, Associate Professor, Department of Surgery and Department of Biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medicine, was the 2018 winner of the ISSCR Dr. Susan Lim Award for Outstanding Young Investigator, supported by the Dr. Susan Lim Endowment for Education and Research Ltd., in recognition of her innovative chemical approaches in pluripotent stem cell research, with major contributions in drug screening techniques, and in human disease modeling, genetic testing, and organoid development.

Congratulations, Dr. Parul Shukla, Associate Professor of Surgery and Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center on his promotion to Vice Chief in the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery. Dr. Shukla is an internationally known expert in gastrointestinal surgical oncology with extensive experience as a surgical oncologist, using laparoscopic, endoscopic, and robotic, and open techniques.

Dr. Irene Min Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology Research in the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine, was the recipient of the young investigator award from NANETS to support basic/translational research for one year ($50,000). The purpose of the NANETS Young Investigator Award is to encourage scientists at the end of their fellowship who have secured a faculty appointment or beginning of their faculty appointment to pursue basic and/or translational research focused on neuroendocrine tumors. A formal announcement was made during the 2018 NANETS Symposium on October 6, 2018 at the NANETS Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington. This is Dr. Min’s first grant in pancreatic neuroendocrine tumor research.
Dr. Eugene Nowak, esteemed colleague and surgeon, has retired from clinical practice on October 31, 2018. Dr. Nowak has trained hundreds of residents to be skilled, thoughtful and compassionate surgeons since the 1980’s. In addition, he has contributed significantly and in many ways to the Medical Center and the Department of Surgery. He will always be welcomed in our Department and we hope to see him often. The Department is planning a recognition event in honor of Dr. Nowak in 2019. Stay tuned.

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, was inducted as an Honorary Fellow of the Italian Society of Surgery at the 2018 Joint Congress of Italian Scientific Societies of Surgery, in Rome, Italy on October 15, 2018.

Jerry L. Halpern, DDS, one of Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian’s longest-standing voluntary oral & maxillofacial surgeons, received the Humanitarian Award at this year’s American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons convention for his efforts to provide dental care to the impoverished children and adults of the Dominican Republic. With a Rotary Club grant and newly formed World of Smiles Foundation there is now a six-chair clinic in La Romana at the MIR School (Mission International Rescue). The World of Smiles is a nonprofit organization advancing comprehensive oral health care for the underserved of the world while building sustainable local collaboration.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 18</td>
<td>50th Annual Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship</td>
<td>Jeffrey B. Matthews, M.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>4th Annual Diversity Lectureship</td>
<td>Haile Debas, M.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td>Annual Meeting of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local Program - Uris Auditorium</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>46th Annual Preston A. Wade Visiting Professor Lectureship</td>
<td>Ronald M. Stewart, M.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>NYPH-WCMC Department of Surgery Annual Resident Graduation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At The Water Club (invitation &amp; RSVP card to follow)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>