



**NewYork-Presbyterian**  
The University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell



## **Department of Surgery**

# **Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program**

Chairpersons: Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS and Craig R. Smith, MD, FACS  
Bi-Campus Program Director: Sharif Ellozy, MD  
Site Director, Columbia University Medical Center: Danielle Bajakian, MD  
Program Manager: David Fehling, MA

# Welcome



Weill Cornell Medical College



We are delighted and proud to be an active part of our institution, which is among the top-ranked clinical and medical research centers in the country. Our affiliation with a major academic medical center underscores our department's three-pronged mission: to provide the highest quality of compassionate care, to educate the surgeons of tomorrow, and to pursue groundbreaking research. As members of the clinical staff of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine, our team of experienced surgeons practice at the forefront of their respective specialties, offering patients outstanding, humane and personalized care. As faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College, these physicians are educating future generations of surgeons and advancing state-of-the-art surgical treatment.

The history of surgery at the New York Hospital, the second oldest hospital in the United States, reflects the evolution of surgery in America, and is marked by some of the most extraordinary achievements in medicine. The New York Hospital was the cradle of early surgical developments and instruction in America, earning a worldwide reputation for excellence and innovation. Many of today's practices and techniques arose from our institution. Our department continues to build upon our rich legacy of surgical innovations, making important contributions to the advancement of new surgical procedures.

Wright Post, MD, one of the first surgeons appointed to the hospital in 1792, was the first in America to successfully treat aneurysms, developing state-of-the-art surgical techniques. In 1878, Lewis Atterbury Stimson, MD, the first professor of surgery at The New York Hospital, performed the first public demonstration of an antiseptic operation in the United States. In 1898, Dr. Stimson organized the charter that established Cornell University Medical College.

William Stewart Halstead, MD, widely regarded as the founder of modern surgical residency training, was trained at The New York Hospital, under the mentorship of Henry Sands, MD, who fostered Dr. Halstead's early interest in anatomy and surgery. Another of our distinguished earliest surgeons was Valentine Mott, MD, a pioneer in vascular surgery.

In 1932, George J. Heuer, MD, joined The New York Hospital as Chief of Surgery and established the nation's second modern surgical training program. During the 1950's, Frank Glenn, MD, the first Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, was internationally recognized as the leading expert in biliary and cardiovascular surgery. In 1963, the first kidney transplant in the metropolitan area was performed by our hospital's surgeons.

Dr. C. Walton Lillehei, who became the Lewis Atterbury Professor of Surgery in 1967, is widely regarded as the father of heart surgery because so many of his innovations were crucial to the evolution of cardiac surgery and cardiopulmonary bypass. He also trained Norman Shumway, MD and Christiaan Barnard, MD, early pioneers of cardiac and organ transplantations.

In 1976, the hospital formed the first comprehensive Burn Center in the New York region which is today one of the largest and busiest in the nation. In 1996, we created the first pancreas transplant program in the tri-state area. In 2004 we were the first in the tri-state area to perform minimally-invasive islet cell transplants to cure Type I diabetes. Today our surgeons continue to lead the way in shaping the medical world of the 21st century, and we remain one of the most outstanding academic departments and training programs in the world.

Thank you for applying to our Vascular Surgery Fellowship Program.

## **Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, FACS**

*Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery*

*Chairman of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College*

*Surgeon-in-Chief*

*NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center*

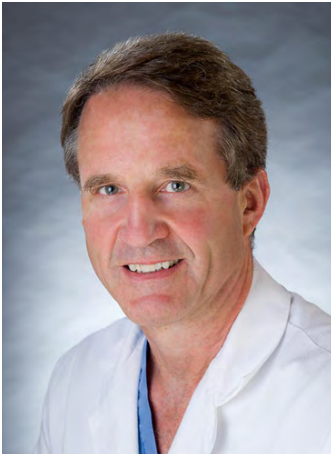


# Welcome



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Columbia University Department of Surgery. With a roster of nearly 100 full-time faculty members with specialties ranging from basic science research to the most advanced minimally invasive surgical procedures, 89 fellows and residents, and more than 330 staff members, the Department draws on a tradition of more than 225 years marked by some of the most extraordinary achievements in medicine.

We are committed to the belief that multidisciplinary collaboration leads to a higher level of care, and that such teamwork promotes meaningful interaction between faculty members as well as crossfunctional fertilization among staff. Over the past 25 years, the Department has evolved from a loose federation of private practices to a sophisticated network of creative alliances. Collaboration with medical and scientific experts at Columbia University and globally, as well as with the biotech industry, has resulted in many “firsts” and enhanced our reputation for providing the highest quality patient care.

Another defining element of the Department’s culture is innovation, an area in which it is the beneficiary of a rich legacy, and in which it continues to foster the transition from scientific discovery to clinically relevant application. With the university’s dedication to translational research, we are able to move promising new advances from the laboratory bench to the patient’s bedside with greater speed. We then use our clinical observations to fine-tune these treatments and to monitor their acceptance into mainstream practice. In short, we are involved in every aspect of the innovation process.

In recent years, the surgical discipline has been witness to a trend of increasing specialization. Here at Columbia, this sea change has led us to undertake accelerated program development in multiple areas. I am pleased with the payoff of these efforts, which have engendered greater clinical capability, streamlined service for our patients and referring physicians, and yielded an enhanced interface between our surgeon-investigators and clinical research centers within Columbia University Medical Center.

I invite you to explore our website, where you will find in-depth mini-sites dedicated to each of our clinical specialties; a broad range of multimedia items including animations of surgical procedures, surgical videos, and presentations by our faculty; calendars of community and physician education events, articles on our current research and innovations, and a directory of faculty and staff with a map of the Department of Surgery’s organizational structure.

## **Craig R. Smith, MD, FACS**

*Valentine Mott Professor of Surgery*

*Johnson & Johnson Distinguished Professor*

*Chairman of Surgery, Columbia University Medical Center*

*Surgeon-in-Chief*

# Who Are We?

## NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is one of the largest, most comprehensive hospitals in the nation, with more than 2,600 beds across six campuses, and one of the foremost academic medical centers in the world. With its two Ivy League medical school affiliates, [Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons](#) and Weill Cornell Medicine, the Hospital is committed to pursuing clinical excellence, engaging in groundbreaking biomedical research, offering outstanding medical education, and providing prevention and wellness services to the community.

NewYork-Presbyterian offers expertise in every area of medicine. Among its highly regarded specialty centers and services are a [National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center](#), two premier sites for pediatric care, the oldest and largest organ transplantation program in the country, and centers of excellence in many other areas.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital ranks #1 in New York and is consistently among the top hospitals in the nation, according to [U.S. News & World Report](#). Out of nearly 5,000 hospitals evaluated by U.S. News for its 2018-19 Best Hospitals rankings, NewYork-Presbyterian was ranked 10 out of 20 on their prestigious [Honor Roll](#).

## Weill Cornell Medical College

Founded in 1898, and affiliated with what is now NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital since 1927, Weill Cornell Medical College is among the [top-ranked](#) clinical and medical research centers in the country. In addition to offering degrees in medicine, Weill Cornell also has [PhD programs in biomedical research and education](#) at the [Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences](#), and with neighboring [Sloan-Kettering Institute](#) and [The Rockefeller University](#), has established a [joint MD- PhD program](#) for students to intensify their pursuit of Weill Cornell's triple mission of [education](#), [research](#), and [patient care](#).

The Department of Surgery of Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medicine is internationally recognized for outstanding and innovative surgical expertise. There are seven divisions: [Critical Care and Trauma](#), [General Surgery](#), [Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry](#), [Pediatric Surgery](#), [Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery](#), [Transplantation Surgery](#) and [Vascular Surgery](#). There are also seven sections within General Surgery: [Breast Surgery](#), [Burn Surgery](#), [Colon and Rectal Surgery](#), [Endocrine Surgery](#), [Gastrointestinal Metabolic Surgery](#), [Laparoscopy and Bariatric Surgery](#) and [Surgical Oncology](#). We provide our patients with the highest quality, most compassionate care, utilizing [state-of-the-art](#), [minimally invasive technologies and techniques](#) to achieve the most successful surgical outcomes.



# Who Are We?

## Columbia University Medical Center

Columbia University Irving Medical Center (CUIMC) is a clinical, research, and educational enterprise located on a campus in northern Manhattan. We are home to four professional colleges and schools that provide global leadership in scientific research, health and medical education, and patient care, including:

- Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons
- College of Dental Medicine
- School of Nursing
- Mailman School of Public Health

The Vagelos Education Center is a new, state-of-the-art medical and graduate education building at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. The building, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, in collaboration with Gensler as executive architect, is a 100,000-square-foot, 14-story glass tower that incorporates technologically advanced

classrooms, collaboration spaces, and a modern simulation center to reflect how medicine is taught, learned, and practiced in the 21st century. The design seeks to reshape the look and feel of the Medical Center, and to create spaces that facilitate the development of skills essential for modern medical practice.

CUMC is especially proud of its relationship with the surrounding Washington Heights community, many of whose members have roots in the Dominican Republic and other Spanish-speaking countries. CUMC serves a local, largely uninsured population in addition to patients traveling to the hospital from the greater tri-state area. The opportunity to work with a wide spectrum of patients and patient problems is one of the great strengths of the residency program. Our plastic surgical residents participate in the diagnosis, treatment, and initial patient education for a variety of common and complex plastic surgery conditions.



Columbia University Medical Center



# Skill Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory

## Skill Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL)

The Department of Surgery, in collaboration and partnership with the Departments of Anesthesiology and Interventional Radiology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, recently opened our newly-renovated, expanded Skills Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), which is a unique educational resource designed for residents, fellows, medical students, attending surgeons and other healthcare professionals to improve patient safety through simulation. A vital, 24-hour, 7 days a week teaching and research laboratory, SAIL is part of our Department's strong commitment to providing unique, personalized training, which uses the most advanced, state-of-the-art technology within the framework of surgical simulation science. Since its opening in 2008, SAIL has played a major role in helping our Department teach generations of surgeons acute patient care, surgical techniques and procedures. With developments in the field of surgery occurring at a rapid pace, SAIL provides a critical training component, enabling new and seasoned surgeons to become acquainted with new technologies and to maintain and broaden their surgical skill set.

Under the directorship of Jay Rosenberg, DVM, our newly renovated and expanded facility offers simulation technologies and is designed for immersive simulation and fully functional connectivity, utilizing transparent technology that records and collects metadata to assess performance for training purposes. SAIL enables us to recreate a wide array of patient care situations where residents and fellows can practice and perfect

many surgical techniques prior to their operative experience. They can also practice and pass surgical simulation tests that are now required for board certification in General Surgery. Medical students can practice basic skills prior to their clinical rotations in order to be prepared to be integral and safe members of the healthcare team.

SAIL includes thirty high definition cameras, fifteen large, high definition LED flat screens, two dozen omni-directional microphones, and a command center, which controls all the cameras from a central location. It offers a large OR simulation room, which contains a full bodied mannequin that breathes, blinks, talks and responds to medications and procedures. SAIL also recently acquired a state of the art Mentice Endovascular simulator, with the capability to simulate endovascular abdominal and thoracic aneurysm repair, carotid angioplasty and stenting, peripheral interventions, and embolization. The Lab also has a simulation patient care/ER room, and a simulation procedural skills lab, with inanimate tissue models and the most advanced minimally invasive surgery and technology equipment to practice surgical procedures. The state-of-the-art conference room, equipped with a wall of high definition flat screens, enables the highest quality broadcast and is designed for interactive teaching sessions and live operations from the hospital's ORs and from anywhere in the world.



# Overview of the Program

Our [vascular and endovascular division](#) is one of the highest volume programs in New York State. It provides comprehensive vascular disease care that includes traditional vascular procedures as well as state-of-the-art, innovative endovascular procedures. Vascular surgery encompasses the treatment of a diverse set of pathologic conditions affecting the body's vascular system - the network of blood vessels that circulates blood to and from the heart and lungs.

We provide comprehensive care for all types of vascular diseases in patients of all ages, and treat the full range of vascular disorders including diseases of the [carotid](#), [aortic](#), [renal](#), [mesenteric](#) and [lower extremity circulation](#). Calling on cutting-edge therapies, our world-renowned physicians have been able to prevent strokes and amputations and have pioneered minimally invasive procedures for the treatment of vascular disorders.

Our commitment to providing outstanding [clinical care](#) is complemented by a dedication to the advancement of vascular disease treatment through research. We have studied treatments in terms of efficacy, safety, and long-term durability, at our own hospital and at centers across the country. The results substantiate that minimally invasive vascular procedures do have the potential to reduce morbidity and mortality rates while successfully treating the disease.

In addition, we emphasize early detection of vascular disease, which can reduce the risk of serious complications. Our faculty members were instrumental in facilitating the passage of legislation requiring Medicare coverage of ultrasound screening exams for abdominal aortic aneurysm. Our [Non-invasive Vascular Laboratory](#) performs testing for the detection of vascular disease of the carotid arteries, aorta and lower extremities.

We are pleased to be able to offer patients access to the most advanced treatments available in the world today. Our mission is to continue to be on the forefront of developing innovative techniques and improving treatment for vascular disease.

# Our Fellows

## PGY-7



Nicole Rich, MD



Adam Johnson, MD

## PGY-6



Adham Elmously, MD



Jacob Schwarzman, MD



# Our Faculty



Our faculty is internationally recognized in the field of Vascular Surgery

## **Weill Cornell Medical College**

Christopher Agrusa, MD

Peter H. Connolly, MD

Sharif Ellozy, MD, *Program Director*

Soo J. Rhee, MD

Herrick Wun, MD

## **Columbia University**

Danielle Bajakian, MD, *Site Chief*

Nicholas Morrissey, MD

Roman Nowygrod, MD

Virendra Patel, MD

Richard W. Schutzer, MD

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. Christopher Agrusa**

Assistant Attending Surgeon  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Weill Cornell Medical College, Cornell University

Christopher J. Agrusa, M.D., is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and an Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Agrusa graduated from the University of Michigan in 2005 with a B.S. in Cell and Molecular Biology and went on to obtain his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine in 2009. After medical school, Dr. Agrusa completed his general surgical residency at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City. 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, Dr. Agrusa completed a two-year ACGME accredited fellowship in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Columbia University Medical Centers.

Dr. Agrusa is a board-certified surgeon with expertise in vascular and endovascular surgery. He specializes in advanced minimally invasive endovascular procedures for the treatment of many vascular pathologies. His clinical interests include aortic aneurysms and dissections, carotid artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, limb salvage, hemodialysis access creation, thoracic outlet syndrome, and venous disease.

Dr. Agrusa's academic interests focus on clinical research within the field of vascular surgery. He has authored multiple publications for peer-reviewed journals as well as book chapters in surgical textbooks and has presented his research at regional and national meetings. He is a candidate member of the Society for Vascular Surgery.

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



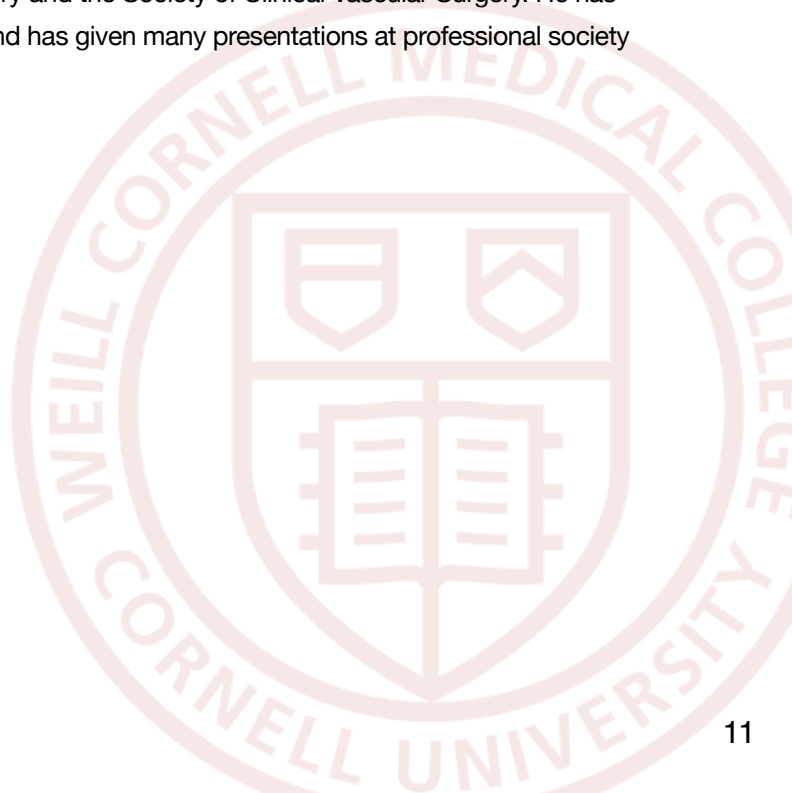
## **Dr. Peter H. Connolly**

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Assistant Attending Surgeon  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Peter Connolly, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Dr. Connolly's clinical expertise is in endovascular and surgical therapies for treatment and management of the full spectrum of peripheral vascular disease. He specializes in advanced minimally-invasive vascular and endovascular procedures.

He received his B.A. in Environmental Studies with a focus on Conservation Biology in May, 1997 from Middlebury College, Vermont, and his M.D. from the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine with Distinction in Research in May, 2004. He completed an NIH-funded one-year Medical Student Research fellowship at the University of California, Irvine, from 2002-2003. He completed his internship at the University of California, San Francisco in 2005 and completed his general surgery residency at the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center in 2009. He then completed a two-year ACGME accredited fellowship in Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Connolly is a member of the Society of Vascular Surgery and the Society of Clinical Vascular Surgery. He has authored numerous journal publications in his field of specialty, and has given many presentations at professional society meetings.





# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## Dr. Sharif Ellozy

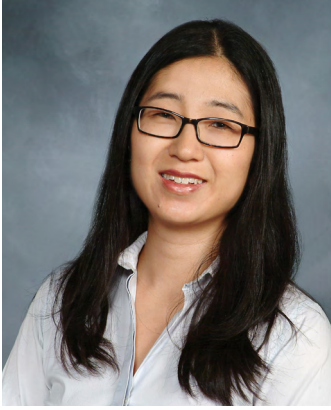
Program Director, Vascular Surgery Fellowship  
Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Associate Attending Surgeon  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Sharif H. Ellozy, MD, is Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He is an experienced, board-certified vascular surgeon whose clinical expertise is in endovascular and surgical therapies for treatment and management of the full spectrum of peripheral vascular disease. Dr. Ellozy specializes in advanced minimally invasive vascular and endovascular procedures with strong clinical experience in aortic aneurysms, carotid occlusive disease and peripheral arterial disease.

Dr. Ellozy has been cited as one of New York's top doctors in Castle Connolly and New York Magazine in 2012, 2013 and 2014. He received his BA from Harvard in 1992, and his MD from NYU School of Medicine in 1996. He completed his general surgery residency, his research fellowship and his clinical fellowship in vascular surgery at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. Prior to joining NYP/Weill Cornell, Dr. Ellozy was Attending Surgeon and Associate Professor of Surgery, Associate Professor of Radiology and Associate Professor of Medical Education at Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

Widely published in his field, Dr. Ellozy has authored 81 peer-reviewed articles in professional journals and three book chapters. A dedicated teacher, he has received many teaching awards and honors at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, including the Harold A. Mitty Distinguished Educator Award from the Division of Interventional Radiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in 2015; the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching and The Robert Paradny Teaching Award in Surgery in 2010; the Innovations Award from the Mt. Sinai Institute of Medical Education in 2011, and The Julius H. Jacobson II, MD, Outstanding Mentor Award in 2007, 2009 and 2012. Dr. Ellozy is a member of the New York Surgical Society, the New York Society for Vascular Surgery and the Society for Vascular Surgery, and is a key reviewer for the Journal of Vascular Surgery.

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. Soo J. Rhee**

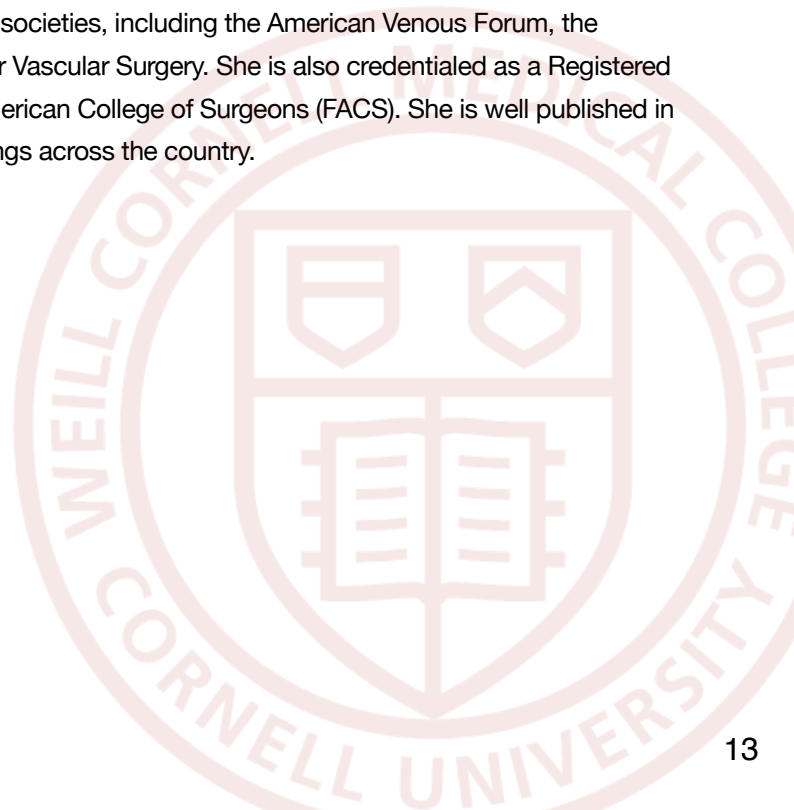
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Assistant Attending Surgeon

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Soo J. Rhee, MD, FACS is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery and an Assistant Attending Surgeon in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Boardcertified in both vascular and general surgery, Dr. Rhee has strong expertise in state-of-the-art, minimally invasive treatment for varicose veins including endovenous laser, radiofrequency, and mechanochemical ablation. She also specializes in cosmetic treatment of spider veins.

Dr. Rhee is co-director of the Comprehensive Vein Program, which provides comprehensive diagnosis and treatment of all forms of venous disorders, including deep vein thrombosis (DVT), venous ulcers, and varicose and spider veins.

A cum laude graduate of Princeton University, Dr. Rhee earned her MD from NYU School of Medicine in 2000. She did her residency training at Montefiore Medical Center and completed her fellowship in Vascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Dr. Rhee is a member of several prestigious medical and surgical societies, including the American Venous Forum, the American College of Phlebology and the New England Society for Vascular Surgery. She is also credentialed as a Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation (RPVI) and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS). She is well published in her field and has given many presentations at professional meetings across the country.



# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. Herrick Wun**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Assistant Attending Surgeon  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital

Dr. Herrick Wun is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, and an Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital and Site Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at the Hospital.

Dr. Wun, who is board-certified in both Vascular Surgery and Surgery, has extensive training and expertise in treating vascular disease, utilizing the most advanced minimally invasive techniques. He specializes in endovascular procedures treating conditions in arteries and veins, and is also a Registered Vascular Technologist.

Dr. Wun received his MD from NYU Medical School, and completed his internship, residency and fellowship at NYU as well. He received his Bachelor of Science from Yale University. Prior to joining NYP/Lower Manhattan Hospital, Dr. Wun was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at NYU Medical Center.

Dr. Wun has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, authored a book chapter and is a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery, the New York Vascular Society, the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association.





# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. Danielle Bajakian**

Site Chief, Vascular Surgery Fellowship  
Director, Critical Limb Ischemia Program  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
NewYork-Presbyterian, Columbia University Medical Center

Dr. Bajakian comes to Columbia from Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, where she was Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery. She is the Site Director for the Columbia University Medical Center Vascular Surgery Fellowship rotations. She earned her MD degree in 1996 at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in Brooklyn. She completed her internship and general surgery residency at Mount Sinai (1996-2001), her vascular surgery fellowship at New York University Medical Center (2002-2003), and a mini-fellowship focusing on endovascular surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in 2003. Her clinical specialties include endovascular techniques for treating peripheral arterial disease, aortic aneurysms, carotid artery disease, and lower extremity venous insufficiency. Her research interests focus on novel techniques for restoring circulation to the ischemic limb including angioplasty, atherectomy, and stent placement.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Dr. Nicholas J. Morrissey**

Chief Compliance Officer  
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
NewYork-Presbyterian, Columbia University Medical Center  
Bicampus Director of Clinical Trials, Division of Vascular Surgery  
NewYork-Presbyterian, Weill Cornell and Colombia University Medical Centers

In addition to being the author of over 35 medical journal articles, textbook chapters and editorials on vascular disease, Dr. Morrissey is a member of the editorial boards of three prestigious medical journals, the Journal of Vascular Surgery, Journal of Endovascular Therapy and the Annals of Vascular Surgery. Dr. Morrissey is on the Program Committee for the 2007 annual meeting of The Society of Vascular Surgery and served as Program Committee Chair of the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Peripheral Vascular Surgery Society. He has presented his original research at the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery, the Midwestern Vascular Surgical Society, the Society for Vascular Surgery and the New England Society for Vascular Surgery. In addition, Dr. Morrissey has presented at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics Conference and the Global Endovascular Complications Conference for the past four years. Dr. Morrissey is the Director of Clinical Trials for the Combined Division of Vascular Surgery of Columbia and Cornell.

Dr. Morrissey joined the Division of Vascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in 2003 from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine - Mount Sinai Medical Center where he was an Assistant Professor of Surgery. Dr. Morrissey earned his medical degree at the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1992. He completed his general surgical residency at Strong Memorial Hospital - University of Rochester and completed his fellowship in vascular surgery at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine - Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Dr. Morrissey is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserve Medical Corps and was on active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Dr. Morrissey is experienced in the diagnosis and management of the full spectrum of arterial, venous and lymphatic diseases. In addition, he brings to the division additional expertise in "minimally invasive" procedures for vascular disease including endograft repair of aortic aneurysms, angioplasty and stenting, of the carotid, renal and mesenteric arteries, as well as angioplasty and stenting of the arteries in the legs to treat peripheral vascular disease.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## Dr. Roman Nowygrod

Director, Medical Student Clerkship  
Director, Surgery Preceptorship  
Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons  
Professor of Surgery  
NewYork-Presbyterian, Columbia University Medical Center

A Professor of Surgery at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, Dr. Nowygrod completed both his residency training in General Surgery and a Transplant-Vascular fellowship at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center/ Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He also obtained his MD degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. In addition to all of the traditional vascular operations, Dr. Nowygrod is an expert in the newer minimally invasive vascular surgery techniques for both aortic and venous disease.

Dr. Nowygrod is the recipient of many academic awards and honors, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Trainee Award, the NIH Young Investigator Award,, the Thomas C King Teaching Award and the Society of Practitioners 2011 Physician of the Year Award His expertise in caring for patients has also been recognized, having been listed in Castle Connolly's Best Doctors Guide in 1999-2001, for ten consecutive years in the Castle Connolly Top Doctors compilation and listed in New York Magazine's 2002 List of Top 100 Minimally Invasive Surgeons

Dr. Nowygrod's research interests include prosthetic bypass graft modifications, improved techniques in arterial bypass surgery and venous surgery, and coagulation management in vascular disease. He is the investigator on several clinical research studies, including those evaluating investigational treatments such as aortic endografts and medication for non-healing wounds. Dr. Nowygrod serves as director of the 3rd and 4th year student surgical medical education programs at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*



# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Virendra I. Patel, MD, MPH**

Chief of Vascular Surgery  
Co-Director of Aortic Center

Dr. Virendra I. Patel joins NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia from Massachusetts General Hospital, where he served in the Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. A vascular surgeon-scientist, Dr. Patel is highly skilled in the full range of vascular disorders that can lead to stroke, renal issues, intestinal problems, and peripheral arterial disease.

Dr. Patel has a particular interest in clinical outcomes research and has served as principal investigator of several studies to evaluate open and minimally invasive repairs of complex aortic aneurysms. He most recently participated in the TEVAR and EVAR Committees of the Vascular Quality Initiative of the Society of Vascular Surgery. Dr. Patel has also been a member of the Executive Council of the New England Society of Vascular Surgery and the Research Advisory Committee for the Society's Vascular Study Group.

A graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Patel completed his surgical residency and a research fellowship in vascular surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and was a clinical fellow in vascular and endovascular surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital. He earned a Master of Public Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health's Program of Clinical Effectiveness.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Who's who in the Department of Surgery?



## **Richard W. Schutzer, MD**

Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Columbia University Medical Center  
Columbia Watermark

After performing his residency at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, Dr. Schutzer completed a vascular fellowship and training in advanced endovascular techniques at Cleveland Clinic. During his nine years at North Shore/LIJ, he performed more than 600 cases per year with a notably low complication rate. A co-author of more than 30 publications, he lectures widely and currently serves as an editor for the International Journal of Angiology.



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

*College of Physicians  
and Surgeons*

# Career Paths of Residents

The majority of program graduates continue their training in a specialized area of surgery. Chief Residents routinely secure prestigious fellowship positions in any one of a number of academic programs across the country.

## 2020 Graduates

**Matthew Smith, MD, PhD**  
Vascular Surgeon  
UW Medicine/University of Washington  
Medical Center

**MAJ Kevin Knierly, MD**  
Vascular Surgeon  
Brooke Army Medical Center

## 2019 Graduates

**John Baber, MD**  
Vascular Surgeon  
West Coast Vascular Surgery Group  
Thousand Oaks, CA

**C. Taylor Lewis, MD**  
Vascular Surgery  
NYP - Cornell and Queens

## 2018 Graduates

**Christopher Agrusa, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Weill Cornell Medicine  
New York, NY

**Hasan Aldailami, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Vascular Surgery  
Montefiore Medical Center  
New York, NY

## 2017 Graduates

**Danielle Cafasso, DO**  
Vascular Surgeon  
Womack Army Medical Center  
Fort Bragg, NC

**Jordan Stern, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Surgery  
Vascular Surgery  
Stanford School of Medicine

## 2016 Graduates

**Nina Bowens, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
UCLA School of Medicine

**Javariah Asghar, MD**  
Hybrid Practice  
Vascular & Endovascular Surgery  
Duluth Clinic – University of  
Minnesota

## 2015 Graduates

**Zhen Huang, MD**  
Vascular Surgery Private Practice  
Valley Vascular Associates  
Van Nuys, California

**In-Kyong Kim Parrack, MD**  
Attending Surgeon  
University of South Florida

## 2014 Graduates

**Heather Gill, MD**  
Faculty, Vascular Surgery  
McGill University

**Jeffrey Siracuse, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery &  
Radiology  
Boston University School of Medicine

## 2013 Graduates

**Rishi Kundi, MD**  
Faculty, Vascular Surgery  
University of Maryland/  
Maryland Shock-Trauma

**Nii-Kabu Kabutey, MD**  
Vascular Surgery Attending  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
University of California, Irvine

## 2012 Graduates

**Francesco A. Aiello, MD**  
Assistant Professor in Surgery  
University of Massachusetts Memorial  
Hospital

**Andrew J. Meltzer, MD**  
Faculty, Vascular Surgery  
NYPH-Weill Cornell Medical Center

## 2011 Graduates

**Peter Connolly, MD**  
Faculty, Vascular Surgery  
NYPH-Weill Cornell Medical Center

**Katherine Gallagher, MD**  
Faculty Position at the  
University of Michigan

## 2010 Graduates

**Combiz Rezayat, MD**  
Private Practice  
The Cardiovascular Care Group  
New Jersey

**Gautam Shrikhande, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Vascular Surgeon  
Columbia University

## 2009 Graduates

**Elliot B. Sambol, MD**  
Private Practice  
Princeton, New Jersey

**Lee J. Goldstein, MD**  
Assistant Professor of  
Vascular Surgery,  
University of Miami

# Living in NYC



## Life in New York City

Weill Medical College of Cornell University is located in an attractive residential area on the upper east side of New York City, adjacent to the East River. The center is ideally situated to take advantage of New York's cultural treasures. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, the Frick, Whitney, and Guggenheim Museums along with several renowned private art galleries all are within walking distance. Many other cultural attractions including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, The American Museum of Natural History, the great playhouses of Broadway, and world famous jazz clubs are just a short bus ride away.

Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, Giants Stadium, and Shea Stadium are easily accessible. Residents are able to enjoy the haven that Central Park provides from the City's pavements since it is located just blocks from the Medical Center. Numerous restaurants and shops of every kind are also just blocks away. Perhaps most appealing is the great diversity represented in New York's many ethnic neighborhoods, each offering their own unique experiences.

## Housing

NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center offers all residents the option to reside in hospital-owned apartments located on York Avenue directly across the street from the hospital. The modern luxury apartments are offered at a reduced rate that is considered superior to that offered by other medical centers in New York City.

## East Campus

NewYork-Presbyterian owns and leases 1,400+ residential apartments located in close proximity to the East Campus on the Upper East Side of Manhattan (primarily a residential neighborhood). Our buildings are within walking distance of Central Park and the East River Promenade, and to all types of stores and restaurants in the neighborhood. We are also convenient to mass transportation (the Lexington Ave. subway line, uptown, downtown and crosstown buses). For car travel, the FDR Drive offers easy accessibility to and from the East Campus to the West Campus and out of the city. 9 additional Pre-War properties are available from 70th Street to 75th Street and York Avenue.



# Living in NYC

## Benefits and Malpractice Insurance

At NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP), we offer a competitive benefit package to our employees. Core benefit include medical, dental, basic group life insurance, short and long-term disability, accidental death and dismemberment coverage and supplemental life products. NYP makes significant contributions to employee's medical and dental benefits.

Each graduate staff is provided malpractice insurance free of charge at each through MCIC Vermont, Inc. (MCIC), a insurance company jointly owned by Columbia University, Cornell University, and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, as well as University of Rochester, Johns Hopkins University and Yale University. The insurance program has been in existence for over 25 years.

In addition, \$100,000.00 in life insurance is provided and four weeks of paid vacation per year.

## Stipends

The stipends for interns and residents at NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center are consistent with those offered by other medical centers in the New York City area. The stipends undergo yearly adjustments to keep pace with increases in the cost of living.

## 2019 - 2020

### Salary Scale for General Surgery

Graduate Staff Level 1 \$73,489

Graduate Staff Level 2 \$77,048

Graduate Staff Level 3 \$83,363

Graduate Staff Level 4 \$85,706

Graduate Staff Level 5 \$88,617

Graduate Staff Level 6 \$90,209

Graduate Staff Level 7 \$92,925

The NYP benefit plans include features and services such as: vision care, Rx prescription coverage, IVF program, term life insurance living benefit, portable life insurance products at group rates, a 24/7 Nurse Line, Disease Management programs and financial planning services to beneficiaries of group life insurance.

There is also an array of voluntary benefits including flexible spending accounts for transportation, adoption, health and dependent care, universal and dependent life insurance, critical illness plans for employees and dependents, long-term care for employees and family members, financial planning, legal services, ASPCA pet insurance, identity protection and college savings. And, with a focus on preparing employees for a secure financial future, NYP sponsors the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Retirement Plan, a competitive 100% Hospital paid portable pension. In addition, employees can participate in a TSA 403(b) savings plan and have access to retirement planning services.



## **NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine**

525 East 68th Street  
New York, NY 10065  
[surgery.weill.cornell.edu](http://surgery.weill.cornell.edu)



## **Columbia University Medical Center**

622 West 168th Street  
New York, NY 10032

Connect **WCMSurgery**

