Letter from the Associate Dean, Affiliations

Welcome to our first annual end of the year newsletter from the Office of Affiliations. Thank you to everyone for supporting me in my first year as Associate Dean for Affiliations. I have been privileged to meet many of you, to visit your facilities and to work on new projects with you and our team in the Office of Affiliations. A few of our notable accomplishments

- First Affiliate Faculty Town Hall was held in March with over 200 attendees. We started off with a presentation by the Dean and then introduced the Affiliate Deans and ended with a presentation by Judy Tung on the office of faculty development. Many questions were asked including about opportunities for promotion (please see Office of Faculty website for helpful information https://faculty.weill.cornell.edu/). Our next town hall will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 from 9-10AM EST and will focus on the Office of Faculty and support for faculty development and promotion.

- Revamp of the Office of Affiliations website with more information about our Affiliate Deans who represent our major teaching affiliations. http://affiliations.weill.cornell.edu/index.html

- Your Affiliate Deans met throughout the year to support the work of the medical college and the affiliates. We would like to thank Dr. David Evelyn from Cayuga Health Center, Ithaca, for his years of service and to welcome Dr. Michael Berlin as our newest Affiliate Dean. List of Affiliate Deans http://affiliations.weill.cornell.edu/council-of-affiliated-deans.html

- Please welcome our new Graduate Faculty Council representatives: Nishant Prasad, MD, from NewYork-Presbyterian Queens and Vidya P. Menon, MBBS, from NYC Health and Hospitals/Lincoln Hospital.

- In collaboration with the graduate school, Houston Methodist Hospital (HMH) welcomed their first PhD students this past fall. These students will be based primarily at HMH and will receive Cornell graduate school degrees. In addition, we re-signed our affiliation agreement between HMH, Baylor, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) and WCM to support our ethics fellowship programs. We congratulate HMH for breaking ground on its 9th campus and increasing its residencies to 20.

- We solidified two of our community-based partnerships through agreements with Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center. We have ongoing bi-directional education opportunities at both sites, including the Health Professional in Training program at Stanley Isaacs and the Health Screening Collaboration at Lenox Hill.
The Affiliates contribute to the education of our medical and physician assistant students throughout the curriculum, including early preceptorships, clerkships, area of concentration mentorship, electives and clinicals.

2022 Excellence in Medical Education

Minerva Romero Arenas, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor of Surgery
NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

Scott Ellis, MD
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Hospital for Special Surgery

Ahmed Shokry, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

Award recipients were selected by course leaders and/or Medical Education Leadership

2022 Convocation Awards

Dr. Juliet Aizer received the Senior List Award, The Leonard P. Tow Humanism Award and The Elliot Hochstein Teaching Award.

The Senior List Award given by the graduating class recognizes 16 faculty members who have made a commitment to and demonstrated excellence in teaching.

The Leonard P. Tow Humanism in Medicine Award is presented by the Gold Foundation recognizing a faculty member who demonstrate the highest standard of compassion and sensitivity in their interaction with patients.

The Elliot Hochstein Teaching Award in recognition of the late Dr. Elliot Hochstein’s compassion, skill and distinction as a physician is given to the faculty member who best exemplifies these qualities.
Medical Student Teaching in the Affiliates

At least 40% of clinical rotations occur at affiliated institutions.

- Students rotate in clerkships, advance electives, electives, and sub-internships
- Medical students can elect to do one month of their medicine or surgery clerkship and/or their entire obstetrics and gynecology clerkship; and 4th year students can take electives from Cardiology to Surgery at The Houston Methodist Hospital, Texas.
- Lincoln Hospital in the South Bronx offers Urban Primary Care experiences in the first year and Emergency Medicine electives
- The medical staffs at WCM’s metropolitan affiliated hospitals also provided 45% of the preceptors in the first-year Office-based Preceptorship Program.
- In the second year, over 40% of students do their first complete history, physical examination and oral presentation with preceptors in affiliated institutions.
- Affiliate faculty taught approximately 40% of the students in the Physical Diagnosis Course.

Medical students have noted that rotations at clinical affiliate sites provide additional broad exposure to multiple specialties and to diverse patient populations in a team-based learning environment.

WCM Match Results

Of the 44 students that matched throughout NYP Enterprise, 14% matched at WCM affiliate institutions.

Physician Assistant Training in the Affiliates

The Physician Assistants program is part of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. Gerard J. Marciano, EdD, PA-C, Co-Chair and Program Director, stated that he was able to increase the core clinical rotation this year at NYIBMHD due to having presented at a meeting of the Council of Affiliated Deans. 72 physician assistant students completed 150 rotations in Internal Medicine, Surgery, Behavioral Health, Emergency Medicine, Geriatric/Palliative care, Pediatrics, Primary Care and Women’s Health at Lincoln, NYIBMHD and NYPQ during the academic year. Students do 4-week rotations, with a day of education, testing and other activities at the conclusion of every rotation. Students also took electives at MSKCC (19), HSS (16) and NYIBMHD (20).

Physician Assistants (PA) student feedback on their affiliate hospital rotations was roundly positive. Students emphasized how they were made to feel part of a team, encouraging questions and discussion; and coached on how to effectively present patient cases to their preceptors. The ability to scrub-in on surgery cases, hone clinical skills and participate in procedures; training in the use of technology such as ventilators and Telehealth were enthusiastically expressed.

Visit https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/medical-education/faculty-resources/teaching-opportunities-role if you are interested in teaching opportunities at Weill Cornell Medical College.
The Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences (WCGS) has expanded its PhD program to an additional campus at Houston Methodist Academic Institute, the research and education arm of Houston Methodist Hospital in the Texas Medical Center.

Under the leadership of Dr. John P. Cooke and Dr. Henry J. Pownall, the Physiology, Biophysics, and Systems Biology (PBSB) doctoral program of study is designed to engage students with quantitative biological approaches at the forefront of physiology, the functions of cells, tissues, and organs; biophysics, the application of principles of physics to biological processes; and systems, the complex interactions between components of a biological system.

The program of study is designed around a combination of didactic courses, seminars and supervised research leading to the preparation of a thesis. Each student works with a Special Committee to design an individualized program of study that reflects their specific background and interests.

The focus is on cutting edge approaches to genomics, bioinformatics and computational biology, molecular and cellular biophysics (including fluorescence microscopy and single molecule imaging, crystallography, electrophysiology and membrane systems, stem cells, and computational simulations of macromolecular systems), computational and systems neuroscience, organogenesis and development, learning, memory, and behavior.

**Weill Cornell Graduate School Joint Ph.D. Program with Houston Methodist Hospital**

**PBSB at Houston Methodist Inaugural Class (started 8/2021)**
3 Students enrolled

**PBSB at Houston Methodist Incoming Class (will start 8/2022)**
4 Students enrolled

**Thank you for serving on the Weill Cornell Medicine Admissions Committee**

Each year an invitation is sent out to affiliate faculty to serve on the Admissions Committee. We appreciate our past affiliate representatives and thank them for their service. The following affiliate faculty served on the Admissions Committee for the 2021-2022 academic year.

- **David Lee, MD**
  Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology
  Hospital of Special Surgery

- **Cephas Swamidoss, MD**
  Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesiology
  Hospital of Special Surgery

- **Vivian Bykerk, MD**
  Professor of Medicine
  Hospital for Special Surgery

- **Berhane Worku, MD**
  Associate Professor of Clinical Cardiothoracic Surgery
  NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

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**John P. Cooke, MD, PhD**
Joseph C. “Rusty” Walter and Carole Walter Looke Presidential Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Disease Research
Professor and Chair, Department of Cardiovascular Sciences
Houston Methodist

**Henry J. Pownall, PhD**
Sanford I. Weill and Antonio M. Gatto, Jr. MD Centennial Directorship in Translational Biomedical Sciences
Professor of Bioenergetics
Houston Methodist
Weill Cornell Medicine
Burke Neurological Institute (BNI) held its annual McDowell Symposium on Friday, May 20, 2022. The Symposium honors the legacy of Dr. Fletcher McDowell, the founder of BNI, and his enormous commitment to improving stroke treatment and care. The 2022 Symposium highlighted exciting new advances in stroke, the leading cause of physical disability in the United States. To set aspirations for the future of stroke care high, we have a cadre of neurologists and neuroscientists who will present their research relevant to this year’s Symposium theme: **Hope for Stroke: Leveraging Research to Reduce Vulnerability and Foster Resilience.**

**NYC Health+Hospital / Lincoln Staff Wellness**

Dr. Kim Chien is a Wellness Physician Champion and a member of Weill Cornell Wellness leadership committee. She serves on the Lincoln Wellness Taskforce and is a liaison to Lincoln’s committee. Lincoln’s activities include a recharge room, wellness spaces, recreational activities, and celebratory events. Lincoln staff are also able to attend WCM wellness champions meetings.

*Kim Chien, MD*
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Weill Cornell Medicine

**Burke Neurological Institute / 2022 McDowell Symposium**

**Weill Cornell McDowell Honorees:**

**Bernice Grafstein, PhD,** a renowned neuroscientist and an elected member to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her work in defining paradigms that enhance regeneration in the nervous system has had broad impact at BNI and around the world.

**Harel Weinstein, DSc,** an academic and research leader in the field of biomedicine that involves the mathematical, physical, and computational sciences in combination with engineering and medical informatics. He has been a sage advisor for BNI for the past 15 years and has helped to recruit some of our most outstanding faculty related to brain repair and recovery after injury.
On June 4th, the Weill Cornell Heart to Heart Community Outreach Program (H2H) held a free health screening in partnership with the Lenox Hill Neighborhood house from 10am to 2pm. H2H provided Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Screenings (BMI, waist circumference, HbA1c and Lipid Panel of total cholesterol, HDL, LDL and Triglycerides), Vision screenings as well as one-on-one medical, vision and nutrition consultations. The program was staffed by ~30 volunteer students from Weill Cornell Medicine, Hunter College, Hunter School of Nursing and the NYP Dietetic Internship program who were overseen by faculty/staff from their respective institutions. CVD consultations were provided by two WCM attending physicians, and vision consultation were provided by 2 WCM ophthalmology residents. In total, 37 individuals were screened with 23 participating in the research portion. Nearly all the attendees were from the Lenox Hill Senior Program.

The Department of Pediatrics has formally launched the Health Professionals In Training (HPIT) program on February 8, 2022, with Stanley Issacs Innovation High School Beacon Program. Sponsored by the department and created by Drs. Joy Howell, Jane Chang, and Melanie Wilson-Taylor, the HPIT is a program for students at Renaissance Charter School of Innovation in Harlem. It is currently an 11-week long after-school program, occurring twice a month, for students interested in a career in healthcare. The goal of the program is to increase awareness of health-related professions by introducing students to professionals in various medical fields. The program aims to provide hands-on experience in basic medical situations, facilitate career readiness, and eventually help create pathways from high school into the healthcare field.

Joy Howell, MD
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Assistant Dean, Student Life & Diversity
Weill Cornell Medicine
The General Faculty Council (GFC) is comprised of faculty representatives elected by Weill Cornell Medicine’s academic departments, as well as faculty members elected by each major teaching affiliate institution. The affiliate GFC representative is a key component in the flow of information between Weill Cornell Medicine to the affiliate institution. Members of the council have the responsibility to bring information and concerns forward from their constituencies, as well as to serve as an information resource on policy and procedural questions emanating from the administration through the council review and approval process. For further information [https://weill.cornell.edu/our-story/boards-and-councils/general-faculty-council](https://weill.cornell.edu/our-story/boards-and-councils/general-faculty-council).

We recently held nominations and elections for the outgoing representatives from New York City Health + Hospitals/Lincoln and NewYork-Presbyterian Queens. We are pleased to announce the new representatives for the July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025 are:

**General Faculty Council**

Vidya P. Menon, MBBS  
Director of Research, Lincoln  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine

Nishant Prasad, MD  
Program Director, Infectious Diseases Fellowship  
NYPQ  
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine

**Council of Affiliated Deans**

The Council of Affiliate Deans (COAD) is comprising of Affiliate Deans from all of Weill Cornell affiliated institutions. The Affiliate Deans serves as the Weill Cornell Medicine Dean’s representative for medical education programs (both undergraduate and graduate) at the Affiliate Institution and to this effect, maintains a strong working relationship with the Senior Associate Dean for Education.

Similarly, COAD serves as the liaison between the Affiliate Institution and the WCM units principally responsible for the M.D. program (WCM Academic Clinical Curriculum Committee, Education Administration Office, and the Office of Curriculum and Educational Development.)

This year we announced the retirement of Dr. David Evelyn, the Affiliate Dean from Cayuga Medical Center and his replacement is Dr. Michael Berlin, DIO and Assistant Vice President Strategic Planning and Business Development. Dr. Berlin is an Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Each dean presented at the March 10, 2022 Inagural Townhall meeting. You can view their presentation by clicking on this link [https://wcm.box.com/v/AffiliateFacultyTHShortend](https://wcm.box.com/v/AffiliateFacultyTHShortend).
Welcome to our New Faculty
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

**Burke Neurological Institute**
Scott Mooney, Ph.D., Instructor in Neuroscience
Glen Prusky, Ph.D., Professor of Physiology and Biophysics

**Hospital for Special Surgery**
Talia Chapman, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Philip Colucci, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Christian Geannette, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology
Nilasha Ghosh, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine
Katherine Haseltine, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Jessica Heyer, M.D., Instructor in Orthopaedic Surgery
Cynthia Kahlenberg, M.D., Instructor in Orthopaedic Surgery
Gwo-Chin Lee, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery (Interim)
Ji Lin, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Erin Manning, M.D., Instructor in Clinical Neurology
Gabriella Ode, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Monica Schwartzman, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Medicine
Paulo Selber, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery (Interim)
Gbolabo Sokunbi, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Brett Steineman, Ph.D., Instructor of Applied Biomechanics in Orthopaedic Surgery
Tony Wanich, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Xu Yang, B.M., Assistant Professor of Research in Orthopaedic Surgery

**Houston Methodist Hospital**
Omar Ahmed, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology
Kelvin Allenson, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery
Dierdre Axell-House, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine
Andrew Billnitzer, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology
Timothy Brown, M.D., Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Paul Christensen, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Ziad El-Zaatari, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Kent Erickson, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Family Medicine in Clinical Medicine
Amir Faraji, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery
Siddhartha Ganguly, M.B.,B.S., M.D., Professor of Clinical Medicine
Tanu Garg, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology
Andrew Gratzon, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery)

**Houston Methodist Hospital cont.**
Joshua Kain, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology
Helmi Khadra, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology
Gavin le Nobel, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery
Jiejian Lin, B.M., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Kenny Lin, M.D., Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology
Kanika Monga, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Rodolfo Oviedo, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery
Kershaw Patel, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine
Ramiro Pino, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Medical Physics in Clinical Radiation Oncology
Wyatt Ramey, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurological Surgery
Ryan Ridley, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology
Timothy Robinson, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology
Trisha Roy, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Cardiovascular Surgery in Cardiothoracic Surgery
Paul Schurmann, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Shilpan Shah, M.B.,B.S., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Reka Szigeti, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

**Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer**
Nour Abuhadra, M.D., Ph.D., Instructor in Medicine
Murad Abusamra, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Erica Alexander, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Amy Allison, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry
Emeline Aviki, M.D., Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Viswatej Avutu, M.D., Instructor in Medicine
Hassan Azhari, M.D., Instructor in Medicine
Raazi Bajwa, M.B.,B.Ch., B.A.O., M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Anton Becker, D.Sc., M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Lisa Bodei, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Radiology
Shalini Chhabra, M.B.,B.S., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Martin Chin, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Cihan Duzgol, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Maria El Homsi, M.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Zachary Epstein-Peterson, M.D., Instructor in Medicine
Sara Eskries Winkler, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Radiology
Greg Fernandez, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Allyson Flower, M.D., Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Karem Gharzeddine, M.D., Instructor in Radiology
Jennifer Gordon, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center cont.

Christine Chen, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
Kallie Combs, D.O., Clinical Instructor in Emergency Medicine
Robert Crupi, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Jing Guo, B.M., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Sana Jadallah, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Timothy Khowong, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Emergency Medicine
Kent Li, M.D., Clinical Instructor in Emergency Medicine
Nishant Prasad, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
Kezia Spence, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
James Yoon, D.O., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

Iram Nadroo, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Ahmed Shokry, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

New York-Presbyterian Queens

Christine Chen, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
Kallie Combs, D.O., Clinical Instructor in Emergency Medicine
Robert Crupi, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Jing Guo, B.M., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
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Kezia Spence, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
James Yoon, D.O., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

New York City Health + Hospital/ Lincoln

Razieh Adabimohazab, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Vidya Menon, M.B., B.S., M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Amy Postelnik, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology
Hrafn Sigurdsson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing in Clinical Psychiatry
Shrawani Soornella Prakash, M.B., B.S., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Total Faculty in Affiliate Institutions

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<th>Institution</th>
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<td>221</td>
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<tr>
<td>NYC Health+Hospitals/Lincoln</td>
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The Office of Affiliations (OA) deals with all matters pertaining to the Medical College’s domestic affiliations. It has responsibility for developing and monitoring academic Affiliation Agreements and for facilitating the development of educational programs for Weill Cornell students in affiliated institutions.

It is the liaison between the Medical College, the NewYork-Presbyterian Regional Hospitals, and the Medical College affiliates. OA facilitates the academic appointment process of affiliated faculty. By working closely with each Affiliate and each Department Chair, OA ensures that all new and current physicians receive and maintain appropriate appointments and promotions. OA provides individual guidance in the appointment process for the affiliates including departmental training sessions if needed. It works closely with the Office of Faculty Affairs to expedite academic appointments.

Susan Bostwick, MD, MBA
Associate Dean, Affiliations
Portia Harvey, MBA
Assistant Director and Administrator
Carolyn Schnall, MA
Senior Administrative Specialist