



# Weill Cornell Medicine

Joan and Sanford I. Weill  
Department of Medicine

## What's New In Medicine

May/June 2024

**What's New In Medicine**, the newsletter of the Weill Department of Medicine, provides updates on research breakthroughs, honors and awards, and more. To submit your division's latest news, email [Larissa Breedlove](mailto:Larissa.Breedlove@med.cornell.edu) at [lab4020@med.cornell.edu](mailto:lab4020@med.cornell.edu).



## News & Notables

### Dr. Myles Wolf Appointed Chair of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center



We're pleased to announce that **Dr. Myles Wolf**, an esteemed physician-scientist who specializes in nephrology, has been appointed chair of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and physician-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, effective July 1.

Recruited as the Sanford I. Weill Chair, Dr. Wolf will lead the institutions' largest clinical and academic department, overseeing 16 divisions and nearly 2,250 physicians and scientists—health care innovators and skilled experts in their areas of medicine. [Read More](#)

### Numerous Weill Department of Medicine Faculty Recognized at Convocation and Commencement Ceremonies



Numerous Weill Department of Medicine faculty members and Weill Cornell Medicine residents were honored during last month's commencement and convocation ceremonies.

Congratulations to our Senior List Excellence in Teaching awardees: [Dr. Juliet Aizer](#), [Dr. Andrea Card](#), [Dr. Emily Coskun](#), [Dr. Bryan Leppert](#), [Dr. Anthony Ogedegbe](#), [Dr. David Scales](#), [Dr. Deborah Silber](#) and [Dr. Alexis Vien](#).

[Dr. Erica Philips](#), the Jack Fishman Associate Professor of Cancer Prevention, was awarded the Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Faculty Development Award. The prize recognizes an early-career faculty member for exemplary clinical and research contributions, as well as teaching and mentoring medical students.

[Dr. Brian Eiss](#) won the Elliott Hochstein and Richard A. Hermann M.D. Teaching Awards.

[Dr. Ari Melnick](#), the Gebroe Family Professorship of Hematology-Oncology and professor of medicine, immunology and pharmacology, was awarded the Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Award for Outstanding Medical Research. The award recognizes exceptional professional achievement and scientific innovation, as well as a commitment to positively impact future generations of researchers.

In addition, [Dr. Joseph J. Fins](#) (M.D. '86), the E. William Davis, Jr., M.D. Professor of

Medical Ethics, Professor of Medicine and chief of the division of Medical Ethics at Weill Cornell Medicine, was awarded the 2024 Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association Award of Distinction.

Finally, PGY2 [Dr. Elizabeth Reznik](#) won the 1952 Resident Physician Prize and [Dr. Wesley Rogers](#), a fellow in the division of Infectious Diseases and former resident in the Weill Department of Medicine, won the House Staff Teaching Award. [Read More](#)

## Dolores T. Reynolds Recognized for Lifetime Achievement at Second Annual Nursing Awards



[Dolores T. Reynolds, R.N.](#), a Research Administrator in the Division of Cardiology, won the Lifetime Achievement Award at Weill Cornell Medicine's recent second annual nursing awards, held in Belfer Research Building on May 8. She came to Weill Cornell Medicine in 1998, where she worked in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory as a Research Nurse for 20 years before becoming a Research Administrator about five years ago. [Read More](#)

## Common Type of Fiber May Trigger Bowel Inflammation



Inulin, a type of fiber found in certain plant-based foods and fiber supplements, causes inflammation in the gut and exacerbates inflammatory bowel disease in a preclinical model, according to a new study by Weill Cornell Medicine investigators. The surprising findings could pave the way for therapeutic diets that may help ease symptoms and promote gut health.

[The study](#), recently published in the Journal of Experimental Medicine, shows that inulin, which is found in foods like garlic, leeks and sunchoke, as well as commonly used fiber supplements and foods with added fiber, stimulates microbes in the gut to release bile acids that increase the production of molecules that promote intestinal inflammation. [Read More](#)

## Quick Takes



The Weill Department of Medicine's Education Office recently piloted a full-day Education Retreat for faculty across the Department to share projects, programs, and initiatives directly impacting medical education practices and operations. [Dr. Kirana Gudi](#), Vice Chair of Education, provided opening remarks for the May 7 event. The keynote speaker was [Dr. Lisa Bellini](#), Senior Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at Perelman School of Medicine.

Presenters included [Drs. Kate Penziner](#) and [Bryan Leppert](#), who shared their experience involving residents in developing content for the Department's internal medicine clerkship, best practices for evaluations, and the educational impact of simulation; [Dr. Joshua Heisler](#), who gave an overview of a direct care night elective's effects on workflow and its benefits in providing medical students with opportunities to address uncommon cases; and research administrator [Elizabeth Baquero, Ed.D. M.S.](#), who discussed undergraduate students contributing to scholarship through an innovative service-learning program, enhancing their ability to articulate complex medical concepts.

[Read More](#)

## Congratulations, 2024 Star Performers!

Congratulations to our **latest Star Performers**, including this spring's first-year performers **Sahai Douglas, Mariliana Espinal, Ashley Giannita, Kristin Hon, Kemesha Jeffrey, Tanya Niemiec, Vanessa Madrigal, and Jaeliana Veras**; bronze performers **Ying Chen, Mabelle Ledesma, Dannah Pamonag, and Carmen Sempertegui**; silver performers **Anthony Davis and Joy Miranda** and our amazing **Super Stars!**

### Cheers for Peers

**Cheers for Peers** is a peer recognition program to help doctors recognize their colleagues for going the extra mile.

Send a big “thank you” to your colleague, fellow or resident for brightening your day by completing our [short survey](#).

## Sponsored Research Awards

**Dr. John Lee**, division of Nephrology & Hypertension, has received funding from the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases for a project titled “Microbial Biomarkers for Diagnosing and Predicting Infections in Kidney Transplant Recipients,” in the amount of **\$3,814,176**.

**Dr. Laura Pinheiro**, division of General Internal Medicine, has received funding from the National Cancer Institute, for a project titled “Structural Racism and Cardiovascular Outcomes Among Cancer Survivors,” in the amount of **\$3,176,417**.

**Dr Eftychia Apostolou**, division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has received funding from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders & Stroke for a project titled “Identifying and targeting 3D regulatory nodes that maintain glioblastoma programs,” in the amount of **\$2,702,460**.

**Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli**, division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, has received funding from the United States Department of Defense for a project titled “Early detection blood test for universal breast cancer screening to improve early diagnosis for women of all social and ethnic backgrounds,” in the amount of **\$1,419,023**.

## Research Highlights

**Yajas Shah**, Scott Kulm, **Jones T Nauseef**, Zhengming Chen, **Olivier Elemento**, Kevin H Kensler, **Ravi N Sharaf**. [Benchmarking multi-ancestry prostate cancer polygenic risk scores in a real-world cohort](#). *PLoS Comput Bio*.

Sarah J Flynn, Varun Saxena, **Danielle Brandman**. [Primary Care Utilization, Preventative Screening, and Control of Metabolic Syndrome in Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatohepatitis Liver Transplant Recipients](#). *J Prim Care Community Health*.

Ting-Ting Li, Xi Chen, Da Huo, **Mohammad Arifuzzaman**, **Shanshan Qiao**, Wen-Bing Jin, **Huiqing Shi**, Xin V Li, JRI Live Cell Bank Consortium; **Iliyan D Iliev**, **David Artis**, **Chun-Jun Guo**. [Microbiota metabolism of intestinal amino acids impacts host nutrient homeostasis and physiology](#). *Cell Host Microbe*.

**Pillemer, K**. [Improving Resident Relationships in Long-Term Care](#). *CITRA*.

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