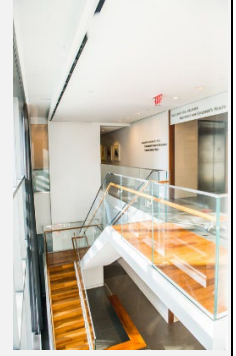




# What's New In Medicine

Newsletter • Spring/Summer 2023



**What's New in Medicine**, the newsletter of the **Weill Department of Medicine**, provides updates on the department's research breakthroughs, honors and awards, new faculty recruits, and more. **To submit your division's latest news, please email [Larissa Breedlove](mailto:Lab4020@med.cornell.edu) at [lab4020@med.cornell.edu](mailto:lab4020@med.cornell.edu).**

## New Beginnings



Since beginning my role as interim chair, I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you as we continue to meet challenges and make a lasting impact in our field. Early this year, I was delighted to share that the Weill Department of Medicine (WDOM) **now ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in annual National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding** - a meaningful climb over the last decade, especially with consideration to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are so proud of our colleagues' teamwork and dedication.

In this issue, we announce the appointment of **Dr. Jonathan W. Weinsaft** as our new chief of Cardiology, honor **Dr. Monika Safford**, the 2023 Jessica M. and Natan Bibliowicz Award winner for excellence in mentoring women faculty, recognize **Shentique Brown, RN** among the winners of Weill Cornell Medicine's first annual Nursing Awards, and so much more.

I'm also excited to announce we recently kicked off **Vitals**, a new video series in which you'll have the chance to learn more about your colleagues, their work, and the essence of what drives them. We hope you enjoy our first profiles on [Elias Baez](#), [Dr. Fred Pelzman](#) and [Allison Lasky](#).

As summer approaches, we look forward to welcoming the incoming 2023-2024 class of residents and fellows. I can't wait to discover the contributions they'll no doubt make at our exceptional institution.

Finally, last month we started our [Grand Rounds Grand Drawing](#) program. Faculty, staff, and trainees who attend at least two Grand Rounds a month (**in person in Uris Auditorium**) will be eligible to win a **10<sup>th</sup> generation iPad**. We recently announced our first winner, [Dr. John Mancini](#). We hope you enjoy this issue and take part in our efforts to continue building a live, interactive community here at WDOM.

Warmly,

John P. Leonard, M.D.  
Chair (Interim), Weill Department of Medicine

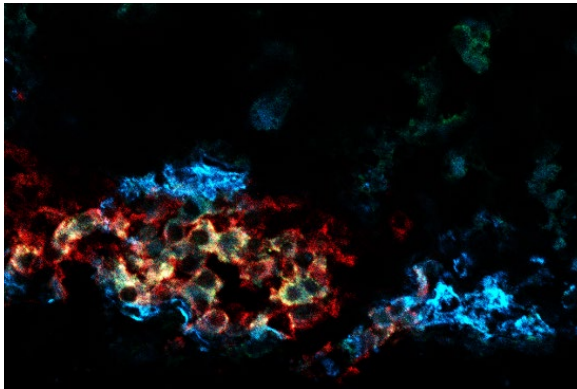
## Announcements



[Dr. Jonathan W. Weinsaft](#), an outstanding physician-scientist whose clinical research includes a focus on cardiovascular imaging, been appointed chief of the Division of Cardiology at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, effective **July 1, 2023**.

The Greenberg Division of Cardiology, housed within the Weill Department of Medicine, is dedicated to diagnosing and treating patients with disorders of the heart and blood vessels that comprise the cardiovascular system. [Read More](#)

## Discoveries



Losing a particularly productive type of beta cell may contribute to the development of diabetes, according to a new study by Weill Cornell Medicine investigators.

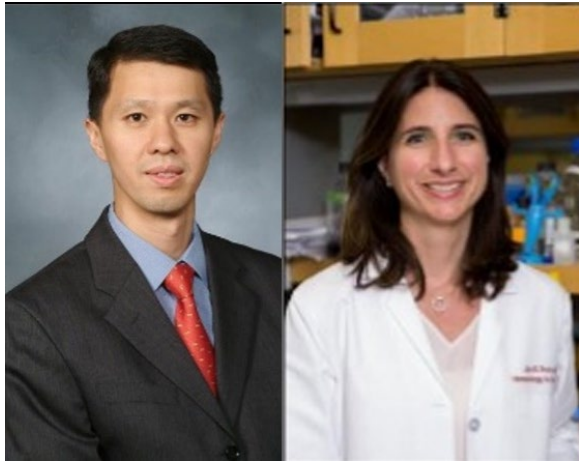
In the [study](#), recently published in *Nature Cell Biology*, [Dr. James Lo](#), associate professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, and colleagues measured gene expression in individual beta cells collected from mice to determine how many different types of beta cells exist in the pancreas. [Read More](#)

## Notables



[Dr. Monika Safford](#) was recently named the 2023 recipient of the Jessica M. and Natan Bibliowicz Award for women mentoring. The Bibliowicz Award recognizes outstanding men and women faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine who demonstrate commitment to advancing the academic careers of women in the areas of clinical care, research, or education.

The individual must have an established record of providing strong mentorship, as well as fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for all faculty. [Read More](#)



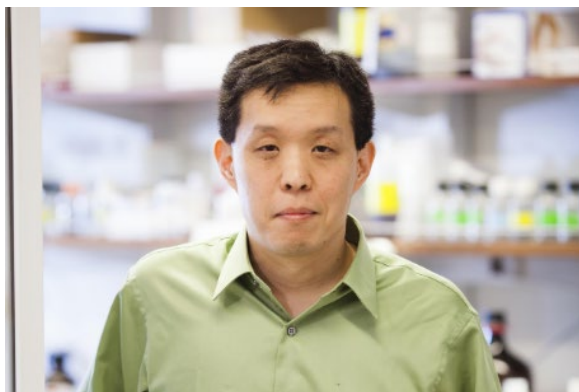
[Dr. James C. Lo](#), an associate professor of medicine and [Dr. Lisa G. Roth](#), an associate professor of pediatrics, also with an academic appointment in the Department of Medicine, were recently elected members of the **American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI)** for 2023.

Election into the ASCI, which represents excellence across the breadth of academic medicine, is a milestone for physician-scientists. The nonprofit medical honor society, which is composed of more than 3,000 physician-scientists from all medical specialties, recognizes and supports the scientific efforts, educational needs, and clinical aspirations of physician-scientists to improve the health of all people. [Read More](#)



Coinciding with National Nurses Week, **Shentique Brown, RN**, was among the recipients of Weill Cornell Medicine's first annual nursing awards. Shentique, a nurse in the division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, received the first annual Rising Star Nursing Award at a ceremony May 11 in the Belfer Research Building.

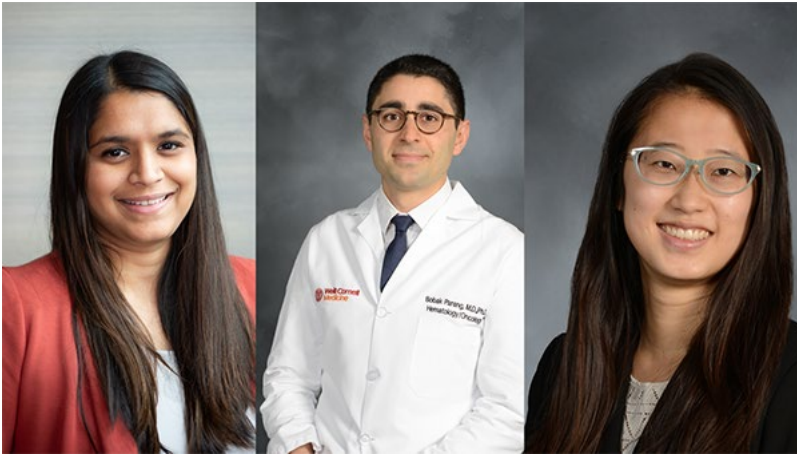
"It's an honor to be recognized for this award," Shentique said. Nursing was not her first career. In fact, she spent years working in the healthcare field in regulatory compliance and coordinator roles before making the transition to nursing. She started out as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) before becoming a full-fledged registered nurse (RN), joining the Weill Department of Medicine in 2018. [Read More](#)



[Dr. Kyu Rhee](#), a distinguished Weill Cornell Medicine physician-scientist currently a professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Weill Department of Medicine, has been elected to the esteemed **Association of American Physicians (AAP)**.

Election to the AAP is one of the top honors in health and medicine, recognizing physician-scientists exhibiting excellence in the pursuit of medical knowledge and the advancement of basic or translational science discoveries and their application to clinical medicine. [Read More](#)





The **Fund for the Future** award supports selected junior faculty during a crucial period in their career development - the completion of their research training into the early years of their first faculty position at Weill Cornell Medicine. This year's winners are Drs. [Jamuna Krishnan](#), [Bobak Parang](#), and [Lily Yan](#).

Backed by the generosity of donors to the Weill Department of Medicine (WDOM) and Iris Cantor Center for Women's Health, the Fund for the Future program provides an initial year of funding to the recipient with a total funding maximum of \$300,000. [Read More](#)



Congratulations to Drs. [Thomas Di Vitantonio](#) and [Maria Karas](#), who were recently named 2023 Physicians of the Year by NewYork-Presbyterian's Department of Nursing. Each year, the Department of Nursing honors a select number of physicians who exemplify Weill Cornell's values of collaboration and service.

At a ceremony this spring, chief medical resident and instructor in medicine Dr. Di Vitantonio was recognized for being an exceptional partner to the nursing team, proactively seeking nurses' input. In addition to this and providing exemplary patient care, Dr. Di Vitantonio was lauded for his support of new initiatives, including interdisciplinary cardiac arrest simulations and innovations in blood culture practices in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). Most of all, however, Dr. Di Vitantonio stood out as "an extraordinarily kind individual," always checking in on colleagues and ensuring his teammates feel supported.

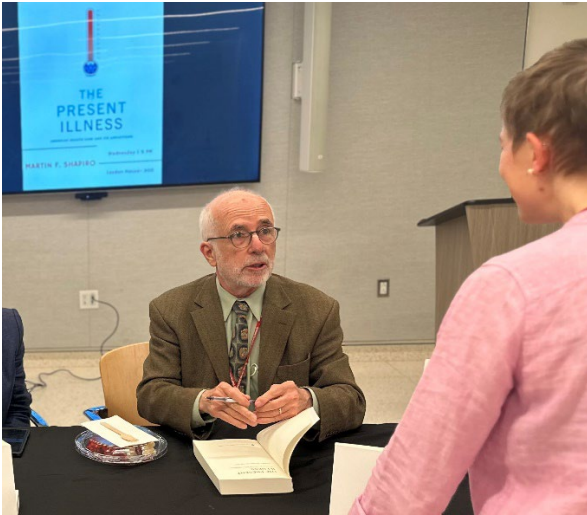
[Read More](#)

## Book Release

[Dr. Martin Shapiro](#) recently released his new book, [The Present Illness: American Health Care and its Afflictions](#).

The book tackles the persistent challenges of American health care by weaving together history, sociology, and Dr. Shapiro's own experiences as a physician. [Read More](#)

Dr. Shapiro, below, held a book signing at Lasdon House on June 7. He will continue holding promotional events for the release throughout the year. For more information, contact Jazmine Williams at [jaw4006@med.cornell.edu](mailto:jaw4006@med.cornell.edu).



## 40 under 40

[Dr. Gwendolyne Jack](#), assistant professor of clinical medicine, was recently named to the [National Minority Quality Forum 40 under 40 list](#).



The award recognizes leaders who have continuously strengthened their communities by reducing health disparities amid ongoing challenges within health care.

Dr. Jack is Lead of the Ambulatory Diabetes Program at Weill Cornell Endocrinology Faculty Practice. She is passionate about medical education, quality improvement initiatives, health equity, and enhancing the partnership between doctors, patients, and their communities.

## Around Campus

### Innovations abound at annual QIPS Poster Symposium

Over the past 12 years, the **Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (QIPS) Poster Symposium** has become an interdepartmental and interdisciplinary celebration of grassroots quality and patient safety initiatives and innovations. This year's event was held on **May 24, 2023** at the Belfer Research Building.

The evening program included 28 projects from 11 departments across Weill Cornell Medicine, NYP-Lower Manhattan, NYP-Queens, and the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). [Read More](#)

## Dr. Ari Melnick co-hosts first Health Disparities in Hematologic Malignancies conference

Over the last two years, teams at Weill Cornell Medicine and MD Anderson Cancer Center have been working together on a series of joint projects. Through these conversations, Drs. [Ari Melnick](#) and Christopher Flowers identified a broader need for a dialogue among the community of those studying health disparities in hematologic malignancies (HDHM).

The outgrowth of these collaborations was the first *Health Disparities in Hematologic Malignancies: From Genes to Outreach* conference. [Read More](#)

## Star Performers & Cheers for Peers

The “**STAR Performer**” Employee Recognition Program recognizes outstanding non-physician employees who work administration, clinical care, research and more. Congratulations to our [Star Performers](#) so far in 2023. It's [easy to nominate a star employee](#). For questions, contact **Nancy Bennett** at [nbennett@med.cornell.edu](mailto:nbennett@med.cornell.edu).

The medical environment is complex, challenging and often high stress. **Cheers for Peers** allows physicians, fellows, and residents to celebrate each other's efforts to support a culture of wellbeing.

Congratulations to our **2023 Cheers for Peers** so far this year: **Juliet Aizer, Godwin Boiful, Catherine Cai, Kevin Chan, Pamela Charney, Nora Chokr, Benjamin Cote, Swana De Gijzel, Vishal Dodia, Brian Eiss, Emily Fessler, Elise Fraser, Aaron Holmes, Niki Iranpour, Jaya Kanduri, Jennifer Lee, Moshe Lehrer, Han Li, Dana Lukin, Melina Manolas, Alicia Mecklai, Susana Morales, Sharon Parish, Raymond Pastore, Emily Preciado, Anthony Rosen, Blanca Sckell, Zohaib Sckell, Katherine Simon, Vesh Srivatana, and Brittany Toffey**. To make a nomination, or to learn more about the program, contact **ThuTrang Du** at [tdu@med.cornell.edu](mailto:tdu@med.cornell.edu).

## Grand Rounds Grand Drawing - May Winner



**Dr. Mancini with his brand-new iPad!**

Cheers to our first [Grand Rounds Grand Drawing](#) winner – [Dr. John Mancini](#).

Faculty, staff and trainees who attend at least **two** Grand Rounds a month (**in person in Uris Auditorium**) are entered into a monthly drawing. The winner receives a 10<sup>th</sup> generation iPad! Grand Rounds are generally held at 8 a.m. on Wednesday mornings – there's still time to attend a few more before the end of June! **We hope to see you there.**

# Chief Resident Notes

As the academic year closes, we enjoy the opportunity to look back and reflect on a wonderful season! A highlight was undoubtedly the privilege of welcoming former chief medical resident **Dr. Anthony Fauci** back to the WDOM this past spring. Dr. Fauci [delivered an inspiring Grand Rounds](#) and was gracious with his time, spending an additional hour with members of the house staff to answer questions and provide advice learned over a decades-long career.

Our residents also presented their original research at numerous national conferences, including the [Heart Rhythm Society](#), [American Thoracic Society](#), [Society of General Internal Medicine](#) and [Digestive Diseases Week](#).

We're especially proud of the changes set for implementation for the 2023-24 academic year! These include increased ambulatory and subspecialty time, further opportunities to individualize training, increased diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives, and a redesign of the didactic curriculum. We cannot wait to see all the amazing things our Internal Medicine Program will continue to accomplish!

-Tom, Emily, Ben, Rochelle, and MJ

# Innovations

The division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and the division of Thoracic Surgery are excited to announce its new **Interventional Pulmonology (IP) Service**. This service is intended to streamline and expedite the care of patients who may need advanced bronchoscopic or pleural interventions.

For IP consults **for inpatients**:

- **Order a pulmonary consult in Epic.** Under Orders, type "**Inpatient Consult to Pulmonary**" and choose **WC Pulmonary Consult\*** in the dropdown.  
**Note:** *If the appropriate team/location is located at LMH, the Transfer Center can arrange transport to the 68th street campus for the procedure under IP attending's name. If all discharge criteria are met, the patient will be transferred back to LMH. If necessary, the Transfer Center can also arrange the transfer to a bed and team if the patient needs to stay on 68th street after the procedure. This can be facilitated with the assistance of the pulmonary procedure fellow.*
- **Page the pulmonary consult pager:** 14292

Our team will route the consult to the appropriate IP physician on call. Our physicians are on-call 24/7.

For IP consults **for outpatients**:

- **Order an ambulatory pulmonary referral in Epic.** Under Orders, type "**AMB Referral to Pulmonology**" and, under *reason for referral*, choose **Interventional Pulmonology** in the dropdown.

# Awards

[Dr. Laura Alonso](#) was recently awarded a [T32 grant](#) by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) This proposed postdoctoral training program (2 fellows/year, 2-year program) in endocrinology and metabolism will provide comprehensive research training for individuals with a serious commitment to a career at the interface of biomedical research and endocrine disorders.

[Dr. Darshana M. Dadhania](#) recently received the [AST Clinical Science Investigator Award](#) at the American Transplant Congress. The Clinical Science Investigator Award recognizes mid-career investigators who have made substantial contribution to the field of transplantation medicine.

[Dr. Altaf M. Pirmohamed](#) was recently named 2023 Physician of the Year by NewYork-Presbyterian Lower Manhattan Hospital.

[Dr. Gregory F. Sonnenberg](#) is the 2023 recipient of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI)-BD Biosciences Investigator Award.

## Service Recognition

We are pleased to recognize **Marisol Valentin** for 20 years of service in the division of Infectious Diseases. Marisol has served in numerous roles over the years, including 11 years as an administrative specialist and operations coordinator in the Cornell Clinical Trials Unit (CCTU). She has served for the last nine years as fellowship coordinator. Marisol will transition to a well-earned retirement after her last day on June 30. We thank Marisol for her decades of dedicated service.

To submit, email **Larissa Breedlove** at [lab4020@med.cornell.edu](mailto:lab4020@med.cornell.edu).



# Appointments & Promotions

## ADMINISTRATION

**Anna Lezon** [has been appointed](#) new associate director of Budget and Finance, effective July 1.

## GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

**Dr. Asia Cordelia Gobourne** [has been promoted](#) to Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine.

**Dr. Iris Yolanda Navarro-Millan** [has been promoted](#) to Associate Professor of Medicine, effective July 1.

## HEMATOLOGY AND MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

**Dr. John Nathan Allan** [has been promoted](#) to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

**Dr. Massimo Cristofanilli** [has a new appointment](#) as Professor of Medicine.

**Dr. Pinkal Desai** [has been promoted](#) to Associate Professor of Medicine.

**Dr. Meng Li** [has been promoted](#) to Assistant Professor of Cancer Genomics Research in Medicine.

**Dr. Peter Martin** [has been promoted](#) to Professor of Medicine.

**Anna C. Pavlick, D.O.**, [has a new appointment](#) as Professor of Medicine.

## PULMONARY AND CRITICAL CARE

**Dr. Kelly Marie Griffin** [has been promoted](#) to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

**Dr. Robert Jeffrey Kaner** [has been promoted](#) to Professor of Clinical Medicine.

## REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

**Dr. Yang Lin** [has been promoted](#) to Instructor of Regenerative Medicine in Medicine (Rafii Lab).

**Dr. Xiaofeng Huang** [has been promoted](#) to Instructor of Molecular Biology in Medicine (Qiao Zhou lab).

# Research Highlights

## Cardiology

Ferreira, V, Plein S, Wong T, Tao Q, Raisi-Estabragh Z, Jain SS, Han Y, O V, Bluemke D, Hanneman K, **Weinsaft JW**, Vidula MK, Ntusi N, Schulz-Menger J, **Kim J**. [Cardiovascular magnetic resonance for evaluation of cardiac involvement in COVID-19: recommendations by the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance](#), *Journal of Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance*. 2023. doi: [10.1186/s12968-023-00933-0](#). PMID: 36973744

## Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism

**Jack GA, Kashyap SR**. ["Insulin independence with SGLT2 inhibitor use in Type 2 Diabetes"](#). *Endocrinol Metab*. 2023 Mar 22;dgad143. doi: [10.1210/clinem/dgad143](#). Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36947088

**Kashyap SR**, et al. [Cognitive Behavioral Sleep Self-Management Intervention for Young Adults With Type 1 Diabetes \(NCT04975230\)](#) *Clin Nurs Res*. 2023 Mar;32(3):560-570. doi: [10.1177/10547738231154133](#). Epub 2023 Feb 14. PMID: 36788436

## Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Kaplan A, Wahid N, Fortune BE, Verna E, Halazun K, Samstein B, **Brown RS Jr, Rosenblatt R**. [Black patients and women have reduced access to liver transplantation for alcohol-associated liver disease](#). *Liver Transpl*. 2023 Mar 1; 29(3):259-267. doi: [10.1002/lt.26544](#). Epub 2022 Jul 30. PMID: 35848134

Battat R, **Scherl EJ, Lukin D**, Charilaou P, Mahtani P, Gerber J, Gandara JA; JRI IBD Live Cell Bank Consortium; Dündar F, Zumbo P, Betel D, **Guo CJ, Longman RS**. [Increased Primary Bile Acids with Ileocolonic Resection Impact Ileal Inflammation and Gut Microbiota in Inflammatory Bowel Disease](#). *J Crohns Colitis*. 2023 May 3;17(5):795-803. doi: [10.1093/ecco-jcc/jjac173](#). PMID: 36322790

**Newberry C**, Sprung B, Pickett-Blakely O. [Enhancing Nutrition and Obesity Education in GI Fellowship Through Universal Curriculum Development](#). *Gastroenterology*. 2023 Apr 13:S0016-5085(23)00593-0. doi: 10.1053/j.gastro.2023.04.004. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37061170

## General Internal Medicine

**Scales D**, Gorman MJ, DiCaprio P, Hurth L, et al. [Community-oriented Motivational Interviewing \(MI\): A novel framework extending MI to address COVID-19 vaccine misinformation in online social media platforms](#), doi: 10.1016/j.chb.2022.107609

## Geriatrics & Palliative Medicine

Ashouri A, Yousefi S, **Prigerson H**. [Psychometric properties of the PG-13-R scale to assess prolonged grief disorder among bereaved Iranian adults](#). *Palliat Support Care*. 2023 Apr 13:1-8.

**Shen MJ**, **Prigerson HG**, **Maciejewski PK**. [Associations between Latino ethnicity and the use of emotional support and completion of advance directives](#). *Palliat Support Care*. 2023 Jun;21(3):385-391.

**Dr. Sara Czaja** was a speaker at the National Academies Science Engineering and Medicine workshop on May 16, 2023 titled *Addressing the Rising Mental Health Needs of an Aging Population*.

## Hematology & Oncology

**Astrow A**. [Market, Gift, Everyday Ethics, and Emmanuel Levinas in Patient Care](#). *Journal of Clinical Oncology (JCO)*. 2023.JCO.23.00419

## Infectious Diseases

**Johnston CD**, O'Brien R, Côté HCF. [Inclusion of women in HIV research and clinical trials](#). *AIDS*. 2023;37(6):995-997. doi:10.1097/QAD.0000000000003514

## Medical Ethics

**Fins J**, et al. [Covert Consciousness and Clinical Ethics: Neuroscience and Normative Obligations](#). *The 20th Annual John Collins Harvey Lecture*. Pellegrino Center for Clinical Bioethics. Georgetown University. Via Zoom. February 3, 2023.

## Nephrology & Hypertension

**August P**. [Chronic Kidney Disease - Another Step Forward](#). *N Engl J Med*. 2023 Jan 12;388(2):179-180. doi: 10.1056/NEJMe2215286. PMID: 3663062

**Muthukumar T**, et al. [Standardization and Interpretation of RNA-sequencing for Transplantation](#). *Transplantation*. 2023 Apr 6. doi: 10.1097/TP.0000000000004558. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37026702

**Sawinski D**, et al. [Addressing sex-based disparities in solid organ transplantation in the United States](#) - a conference report. *Am J Transplant*. 2023 Mar;23(3):316-325. doi: 10.1016/j.ajt.2022.11.008. Epub 2023 Jan 12. PMID: 36906294

## Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine

**Podolanczuk JA**, Richeldi L., **Martinez F**. (2023). [The Future of Clinical Trials in Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis](#). *JAMA*. 2023;329(18):1554-1555. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.23955. Advance online publication.

Ackerman KS, Hoffman KL, Díaz I, Simmons W, Ballman KV, **Kodiyankal RP**, **Schenck EJ**. [Effect of Sepsis on Death as Modified by Solid Organ Transplantation](#). *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2023Mar18;10(4):ofad148.doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofad148.PMID:37056981;PMCID:PMC10086309.

## Regenerative Medicine

**Huang X**, Gu W, Zhang K, Lan Y, Colarusso, JL, Li S, Pertl C, Lu J, Kim H, Zhu J, Breault DT, Sévigny J & **Zhou Q**. (2023). [Stomach-derived human insulin-secreting organoids restore glucose homeostasis](#). *Nature cell biology*, 10.1038/s41556-023-01130-y. Advance online publication.