



# milestones



ROGER TULLY

## The Drukier Institute for Children's Health

With an extraordinary \$25 million gift to Weill Cornell Medical College, philanthropists and visionaries Gale and Overseer Ira Drukier have established the **Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health**.

This gift will enable the Medical College to recruit a team of leading scientists, including a renowned expert who will serve as the Gale and Ira Drukier Director of the Drukier Institute, to pursue innovative research that improves treatments and therapies for children of all ages. The Institute, which will be headquartered on the 12th floor of the Belfer Research Building, will expand and enhance Weill Cornell's already-distinguished research and clinical care programs that strive to end diseases and disorders that

affect children and adolescents, including asthma, autism, cancer, cardiovascular disease, infectious diseases and diseases of the mind – to name a few.

"As parents and grandparents, Gale and I appreciate the tremendous impact medicine can have on

**"When you cure children, you give them their entire life back. It's with immense pride that we are able to make this investment."**

Dr. Ira Drukier

growing children," says Dr. Ira Drukier. "When you cure children, you give them their entire life back. It's with immense pride that we are able to make this investment, which will empower Weill Cornell Medical College to focus and direct all of its outstanding pediatric research under the auspices of one institute and provide vital resources to develop tomorrow's treatments and cures."

Using genomics and other cutting-edge research approaches, the cross-disciplinary Drukier Institute will drive excellence and innovation in pediatrics, seeking to seamlessly catalyze research breakthroughs into the most advanced, safe and effective patient care. Caring for children is particularly challenging because their

bodies are constantly changing as they grow, and their metabolisms and immune systems are vastly different than those of adults. This institute will tackle these challenges in an effort to provide the best possible care for patients, incorporating precision medicine to provide individualized treatments whenever possible.

The Drukiers have a legacy of philanthropy at Cornell University, having provided generous support to its Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art and College of Architecture, Art and Planning. Dr. Ira Drukier is an alumnus of Cornell University, while Dr. Gale Drukier is an alumna of New York University, where she serves as a Trustee.

*Continued on page 2*

# Overseers Barbara Friedman and Michael Kellen Lead Support of Entrepreneurs

The Weill Cornell **Daedalus Fund for Innovation** was just recently launched, and already two Overseers have taken the lead in supporting this new approach to advancing medical research.

The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation and the Friedman Family Foundation have each given \$1 million to support the Daedalus Fund. Through their respective foundations, Denise and Overseer Michael Kellen and Stephen and Vice Chair Overseer Barbara Friedman have enthusiastically expressed their confidence in the program and its potential to jumpstart the translation of laboratory breakthroughs to cures and treatments for patients. Both Overseers are vocal advocates for the advancement of research at Weill Cornell – Mrs. Friedman is Co-Chair of the Overseers’ Special Committee on Research, and Mr. Kellen serves on the committee as well.

The Daedalus Fund for Innovation, which is designed to advance promising early-stage translational research projects that have life-saving potential, recently awarded \$100,000 grants to five Weill Cornell scientists who will now have the opportunity to further develop their research.

“The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation believes in supporting innovative medical research,” says Mr. Kellen. “These grants will bolster research that may not qualify for NIH funding at this time but has a great deal of potential. Our family foundation is proud to endorse such an important project.”

Early-stage drug discovery can be a complicated business. Competition for investors is fierce, and sometimes despite scientists’ best efforts, development can be halted too soon due to a lack of funding. The Daedalus Fund was created to nurture the most promising discoveries to the point when they can be presented to biotech or pharmaceutical companies and move to the next stage of development.

“I am glad to play any role in the cultivation of our most promising medical research,” says Mrs. Friedman. “It’s crucial to give our high-performing scientists the opportunity to build on their work, leading to new treatments and therapeutics for patients.”

“Leaping over that initial hurdle toward drug discovery can be very daunting for scientists,” says Dean Glimcher. “This vote of confidence by two of our most dedicated Overseers provides momentum to the Daedalus Fund for Innovation, and I know that their generous gifts will have a tremendous impact.”

**“It’s crucial to give our high-performing scientists the opportunity to build on their work, leading to new treatments and therapeutics for patients.”**

Barbara Friedman  
Vice Chair of the Board of Overseers

## The Drukier Institute for Children’s Health *continued from cover*

“It gives us great joy to be able to support Weill Cornell Medical College and make such a tremendous difference in children’s lives,” says Dr. Gale Drukier. “This gift also continues our enduring relationship with Cornell University, with which we have been connected for 40 years.”



Gale and Ira Drukier

“We couldn’t be more grateful to Gale and Ira, whose generous gift exemplifies their commitment to advancing human health and their steadfast support of Weill Cornell Medical College,” says Sanford I. Weill, Chair Emeritus of the Weill Cornell Board of Overseers. “The Drukiers’ investment will better the lives of children in New York and beyond, and will leave a lasting mark on our next generation.”

The Drukiers’ gift will enable Weill Cornell to secure the latest research equipment for children’s health efforts, such as sequencing and informatics technology, as well as develop an infrastructure to establish a biobank. It will also endow the Drukier Lectureship, an annual lecture at Weill Cornell on a research or clinical topic in the field of children’s health, and the Drukier Prize, which will be awarded once a year to a junior faculty member in the United States or abroad for excellence and achievement in advancing research on childhood diseases or disorders.

Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D., the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, says, “The Drukiers’ generosity is critical in allowing us to attract the best and brightest minds in pediatric research, who will lead the way as we pursue innovative treatments and therapies that will ensure the health of children now and in the future.”



# Bartlett Family Honors Dr. Manish Shah

With a \$1 million gift, Sonja and James Bartlett, together with the Bartlett family, have established the **Bartlett Family Associate Professorship in Gastrointestinal Oncology** in gratitude for the excellent physician who cared for James's father, Robert Bartlett, D.M.D., through the course of his illness and in his final days.

The associate professorship's inaugural holder, Manish A. Shah, M.D., Director of the Gastrointestinal Oncology program at Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, treated the late Dr. Bartlett for cancer until he passed away in 2014.

**“We could not think of a better way to both honor my father and support the work of Dr. Shah, and the future of gastrointestinal oncology research at Weill Cornell.”**

James Bartlett

gastrointestinal malignancies. His research focuses specifically on drug development, understanding mechanisms of resistance, the heritability of the disease, and the use of aggressive treatments tailored for individual patients and their particular strain of cancer. Dr. Shah, also a dedicated educator and physician, is passionate about his work and thankful for the Bartletts' support.

“Our family is so grateful to Dr. Shah for his care of my father,” says James Bartlett. “We could not think of a better way to both honor my father and support the work of Dr. Shah, and the future of gastrointestinal oncology research at Weill Cornell.”

Dr. Bartlett felt strongly that a doctor should be smart and committed to providing the best possible care to patients, says another son, Bob, and after seeking treatment at Weill Cornell, he found that in Dr. Shah.

Dr. Shah believes we are in a new era of our understanding of



Debbie and the late Dr. Robert Bartlett surrounded by their 11 grandchildren

“It was a privilege to get to know Dr. Bartlett and his family during the two years that he was under my care,” says Dr. Shah, Co-Director of the Center for Advanced Digestive Care. “I have become very close to the Bartletts, and am very appreciative of their willingness to establish this associate professorship. I am honored to be the inaugural holder and believe that the generosity and foresight of the Bartlett family will help ensure the best possible future for the treatment of gastrointestinal cancers.”

“My family was extremely happy and confident in my father's care under Dr. Shah,” says Bob Bartlett. “It was a terrible experience to go through, but it was a lot easier with Dr. Shah as our doctor.”

## Sanford I. Weill Ends Tenure as Chair of the Board



Board Chair Jessica Bibliowicz and Chair Emeritus Sanford I. Weill

After 20 years of bold and visionary leadership that has transformed Weill Cornell Medical College into a global healthcare enterprise, Sanford I. Weill stepped down as Chair of the Weill Cornell Board of Overseers in December 2014. Jessica M. Bibliowicz, a successful entrepreneur in the financial services business for nearly three decades who has served on the Board of Overseers since 2004, will succeed her father, Mr. Weill, the new Chair Emeritus.

**“What Sandy has done for Weill Cornell, New York and the world is just breathtaking – it's a labor of love that will touch the lives of generations.”**

Dean Glimcher

“What Sandy has done for Weill Cornell, New York and the world is just breathtaking – it's a labor of love that will touch the lives of generations,” Dr. Glimcher says. “His unwavering leadership, profound magnanimity and steadfast resolve to enhance medical education, advance discoveries and enrich clinical care is his lasting legacy.”

Through their incredible history of giving, Joan and Sandy Weill and the Weill Family Foundation have broken records as benefactors of the Medical College, giving a staggering \$600 million in philanthropic gifts of support. The Weill family's generosity has inspired and galvanized Weill Cornell's numerous, loyal donors to support the Medical College, raising more than \$3 billion during Mr. Weill's time as Chair.

The Weills' giving has also had a remarkable impact on the growth of Weill Cornell, including the establishment of the Weill Education Center, the Weill Greenberg Center, the Weill Center for Metabolic Health and the Joan and Sanford I. Weill and Weill Family Foundation Global Health Research Laboratories. Last year, Weill Cornell celebrated the Weills' legacy by naming the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine.

“When I joined the Board of Overseers more than 30 years ago, I was driven to try and make a difference in the world,” says Mr. Weill. “It's truly humbling to see just how much of an impact Weill Cornell has had around the globe, and I believe we are poised to thrive far into the future. Weill Cornell Medical College is more to me than just an esteemed medical school – the people here are my extended family. I could think of no one better than Jessica to shepherd Weill Cornell into the next stage of its evolution.”

“It's an honor and privilege to be able to support Weill Cornell's tremendous efforts to educate, innovate and heal,” says Ms. Bibliowicz. “I'm eager to work with Dr. Glimcher and the Board of Overseers as we strive to improve and prolong human health.”

# From Our Dean



The stories in these pages illustrate the powerful impact that our donors' generosity has on every part of our mission at Weill Cornell. These gifts accelerate our research efforts, advance treatments for some of our most vulnerable populations,

bolster medical education and create new horizons for discovery. And, at the heart of each of these gifts, lies hope and the promise of exceptional care for our patients.

These gifts accelerate our research efforts, advance treatments for some of our most vulnerable populations, bolster medical education and create new horizons for discovery.

The Weill Cornell commitment to patients is at the forefront of each of our endeavors. It is the driving force for our physicians, scientists, leadership, staff and students. And, it is what motivates so many of our donors and friends to support the Medical College.

As we transition to our new board leadership, we thank Sandy Weill, Chair Emeritus, for all that he has done for Weill Cornell. Sandy's passion for giving our patients the best that we have, promoting healthcare around the world and advancing breakthrough research has shaped the fine institution that we are today. As Jessica Bibliowicz takes the reins, I am confident that we will continue to be a world-class pioneer in healthcare and medicine.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie H. Glimcher". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D.  
*Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean  
Provost for Medical Affairs*

## Weill Cornell Medical College

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# Events

## Children's Health Council

The fall Children's Health Council Meeting took place on November 19th at the Belfer Research Building. The topic was "Tots to Teens: Sleep and Your Child." After a welcome by Council Co-Chair Dr. Gerald Loughlin, Dean Glimcher gave opening remarks and then moderated an engaging discussion between the following presenters:

- **Vikash Modi, M.D.**, the Anne Belcher, M.D. Assistant Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
- **Haviva Veler, M.D.**, Director of the Weill Cornell Pediatric Sleep and Breathing Disorders Center and Associate Professor of Pediatrics
- **Mary Ward, Ph.D.**, Associate Research Professor of Psychology in Pediatrics and Psychiatry

The Children's Health Council is a new group that provides opportunities for engagement for those committed to the advancement of children's health research. The council is led by Co-Chairs Dr. Barchas and Dr. Loughlin, as well as an executive committee.

### CO-CHAIRS:

- **Gerald Loughlin, M.D.**, Nancy C. Paduano Professor of Pediatrics and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics
- **Jack Barchas, M.D.**, Barklie McKee Henry Professor of Psychiatry and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry

For more information on the Children's Health Council, contact [childrenshealthcouncil@med.cornell.edu](mailto:childrenshealthcouncil@med.cornell.edu) or (646)317-7358.



Dr. Gerald Loughlin



Dr. Holly Prigerson

## Information Please

### PRESENTERS:

- **Holly Prigerson, Ph.D.**, Director of the Center for Research on End of Life Care, the Irving Sherwood Wright Professor in Geriatrics and Professor of Sociology in Medicine
- **Barbara Hempstead, M.D., Ph.D.**, Senior Associate Dean for Education, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity and the O. Wayne Isom Professor of Medicine

This fall's Information Please luncheon, hosted by Overseer Daisy Soros, was held on November 11th in the Belfer Research Building. The event featured a presentation by Dr. Prigerson on the theme "Lessons for Life's End: How to Cope with Life-Threatening Illness." Dean Glimcher gave introductory remarks, and Dr. Hempstead gave a clinician's perspective before introducing Dr. Prigerson. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session hosted by Dean Glimcher, who was joined by Kim Overby, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics.



Guests enjoy the presentation at the Information Please event

## Partners in Medicine Luncheon

### PRESENTER:

- **Louis Aronne, M.D.**, Director of the Comprehensive Weight Control Center and the Sanford I. Weill Professor of Metabolic Research



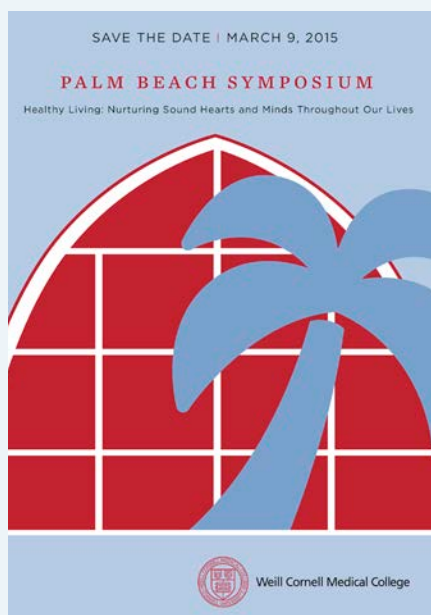
Partners in Medicine held their semiannual luncheon on November 17th at the Griffis Faculty Club. The topic, "Nutritional Health and Well-Being: Advances and Research," was presented by Dr. Aronne.

This event was followed by a special ceremony on December 4th to dedicate the Partners in Medicine donor wall located outside of the Griffis Faculty Club. The donor wall recognizes Partners members who have given \$5,000-\$99,999 within the last fiscal year. After remarks by Dean Glimcher, attendees enjoyed a reception, where Weill Cornell students and physicians were also in attendance to educate donors about the ongoing work of the Medical College.

## Save the Date | Palm Beach Symposium

Please join us for our annual Palm Beach Symposium on Monday, March 9th at the Four Seasons Resort in Palm Beach. The symposium topic, "Healthy Living: Nurturing Sound Hearts and Minds Throughout Our Lives," will feature educational presentations by:

- **Holly Andersen, M.D.**, cardiologist and Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine
- **Phyllis August, M.D., M.P.H.**, Ralph A. Baer Professor of Medical Research, Professor of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Professor of Public Health
- **Richard Isaacson, M.D.**, Director of the Neurology Residency Training Program, Director of the Alzheimer's Prevention Clinic in the Memory Disorders Program and Assistant Professor of Neurology



For more information or to register, please contact Michelle Fish at 646-317-7396 or [mif2018@med.cornell.edu](mailto:mif2018@med.cornell.edu).



Milestones is a publication of the Office of External Affairs at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Larry Schafer, Vice Provost for External Affairs • Lucille Ferraro, Campaign Director • Mason Essif, Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs  
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