A significant gift to Weill Cornell Medicine’s leading precision medicine program by Caryl and Overseer Israel Englander will expand the scope of the institution’s approach to understanding and treating disease through therapies customized to patients’ unique genetic profiles.

The gift names the Caryl and Israel Englander Institute for Precision Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. The institute uses genomic sequencing to better understand the factors that drive disease development and progression and identify treatments that are most likely to be effective for each patient. The Englander Institute has focused on cancer since its inception in 2013 and this generous gift will widen its mission to emphasize dermatological malignancies as well as metabolic diseases, cardiovascular disease, genetic disorders and respiratory diseases. The Institute plans to eventually offer precision medicine to as many as 6,000 cancer patients a year.

“Precision medicine is the future of healthcare,” says Mark Rubin, M.D., Director of the Englander Institute and the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology. “Physician-scientists at the Englander Institute are making critical discoveries that are changing the lives of our patients and expanding our breadth of scientific knowledge. The Englanders’ gift provides us with the resources to further capitalize on this tremendous opportunity.”

The gift will support the recruitment of six investigators – including a leader in immunotherapy and three computational biologists – to expand the capabilities of its physician-scientists. It will also fund pilot grants for innovative, multi-investigator projects; outfit the Englander Institute with the latest technology and computational resources; and establish an endowment to ensure that it remains at the vanguard of the field.

“We are deeply grateful to the Englanders for their visionary gift, which will enable Weill Cornell to transform the way we practice medicine,” says Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D., the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. “Precision medicine offers great hope for understanding and treating some of the most formidable diseases of our time, and the Englanders’ support will ensure that we can continue our work to enhance the care we provide our patients, both now and into the future.”

Generous Gift Names Caryl and Israel Englander Institute for Precision Medicine

The institute uses genomic sequencing to better understand the factors that drive disease development and progression and identify treatments that are most likely to be effective for each patient.
This month, we are thrilled to launch our new brand: Weill Cornell Medicine. This change is a symbol of excitement and growth on the horizon, but also marks an important time to stop and reflect on how far we’ve come and how much we have accomplished together. Over the years, and through a series of strategic plans supported by our leadership, and our many friends and donors, Weill Cornell has earned its reputation as a world-class leader in academic medicine. We continue to make groundbreaking discoveries that change patients’ lives, provide the finest education for the healthcare leaders of tomorrow and excel in delivering top-tier care to our patients.

It is fitting that our cover story announces the new Englander Institute for Precision Medicine. This institute is exactly the type of cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research center that best reflects the incredible breadth of expertise here at Weill Cornell Medicine. The pioneering work at this institute will transform our role in the changing healthcare landscape and have a significant impact on patient care today and far into the future. I am grateful to the Englanders for their incredible foresight and vision.

Transformative research, education and patient care – that is what Weill Cornell Medicine is all about – it’s what our institution has always been about. And now, our name better reflects this powerful mission and our driving force as a healthcare provider.

I look forward to seeing what the future holds for our institution and for our patients.

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

Cornell University President Elizabeth Garrett says, “The Englanders have our thanks and admiration for their generosity and targeted investment in the future of one of medicine’s most promising fields and an area in which Cornell sets the pace.”

“We are immensely appreciative of our generous supporters Caryl and Izzy Englander, whose confidence in the power of precision medicine to enhance human health is as inspiring as it is essential to spark scientific discovery,” says Jessica Bibliowicz, Chairman of the Board of Overseers. “The Englanders’ investment in Weill Cornell will help us expand a robust culture of innovation and maintain our position as a national leader in this field.”

“Philanthropic support is critical for the advancement of translational research,” says Sanford Weill, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Overseers. “Our friends Caryl and Izzy Englander have made their generous gift in an area that holds enormous promise for patients and in which Weill Cornell excels. Joan and I are incredibly grateful.”

Computational biologists at the Englander Institute analyze tumor sequencing data and summarize the key clinical and genetic findings into physician-friendly reports that are seamlessly integrated into Weill Cornell Medicine’s electronic health record system. Using these reports, a team of interdiscplinary specialists, including radiologists, pathologists, computational biologists, basic scientists, oncologists and surgeons determine the best treatment options for each patient. With patients’ permission, tissue samples from sequenced tumors are then saved in a biobank for further research.

The Englander Institute’s expanded program will target areas of oncology including melanoma, a rare but serious form of skin cancer that the American Cancer Society estimates will kill about 10,000 of nearly 74,000 Americans diagnosed with it in 2015. Recent breakthroughs in melanoma research have yielded new treatments that target genetic mutations driving the disease, but it has been unclear which patients would most benefit from them; Institute investigators will try to identify those patients. Weill Cornell Medicine will recruit an investigator who specializes in melanoma research and provide support for research in immunotherapy, which uses the immune system to attack tumor cells.

“Groundbreaking research over the last few years has revolutionized our understanding of melanoma’s molecular changes, bringing newfound hope to patients with advanced metastatic disease for whom treatment has been particularly challenging,” says Richard Granstein, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Dermatology and the George W. Hambrick, Jr. Professor of Dermatology. “With our expertise in genetic medicine and the Englanders’ generous support, we expect to give our patients another powerful reason to hope.”

Generous Gift Names Caryl and Israel Englander Institute for Precision Medicine

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“The Englanders’ investment in Weill Cornell will help us expand a robust culture of innovation and maintain our position as a national leader in this field.”

Jessica Bibliowicz
Chairman of the Board of Overseers

continued from cover

We continue to make groundbreaking discoveries that change patients’ lives.

Generous Gift Names Caryl and Israel Englander Institute for Precision Medicine

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The Berger Family Gives $1 Million to Support Cardiology Fellowships

When John Berger came to Weill Cornell Medicine with a heart ailment, he was instantly impressed with the expertise and bedside manner of his physicians, under the leadership of Bruce Lerman, M.D., Hilda Altschul Master Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Greenberg Division of Cardiology.

“Good bedside manner is so important,” says Mr. Berger, who is Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Underwriting Officer of Third Point Reinsurance. “And with my doctors, I felt like they had all the time in the world for me.”

Mr. Berger and his wife, Nathalie, felt deep gratitude for the care he received. In appreciation, they provided a $1 million gift to ensure the longevity of one of the division’s most important initiatives: fellowship training in research and clinical care.

The Division of Cardiology offers four fellowship training programs, guided by a full staff of highly trained faculty members with a focus on mentorship.

They have access to state-of-the-art facilities for learning in a clinical and research-rich environment. By the end of their fellowships they have been through a rigorous program that will make them outstanding physician-scientists, and they are even more prepared to provide excellent care to patients.

“It is our responsibility to train the next generation of clinical and research leaders in the field of cardiovascular disease,” says Dr. Lerman, who is also Director of the Electrophysiology Laboratory. “Support for cardiology’s fellowship programs permits fellows’ immersion in cutting-edge techniques and prepares them with leadership skills. All of us in the Division of Cardiology are very grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Berger for their dedication to this important program.”

Parag Goyal, M.D., is a third-year cardiology fellow who will stay in the program for a fourth year to pursue advanced heart failure and transplant training.

“I really could not have asked for more from a training program in terms of having amazing people to learn from, role models and support for my career,” says Dr. Goyal. “Donors like Mr. and Mrs. Berger are supporting the training needs of fellows, especially those forging a creative and less traditional path.”

“Clearly, Weill Cornell Medicine is a world-class medical institution,” says Mr. Berger, “and we are better off as a society when we champion the efforts of early career physicians. My wife and I are delighted to be supporters.”

Weill Cornell Medicine: A New Era of Growth

Backed by extraordinary donor support, Weill Cornell has announced a succession of cutting-edge achievements in recent years: newly inaugurated research institutes and centers; recruitment of top-tier physician-scientists; groundbreaking partnerships with industry and leading healthcare organizations; and a paradigm-changing curriculum. Now, the institution launches a new name: Weill Cornell Medicine.

This rebranding will better reflect Weill Cornell Medicine’s stature as a top-ranked leader in academic medicine, and its stellar reputation for collaboration that cuts across disciplines. The change follows an era of exciting and strategic growth, and is part of an overall rebranding strategy designed to convey the broad scope of the institution’s mission – its dedication to world-class patient care, ambitious research programs and excellence in medical education.

“We are incredibly proud of the traditions at Weill Cornell Medicine and will continue to build on our distinguished legacy,” says Dean Glimcher. “At the same time, it is important that we evolve in tandem with the transformations in healthcare and medicine, and that our name represents the breadth of our strengths.”

The rebranding effort is the product of extensive research and thoughtful planning on the part of leadership and marketing specialists at Weill Cornell, along with a national brand management firm, whose goal was to select a name and visual identity that leverages the institution’s history, prestige and recognition as a medical school, while also clearly communicating its identity as a world-class healthcare provider and leading research institution to a broader audience outside of the Weill Cornell Medicine community.

In addition to the new name and logo, the rebranding plan includes a descriptive headline, “Care. Discover. Teach.,” which effectively communicates the three pillars of Weill Cornell Medicine’s mission, starting with the thread that connects them all: exceptional patient care. Emphasis on Weill Cornell Medicine’s expertise in translational medicine through its unique collaborative environment is at the heart of the new brand; it is that very collaboration that drives groundbreaking discoveries into clinical practice and provides a well-rounded education to our medical students.

“This new name is energetic and inspiring, like our institution,” says Jessica Bibliowicz, Chairman of the Board of Overseers. “Weill Cornell Medicine is entering a new era because of our strong foundation as a thriving global healthcare enterprise, and with this rebranding we represent that vitality and invoke a spirit of optimism for the future.”
A Three-Part Gift to Patient Care, Research and Education

Since the early days of their careers, Jonathan Dorfman and Jim O’Brien have worked together as friends and colleagues. Now partners at Napier Park Global Capital, they have joined forces again – this time to support Weill Cornell Medicine. The men and their families are longtime patients of Christopher Barley, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine – and so, inspired by the care they’ve received for well over a decade, they recently made a joint gift that will touch on each area of the mission at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Empowering Future Physicians
As avid supporters of education, both families consider student scholarship a priority. Judy and Jim O’Brien and Melissa Kaish and Jonathan Dorfman have established the Christopher Barley, M.D. Scholarship, an endowed scholarship for medical college students pursuing general medicine.

Many students, after graduating with large amounts of debt, favor lucrative specialties. Scholarships like these relieve financial strain and allow students more freedom to pursue general and primary care medicine if that is their passion.

“We know that primary care needs more attention at Weill Cornell Medicine – and the medical field at large needs more general practitioners – so we were happy to support it,” says Mr. O’Brien.

Promoting Discovery and Innovation
As entrepreneurs and investors, Mr. Dorfman and Mr. O’Brien are enthusiastic about the Daedalus Fund for Innovation, a new program that provides funding for promising medical research with commercial potential.

“Dr. Glimcher demonstrated to us that some good research never gets out of the lab,” says Mr. O’Brien. “Helping to move along that process is very appealing.”

“Entrepreneurship is essential,” says Mr. Dorfman. “And my father was a medical researcher – I know how important it is to support medical science.”

Training for Excellence in Physicianship
In addition to seeing Dr. Barley as a family physician, both Mr. Dorfman and Mr. O’Brien had serious medical procedures performed at Weill Cornell Medicine.

“We were incredibly impressed by both the surgical care and the care in the medical center – the whole experience from start to finish. We wanted to give back.”

Jim O’Brien and Jonathan Dorfman

Richard Levine, M.D. ’66 Establishes Student Scholarship

For Richard Levine, M.D. ’66, the thrill of being accepted to Cornell University Medical College in 1961 was immediately followed by the devastating news of his father’s serious illness. Dr. Levine was unsure how he would pay for his education – but a scholarship funded by philanthropist Anne Parrish Titzell allowed him to start medical school and graduate to a distinguished career in obstetrics and gynecology.

In gratitude for that support, Dr. Levine recently made a $75,000 gift to Weill Cornell Medicine to establish the Richard U. Levine, M.D. ’66 Scholarship. The scholarship will provide financial aid to deserving medical students regardless of their area of interest. Says Dr. Levine, “My notion is to give back: I feel obligated. Weill Cornell gave me the foundation to have a successful career, and I want to provide that foundation to students going forward.”

Dr. Levine is a Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Columbia University Medical Center, where he has been a faculty member since 1974. He has combined research, surgery and patient care with key leadership positions over the course of his five-decade career; today, he maintains a busy practice and is active in alumni events.

“Dr. Levine is an exemplary and inspiring alumnus who recognizes that supporting students is central to our mission at the medical college. We are deeply grateful for his gift,” says Dean Glimcher.

Richard U. Levine, M.D. ’66

Richard Levine says it was esteemed mentors at the medical college, like Dr. Elliot Hochstein (1908-1971), who taught him the value of patient-centered medicine. “In many ways the most important organ in taking care of patients is your ears – just listening. Patients tell you what’s wrong. At Weill Cornell, because our teaching was so personal, we learned personalized medicine,” he explains.

In 2002 Dr. Levine received the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award for his compassion and care in working with patients and students.

A self-described scientific “tinkerer,” Dr. Levine helped pioneer the use of new diagnostic and surgical techniques such as hysteroscopy in the 1970s, and published important research on human papilloma virus (HPV). “People succeed if they do what they have a passion for,” he says, noting that with the Levine Scholarship, he hopes to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Weill Cornell Medicine students.
In 1986, after Overseer Nancy Paduano’s young son had successfully recovered from brain surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, the question that she kept asking herself was, “How do you repay an institution that has saved your child’s life?” Since that time, Nancy has given back exponentially to Weill Cornell Medicine – through her leadership as a member of the Board of Overseers, as Vice Chair of the NewYork Weill Cornell Council, and as an advisor for the Children’s Health Council; through her enthusiasm and commitment to promoting pediatric healthcare; and through her and her husband Dan’s philanthropy. Over the years, Nancy and Dan have generously given to Weill Cornell Medicine, helping to establish the Nancy C. Paduano Professor of Pediatrics and supporting a number of different pediatric research projects. Most recently, the Paduanos made a $1 million gift to promote the work of Dr. Stefan Worgall, Distinguished Professor of Pediatric Pulmonology, whose research on viral lung infections on the lung microbiome aims to address pediatric asthma and help develop life-altering treatments.

Recently, Larry Schafer, Vice Provost for External Affairs, sat down with Nancy to talk about her history with Weill Cornell Medicine, her inspiration for giving and her hopes for the future of pediatric healthcare.

LS: You have been involved with Weill Cornell Medicine for many years now – can you tell me a little bit about your first experiences here? How did that shape your interest and involvement in the institution?

NP: I got involved because the medical center saved my son John’s life. Dan and I began by giving to pediatrics programs at the hospital. In 2001, we had the wonderful opportunity to name the professorship held by the Chair in Pediatrics at Weill Cornell. Dr. Jerry Loughlin is the first and only Paduano professor to date.

LS: How do you feel when you see your name attached to Dr. Loughlin?

NP: I’m so proud – he is truly a force. And he has made so many incredible advances for the department.

LS: Before you established the Paduano professorship, you had already begun funding doctors. What was it that inspired you to start supporting them?

NP: I have nothing but admiration for these doctors. In my working career, I had met many smart Wall Street people – they were highly focused and competitive – and I admired them. At the medical center, I met a whole new group of very intelligent doctors who worked tirelessly just to help people. These doctors and researchers are truly terrific and I am proud to be associated with them.

LS: You have also supported research at Weill Cornell Medicine most recently with a generous gift to advance and support Dr. Stefan Worgall’s work. Tell us about that.

NP: Every time I meet a new researcher, I want to help them. I just like them all – I’m like a kid in a candy store. Dr. Worgall’s work with the lung biome is really cutting-edge. He’s looking at a part of the body that doctors thought was pristine – but it turns out it’s actually bacteria city. Research on the biome in the gut has already helped people dramatically – so, what if Dr. Worgall’s lung biome research can help kids, or adults, with asthma? That’s research worth funding. At the end of our first meeting with Dr. Worgall, he said “I’ve dedicated my life to this.” How do you not help somebody like that if you can?

LS: You have been involved in the leadership at Weill Cornell Medicine for many years – in a variety of different roles. What has that experience been like for you?

NP: Joining the Board of Overseers was such a thrill. What a great group of people to have on your side! They are extremely devoted. Many of them, like me, joined the board because they had a long history with the medical center and they can see the big picture; there’s a good chance that there are going to be more incredible medical advances coming out of this institution – and that we’re going to help the world.

LS: Your family has a long history of philanthropy across a variety of areas (including healthcare, the arts and education). How did you learn to be philanthropic?

NP: I think Dan brought that to the table. I always knew about family – I knew that you dropped everything to help your family. But, I didn’t specifically know about charity – he did. And then once we started giving, I found out that after anything I volunteered for, I felt better than the people I was helping. I started out by giving tours in Central Park to children with disabilities. After these kids would go home, I’d be on such a high – just from helping them. It was amazing.

LS: Did you try to teach philanthropy to the next generation?

NP: We taught our children by example. Both of my sons and their wives are philanthropic. So, I have gotten to share it with the next generation – which is perfect. I learned from my husband, and now our kids are learning from us.
**THE CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION:**

*Almost Halfway to Goal*

Weill Cornell Medicine’s $50 million Campaign for Education, launched in the fall of 2014, is a comprehensive initiative that, once completed, will provide necessary funds for training our exceptional medical students – giving them all the tools necessary to be the best doctors and researchers they can be in an ever-changing healthcare landscape. In just a short time, nearly $24 million has been raised by donors who recognize the value of a top-notch medical education – not just for the students themselves, but for their future patients.

Led by Campaign Co-Chairs Overseer Sandy Ehrenkranz and Richard Cohen, M.D. ’75, who held their first subcommittee meeting in February, the Campaign for Education will increase scholarship endowments, provide resources for new technology and support the new medical education curriculum, which has already begun.

The new curriculum’s enhanced focus on patient care enables students to begin their clinical studies in the first year of their education, with their clinical skills and medical training occurring simultaneously. They do all of this while being instructed by world-renowned faculty in state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories.

$17.3 million has been raised in endowed scholarships; $3.3 million toward teaching and curriculum support; and $3 million for educational endowments, like new teaching positions and programs. This is a tremendous accomplishment in such a short time, and students are already reaping the benefits of donors’ generosity.

“At Weill Cornell Medicine, we aim to provide medical students with an excellent education, and all that that entails: opportunities to learn firsthand from some of the top physician-scientists in the world, using top-notch facilities and technology, all while interacting with patients from the very beginning of their training,” says Dean Glimcher. “The Campaign for Education outlines goals that will enrich every aspect of the learning process, and we’re thrilled that our donors are sharing our enthusiasm for this initiative.”

“A Weill Cornell Medicine education emphasizes leadership skills,” says student Overseer Raul Martinez-McFaline, an M.D.-Ph.D. candidate in his fourth year. “Whether a medical college student becomes a physician, principal investigator, researcher or pursues any other field – donating to this campaign means investing in future leaders.”

To make a gift in support of education, please contact:

**Lisa Lager**
Deputy Director of Individual Giving  
(646) 317-7430  
lili2033@med.cornell.edu

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**Greenberg Award Dinner**

This year’s Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award Dinner, held at The Plaza on May 20, honored Overseer David S. Blumenthal, M.D. ’75, Clinical Professor of Medicine and an attending physician. The festive event, hosted by NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, drew the highest attendance in its 35-year history and coincided with the birthday of its co-chair, Overseer and NewYork-Presbyterian Trustee Maurice R. Greenberg, who endowed the award in 1981.

Dr. Blumenthal, a cardiologist and award-winning teacher, has been affiliated with the medical center for forty years. He received this year’s Greenberg Award for his exceptional service and dedication. Among his many accomplishments, he created the Cardiology Fellows’ Roundtable Conference and serves as Co-Chair of the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center UJA-Federation Campaign.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Blumenthal highlighted the many mentors and friends at Weill Cornell Medicine who shaped his career. “It’s the support of generous patients, and of the people in this room, that truly makes our institution exceptional,” he said. Dean Glimcher remarked that in his words and work, “Dr. Blumenthal’s passion for medicine and his commitment to patients come shining through.”
Members of Weill Cornell Medicine’s annual giving society gathered at the Belfer Research Building on June 5 for the annual Partners in Medicine Spring Luncheon, this year focusing on “Trials to Treatment: Transforming Cancer Therapy.” The event was hosted by Dean Glimcher, and featured a discussion of how research and clinical trials at Weill Cornell Medicine translate into targeted patient treatments and cancer therapies.

Partners in Medicine members include donors whose loyal support is crucial to Weill Cornell’s mission in research, education and patient care.

PRESENTERS:

- Himisha Beltran, M.D., Assistant Professor of Medicine in Urology, Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology
- Andrew Dannenberg, M.D., Associate Director of Cancer Prevention, Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, and Henry R. Erle, M.D.-Roberts Family Professor of Medicine

John Leonard, M.D., Associate Dean of Clinical Research; Associate Director of Clinical Trials, Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center; Vice Chair of Clinical Research; and Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology

For more information about Partners in Medicine, please contact:
Lorelei Schroeter
Director, Annual and Special Giving Programs
(646) 317-7345
las2026@med.cornell.edu
The third annual Appel Alzheimer’s Disease Research Institute Symposium, held on September 9 in the Belfer Research Building, featured presentations and a panel discussion on “The Many Faces of Dementia.” The symposium highlighted groundbreaking research by leading investigators on the broad range of age-related neurodegenerative symptoms known as dementia, which includes Alzheimer’s and related diseases. This year’s event explored the genetic risk factors and molecular structures that characterize these diseases, and new drugs and gene therapies to prevent and treat them. A panel discussion was led by Matthew Fink, M.D., the Louis and Gertrude Feil Professor in Clinical Neurology and Chairman of the Department of Neurology.

The Appel Institute was established in 2006 with a leadership gift by longtime Weill Cornell Medicine benefactors Vice Chair Overseer Robert and Helen Appel.

**PRESENTERS:**
- David Eliezer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Associate Professor of Neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute
- Gregory Petsko, D.Phil., Arthur J. Mahon Professor of Neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute and Director of the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer’s Disease Research Institute
- Rosa Rademakers, Ph.D. Professor of Neuroscience, Mayo Clinic
- Jeffrey Sevigny, M.D., neurologist and Senior Director of Clinical Development, Biogen

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John Rodgers, Director of Creative and Editorial Services • Aviva Meyerowitz, Development Communications Manager • Meghan Catucci, Development Communications Associate

If you wish to have your name removed from lists to receive fundraising requests supporting Weill Cornell Medicine in the future, please either 1) write to us at: Privacy Office, Weill Cornell Medicine, 1300 York Avenue, Box 303, New York, NY 10065; 2) call us at 866-841-2420; or 3) e-mail us at optoutwcmc@med.cornell.edu.

October 2015 | page 8