

# Milestones



## Gift from Andrew and Ann Tisch to Advance Innovations in Health and Technology

Andrew H. Tisch and Ann R. Tisch

ELLIOTT O'DONOVAN

A \$20 million leadership gift from Board of Fellows member Andrew H. Tisch and his wife, Ann R. Tisch, will foster engagement and collaboration between Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell Tech, catalyzing new discoveries at the intersection of health and technology – ranging from precision, genomics-based medicine to the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve clinical care.

The gift, \$12 million of which will be dedicated toward Weill Cornell Medicine, will support the recruitment of an inaugural chair of the new Department of Systems and Computational Biomedicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, and endow a professorship to be held by the chair; \$8 million will endow one senior- and one junior-level professorship at Cornell Tech in the area of health technology.

The new positions will strengthen the links between both campuses' foundational science, computational science and

clinical-care programs, and generate pioneering discoveries that will directly affect patients and improve their care.

The gift marks a new phase in Weill Cornell Medicine's ambitious \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, focused on enhancing and expanding the institution's research enterprise. Gifts such as the one from Mr. and Mrs. Tisch will drive medical innovation and help Weill Cornell Medicine accelerate therapies from the lab bench to the patient's bedside.

"This is an exciting time in science and health care, as next-generation technologies and capabilities promise to transform the way we deliver health care to our patients," says Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows Chair Jessica M. Bibliowicz. "In making this incredible campaign

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Medicine.**

*Continued on next page 4*

# From Our Interim Dean



As chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine, I have seen firsthand the dedication of our leadership, staff, faculty and students, and have experienced our uniquely collaborative culture. And now, I am honored to lead our great institution as interim dean during this time of transition.

The remarkable momentum of our *We're Changing Medicine* campaign is a testament to our dynamic community. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and friends, we are moving forward in each area of our mission to care, discover and teach, and creating transformative change in science and health care.

In order to truly alter the medical landscape, we must continue to pioneer groundbreaking and innovative approaches in all areas, incorporating the latest advances in research and technology. With the new Department of Systems and Computational Biomedicine described in our cover story, we are doing exactly that. The visionary gift from Ann and Board of Fellows member Andrew Tisch will support our efforts to quickly analyze critical data sets to discover the exact genetic code that is driving a given disease. Armed with that vital information, our clinicians will provide patients with world-class care that is precisely tailored to their specific needs. This revolutionary whole-systems approach is poised to transform the way we practice medicine.

Enhancing our computational biomedicine program is one example of how we will change medicine together, but there are many more. As we continue to grow our research enterprise and deliver important new treatments and cures to our patients, Weill Cornell Medicine is proudly at the forefront of this sea change in health care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Lee'.

**Francis Lee, M.D., Ph.D.**

Interim Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine  
Interim Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University





# From Our Co-Chairs

"I am so proud of our student-focused efforts in the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. Funded entirely through philanthropy, the debt-relief initiative for students expands Weill Cornell Medicine's support by providing scholarships to all medical students with demonstrated financial need. In December 2022, we broke ground to build a state-of-the-art student residence that will greatly improve the already strong experience for our future physicians and scientists. Both of those initiatives are well on their way to success with continued support from our friends, alumni and donors."

**Jeffrey J. Feil**  
Campaign Co-Chair

"We would like to thank our donors for their inspired philanthropy and generous contributions to the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. Our expanding research enterprise is a critical engine for groundbreaking discoveries, multidisciplinary collaboration and innovative science. With your support, the world-class physicians and scientists at Weill Cornell Medicine are finding answers to questions that will accelerate new treatments and cures, and transform patient care for years to come."

**Sanford I. Weill**  
Campaign Co-Chair

## Gift from Andrew and Ann Tisch *Continued from the cover*

gift, Andrew and Ann have demonstrated tremendous generosity and foresight, for which we are deeply grateful.”

The new Department of Systems and Computational Biomedicine is a result of Weill Cornell Medicine’s efforts to optimize the structure, organization and scope of its scientifically oriented academic departments, institutes and centers. The department will bring together expertise in areas ranging from systems biology and biomedical applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning, to deep molecular phenotyping technologies. Departmental faculty will harness the power of cutting-edge technologies and AI and computational science approaches to improve human health, while launching a vital hub for scientific collaboration across Cornell’s campuses.

The department chair, who will hold the Andrew H. and Ann R. Tisch Professorship of Systems and Computational Biomedicine, will collaborate with faculty from the Englander Institute for Precision Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar to inform the department’s work with a range of expertise in

computer science, biomedical engineering, functional and evolutionary genomics, nanotechnology, the full spectrum of “omic” technologies, and familiarity with model and non-model organisms. The chair will also foster new programs with industry and in entrepreneurship with the support of Weill Cornell Medicine Enterprise Innovation.

The investments in Cornell Tech faculty will fast-track discovery and collaboration with industry partners, and drive impact through the campus’s domain-focused hubs in health tech, urban tech and connective media. The new faculty positions will also further strengthen relationships among Cornell Tech and the Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech, Weill Cornell Medicine and the Ithaca campus.

“Ann and I are excited to support foundational and applied research and education, and extraordinary patient care, that have made Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medicine such leaders in their fields,” says Mr. Tisch. “Accelerating their partnership and collaboration will lead to the kind of medical and technological breakthroughs that have the potential to transform lives and help to improve the world.”







**"Ann and I are excited to support the foundational and applied research and education, and extraordinary patient care, that have made Cornell Tech and Weill Cornell Medicine such leaders in their fields."**

Board of Fellows member Andrew H. Tisch

Andrew Tisch, a Cornell University graduate from the class of 1971 and chairman of the board and chairman of the executive committee of Loews Corporation, is chairman of the External Relations Committee of the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows and vice chair of the institution's *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. In addition, he is chairman of the Dean's Leadership Council of the Cornell S.C. Johnson College of Business, a member of the Cornell Tech Council and an emeritus trustee of Cornell University.

Ann Tisch, a former national correspondent for NBC News, is the founder and president of Student Leadership Network, an organization that operates the Young Women's Leadership Schools, a network of all-girls public schools, and CollegeBound Initiative, a co-ed college access program.

For decades, the Tisch family has been among the university's most generous supporters. A gift in 2010 supported Weill

Cornell Medicine's *Discoveries that Make a Difference* campaign, with a particular focus on neuroscience and cardiology. With his brother James, Mr. Tisch established the Andrew H. and James S. Tisch Distinguished University Professorship at Cornell University in 2002. A gift from Andrew and Ann Tisch in 2008 established the Tisch University Professorships, one of Cornell's highest faculty honors. And a gift from the couple in 2016 created an endowed professorship at the Jacobs Institute.

"This wonderful new support from Andrew and Ann Tisch will fuel the pathbreaking collaboration and innovation of our faculty at the critical interface of medicine and technology," says Cornell University President Martha E. Pollack. "I am so grateful for their investment in this exciting area of exploration, where faculty research is poised for translation into significant human impact."

# Q&A:

## Meet the Campaign Faculty Chairs: Dr. Orli Etingin, Dr. Timothy Dutta and Dr. John Leonard

Faculty are the lifeblood of Weill Cornell Medicine – and their partnership has been a driving force behind the success of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. For the three physicians who lead the Campaign Faculty Subcommittee, the co-chair role is a natural outgrowth of their years of leadership, dedication and involvement. Dr. Timothy Dutta (M.D. '99), Dr. Orli Etingin and Dr. John Leonard have spent their entire careers at Weill Cornell Medicine and share a deep sense of pride in the institution that set them on their paths as physicians.

The Campaign Faculty Subcommittee – whose members serve as front-line ambassadors for the campaign – comprises nearly 90 dedicated faculty across an array of missions and disciplines.

Dr. Dutta, a cardiologist – and former student of both Dr. Etingin and Dr. Leonard – has been at Weill Cornell Medicine since he began medical school in 1995; Dr. Etingin, an internist, has been with the institution since she started her residency in 1980; and Dr. Leonard, a hematologist-oncologist, has been with Weill Cornell Medicine since he began his residency in 1990.

The three faculty members sat down recently with Lucille M. Ferraro, Weill Cornell Medicine's assistant vice provost for development, to speak about the importance of philanthropy and the ways in which they inspire others to give.

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**LF:** The name of our campaign is *We're Changing Medicine*. What does changing medicine mean to you?

**OE:** We're putting the bench much closer to the bedside. The science, the research, is literally at our fingertips. We're also bringing Weill Cornell Medicine into the community, into other areas of New York, where people may not have been able to access this level of care before.

**TD:** The treatments we're able to offer patients were just imagination when I was training. And there's so much new talent at Weill Cornell Medicine – from the faculty to the students to the researchers. It's fascinating to be part of this, and so gratifying.

**JL:** The themes of our mission are care, discover and teach, and we've always done them well. But we're continuing to evolve. From delivery of care to developing new therapies and new ways of teaching, we're changing medicine, and that's what we're focused on in this campaign.

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**LF:** In your experience as physicians, how has philanthropy helped to advance research and patient care at Weill Cornell Medicine?

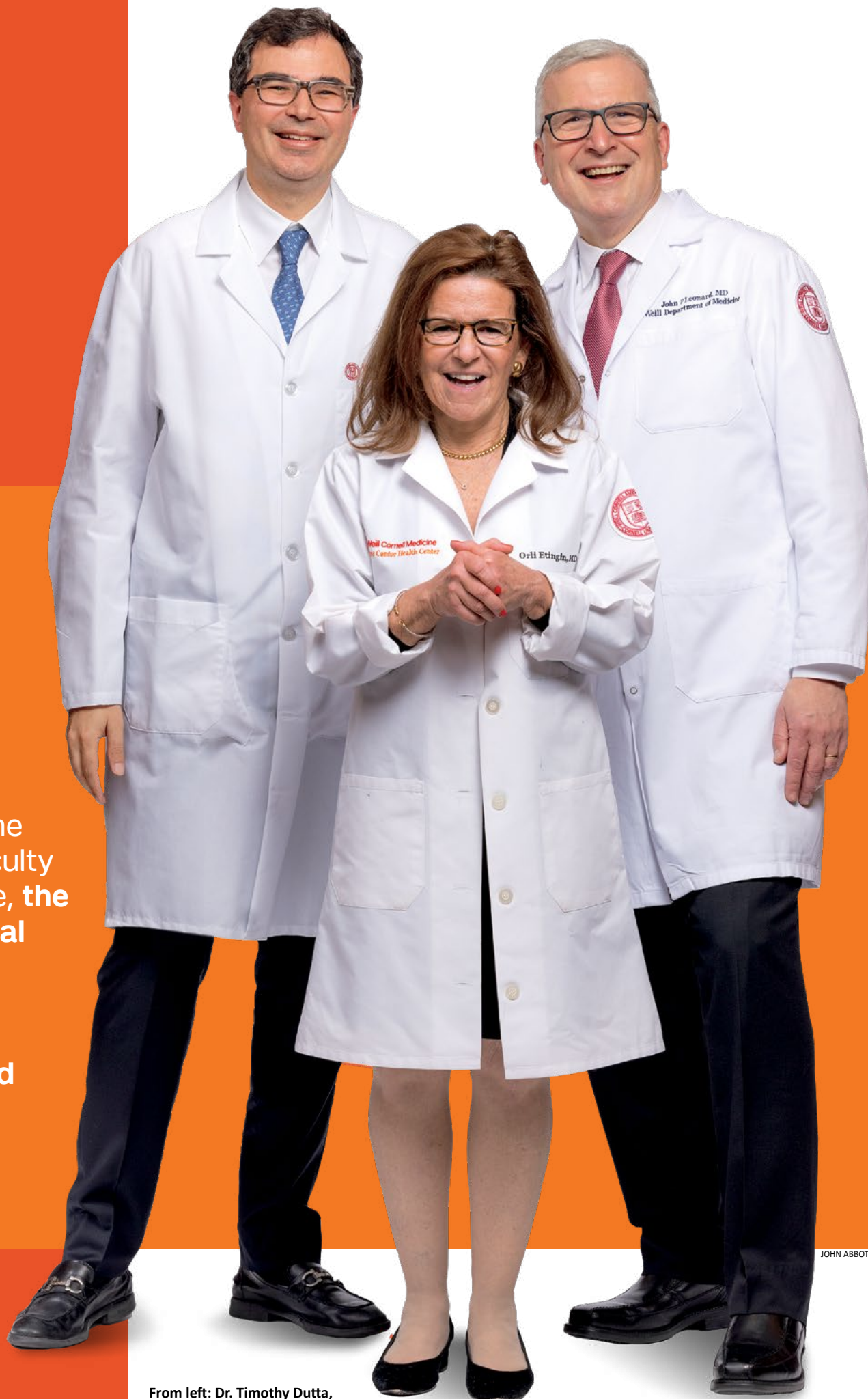
**TD:** Philanthropy enhances everything we do.

**OE:** It helps us with retention and recruitment of key faculty, and it enables us to fund up-and-coming scientists who have enormous potential. We use philanthropy very effectively for that.

**JL:** It also fills in gaps, because there's not enough funding to fulfill all the important parts of our mission: in education, certainly in research, and in some aspects of clinical care. We're committed to these areas and need to be able to fill in the gaps.



For the three co-chairs of the Campaign Faculty Subcommittee, the role is a natural outgrowth of their years of leadership, dedication and involvement.



JOHN ABBOTT

From left: Dr. Timothy Dutta, Dr. Orli Etingin and Dr. John Leonard

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**LF: What do you think inspires our donors to give?**

**TD:** Patients know they're getting the best possible care here. They value that, and they express their gratitude with philanthropy.

**OE:** They get twice the pleasure out of their gifts: first, by honoring their physicians and later, by watching our faculty members succeed.

**JL:** Our donors want to make a difference, and they trust that through their partnership with us, we will use what they provide in a smart way – in a way that will maximize its potential to have an impact.



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**LF: What sort of guidance do you give patients who want to learn how to support Weill Cornell Medicine, and how do you go about having that conversation?**

**JL:** You get to know people, and that leads to, "What do you care about?"

**OE:** I like to offer a sort of a menu of options for giving. Some patients have an idea of an area they want to fund based on a personal experience, and others really don't. So, we try to give them some parameters to help them choose what feels right to them.

**TD:** I always let them know how much philanthropy matters here, and how grateful we are, and how well organized we are as an institution, so that they know their dollars are being used wisely. We're very good at making patients understand that.

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**LF: How does the care here differentiate us from other institutions?**

**TD:** Everything we do here is on the cutting edge. And beyond that, we really take care of patients as individuals. They aren't a cog in the wheel. They're not just a number in a system. Patients know right away when a doctor really cares about them as a person.

**OE:** And they see that in every person they interact with. That's partly because of the team approach here – the fact that everyone will help in a selfless way. The patients see that we'll do anything for them and we really care about them, and so does everyone who comes in contact with them. I tell my patients that I'm so proud to be a doctor here because I feel that the work we do is superb, and we care.

**JL:** In any field, it's so much more fun to work with good people – people who are both skilled and nice. And that just makes it so much more special here. We all appreciate that, and I think our patients appreciate it too.

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**LF: Why is it important for faculty to be involved in the campaign?**

**JL:** It's a way for faculty to help to get the resources and support to do the things that they're devoting their lives to, the things that they think are important to the field, to their patients, to society.

**OE:** It totally widens the reach of the campaign to involve faculty at all levels.

**TD:** The issues that I think matter to all the faculty here matter to the campaign as well. And they can see that this is good work that we're doing, that the fundraising dollars are going to good purposes. Just as the donors want to see that, it's important that the faculty see that as well. We're really fundraising for things that matter to *all* of us.

*Dr. Timothy Dutta (M.D. '99) is a clinical associate professor of medicine; Dr. Orli Etingin is the Lisa and Sanford B. Ehrenkranz Professor in Women's Health and medical director of the Iris Cantor Women's Health Center; and Dr. John Leonard is interim chair of the Weill Department of Medicine, Senior Associate Dean of Innovation and Initiatives, the Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, and a professor of medicine.*



# Events

EVENT PHOTOS: STUDIO BROOKE



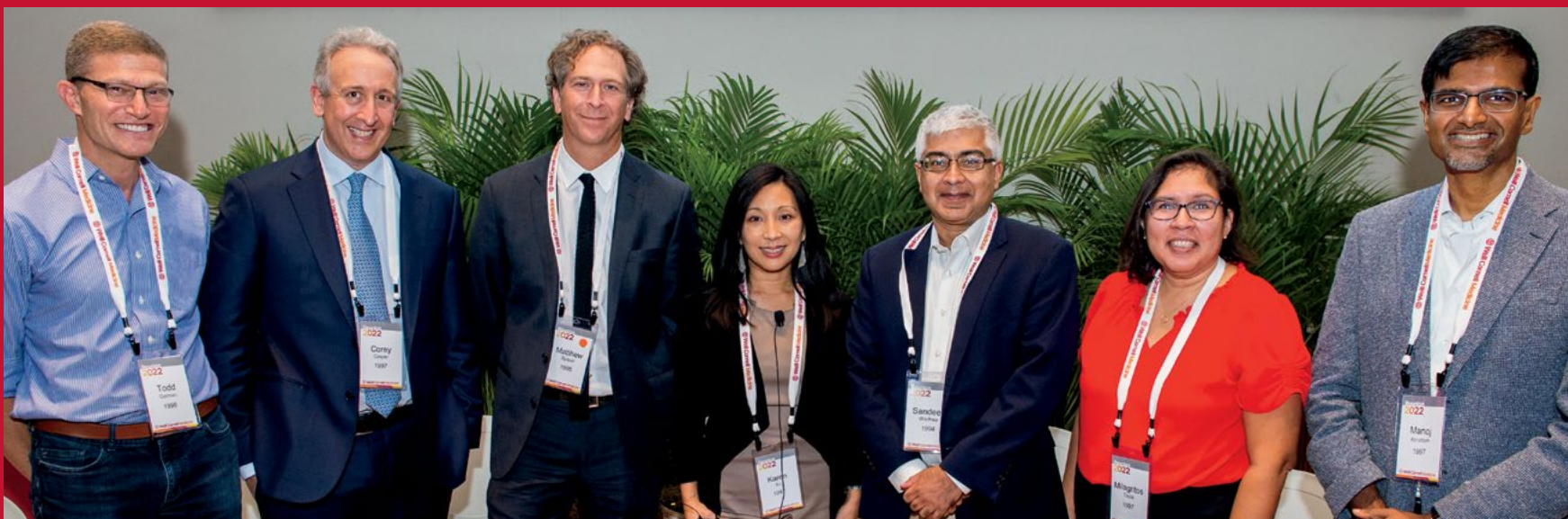
Speakers from the 50th reunion panel, from left: Dr. Barry Levy (M.D. '70), Dr. Henry Pitt (M.D. '71), Dr. Margaret "Peggy" Bia (M.D. '72), Dr. Steven Gabbe (M.D. '69) and moderator Dr. Kathleen Foley (M.D. '69)

## Reunion 2022

More than 300 Weill Cornell Medicine alumni gathered on campus on October 7 and 8, 2022 for the first in-person reunion since 2018. Highlights included a course for CME (continuing medical education) credit; panel discussions led by classes celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> reunions; the presentation of awards to six outstanding honorees; and an interview with Dr. John Gallin (M.D. '69), led by Dr. Neha Pathak (M.D. '06). Evening festivities included class gatherings at The University Club and a celebratory dinner at the Ziegfeld Ballroom. During Reunion weekend, Dr. Kathleen Foley (M.D. '69) was also named the new president of the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association, succeeding Dr. Joseph Habboushe (M.D. '06).



Dr. Neha Pathak (M.D. '06) and Dr. John Gallin (M.D. '69)



Speakers from the 25th anniversary panel, from left: Dr. Todd Gorman (M.D. '96), Dr. Corey Casper (M.D. '97), Dr. Matthew Spitzer (M.D. '95), moderator Dr. Karen Su (M.D. '97), Dr. Sandeep Wadhwa (M.D. '94), Dr. Milagritos Tapia (M.D. '97) and Dr. Manoj Abraham (M.D. '97)



# Events

EVENT PHOTOS: STUDIO BROOKE

## Children's Health Council Discovery Panel

The Weill Cornell Medicine Children's Health Council (CHC) hosted a Discovery Panel on November 17, 2022 at the Belfer Research Building, featuring expert tips on nutrition, sleep and mental health for children and families. Speakers included Dr. Jane Chang, associate professor of clinical pediatrics; Dr. Steven Rosenblatt, assistant professor of otolaryngology; and psychologist Dr. Corinne Catarazoli, assistant professor of psychology in clinical pediatrics and in clinical psychiatry. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Susan Bostwick, associate dean for affiliations and professor of clinical pediatrics. CHC Discovery Panels are discussions led by top Weill Cornell Medicine physicians and scientists on a variety of topics relevant to pediatric health.



From left: Danielle Rayman, CHC vice chair of marketing; Casey Weiss, CHC chair; Dr. Steven Rosenblatt, assistant professor of otolaryngology; Erika Feil-Lincoln, CHC vice chair of programming; and Mara Feil, CHC executive committee member

## Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute Symposium

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute Symposium, held on October 25, 2022 at the Belfer Research Building, featured presentations by Dr. Karen Duff of the UK Dementia Research Institute, in London; Dr. Catherine Kaczorowski of the Jackson Laboratory, in Bar Harbor, Maine; Dr. Kenneth Kosik of the University of California, Santa Barbara; and Dr. Zhu hao Wu, an assistant professor of neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medicine. The event also included a panel discussion led by Dr. Matthew Fink, chairman of Neurology, the Louis and Gertrude Feil Professor in Clinical Neurology and a professor in clinical neurology. The Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute – directed by Dr. Li Gan, the Burton P. and Judith B. Resnick Distinguished Professor in Neurodegenerative Diseases – was established in 2006 with a gift from Mr. and Mrs. Appel, with the aim of eliminating Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research at Weill Cornell Medicine.



From left: Dr. Kenneth Kosik, Dr. Karen Duff, Dr. Li Gan, Dr. Catherine Kaczorowski and Dr. Zhu hao Wu



## Hartman Symposium

Weill Cornell Medicine presented the inaugural symposium of the Hartman Institute for Therapeutic Organ Regeneration on December 6, 2022, in Uris Auditorium. The institute was established by Board of Fellows member Alan Hartman and his wife, Kim. The symposium featured a presentation on natural tissue regeneration by Dr. Kenneth Poss, an expert in regenerative medicine, who is the James B. Duke Professor of Regenerative Biology at Duke University, head of the Duke Regeneration Center and president of the International Society for Regenerative Biology. The event was also held virtually and was sponsored by the Hartman Institute for Therapeutic Organ Regeneration at Weill Cornell Medicine.



From left: Former Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Board of Fellows member Alan Hartman, guest speaker Dr. Kenneth Poss of Duke University, Kim Hartman and Dr. Shahin Rafii, director of the Hartman Institute for Therapeutic Organ Regeneration

## Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture and Prize

The annual Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture and Prize in Children's Health held on November 3, 2022 featured a presentation by Dr. Stuart Orkin, the David G. Nathan Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator at Boston Children's Hospital.



From left: Dr. Virginia Pascual, director, Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health; Board of Fellows Member Dr. Ira Drukier; Dr. Gale Drukier; Dr. Stewart Orkin, the David G. Nathan Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School; and Dr. Pranita Tamma, associate professor of pediatrics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Dr. Orkin studies the development and function of stem cells and the genetic basis and treatment of inherited blood disorders. Also at the popular event, held in the Belfer Research Building, Dr. Pranita Tamma, associate professor of pediatrics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, received the 2022 Gale and Ira Drukier Prize in Children's Health Research, for her work in bacterial infections. Established by Dr. Gale Drukier and her husband, Board of Fellows member Dr. Ira Drukier, the Drukier Lecture highlights the latest research and discoveries in the field of children's health. The annual Drukier Prize recognizes the work of outstanding early-career researchers. Both are sponsored by Weill Cornell Medicine's Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health.

## Dean's Council Fall 2022 Meeting

Guests at the Dean's Council fall meeting on September 15, 2022 enjoyed an informative presentation by Dr. Rahul Sharma, chairman of the Weill Cornell Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine, executive director of the Center for Virtual Care at Weill Cornell Medicine, and professor of emergency medicine. It was the first Dean's Council in-person meeting since 2020 and included a festive celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Council. Dr. Sharma described how new trends in telecommunications and health-care models are transforming emergency care.



From left: Dean's Council Co-Chair Sanford B. Ehrenkranz; and Dean's Council members Lisa Ehrenkranz and Marjorie and Michael Stern



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*Assistant Vice Provost  
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March 2023

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