



milestones



Dr. Georgeanna J. Klingensmith and Dr. William C. Klingensmith III (MD '68)

PAUL ABDOO

Alumnus Gift Supports Advances in Research

With a generous gift in support of the Department of Radiology's Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics – formerly known as the Division of Nuclear Medicine – a Weill Cornell Medicine alumnus and his wife hope to make a significant impact on research.

Dr. William C. Klingensmith III – a 1968 graduate of Weill Cornell Medicine, as well as a 1964 Cornell University graduate – and his wife, Dr. Georgeanna J. Klingensmith, have made Weill Cornell Medicine a beneficiary of their estates with a \$5 million bequest. The gift will create two endowments in the Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics. It will support a professorship to be held by the division chief, as well as an endowment to be used for the chief's priorities.

Both endowments will be named in honor of the Klingensmiths, retired Denver-based physicians who have a long history of philanthropy

at Weill Cornell Medicine. Dr. Bill Klingensmith is also a member of the Dean's Circle, Weill Cornell's alumni giving society for leadership donors.

Nuclear medicine is the branch of medicine that deals with the use of radioactive substances in research, diagnosis and treatment.

Dr. Bill Klingensmith, a radiologist with a subspecialty in nuclear medicine, is the former chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Georgeanna Klingensmith, a pediatric endocrinologist, is professor emerita in pediatrics at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

"On both sides of our family, there is a strong history of philanthropy," says Dr. Georgeanna

Klingensmith. "Bill has gained a great deal from Weill Cornell Medicine, and we wanted to be able to give back in a meaningful way."

"Alumni support keeps Weill Cornell Medicine at the forefront of academic medicine, scientific discovery and patient care," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean. "We are profoundly grateful for the Klingensmiths' bequest to endow the Georgeanna J. Klingensmith, M.D. and William C. Klingensmith III, M.D. '68 Professorship in Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics. As we look ahead, nuclear medicine will play an increasingly important role in diagnosing and treating disease."

Nuclear medicine utilizes small amounts of radioactive materials, called radiopharmaceuticals,

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Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi

Gift of \$1 Million Is Dedicated to Pediatric Brain Tumor Research

When Veronica Marsano's son, Patrick, was diagnosed with gliomatosis cerebri, a highly aggressive and rare pediatric brain cancer, he was just seven years old. During the three and a half years that followed, Patrick "struggled bravely" with the disease, says his mother. He passed away in 2016 at the age of 10, a devastating loss for his family.



Veronica Marsano with Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield. Between them is a photo of Ms. Marsano's son, Patrick.

JOHN ABBOTT

"He was the love of my life," says Ms. Marsano, who lives in Lima, Peru with her twin 11-year-old daughters, Alessia and Sophia.

A year after Patrick's passing, Ms. Marsano was inspired to connect with other families who had dealt with the disease and learn more about the research being done. She attended a conference on gliomatosis cerebri where she met Dr. Jeffrey Greenfield, a pediatric neurosurgeon at Weill Cornell Medicine who treats rare and difficult-to-treat brain tumors in children and adolescents.

Ms. Marsano's interaction with Dr. Greenfield brought her hope for progress in the field and led her to make a \$1 million gift to Weill Cornell Medicine, dedicated toward research in pediatric brain tumors such as the one Patrick suffered from.

"I would have loved to have given Patrick the opportunity to have access to the quality medical research and treatment that Weill Cornell currently offers," says Ms. Marsano. "I know there is still a long road to find a cure for this disease, but the work being done at Weill Cornell brings hope that we can possibly save or give longer and better-quality lives to kids dealing with these diseases."

Her gift will allow Dr. Greenfield and his team to utilize a cellular and molecular precision medicine approach to pediatric brain tumor therapy, which may lead to the establishment of innovative patient-specific therapies and greatly improve the standard of care for these brain tumors.

"I feel so happy that I am able to help other kids," says Ms. Marsano. "I owe it to my son. I can no longer do it for him, but I am pleased to do it for other children, and I think he would be proud of my efforts."

In September, Ms. Marsano visited Dr. Greenfield's labs, where an active research staff were diligently researching gliomatosis cerebri and other pediatric brain tumors. Patrick's photo, along with photos of several other children who have passed away as a result of rare pediatric brain tumors, hang on the wall in remembrance and as inspiration to the scientists.

"Patrick was really special and a noble human being. He was always so happy and he never complained about medical treatment," says Ms. Marsano. "This gift is a way to keep him in the memory of our family and friends, and to honor my son who we love very much."

Alumnus Gift Supports Advances in Research *Continued from cover*

which are usually injected intravenously. Then, imaging machines – such as PET-CT scanners – are used to non-invasively and simultaneously image both function and anatomy anywhere in the body. This allows for precise localization of functional abnormalities.

of Radiology. Dr. Joseph Osborne is chief of the Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics, director of the Molecular Imaging Innovations Inclusion Lab and an associate professor of radiology.

"This generous gift from the Klingensmiths will allow the division to continue its groundbreaking research in many areas that have a direct impact on patient care," says Dr. Min, who is also president and chief executive officer of Weill Cornell Medicine's Physician Organization. "As a fellow graduate of the medical college, I am proud of the Klingensmith family's dedication to advancing our alma mater's goals."

"The Klingensmiths' visionary gift will provide essential support to the Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics, and help

us continue to innovate," says Dr. Osborne. "Our field is continuously developing new radiopharmaceuticals for characterizing the molecular biology of individual patients, allowing us to deliver uniquely personalized information."

Researchers in the Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics are engaged in projects related to cancer biology, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury and bipolar disorder.

"We believe that our bequest can have the greatest long-term impact by supporting medical research," says Dr. Bill Klingensmith. "In particular, we would like our endowments to be used as a source of funding for the generation of preliminary research data that demonstrates that an idea has promise."

Historically, this is the weakest link in the process, he says. Researchers with innovative ideas must generate preliminary data to support a successful grant request. But without adequate funding, they are often unable to proceed – leaving breakthrough research stalled in the laboratory. With their gift, the Klingensmiths hope to push research forward, allowing for new discoveries that will ultimately help patients benefit from innovations in nuclear medicine.

As a medical student at Weill Cornell, Dr. Klingensmith was inspired by the institution's dedication to research – and the thriving biomedical community that fostered interdisciplinary collaboration.

"Research at major university medical centers produces new findings that increase medical knowledge, and allows clinical care and medical education to advance for the long term," says Dr. Bill Klingensmith. "Weill Cornell Medicine's mission to care, discover and teach requires significant support in order to thrive."



From left: Dr. Joseph Osborne and Dr. Robert Min (MD '90)

The Division of Molecular Imaging and Therapeutics at Weill Cornell Medicine includes physicians, physicists, engineers, pharmacists, chemists and mathematicians. The division is part of the Department of Radiology, led by Dr. Robert Min (MD '90), the John A. Evans, M.D. Professor

What Inspires Giving?

Meet Gale and Ira Drukier

In 2014, Dr. Gale Drukier and Overseer Dr. Ira Drukier made a gift of \$25 million to establish the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health at Weill Cornell Medicine. Their generous gift expanded Weill Cornell Medicine's research and clinical care programs that seek to end diseases and disorders that affect children and adolescents. It also enabled the recruitment of Dr. Virginia Pascual, a renowned physician-scientist specializing in pediatric rheumatology, as the inaugural Gale and Ira Drukier Director of Children's Health Research.

The Drukiers' continued dedication and involvement in the Institute over the past five years has been essential. They are active with two successful events sponsored annually by the Institute – the Drukier Prize in Children's Health Research, which honors an early-career pediatrician whose research has made important contributions to improving the health of children, and the Drukier Lecture in Children's Health, which features a lecture from a distinguished leading researcher.

Leaders in philanthropy throughout New York City, the Drukiers have a legacy of giving at New York University and Cornell University, Dr. Ira Drukier's alma mater. Their support continues to propel children's health research initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine and beyond.

The Drukiers recently sat down with Mark Veich, Weill Cornell Medicine's vice provost for external affairs, to speak about the importance of philanthropy and what inspires their giving.

MV: Thank you for your continued generosity to Weill Cornell Medicine. Can you tell me how you became involved here?

GD: We were married about a month and Ira said to me, "Let's go to Ithaca!" He wanted to show me where he went to school, at Cornell University. There was about a hundred feet of snow when we got up there, but he showed me around, and soon after, we donated a Man Ray rayograph photo to the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell.

ID: About a decade after donating that photograph, the director of the museum at the time reached out to us, and we joined the Museum Council. We became really great friends with other council members, who we are still close with to this day.

GD: Through our involvement with the museum, we learned a lot about friendship, philanthropy and being charitable.

ID: After I rotated off Cornell's Board of Trustees, we began considering philanthropy in medicine. We lived just a few blocks away from Weill Cornell Medicine's campus and we were interested in seeing how we could give back to the medical field; it was something we hadn't done yet. Gale and I feel that universities are places you should put your efforts into because they're going to train young people who will change the world for the better. That's true at Weill Cornell – the medicine is going to change the world. The fact that we can contribute even a tiny bit to that change is really exciting.

MV: You have made a tremendous impact on children's health research. What motivated you to invest in this specific area of medicine?

GD: It took years for us to crystallize what specific area we wanted to get involved in, since there are a lot of important areas that could benefit from funding.

ID: We began to learn about illnesses that affect children as well as adults, and how necessary children's research is, to determine the best course of care. We thought a focus on children's health research could be an area where we could have a real impact. Saving a child's life enables them to be given an entire life ahead of them. If we can make a child's life happier and healthier, that's a great thing to do.

MV: You have both been philanthropic leaders for Weill Cornell. How do you inspire others to give?

GD: We invite friends to whatever event we're attending, which shows them the cutting-edge research and groundbreaking care happening at Weill Cornell.

ID: I'm always telling people about the great lectures we attend here and the really bright researchers and physicians we encounter here. We are just doing what we think is the right thing to do, and perhaps that encourages other people to give. We give back because it brings us joy.

MV: That's wonderful. What advice would you have for donors who are trying to decide how and where to give to make a difference?

GD: They really have to *feel* it. You have to give back to something you're passionate about and something that brings you happiness. I think it's exciting to talk about the debt-free initiatives happening here and similar initiatives happening at other institutions. It's really going to change medicine, and I think it's one of the most amazing things that's happened in education. Everyone should be proud of that.

MV: What do you see as our greatest opportunity at Weill Cornell?

ID: I think the key is to engage more people. People care about curing illnesses and disease – if we can convey that we are making these advances in science, technology and healthcare, I think people will want to be involved with the discoveries being made here. People care about how they're treated and how their families will be treated. So that patient-doctor interaction is always top of mind and can always be an opportunity for growth.

MV: The fall and spring events hosted by the Drukier Institute have played an important role in the Institute development. What do you feel is their significance?

ID: The lecture and prize encourage more interaction and collaboration among the faculty, students and the rest of the world. Exposing our

faculty and students to these world-renowned scientists is a really big deal. We also love to show visiting scientists the great work being done at the Institute, and perhaps that may encourage other brilliant scientists to come on board. The connections that Dr. Gerry Loughlin and Dr. Virginia Pascual share with their colleagues and mentees are key to making these events so very memorable.

GD: We want to make these events as impactful as possible. It takes a lot of time and effort by people behind the scenes, as well as the speakers, to bring these events to life. The visiting researcher also spends an entire day with faculty and students, getting to know Weill Cornell Medicine and our wonderful community. It's such a joy to be a part of this.



From Our Dean



It's been a transformative year for Weill Cornell Medicine.

Over the past 12 months, we've celebrated many milestones that have marked our continuing advancement as a top-tier academic medical center. With the launch of our groundbreaking scholarship

program and the opening of the Feil Family Student Center, we demonstrated our steadfast commitment to student learning and wellness – and reinforced our dedication to the healthcare leaders of tomorrow.

The unwavering support of our visionary benefactors has enabled us to make the fundamental discoveries that underlie medical advances. Our greatest resources are the people who compose our community – and we are harnessing their collaborative power to change the future of medicine.

Weill Cornell Medicine's talented researchers and physicians are dedicating their lives to improving the human condition – and meeting the mysteries of medicine with humility and resolve. Our strength is bolstered by our collective vision, and our passionate commitment to integration across our mission will help us continue to advance on all fronts.

All of our efforts are driven by the same overarching theme: to deliver exemplary individualized care to our patients, and to provide the research-driven therapies that are the hallmark of our great institution. As we close 2019 and look toward a new year, the promise of tomorrow beckons. Let us join together to celebrate all we have achieved – and commit to continued success as we lead the way in shaping healthcare for the future.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Augustine M.K. Choi".

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD

Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

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Discover.
Teach.



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Medicine**

Care. Discover. Teach.

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Renée Belfer and Overseer Robert Belfer

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Cabaret

This year's Cabaret celebration took place on October 16 at the Park Avenue Armory. The gala raised more than \$4.5 million for Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, making it the most successful Cabaret in the event's 37-year history. Lionel Richie, Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter, actor and record producer, provided entertainment for the evening.



Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman, Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Overseers; Dean Augustine M.K. Choi; Dr. Steven J. Corwin, president and CEO, NewYork-Presbyterian; and Jerry I. Speyer, chairman, NewYork-Presbyterian Board of Trustees

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Acting Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education Dr. Yoon Kang, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Jessica Bibliowicz, Overseer Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil and Overseer Chair Emeritus Sanford I. Weill

Feil Family Student Center

Weill Cornell Medicine officially unveiled the newly completed Feil Family Student Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 7. Made possible by a \$12.5 million gift from the Feil Family, the 16,200-square-foot facility increases the institution's dedicated student space by nearly 75 percent. The Center occupies the renovated first and second floors in the main campus buildings on York Avenue, and features small-group study rooms, instructional spaces, a computer lab and lounges – all with flexible room configurations and enhanced information technology capabilities.

Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture in Children's Health

On November 21, guests filled the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center for the fifth annual Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture in Children's Health. The lecture featured a presentation from Dr. Alain Fischer, director of hematology, immunology and infectious diseases at Necker Children's Hospital, Paris, France; professor of experimental medicine, Collège de France in Paris; and an authority on gene therapy, primary immunodeficiency diseases and the development of the lymphoid system. Established by Gale and Ira Drukier in 2014, the annual Drukier Lecture highlights the latest research and discoveries in the field of children's health.

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From left: Dr. Gale Drukier, Jennifer Birnbaum, Dr. Ira Drukier, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Virginia Pascual and Dr. Alain Fischer



From left: Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Li Gan, Overseer Vice Chair Robert Appel, Dr. Giuseppe Faraco, Dr. Lennart Mucke, Dr. Virginia Man-Yee Lee and Dr. Rudolph Tanzi

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Appel Symposium

Attendees gathered at the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center on October 4 for the seventh annual Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute Symposium. The event featured presentations from Dr. Lennart Mucke, director of the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease, the Joseph B. Martin Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience and professor of neurology at the University of California, San Francisco; Dr. Giuseppe Faraco, assistant professor of research in neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medicine's Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute; Dr. Rudolph Tanzi, the Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and director of the Genetics and Aging Research Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital; and Dr. Virginia Man-Yee Lee, the John H. Ware 3rd Endowed Professor in Alzheimer's Research at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. The Appel Institute was founded by Helen and Overseer Vice Chair Robert Appel with the goal of developing treatments and finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

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