

When Weill Cornell Medicine's new student residence is completed in 2025, it will bear the names of donors who are passionate about medical education – and dedicated to supporting the nation's future health-care leaders.

A key component of the institution's vision for the future — and an integral part of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign — the Upper East Side residence will expand the main campus a few blocks north, optimizing the goal of creating a modern space for students to thrive and reach their highest potential.

The 16-story, 178,000-square-foot building will bring those living in Olin Hall and in other campus housing options together in one place. The new student residence will celebrate the institution's three-

part mission to care, discover and teach, with features that enhance students' quality of life, implement the latest technological advances and improve the overall academic experience.

With a building cost of just over \$260 million, Weill Cornell Medicine is seeking to fund approximately half of the cost through philanthropic support, with naming opportunities at a wide range of investment levels – and a special opportunity

for alumni to contribute.

Generously supported by a \$55 million conaming gift from Board of Fellows Vice Chair and Campaign Co-Chair Jeffrey Feil and the Feil family, the student residence will nearly We're
Changing
Medicine.

# From Our Dean

The launch of our *We're Changing Medicine* campaign this past summer marked a new era at Weill Cornell Medicine. The campaign is not only a critical philanthropic endeavor for our institution as we grow and expand, it is also a call for necessary and transformational change. Academic medicine, and health care at large, are at a pivotal moment as the medical landscape continues to evolve. It is our responsibility – as a world-class leader in the field – to create this change and pioneer new possibilities in patient care, research and medical education. And, with this new initiative, we are doing exactly that.

As we continue to invest in each of our campaign priority areas, we are also laser-focused on supporting the health-care leaders of tomorrow. Our students, some of the brightest worldwide, are the professionals who will advance medicine for many years to come. We must prepare them for the future by providing them with a top-tier education and a well-rounded experience that supports every aspect of their journey. With the help of so many of our donors and friends, we are already doing so with our comprehensive medical education curriculum and our extraordinary debt-free program for those who demonstrate financial need. And now is the time to push this effort even further, by building a new student residence.

This residence is much more than a place where our students will live; it is a facility that will promote overall wellness and enhance our already strong student community. Like our physicians, if our students feel well-supported, they are better positioned to provide the best possible care to our patients. It is imperative that we teach these future physicians and scientists the importance of balance, wellness and peer support as they enter into this exciting and challenging field. With your support, building this residence will be a critical step toward this goal.

With gratitude,

Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D.

ywane MACles.

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







## From Our Co-Chairs

"The extraordinary physicians, scientists and students at Weill Cornell Medicine are already feeling the direct impact of the We're Changing Medicine campaign. With your inspired philanthropy, we will continue to do what we do best: transform the medical landscape with

Jeffrey J. Feil Campaign Co-Chair



"We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support that we have already received for the We're Changing Medicine campaign. This is an extraordinary moment in science and health care, and it is clear that our donors and friends understand the importance of this transformational opportunity and are committed to helping us see it through. We invite everyone to join us as we create lasting change for our institution, and for patients around the world."

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



groundbreaking discoveries,

scientific leaders of tomorrow

shape the medical and

and provide our patients

with world-class care."

# A Student Residence for the 21st Century

Continued from page 1

double the institution's residential living space, with fully furnished apartments and numerous amenities that will support students' physical and emotional well-being. The Feil family has been a steadfast champion of Weill Cornell Medicine's education mission, generously establishing the Feil Family Student Center in 2017 with a \$12.5 million gift, as well as providing significant support for student scholarship and many other facets of the Weill Cornell Medicine mission.

"I'm thrilled to be part of this new chapter in the modernization of our campus," says Mr. Feil. "It is exciting to be a part of a venture to help fund a truly modern structure and bolster our future physicians' learning experience as it empowers them to excel."

Continued on page (



Study nooks on the lobby level support academic achievement.



In the new residence, students will have ample space to gather, fostering collaboration.







A sweeping staircase will lead down one level to a fitness center that will feature several different spaces for exercise and fitness, all centered on students' well-being.





The residence will include a multipurpose activity court that can be used for campus-wide meetings and events.

Continued fom page 4

"This vibrant new residence will create a state-of-the-art environment that extends our presence on the York Avenue biomedical corridor and reflects our standing as a top-tier academic medical center," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "It exemplifies a core part of our vision for the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign: to support students' well-being."

Naming opportunities for the residence will range from \$75,000 for a studio apartment to \$50 million and above for conaming rights, with many additional investment levels in between.

"Support from our devoted Weill Cornell Medicine community will enable us to achieve one of our most important campaign goals," says Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman of the Board of Fellows. "Our students are the health-care leaders of tomorrow, and they deserve the very best."



The light-filled building, with eco-friendly features, will include 163 studios, 7 one-bedrooms and 51 two-bedroom apartments, each equipped with a full, modern kitchen.

MECHANICAL		MECHANICAL		
16		RESIDENTI	AL SKY LOUNGE	TERRACE
15		RESIDENTIA	AL	
14		RESIDENTIAL		
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05	RESIDENTIAL			
04	RESIDENTIAL			
03	RESIDENTIAL			
02	RESIDENTIAL			
01	SUPPORT		LOBBY, STUDENT LIVING ROOM, GARDEN	
1	MULTIPURPOSE ACTIVITY COURT		FITNESS	SUPPORT
2			FITNESS	SUPPORT

### **Projected completion: 2025**

The 178,000-square-foot, 16-story residence will have two additional floors of usable space below street level. It will house up to 300 students, nearly doubling the total number of available beds and bringing those currently living at Olin Hall or in other housing options together in one place.



## Plans for New Residence Welcomed by Alumni

For Weill Cornell Medicine alumni, an investment in the new student residence represents a special opportunity to support their alma mater – and the chance to help build a home that will nurture the next generation of physicians-in-training.

The residence will replace the 67-year-old Olin Hall – with nearly double the capacity – offering medical students a sleek, modern apartment building that fosters the collaborative spirit that has long been a hallmark of the institution.

"This unique sense of family was born in Olin Hall. So many of our alumni speak of it as if it were a castle," says Dr. Joseph Habboushe (M.D. '06), president of the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association and assistant professor of clinical emergency medicine (interim). "Then, visit it and you'll scratch your head when seeing how simple it is."

"It has always been a rite of passage to live at Olin Hall – with its 'cozy' rooms, shared bathrooms and kitchens – and it has united all the students with a common living experience during one of the most

exciting periods of one's life," says Dr. Edwin Su (M.D. '97), treasurer of the Alumni Association and professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery. "But the new residence will unite students in a different way, with one of the most innovative and luxurious domiciles of any medical school."

Although Dr. Habboushe says he initially felt some concern that the new residence might lack the warmth of the decades-old dormitory, he is confident that it will, in fact, greatly enhance the student experience with its carefully considered layout, design features, and spaces for collaboration and conversation – including its rooftop terrace.

"This strong sense of community is so important not only to our education, but also to our development as physicians," he says. "The support we have for each other during our studies extends well beyond graduation. It's one of the reasons our alumni are incredibly successful, while maintaining such warmth and humanity."

"As an alumnus, I feel proud – and envious – that the future students of Weill Cornell Medicine will have such a fantastic place to live and be so close to campus," says Dr. Su.



## Ritu and Ajay Banga Endow Healthcare Disparities Research Awards

Ritu Banga and her husband, Board of Fellows member Ajay Banga, are passionate about the cause of global health-care equity. Now, through a generous \$5 million gift, the couple will fund a Weill Cornell Medicine initiative to develop a fuller understanding of the specific health needs, challenges and differences among diverse peoples worldwide.

Formerly known as the Healthcare Disparities Research Awards, the Ritu Banga Healthcare Disparities Research Awards support excellence in research that will ultimately lead to improvements in the health of women and underrepresented minorities and reduce health disparities in health-care systems and in clinical settings.

"This is an important issue that is very close to our hearts," says Mrs. Banga, an investor and a co-founder of Zoomdojo,

a social enterprise focused on helping college students, recent graduates and startup founders achieve success.

Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, launched the Diversity and Healthcare Disparities Research Awards program in 2017 as part of his goal to strengthen and widen diversity and inclusion efforts at Weill Cornell Medicine and in academic medicine generally. Candidates include fellows, postdocs and full-time faculty.

Awards of \$50,000 each are distributed every year, and recipients present their research each spring during Weill Cornell Medicine's Diversity Week.

"Ritu and Ajay's quest to help us expand our biomedical knowledge and embrace the unique diversity of all the world's peoples is inspiring and, just as important, within our reach," Dr. Choi says. "This gift will have a powerful impact on global health."

The Bangas chose to fund an endowment because they value both short-term and long-term results. Weill Cornell Medicine endowments generate the necessary income to fund the work of generations of promising scientists, year after year. Weill Cornell Medicine is an ideal medical institution to support, in part because it serves the most ethnically diverse city in the world and research conducted in New York can easily be applied globally, the couple says.

Finally, they are dedicated to helping patients through the ambitious \$1.5 billion We're Changing Medicine campaign, which embraces health-care equity and precision health as cornerstones. Mr. Banga, the executive chairman and former CEO of Mastercard, serves as a vice chair of the We're Changing Medicine campaign.

"Through our close friendship with Dean Choi and his wife, Dr. Mary Choi, and my long involvement on the Board of Fellows, Ritu and I profoundly believe in the unlimited possibilities of this institution," Mr. Banga says. "There is no place like it."



Ajay and Ritu Banga



Leonard and Louise Riggio with Dr. Kevin Holcomb, associate dean for admissions and professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology

## Gift From Louise and Leonard Riggio Expands Debt-Free Scholarship Funding for Medical Students

Building on their longtime commitment to social justice, equity and diversity, Louise and Leonard Riggio have made a \$5.6 million gift to Weill Cornell Medicine to establish a named scholarship for medical students with financial need who are Black.

This scholarship, which will be awarded as part of Weill Cornell Medicine's debt-free scholarship program for all financially eligible medical students, will cover the full cost of attendance for all four years of medical school.

The Holcomb-Riggio Scholarship – named in honor of Dr. Kevin Holcomb, associate dean for admissions and professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology – will be awarded to two enrolled students each year.

Weill Cornell Medicine's debt-free scholarship program provides financial support to all medical students with demonstrated financial need, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender.

The Riggios' gift provides essential support for this program, expanding the pool of available funds, while also drawing attention to the critical need for a diverse physician population.

An outgrowth of the Riggios' civil-rights advocacy, the scholarship aims to ultimately lead to increasing numbers of Black doctors in Black communities – and a decline in the health disparities that have plagued communities of color, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This scholarship is a little drop in a huge ocean," Mr. Riggio says. "But we're hoping that other people will see what we're doing and say, 'That's a lovely idea. We'd like to join,' or 'We'd like to do this ourselves."

Dr. Holcomb, who met the Riggios through a family member – a former patient – is working closely with the couple to fine-tune the details of the scholarship program, with plans for a mentoring component that will involve the doctor's ongoing participation.

"Mr. and Mrs. Riggio's extraordinary gift will help us continue to provide superior medical training to a diverse group of students, with the long-range goal of eliminating health-care disparities and improving quality of life," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "Diversity and mentorship are tied together inextricably in this scholarship, illustrating the strength of what we can do when we come together as a community."

"Having my name on this scholarship fills me with pride and serves as a source of motivation to ensure the success of the Holcomb-Riggio scholars," says Dr. Holcomb, who believes the gift will have a powerful impact on society.

"The underrepresentation of Black physicians is a critical factor in the increased burden of disease seen in the Black community. The Riggios and I realize this is not a matter of altruism — it's a matter of life and death," Dr. Holcomb says.

Leonard Riggio, the founder and retired CEO of Barnes & Noble, has long been recognized for his advocacy and philanthropy, with awards including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Frederick Douglass Medallion and the Americanism Award from the Anti-Defamation League. The couple are known for their boots-on-the-ground activism, and view philanthropy as a natural companion to generosity of spirit.

"We were raised to be good citizens, and that's how we've raised our children. That's our credo," says Mrs. Riggio. "If you've got a leg up, give somebody else a leg up. Pay it forward."

"We've mentored a lot of people in our lives, and we'd like to continue that with this scholarship," says Mr. Riggio. "We give more than just money, we give time." Physicians and caregivers are "blessed people" who play a uniquely important role in the world – and support is essential to helping them thrive, particularly when they're just starting out, says Mr. Riggio.

"There is nothing more noble than saving lives," he says, "and when you're a doctor, you're not only saving lives – you're making lives better."



# Weil, Gotshal & Manges Foundation Gift Targets Boosting COVID-19 Vaccination Rates

With a gift of \$200,000 in support of a Weill Cornell Medicine program to encourage vaccination, the Weil, Gotshal & Manges Foundation hopes to boost COVID-19 vaccination rates in underserved communities.



**Dr. Susana Morales** 

The program – titled the COVID-19 Community Education and Empowerment Internship – aims to provide accurate scientific information and build trust in COVID-19 vaccines by training "vaccine ambassadors" to provide information about the impact of COVID-19 infection and dispel common myths about the vaccines. Trainees, who are high school and college students, are asked to talk to at least 10 people about COVID-19 vaccines, addressing everything from concerns about the vaccine's quick rollout to worries about effects on fertility. They also produce capstone projects about COVID-19 and vaccines, which can include videos, infographics, TikToks, songs or artwork, that are posted on social media channels.

The virtual internship is led by Dr. Susana Morales, director of the Weill Cornell Medicine Diversity Center of Excellence within the Cornell Center for Health Equity, and an associate professor of clinical medicine, who collaborates with an interdisciplinary steering committee of New York City physician leaders: Dr. Lynne Holden, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Mentoring in Medicine, Inc.; Dr. Carla Boutin-Foster, of SUNY Downstate College of Medicine; Dr. Joseph Osborne,

professor of radiology and chief of molecular imaging and therapeutics at Weill Cornell Medicine; Dr. Hilda Hutcherson, of Columbia University; Dr. Gary Butts (MD '80), of Mt. Sinai Health System; and Dr. Joseph Ravenell, of New York University. More than 1,000 students from New York City, across the United States and abroad have completed the program. Speakers have included experts in immunology, infectious diseases, public health and global health. Dr. Anthony Fauci (MD '66), President Joseph Biden's chief medical adviser, even sent a congratulatory video.

Part of a broader effort by diversity and health equity leaders at Weill Cornell Medicine to increase vaccination rates in Black and Hispanic communities, the program hopes to improve access to vaccines while accelerating efforts to disseminate information.

In January 2021, NewYork-Presbyterian, in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medicine, opened a vaccination site at the Fort Washington Armory in upper Manhattan, making it easier for neighborhood residents to get the vaccine close to home. And throughout the past year, Weill Cornell Medicine students have helped administer shots at vaccine drives held at local churches and community centers, where residents

often know the events' hosts. That familiarity can foster the sense of trust necessary for vaccination efforts to succeed, experts say.

"Everyone has a different rationale, but what underpins the hesitancy and makes people less trusting is a belief that COVID risk is low, but vaccine risk is high," says Dr. Morales, who encourages vaccine ambassadors to handle each concern with empathy and care. "The disinformation is really powerful, but if we can get people over the finish line, hallelujah."

"We are proud to support Weill Cornell Medicine's efforts to address concerns and enhance access to COVID-19 vaccines in communities of color, many of which have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic," says Weill Cornell Medicine Board member Barry Wolf, executive partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, an international law firm headquartered in New York. "This important initiative will empower informed decisionmaking and improve the health of many New Yorkers, now and in the future."

Ambassadors in the program – like Fordham University student Alvin Felix Verona and Hunter College undergraduate Melodi Beckford – have already made an impact in their communities. Verona, who convinced a skeptical friend to get vaccinated, says he is having ongoing conversations with friends and family in both the Bronx and Pawling, New York, discrediting the misinformation spread on social media – and explaining to them, often in Spanish, how the vaccine can help keep them safe. Beckford is having similar talks with Bronx residents and has already persuaded a reluctant family member to get vaccinated.

"This gift from the Weil, Gotshal & Manges Foundation will enable our institution to continue spreading the word about the COVID-19 vaccine in our underserved communities and achieve our goal of providing equitable access to top-quality health care for all the populations that we serve," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine.



Rochelle Etingin, center, with her daughters Dr. Orli Etingin, left, and Doreen Davidowitz, right

## Gift from Rochelle Etingin to Establish Clinical Scholar Award in Medicine

Rochelle Etingin's decision to direct her philanthropy to Weill Cornell Medicine was an easy one. The institution is where her beloved late husband, Maks, benefited from superb treatment for many years and where her daughter Dr. Orli Etingin is a leading physician.

Mrs. Etingin, Dr. Etingin and her sister Doreen Davidowitz wanted to create a lasting legacy by endowing a coveted Clinical Scholar Award (CSA). The \$1 million gift from the Maks and Rochelle Etingin Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund now endows the Etingin Family Clinical Scholar Award in Medicine to support the work of promising junior and mid-level physician-scientists for generations to come.

The inaugural holder of this endowment, which honors Dr. Etingin, the Lisa and Sanford B. Ehrenkranz Professor in Women's Health and medical director of the Iris Cantor Women's Health Center, is cardiovascular specialist Dr. Parag Goyal, assistant professor of medicine.

"Mrs. Etingin embodies the highest spirit of philanthropy," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "Her gift will enable brilliant physician-scientists to discover new life-saving treatments, provide equitable and evidence-based care and conduct groundbreaking research that will improve life for millions of people."

Clinical Scholar Awards are among the most prestigious academic honors at Weill Cornell Medicine. The program's three-year grants reduce many of the financial demands that young clinicians face, allowing them more time to devote to research and educational activities. Appointments to these awards are renewable at the dean's discretion for an additional three-year period.

Each CSA bears a donor's name, enabling the benefactor to have an enduring effect, while supporting the next generation of medical innovators. "We feel very good about this gift because it's in the spirit of our family, our parents, and what they've taught us and our children about giving back," explains Dr. Etingin.

Until this gift to Weill Cornell Medicine, much of Mrs. Etingin's philanthropy went to causes in her native Israel, especially universities and Yad Vashem, the country's official memorial to the victims of the Nazi genocide. The family's desire to help young researchers is an extension of their deep interest in education, student scholarships and science, as well as their intrinsic desire to help those starting in their careers – an instinct long nurtured by Mr. Etingin, a Holocaust survivor who trained as an electrical engineer before enjoying a long and successful career in real estate. He passed away in 2019 at the age of 92.

"My husband felt very grateful for all that he achieved in life," says Mrs. Etingin. "We are remembering his kindness and compassion."





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November 30, 2021

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