



# milestones



From left: Helen Appel, Overseer Vice Chair Robert Appel and Dr. Li Gan

JOHN ABBOTT

## Gift Advances Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute

As new director of the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute, Dr. Li Gan is committed to making a transformational impact on patient care.

A leading neuroscientist whose research has advanced the understanding of Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders, Dr. Gan joined Weill Cornell Medicine in July and was recruited as the Burton P. and Judith B. Resnick Distinguished Professor in Neurodegenerative Diseases. She previously served as associate director of the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease at the University of California, San Francisco.

"We are thrilled that Dr. Gan is leading the Appel Institute into a new era of discovery in the fight against this debilitating and fatal disease," says Overseer Vice Chair Robert Appel, who, together with his wife, Helen, recently made a gift of \$5 million to bring Dr. Gan to Weill Cornell Medicine.

The Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute was established in 2006 with a \$15 million gift from the Appels. In 2009, Mr. and Mrs. Appel made a second gift of \$15 million in support of the Institute.

The rising prevalence of Alzheimer's disease – and its severe impact on patients and families – has made the condition a research priority for Dr. Gan. By the year 2050, there will be 14 million people in the United States with Alzheimer's disease, at a total healthcare cost of \$1 trillion, she says.

"It's hard to find anyone who hasn't felt the impact of Alzheimer's disease in one way or another," says Mr. Appel. "Two of our very close friends passed away as a result of the disease, and we were devastated by their suffering. It is our sincere hope that this Institute continues to provide the resources necessary to increase understanding of the disease and one day find a cure."

"I am so thankful to Helen and Bob Appel for their profound generosity in supporting the important work being done in Alzheimer's research at Weill Cornell Medicine," says Dr. Gan.

**"We are thrilled that Dr. Gan is leading the Appel Institute into a new era of discovery in the fight against this debilitating and fatal disease."**

**Robert Appel**  
Overseer Vice Chair

The Appel Institute, headquartered in the Belfer Research Building, is an integral part of the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute.

The Appel Institute is dedicated to developing new preventive strategies and therapies to fight Alzheimer's disease, fostering cross-disciplinary and cross-institutional collaborations, and increasing public awareness of the epidemic of age-related dementias.

"The unique collaborative nature of Weill Cornell Medicine – with its top-notch scientists and clinicians working together across disciplines – makes it the ideal environment to forge new discoveries in fighting this national crisis," says Dr. Gan.

As a neuroscientist interested in understanding problems that may arise as the brain ages, Dr. Gan investigates the relationship between the loss of functional neurons, the accumulation of the toxic proteins amyloid beta and tau, and abnormal immune responses in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically in Alzheimer's and in a devastating group of conditions called frontotemporal dementia.

*Continued on p. 2*





I have been so moved by the commitment and dedication of the Weill Cornell Medicine family. In discussions with our leadership, friends and donors, and in my work with fellow staff and faculty, I am awed by what we can accomplish. As we look toward the future, I believe that the character of Weill Cornell is strong and unwavering, providing a solid foundation in each area of our tripartite mission to care, discover and teach.

Shaping the next chapter at Weill Cornell Medicine is an exciting and necessary challenge. We are already a top-tier academic medical institution, conducting groundbreaking research, teaching tomorrow's healthcare leaders and providing world-class care to our patients. But, there is always more to be done. In the coming months, we will focus even more on the future, as we continue to maintain our high standards, encourage growth and remain committed to leading the way in this ever-changing healthcare field.

In the coming months, we will focus even more on the future, as we continue to **maintain our high standards, encourage growth and remain committed to leading the way** in this ever-changing healthcare field.

Our cover story highlights a recent recruit, Dr. Li Gan, who we are proud to have at the helm of the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute. Dr. Gan's drive to expand Alzheimer's disease research, and her strong emphasis on mentorship and diversity, are well aligned with Weill Cornell's goals. The Appel Institute is just one of many multidisciplinary efforts at Weill Cornell – other centers include those in cancer, cardiology and children's health, to name a few. As medicine becomes ever more interrelated and connected, encouraging collaboration between researchers and clinicians is critical to our growth.

Our many accomplishments have been made possible, in part, by the ongoing support of our donors and friends. As we move forward, we are so grateful for partners who connect with our priorities and our determination to always provide our patients with the best possible care.

With gratitude,

**Augustine M.K. Choi, MD**  
*Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine*  
*Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University*

## Gift Advances Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute Continued from cover

ASHLEY JONES

At the Appel Institute, Dr. Gan is leading a team of researchers, including new recruits, who will work with scientists at the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute (Tri-I TDI) to unravel the molecular, cellular and genetic underpinnings of Alzheimer's disease and related degenerative neurological conditions. She will leverage opportunities afforded by the Tri-I TDI to rapidly translate research breakthroughs into effective therapies, and will work with clinician scientists to ensure that these new treatments will be applied to patient care.

"Our primary goal is to help patients," says Dr. Gan. "We are striving to build a world-class research institute focused on neurodegeneration and Alzheimer's disease that will utilize our discoveries as the foundation for treatment."

As the moderator and a featured speaker at the sixth annual Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute Symposium, held in September at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Gan joined other global experts in neurodegenerative disease to present recent highlights of their work. Advances in research have now made it possible for Alzheimer's disease to be diagnosed based on

the presence of biomarker abnormalities, which represents a major shift in the field.

However, there remains more work to be done in the fight against the disease, says Dr. Gan. Although the National Institutes of Health has increased funding for research in Alzheimer's disease, she says, philanthropic support is needed to advance the high-risk, high-reward innovative research that may ultimately lead to successful treatments.

Donor support is also valuable in funding clinical trials and cutting-edge research by junior faculty, both critical in the search for a cure for Alzheimer's disease, says Dr. Gan.

Although that cure is not yet in sight, she is confident that experts are getting closer to unraveling the mysteries of the disease.

"With Dr. Gan at the helm of the Appel Institute, we are on the brink of making important discoveries that will ultimately have a profound effect on patients' lives," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "Dr. Gan epitomizes the collaborative spirit that has become a hallmark of our institution."



From left: Dr. Jacqueline Burré, Dr. Anna Orr and Dr. Manu Sharma



# Iovino Gift Supports Work of Dr. Jeffrey Port



Thomas Iovino

When Judith and Thomas Iovino decided to make their inaugural gift to Weill Cornell Medicine, they knew they wanted to fund an initiative that would translate laboratory research to patient care.

With their recent gift of \$1 million in support of lung cancer research conducted by Dr. Jeffrey Port, a thoracic surgeon and professor of clinical cardiothoracic surgery, Mr. and Mrs. Iovino are playing an important role in helping facilitate effective treatments for the disease.

“Targeting cells of the immune system has great potential benefits, as exhibited by the partial success of immunotherapy drugs, such as Keytruda and Opdivo. However, to date, most data around immunotherapy has focused on diseases in advanced stages,” says Dr. Port. “Our research seeks to identify novel treatments for early stage disease, whether it’s a clinical trial combining radiation and immunotherapy, intercepting lung cancer at its pre-invasive stages, or discovering new checkpoints that we can target with therapy.”

“The Iovinos’ gift supports such research projects that are paradigm-shifting in the prevention and treatment of lung cancer,” Dr. Port says.

Mr. Iovino, a municipal construction executive, first met Dr. Port four years ago. As the two developed a friendship, Mr. Iovino learned about Dr. Port’s work as a physician and scientist.

“Jeff Port is brilliant, with a tremendous reputation as one of the best thoracic surgeons in New York and beyond, and he thinks outside the box,” says Mr. Iovino. “He is deeply committed to transforming medicine through research. We wanted to donate to Weill Cornell Medicine in a way that would make an important difference in patients’ lives.”

For Mr. Iovino, whose company has overseen numerous landmark projects in New York City – including work on the Second Avenue subway line and construction of the East Side access tunnels into Grand Central Terminal – giving back has long been a family philosophy.

As one of five children, he watched his father write checks to numerous charities, even when money was tight. As he and his wife raised their own children, they impressed upon them the need to help others who were less fortunate, and to support causes that can change lives.

Mr. Iovino believes that donors who want to advance breakthrough discoveries at Weill Cornell Medicine should take the time to learn about the research, and then figure out the best way to get involved.

“You’ll find that it’s a blessing,” he says.

# Teach

“I cannot begin to express my gratitude to the scholarship donors who have allowed me to achieve my goals.”

Rachel Kang, MD '19

## Philanthropic support transforms student scholarships

*In this celebratory year marking the 20th anniversary of the renaming of Weill Cornell Medicine in honor of Joan and Chair Emeritus Sanford I. Weill, we share the stories that showcase our growth across each facet of our mission to Care, Discover and Teach.*

An enduring dedication to supporting students through scholarship has helped Weill Cornell Medicine enroll the most talented future physicians, allowing the institution to thrive and grow as a first-rate medical college.

The expansion of scholarship support has become an increasing priority in the last 20 years, with remarkable success. Nearly \$68 million has been raised for scholarships over the past decade alone, significantly reducing the debt burden for Weill Cornell students.

“Scholarship support is at the core of Weill Cornell Medicine’s mission of excellent patient care, research and education, and I can’t think of a better way to ensure the success of the next generation of doctors,” says Dr. Richard P. Cohen, a graduate of the class of 1975 and co-chair of the Campaign for Education, which ran from 2014 to 2017. “When people ask me where to direct their support at Weill Cornell Medicine, medical student scholarship immediately comes to mind.”

At the forefront of this scholarship push are alumni like Dr. Cohen, who, with other classmates, have given nearly \$19 million to fund 180 different scholarships since 1998. Their involvement, along with more than 3,500 alumni donors, has provided critical student support.

For the academic year 2017-2018, nearly \$6.5 million in scholarships was awarded, representing an average annual award of approximately \$32,000 per student.

“I cannot begin to express my gratitude to the scholarship donors who have allowed me to achieve my goals,” says Rachel Kang, a member of the class of 2019. “My time at Weill Cornell has made a tremendous positive impact on my life, and the scholarships I received made a true difference to me and my

20<sup>th</sup>  
1998-2018  
ANNIVERSARY



From left: Scholarship recipients Dr. Cindy Parra (MD '17), Dr. Jasmin Harpe (MD '17), Dr. Mesha Shaw (MD '17), Dr. Sarah Littlehale (MD '17) and Dr. Dario Villamar (MD '17)

family. Through the career that I pursue, I hope to be able to give back to the community in the same way that my scholarship sponsors have for me.”

In 2014, Weill Cornell Medicine launched the Campaign for Education, and this focused effort raised nearly \$70 million in three years, targeted to initiatives to support and enhance medical education, with \$33 million dedicated to scholarship support.

“By reducing our students’ debt burden, we allow them to focus on their future and provide them with a supportive learning environment without undue financial strain,” says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, Suzanne and Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. “With quality medical education so accessible to a talented and diverse body of students, we are able to let new physicians concentrate on the medical fields they are passionate about, freeing them from the worry of economic implications.”



# Daedalus Fund for Innovation

Since its inception in 2014, the Daedalus Fund for Innovation has helped accelerate breakthrough research led by Weill Cornell Medicine faculty. The initiative, supported entirely by philanthropy, provides funding for proof-of-concept studies that will advance discoveries to the marketplace and, ultimately, move new treatments to patients.

On November 5, eight new awardees were honored at a ceremony and reception held at the Griffis Faculty Club. Drs. Julie Blander, Lewis Cantley, Juan Cubillos-Ruiz, Peter Goldstein, Matthew Greenblatt, Barbara Hempstead, Steven Lipkin and Shahin Rafii each received a Daedalus award for an applied or translational research project with commercial potential. Dr. Rafii's award was funded by a grant from the Selma and Lawrence Ruben Science to Industry Bridge Fund, part of the Daedalus Fund for Innovation.

Awardees are strategically selected by an independent Scientific Advisory Committee comprising leaders from industry with deep domain expertise. The Daedalus Fund provides awards twice annually, at two levels of funding: \$100,000 and \$300,000.

The Selma and Lawrence Ruben Bridge Fund – established in 2017 by Lenore Ruben, Overseer Richard and wife Amy Ruben, and Shelly and

Dr. Howard Kivell – provides a steady source of support to the Daedalus Fund, increasing opportunities for innovative research projects to be translated into new treatments for patients.

“The Daedalus Fund was designed to be an accelerator, or a gap funding program, aimed at helping our investigators leading select projects that satisfy stringent criteria to bridge the ‘development gap’ and expedite their projects to the point at which they are considered strong candidates for business development and licensing,” says Larry Schlossman, managing director of BioPharma Alliances and Research Collaborations at Weill Cornell Medicine, who manages the Daedalus Fund. “By providing philanthropic support at this critical juncture, we are not only growing and augmenting our innovation ecosystem, but we are also providing a boost to advance early-stage research projects that have significant commercial potential.”

The awards reception also featured a presentation from Dr. David Schenkein, CEO of the pharmaceutical company Agios and a member of its board of directors.

Since 2014, more than 30 researchers have received awards from the Daedalus Fund.



From left: Larry Schlossman, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Shahin Rafii, Dr. Matthew Greenblatt, Dr. Lewis Cantley, Dr. Julie Magarian Blander, Dr. Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz, Dr. Peter Goldstein, Dr. Barbara Hempstead and Dr. Steven Lipkin

STUDIO BROOKE

## The following Weill Cornell Medicine investigators were selected to receive support from the Daedalus Fund for Innovation in 2018:

### Julie Magarian Blander, PhD

Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Immunology in Medicine

*Dual Targeting of Toll-Like and Nod-Like Receptors in Cancer Immunotherapy with Novel Humanoid Flagellin*

Dr. Blander is developing a therapeutic antibody for cancer treatment that will activate a robust immune response and drive the activated immune cells to attack tumor cells.

### Lewis Cantley, PhD

Meyer Director, Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, professor of cancer biology in medicine  
*Small Molecule Inhibitors of PHGDH to Treat Cancers Addicted to Serine Synthesis*

Dr. Cantley's lab, in collaboration with the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute, is developing inhibitors of an enzyme that is important to the survival of malignant cells in triple negative breast cancer and non-small cell lung cancer, both aggressive cancers with poor prognoses.

### Juan R. Cubillos-Ruiz, PhD

William J. Ledger, MD, Distinguished Assistant Professor for Infection and Immunology in Obstetrics and Gynecology  
*Armored Dendritic Cells as New Therapeutic Vaccines for Cancer*

Dr. Cubillos-Ruiz has discovered that a certain cellular response can inhibit the protective function of immune cells in tumors. He is generating new therapeutic vaccines using immune cells that are not vulnerable to this cellular response, thereby increasing their tumor-fighting capabilities.

### Peter Goldstein, MD

Professor of anesthesiology, associate professor of medical ethics in medicine

*Novel Non-Opioid Anti-Hyperalgesics for the Treatment of Peripheral Neuropathic Pain*

Dr. Goldstein has developed a new, non-opioid treatment for neuropathic pain that does not induce sleep or affect normal pain sensation. He is currently testing the molecules he has synthesized and designing second-generation, improved versions.

### Matthew Greenblatt, MD, PhD

Assistant professor of pathology and laboratory medicine

*Treating Tumor-Mediated Osteolysis with SHN3 Inhibition*

Dr. Greenblatt has shown that blocking a certain molecule prevents the breakdown of bone that occurs with several types of cancer, leading to extreme pain and debilitation. He is testing the inhibitor of this molecule, in combination with standard-of-care drugs, and is also screening for new inhibitors.

### Barbara Hempstead, MD, PhD

Senior associate dean for education, O. Wayne Isom Professor of Medicine, professor of neuroscience

*Utility of Anti-ProNGF Monoclonal Antibodies to Prevent Neuronal Death in Seizures*

Dr. Hempstead has shown that a molecule called ProNGF causes nerve cells to die following brain injuries, including prolonged seizures. In collaboration with an industry partner, she developed antibodies to block this molecule and is testing their nerve-sparing abilities post-seizure.

### Steven Lipkin, MD, PhD

Vice chair for basic and translational research, Weill Department of Medicine, Gladys and Roland Harriman professor of medicine, professor of genetic medicine

*Anti-Fusobacteria nucleatum Vaccine for Colorectal Cancer Immunoprevention*

Dr. Lipkin is working to develop a vaccine that may prevent the deadly effects of colorectal cancer by targeting a microbe that is consistently associated with increased risk of the disease, as well as chemotherapy resistance and reduced survival rates.

### Shahin Rafii, MD

Director of the Ansary Stem Cell Institute, chief of the Division of Regenerative Medicine, Arthur B. Belfer Professor in Genetic Medicine

*De Novo Generation of Pre-Clinical Grade Engraftable Hematopoietic Stem Cells from Endothelial Cells*

Dr. Rafii and collaborators have devised a way to convert endothelial cells, which line blood vessels, into blood cell-repopulating stem cells. Their work has the potential to make an impact on the treatment of leukemia and lymphoma, as well as many genetic blood disorders.



# What Inspires Giving?

## Meet Christina Truesdale

Over the past five years, Christina Truesdale and her husband, Don, members of the Dean's Council since 2013, have made significant gifts to Weill Cornell Medicine, aimed at supporting innovative research to improve pediatric clinical care. The couple's most recent gift, however, was directed to the Children's Health Investigators Fund, which provides support for pediatric research at Weill Cornell. Research studies currently funded by this effort include youth anxiety disorders, protecting newborns from infection, and exploring links between obesity and asthma in children and adolescents.

Christina serves as the founding chair of the Children's Health Council, a growing group of committed families and individuals dedicated to increasing awareness of and raising money for pediatric research. As a parent of three, she knows the importance of happy and healthy children. Her enthusiasm and passion for children's health and education have inspired her philanthropy at Weill Cornell and across New York City.

Christina recently sat down with Mark Veich, Vice Provost for External Affairs, to speak about the importance of philanthropy and her inspiration for giving.

### **MV: How did you first become involved with Weill Cornell Medicine?**

**CT:** My introduction to Weill Cornell Medicine was as a patient. I had wonderful experiences giving birth to my three children, Camilla, Calder and Capri, at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Then, five years ago, my mother passed away from ovarian cancer after a frustrating experience at a different hospital with little support, guidance and answers. Because I'd had such a positive and warm experience at Weill Cornell and had seen how difficult healthcare could be, I decided to get involved. I wanted to help give patients that warm, positive experience I had.

### **MV: You and Don have made gifts specifically toward children's health initiatives. What inspired you to give to this cause?**

**CT:** Don and I enjoy supporting organizations that focus on education and making an impact on the lives of children. Being a parent opens your eyes to the challenges children face in healthcare, and the conditions and illnesses that require continued support for research. Children are the future and education is a critical part of ensuring that they are prepared to lead productive, fulfilling lives. Without good health, it's difficult to build a solid foundation for children to excel mentally, physically and socially. By supporting Weill Cornell Medicine and its efforts in healthcare, research and education, we're able to make an impact to help ensure that all children have the ability to build that healthy foundation. I hope that our efforts will benefit families around the world.

### **MV: Through your experiences here, and with other organizations, what do you believe inspires people to give?**

**CT:** I think people genuinely enjoy helping others and they choose causes that are important to them and they can relate to personally. Giving to Weill Cornell Medicine inspires me because I have the opportunity to see precisely how my gift is being used. Through the many presentations by doctors and researchers that supporters are invited to, we are able to hear about all kinds of medical advances and discoveries, as they are happening. I think people are inspired by learning firsthand how their money is making an impact on the lives of others.

### **MV: As chair of the Children's Health Council, you're at the helm of a dedicated group focused on children's health research. What do you hope the Children's Health Council will accomplish?**

**CT:** I'm honored to serve as inaugural chair of the Children's Health Council, which is such a passionate group. I continue to be inspired by the dedication and excitement of the council's leadership, executive committee and members. They all understand how imperative it is to support the well-being of children so they can grow into health-conscious and knowledgeable adults. Our goal is to support children's health research, and by educating people about the need for funding, we hope to inspire more people to join us in that support. At Weill Cornell Medicine, children's health research focuses on individualized therapies, which I believe is the future of medicine. Children are not all alike, and their medical problems should not all be treated the same way. Without good health, nothing else really matters. Giving to children's health research is an investment in the next generation, and I know our council will continue to make a significant impact.

### **MV: What have you found most valuable in your time with Weill Cornell Medicine?**

**CT:** I find the warm, inviting community of Weill Cornell Medicine invaluable, and Don and I are happy to be part of the Weill Cornell family. The doctors, researchers, scientists and medical students are brilliant, yet humble, and even with their busy schedules they make time to come to meetings, discussions and events. We have the opportunity to learn firsthand about the cutting-edge research being done to benefit people across the globe. I am truly amazed at how much I learn from every Children's Health Council or Dean's Council meeting I attend.

### **MV: What do you feel are the greatest opportunities at Weill Cornell Medicine right now?**

**CT:** I'm grateful to be part of this incredible community of donors, scientists and doctors. As a global leader in academic medicine with a first-class team of experts, Weill Cornell has the ability to change the world. The work being done here is groundbreaking, and by continuing along this path of excellence, this institution will be at the forefront of revolutionizing medicine.



JOHN ABBOTT



# events



This year's Cabaret celebration took place on November 15 at the Park Avenue Armory. The gala, which raised a record-breaking \$4 million for Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, was the most successful Cabaret in its 36-year history. Grammy Award-winning band Earth, Wind & Fire provided entertainment for the evening.



From left: Dean Augustine M. K. Choi, NewYork-Presbyterian Board of Trustees Chairman Frank A. Bennack, Jr., Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Overseers Chairman Jessica Bibliowicz and Dr. Steven J. Corwin, president and chief executive officer of NewYork-Presbyterian



From left: Overseer Edward Meyer, Anthony Meyer and Overseer Sandra Meyer

## ALUMNI REUNION



From left: Dr. Walter Klein (MD '87), Dr. Alicia E. Genisca (MD '08), Dr. Mae Jemison (MD '81) and Dr. Elizabeth F. Triche (MD '09)

Weill Cornell Medicine alumni returned to their alma mater on October 5 and 6 for an exciting Reunion Weekend, filled with nostalgia and celebration. A highlight of the weekend was an enlightening interview with Dr. Mae Jemison (MD '81) in front of an audience of Weill Cornell staff, students and alumni. Dr. Jemison reflected on her remarkable career as a physician, engineer and NASA astronaut. Weekend events included several lectures and award presentations, capped by a gala dinner dance at The Plaza.



From left: Dr. Mary Choi, Dr. Bill Klingensmith (MD '68), Dean Augustine M.K. Choi and Dr. Oreste Arcuni (MD '68)





# Dean's Council Fall Meeting

The Dean's Council, co-chaired by Overseers Sanford Ehrenkranz and Leonard Harlan, hosted a lecture on integrative health at its fall meeting, held on October 10 at the Cornell Club. The meeting featured a presentation by Drs. Alka Gupta and Chiti Parikh, co-founders and co-directors of the Integrative Health and Wellbeing Program at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian and assistant professors of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine.



From left: Overseer Leonard Harlan, Dr. Chiti Parikh, Dr. Mary Choi, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Overseer Sanford Ehrenkranz and Dr. Alka Gupta



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

## Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture in Children's Health

On October 11, a standing-room-only crowd filled the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center for the fourth annual Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture in Children's Health. The lecture featured a presentation by Dr. Max Cooper on the evolution of T and B cells. Dr. Cooper is a professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, and a member of the Emory Vaccine Center and Center for AIDS Research at Emory University. 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.

## Appel Symposium

Attendees gathered at the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center on September 25 for the sixth annual Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute Symposium. The event featured presentations from Dr. Li Gan, director of the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute; Dr. Ronald Petersen, director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging; Dr. Chris Schaffer, an associate professor in the Nancy E. and Peter C. Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University; and Dr. Li-Huei Tsai, the director of the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory and the Picower Professor of Neuroscience in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). 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.



From left: Dr. Chris Schaffer, Dr. Matthew Fink, Dr. Ronald Petersen, Overseer Vice Chair Robert Appel, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Li Gan, Dr. Costantino Iadecola and Dr. Li-Huei Tsai





From left, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Robert Peck, Dr. Warren Johnson, Dr. Jean Pape (MD '75), Dr. Jennifer Downs (MD '04) and Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald

## Celebrating Global Health

A reception to celebrate the achievements of the Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medicine was held on October 22. Hosted by Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, the event included remarks from Sanford I. Weill, chairman emeritus of the Board of Overseers, and Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, director of the Center for Global Health, professor of medicine and professor of medicine in microbiology and immunology. Presentations were given by Dr. Jennifer Downs (MD '04), Friedman Family Research Scholar in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and associate professor of medicine; Dr. Robert Peck, assistant professor of medicine; and Dr. Jean William Pape (MD '75), the Howard and Carol Holtzmann Professor of Medicine and founder and director of GHESKIO Centers in Haiti.

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