



# milestones



From left: Dr. Jean Pape (MD '75), Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, Dr. Warren Johnson, Dr. Jyoti Mathad (MS '12)

JOHN ABBOTT

## Making the Most of Mentorship

At Weill Cornell Medicine's Center for Global Health, the spirit of mentorship has thrived for four generations.

Dr. Warren Johnson, the B.H. Kean Professor of Tropical Medicine in the Weill Department of Medicine and the Center's founding director, has had many mentees. But his relationship with Dr. Jean Pape (MD '75), the Howard and Carol Holtzmann Professor in Clinical Medicine and founder and director of GHESKIO, Weill Cornell Medicine's partner clinic in Haiti, has spanned nearly 40 years and created a remarkable success story surrounding global health and the treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

In the late 1990s, Dr. Pape began mentoring an infectious diseases research fellow, Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald, who is now professor of medicine in the Weill Department of Medicine and recently succeeded Dr. Johnson as director of the Center for Global Health. These mentor-mentee relationships evolved over time, providing support and guidance as the doctors' careers advanced and the GHESKIO program grew and flourished. That commitment to mutual success helped to foster a sustained

culture of excellence that has led the Center to become an inspiring example of Dean Augustine M.K. Choi's vision of mentorship at Weill Cornell Medicine.

"Our greatest resource is our community – the faculty, staff, trainees and students who strive to share knowledge with one another," says Dean Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "Mentorship is critical in the medical and scientific fields, with Weill Cornell leading the way."

Under Dean Choi's leadership, Weill Cornell plans to accelerate growth – and ensure that talented students and faculty achieve their full potential – by committing to mentorship and dedicating funds to support those efforts.

"Philanthropy enables Weill Cornell Medicine to fulfill its potential," says Dean Choi, "and mentorship has the same transformative power. Together, they provide an opportunity to take

successful and talented students and faculty and propel them higher than they could have gone before."

In 2014, Weill Cornell named the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine, in honor of the couple's longstanding dedication and philanthropy to the institution. Since then, the department has expanded its commitment to fostering the careers and achievements of its members.

Dr. Fitzgerald is an admirable example of the impact that mentorship

and philanthropy can have on the careers of junior faculty. In 2016, he received Weill Cornell Medicine's mentorship award, funded by Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman of Weill Cornell's Board of Overseers, and her husband, Natan Bibliowicz.

"I think a mentor serves as a real advocate for the mentee, who may not be able to open certain doors or access resources on their own," says

**"Our greatest resource is our community – the faculty, staff, trainees and students who strive to share knowledge with one another."**

Dean Augustine M.K. Choi



# Generous Support for Pancreatic Cancer Research

When Mildred and John Rasweiler toured a scientific lab at Weill Cornell Medicine this spring, witnessing extraordinary research firsthand, they were awestruck.

“What we learned was incredible,” says Mrs. Rasweiler. “Seeing those dedicated researchers was eye-opening.”

Already in the midst of considering a donation, the Rasweilers say that visit enthusiastically confirmed their decision to establish the Mildred L. and John F. Rasweiler Research Scholar Award in Cancer Research with a \$1 million gift.

With a family history of pancreatic cancer, the Rasweilers wanted to shed light on the disease that took the life of Mr. Rasweiler’s mother and Mrs. Rasweiler’s grandmother. The lab tour was a turning point that showed them how they could make an impact.

“Pancreatic cancer is a significant issue,” says Mrs. Rasweiler.

“Through exposure at Weill Cornell, we have a lot of hope for this Research Scholar Award to provide the necessary resources to make significant strides leading to a cure for pancreatic cancer.”

Mr. Rasweiler agrees that resources are critical to growth in the field. “It is possible that a big breakthrough could occur,” he says. “We need to encourage young, bright faculty members because they will turn that knowledge into extraordinary advances.”

In their process of considering a gift, the Rasweilers conferred with a trusted advisor and doctor at Weill Cornell – Dr. Robert Sassoon (MD ’81), clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology. This relationship helped them forge a pathway for their contribution.

“Our goal was to accomplish something for the betterment of people,” says Mrs. Rasweiler. “As a family, it’s important to us to make a difference in people’s lives.”



John and Mildred Rasweiler with Dr. Yariv Houvras

ROGER TULLY

In October, it was announced that the inaugural recipient of the Rasweiler Research Scholar Award would be Dr. Yariv Houvras, assistant professor of medicine, of medicine in surgery, and of cell and developmental biology. Research Scholar Awards provide endowed funding for rising-star scientists to build independent research programs.

“I feel very honored to have this ongoing support. It’s pivotal for giving us the time we need to explore ideas and build innovative tools for genetic approaches that hold tremendous promise to tackle fundamental problems in cancer biology and cancer medicine,” says Dr. Houvras, whose research is currently focused on understanding how enzymes turn normal cells into cancer cells.

“We are excited about establishing this award,” says Mrs. Rasweiler. “It will give so many people hope for the future and the ability to spend many more years with their families.”

## Making the Most of Mentorship

continued from cover



Dr. Jyoti Mathad with mentor Dr. Daniel Fitzgerald

JOHN ABBOTT

Dr. Fitzgerald, who also holds a grant from the National Institutes of Health that provides funding to dedicate time for mentorship. “Building a culture of mentorship becomes part of your mission, and we have a responsibility to help the next generation.”

Dr. Fitzgerald has several protégés, including a fourth-generation mentee in the department – Dr. Jyoti Mathad (MS ’12), assistant professor in the Weill Department of Medicine. Dr. Mathad collaborated with Drs. Fitzgerald, Pape and Johnson through her global research in pregnant women with tuberculosis, and has benefited from her mentors.

“In academics, it’s hard to figure out what’s required to advance your career,” says Dr. Mathad, co-founder of the Women in Global Health

Research Initiative. “Having mentors who are at various stages of their careers helps provide a unique sense of guidance that is tailored to my academic interests. I feel very fortunate to have lifetime mentors, whose support didn’t end once I transitioned from trainee to faculty.”

For fellows and faculty interested in pursuing a career as a physician-scientist, the Weill Department of Medicine Pre-Career Award Program also provides funding during the crucial period when research training ends and an initial

faculty position begins.

Available to all medical school faculty and in its sixth year, the Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (LAMP) offers resources to allow senior faculty mentors to connect with a small cohort of LAMP participants, all early-career faculty. The small groups meet three times during the nine-month program, which is funded by the Office of Faculty Development, providing a great cross-pollination of senior faculty with rising stars.

“These esteemed leaders, who represent multiple departments, generously give their time and expertise in a way that enriches both mentor and mentee,” says Dr. Judy Tung, associate professor of clinical medicine and co-director of LAMP with Dr. Lia Logio, vice chair for education,

associate dean for faculty development and the Herbert J. and Ann Siegel Distinguished Professor of Medicine.

Dean Choi’s vision of a vigorous and dynamic culture of mentorship is a top priority, evident in his efforts to explore ways to reward mentors and engage with faculty to expand mentorship-related programs.

Since 2015, the Weill Cornell-FARM program (Faculty Advancement and Research Mentorship), founded by Dr. Paraskevi Giannakakou, professor of pharmacology and pharmacology in medicine, and Dr. Joseph Scandura, associate professor of medicine, has provided mentorship to junior faculty in 14 departments, divisions and institutes across Weill Cornell. The program provides help with grant applications to about 20 junior faculty members annually and has generated more than \$12.5 million in funding through grants.

Beyond the personal benefits, a culture of mentorship can become a powerful recruitment tool. “Sharing our success stories really helps to bring in and retain the best and brightest at our institution,” says Dr. Giannakakou.

As Dean Choi prioritizes programs and nurtures departmental initiatives, the atmosphere of mentorship and collaboration will continue to grow and flourish at Weill Cornell.

“There are many ways to navigate your career path and receive guidance along the way,” says Dean Choi. “It’s important to have a mentor who displays wisdom, experience, and most of all, cares about you and your successes.”



# What Inspires Giving?

## Meet Larry Schafer

After 26 years with Weill Cornell Medicine, Larry Schafer, the Vice Provost for External Affairs, will be retiring at the end of 2017.

Larry joined the Development Office of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 1991, and was appointed Vice Provost for Development at Weill Cornell Medicine in 1998. He led institutional fundraising under the administrations of Deans Antonio Gotto, Jr., Laurie Glimcher and Augustine M.K. Choi and Board of Overseers Chairmen Arthur Mahon, Sanford Weill and Jessica Bibliowicz, while also serving as vice president for development at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital between 1998 and 2012. He has been Vice Provost for External Affairs at Weill Cornell since 2012. Larry's accomplishments include leading Weill Cornell's two largest capital campaigns – raising approximately \$3 billion – as well as overseeing the institution's rebranding and increasing its engagement with the public.

Larry recently sat down with Dean Augustine M.K. Choi to speak about his career at Weill Cornell Medicine and the critical role of philanthropy in the institution's growth.

**AC: Over the years, you've cultivated many meaningful relationships. What's your secret for engaging and inspiring Overseers and donors?**

**LS:** We're like a family. We've spent a lot of time together sharing each other's personal joys and crises, and we all agree the goal is to make Weill Cornell Medicine the best it can be. I grew up on a farm in Minnesota and I feel the same sense of community here in New York City because of my experience at Weill Cornell. People here act like we're all in this together. This may sound sentimental, but it's true: if someone needs something, our community comes together to help. Our board, our leadership and our faculty have each other's back, and that's what has made this place grow.

**AC: How have you worked to align donors with each part of our mission – Care. Discover. Teach. – so that they are more inspired to give?**

**LS:** Most of our donors are experienced philanthropists, and our job is to maximize their goals. We've always had very strong strategic plans at Weill Cornell, which has been one of the reasons we've been successful at raising money. There's rarely been a time when we couldn't take a donor's interest and fit it into our strategic plan. There's always a place for partnerships here.

**AC: You were the driving force behind two of our largest and most successful capital campaigns: Advancing the Clinical Mission, from 2001 to 2005, and Discoveries that Make a Difference, from 2006 to 2013. Are there any gifts that stand out in your mind?**

**LS:** There have been so many transformative gifts, it's hard to know where to begin. Working with Joan and (Board of Overseers Chair Emeritus) Sandy Weill on their own philanthropy has always been a joy. Some of the most memorable gifts have demonstrated a deep personal connection to the institution. When I started here in the summer of 1991, I met a donor who is now on the Board of Overseers. When I thanked her for her gift, she talked about her young son, who had a brain tumor that was successfully treated, and she was so grateful to the team of doctors here at Weill Cornell Medicine who saved his life. Many donors start out as grateful patients. Then they see the larger vision that comes out of the dean's office and board leadership. It's been wonderful to watch.

**AC: A series of strategic plans enabled the construction of both the Weill Greenberg Center and the Belfer Research Building – the latter of which was funded largely through philanthropy when the recession was at its peak and our peer institutions restricted expansion. To what do you credit that success?**

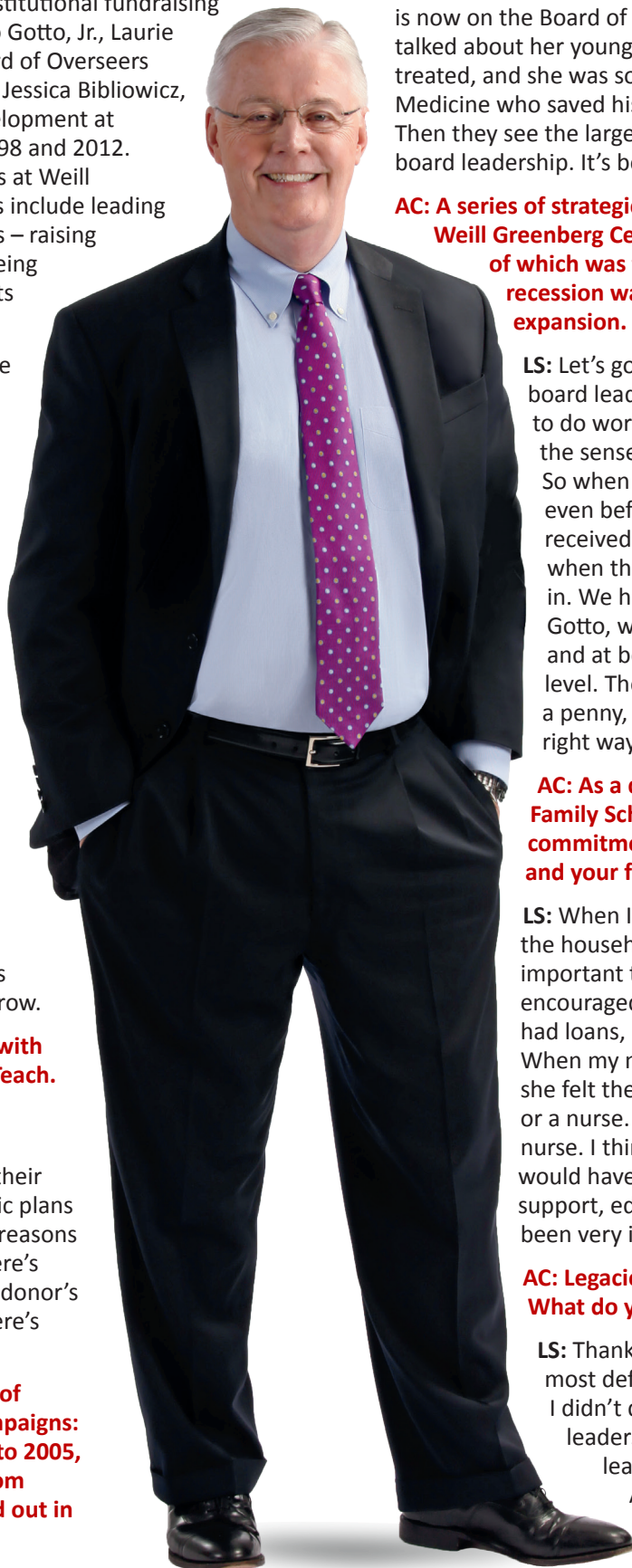
**LS:** Let's go back to the family analogy that I made. Most of the board leadership became very engaged as we were beginning to do work on the Weill Greenberg Center. Everyone had the sense that we needed to build the clinical building first. So when it came time to talk about the research building, even before there was a hole in the ground, we had already received some very big gifts – and we were committed. Even when the economy was scary, a lot of second gifts still came in. We had very good leadership from (former Dean) Tony Gotto, who I had the pleasure of working under for 15 years, and at both the Board of Overseers level and the university level. There was a lot of concern, but we were already in for a penny, in for a pound, as it were. We all knew this was the right way to go.

**AC: As a donor yourself, you helped create the Schafer Family Scholarship at Weill Cornell Medicine. What is your commitment to education and why was this important to you and your family?**

**LS:** When I grew up, there wasn't a lot of extra money in the household budget, but education was always extremely important to my parents. My brothers and I were all encouraged to do our very best, and we all had jobs, we all had loans, and we all were very committed to our education. When my mother graduated from high school in the 1940s, she felt the only option for her was to become a schoolteacher or a nurse. So she went to college and became a registered nurse. I think if she had grown up in the next generation, she would have had a different set of opportunities. So scholarship support, education and opportunities for women have always been very important to me.

**AC: Legacies are sometimes overstated, but not for you, Larry. What do you see as your legacy at Weill Cornell?**

**LS:** Thank you, Dean Choi. That's a good question. We are most definitely a bigger place than when I first got here. But I didn't do this alone. I didn't raise \$3 billion. The faculty leadership and the board, now under Jessica Bibliowicz's leadership, and the donor community and the External Affairs team are all in this together. If whatever I've been able to do to help foster that community remains, it will be my legacy.



RICHARD LOBELL



# Appel Symposium

Attendees filled the Belfer Research Building’s Starr-Greenberg Conference Center on October 17 for the fifth annual Appel Alzheimer’s Disease Research Institute Symposium. The event featured presentations by Dr. Costantino Iadecola, director of the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute and the Anne Parish Tizell Professor of Neurology; Dr. Gregory Petsko, director of the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer’s Disease Research Institute and the Arthur J. Mahon Professor of Neuroscience; Dr. Richard Ransohoff, vice president and senior research fellow in neuroimmunology at Biogen; and Dr. Carla Shatz, professor of biology and neurobiology at Stanford University. The symposium included a panel discussion led by Dr. Matthew Fink, chairman of the Department of Neurology and the Louis and Gertrude Feil Professor of Clinical Neurology. The Appel Institute was founded by Helen and Vice Chair Overseer Robert Appel with the goal of developing treatments and finding a cure for Alzheimer’s disease.



From left: Dr. Gregory Petsko, Dr. Matthew Fink, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Carla Shatz, Dr. Richard Ransohoff, Vice Chair Overseer Robert Appel, Helen Appel, Dr. Costantino Iadecola



From left: Dr. Roy Gulick, Overseer Sanford Ehrenkranz, Dr. Henry Murray, Dr. Peter Schlegel, Overseer Leonard Harlan, Dr. Ole Vielmeyer

# Dean’s Council Fall Meeting

The Dean’s Council, co-chaired by Overseers Sanford Ehrenkranz and Leonard Harlan, hosted a lecture on infectious diseases and international travel at its fall meeting, held on October 18 at the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center. Speakers included Dr. Roy Gulick, the Rochelle Belfer Professor in Medicine and chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases; Dr. Henry Murray, the Arthur R. Ashe, Jr. Professor of Medicine; and Dr. Ole Vielmeyer, associate professor of clinical medicine. Dr. Peter Schlegel, chairman of the Department of Urology and the E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., MD Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, also spoke at the meeting.

# Women’s Health Symposium

Tickets sold out for the 35th annual Women’s Health Symposium, held on October 24 at the Citi Executive Conference Center. The event, “Mind, Mood and Our Microbiome: Emerging Connections,” included presentations by Dr. David Artis, director of the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the Michael Kors Professor in Immunology, and Dr. Conor Liston (MD ’08), PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience and psychiatry. The symposium also featured a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Orli Etingin, medical director of the Iris Cantor Women’s Health Center, vice chair for faculty in the Weill Department of Medicine and the Lisa and Sanford B. Ehrenkranz Professor in Women’s Health.



From left: Dr. Orli Etingin, Dr. David Artis, Dr. Conor Liston (MD ’08)



From left: Overseer and Event Co-Chair Richard Ruben, Renée Belfer, Vice Chair Overseer Robert Belfer



From left: Dr. Steven Corwin, President and Chief Executive Officer of NewYork-Presbyterian, Ellen Corwin, Dr. Mary Choi, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi



Tony Meyer and Overseer Chairman Jessica Bibliowicz

# Cabaret

This year’s Cabaret celebration took place on November 8 at Pier Sixty. The gala, which raised more than \$3.6 million for Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, was our most successful event in its 35-year history. Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow provided entertainment for the evening.



From left: Overseer Dr. Ira Drukier, Dr. Gale Drukier, Dr. Huda Zoghbi, Dr. Virginia Pascual, the Drukier Director of the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children’s Health and the Ronay Menschel Professor of Pediatrics, and Dr. Gerald Loughlin, the Nancy C. Paduano Professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine

# Drukier Lecture in Children’s Health

On November 15, attendees gathered at the Belfer Research Building’s Starr-Greenberg Conference Center for the annual Gale and Ira Drukier Lecture in Children’s Health. The lecture featured a presentation by Dr. Huda Zoghbi on new discoveries about Rett syndrome, a childhood disorder typically found in girls. Dr. Zoghbi is an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children’s Hospital. Established by Dr. Gale and Overseer Dr. Ira Drukier in 2014, the annual Drukier Lecture highlights the latest research and discoveries in the field of children’s health.

Milestones is a publication of the Office of External Affairs at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Larry Schafer, Vice Provost for External Affairs • Lucille Ferraro, Director of Campaign Planning and Strategic Partnerships • Mason Essif, Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs  
John Rodgers, Director of Creative and Editorial Services • Gayle Williams, Development Communications Manager • Linda Lombroso and Jacquelyn Walsh, Development Communications Associates  
Yvonne Singleton, Production Assistant

If you wish to have your name removed from lists to receive fundraising requests supporting Weill Cornell Medicine in the future, please either 1) write to us at: Privacy Office, Weill Cornell Medicine, 1300 York Avenue, Box 303, New York, NY 10065; 2) call us at 646-962-9565; or 3) e-mail us at optoutwcmc@med.cornell.edu.



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

Care. Discover. Teach.

# Board of Overseers

**Jessica M. Bibliowicz**

*Chairman*

**Robert J. Appel**

*Vice Chair*

**Robert A. Belfer**

*Vice Chair*

**Jeffrey J. Feil**

*Vice Chair*

**Barbara B. Friedman**

*Vice Chair*

**Sanford I. Weill**

*Chair Emeritus*

**Augustine M.K. Choi, MD**

*Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean*

**Carl F. Nathan, MD**

*Dean, Graduate School of Medical Sciences*

**Robert S. Harrison**

*Chair, Board of Trustees, Cornell University*

**Martha E. Pollack, PhD**

*President, Cornell University*

Tarek Abdel-Meguid

Madelyn Antoncic, PhD

Ajay Banga

Ron Baron

Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser

Debra Black

Lloyd C. Blankfein

David S. Blumenthal, MD '75

Lewis C. Cantley, PhD

Chelsea V. Clinton

Abby Joseph Cohen

David M. Cohen

Alberto Cribiore

Caroline R. Curry

Ellen Davis

Robert S. Dow

Ira Drukier

Sanford B. Ehrenkranz

Israel A. Englander

Anne E. Estabrook

David R. Fischell, PhD

Charlotte M. Ford

Harold E. Ford, Jr.

Kelli Olsen Ford

Kenneth C. Frazier

Richard M. Fuchs, MD

Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., MD, DPhil

Paul A. Gould

Jeffrey W. Greenberg

Maurice R. Greenberg

Leonard M. Harlan

Alan Hartman

John A. Kanas

Evan H. Katz

Robert J. Katz

Harvey Kaylie

Michael M. Kellen

James M. Kilts

Charles R. Lee

Thomas H. Lee, MD '79

Raul Martinez-McFaline

Michael T. Masin

Ronay A. Menschel

Edward H. Meyer

Sandra R. Meyer

Howard P. Milstein

Edwin H. Morgens

Stuart Mushlin, MD '73

Spyros Niarchos

Timothy O'Neill

Nancy C. Paduano

Nelson Peltz

Stanley B. Prusiner, MD

Bruce C. Ratner

Philip R. Reilly, MD, JD

Burton P. Resnick

David N. Roberts

Zev Rosenwaks, MD

Richard G. Ruben

Lewis A. Sanders

Herbert J. Siegel

A.J.C. Smith

Daisy M. Soros

Nan Goldman Swid

Samuel O. Thier, MD

Andrew H. Tisch

Igor Tulchinsky

Carolyn Wiener

Barry Wolf

## LIFE OVERSEERS

Hushang Ansary

Samuel Fleming

Raymond R. Herrmann, Jr.

Harvey Klein, MD

Arthur J. Mahon

Rupert Murdoch

Margaret Osmer-McQuade

Frank H.T. Rhodes

Isadore Rosenfeld, MD

Patricia Carry Stewart

Harold Tanner

Roger J. Weiss

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

**Robert J. Appel**

*Co-Chair*

**Jeffrey J. Feil**

*Co-Chair*

**Larry Schafer**

*Vice Provost for External Affairs*

**Lucille Ferraro**

*Director of Campaign Planning  
and Strategic Partnerships*

**Patricia Gutter**

*Special Advisor*



# From Our Dean

Mentorship, a topic featured in this issue, is important **to nurture our future leaders** and allows us to advance in our mission to improve human health.



As we reflect on the past year, we can be proud of the many achievements we have made at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Our commitment to innovation in clinical, research and educational initiatives has been critical to our success as a top-tier academic medical center. Thanks to exceptional support from leadership, donors and friends, we are

making significant progress on all fronts.

Weill Cornell Medicine's entrepreneurship program is flourishing, providing resources and educational opportunities to students, post-docs and faculty. By supporting research at an early stage, we are helping to translate ideas from bench to bedside, and playing a vital role in the biotech entrepreneurship culture that has taken root in New York City.

Mentorship, a topic featured in this issue, is also important to nurture our future leaders and allows us to advance in our mission to improve human health. By encouraging collaboration and fostering a culture of mentorship, we are enabling individuals at all stages of their careers to share their expert knowledge and accelerate growth across our institution.

In the year ahead, we will work to integrate the three pillars of our mission – Care. Discover. Teach. We continue to excel in providing world-class patient care, making groundbreaking discoveries and educating the next generation of healthcare leaders.

I am inspired by the collaborative spirit that is evident throughout the Weill Cornell Medicine community – and excited about our continued success in 2018.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Augustine M.K. Choi".

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

---

## Save the Date

## Palm Beach Healthy Living Symposium

Weill Cornell Medicine's annual Healthy Living Symposium will take place on Monday, February 5, 2018, at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida. The symposium brings together our top-tier physicians and scientists to discuss today's most pressing health concerns and provide strategies for disease prevention and healthy living.

### Speakers for the event will include:

**Dr. Louis Aronne**, the Sanford I. Weill Professor of Metabolic Research and director of the Comprehensive Weight Control Center

**Dr. Roger Härtl**, professor of neurological surgery and a director of the Center for Comprehensive Spine Care at Weill Cornell Medicine

**Dr. Conor Liston (MD '08), PhD**, assistant professor of neuroscience and psychiatry

To register, or for more information, please contact **Eliza Cohn, Special Events Manager**, at 646-962-9482 or [erc2004@med.cornell.edu](mailto:erc2004@med.cornell.edu).

**Care. Discover. Teach.**