



Weill  
Cornell  
Medicine

# Milestones



## Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall Celebrates Completion

STUDIO BROOKE

Weill Cornell Medicine leaders, donors, students and alumni gathered on May 1 to mark the completion of the institution's new \$260 million student residence and to celebrate the unveiling of its official name: the Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall.

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting formally celebrated the residence, located at the northwest corner of East 74th Street and York Avenue, just three years after breaking ground. The building will open to medical students and graduate students in August.

The building represents a stunning show of philanthropic support for the \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* campaign and serves as a testament to the extraordinary generosity of the institution's donors. Lead gifts from Board of Fellows Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil and

the Feil Family, and Joan and Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford I. Weill and the Weill Family Foundation, joined those from nearly 80 other donors and alumni to collectively contribute nearly half the cost of the building's construction.

The alumni community has been tremendously supportive of student living and learning initiatives, contributing more than \$10 million toward the new residence, with generous gifts from individuals, couples, families and entire classes.

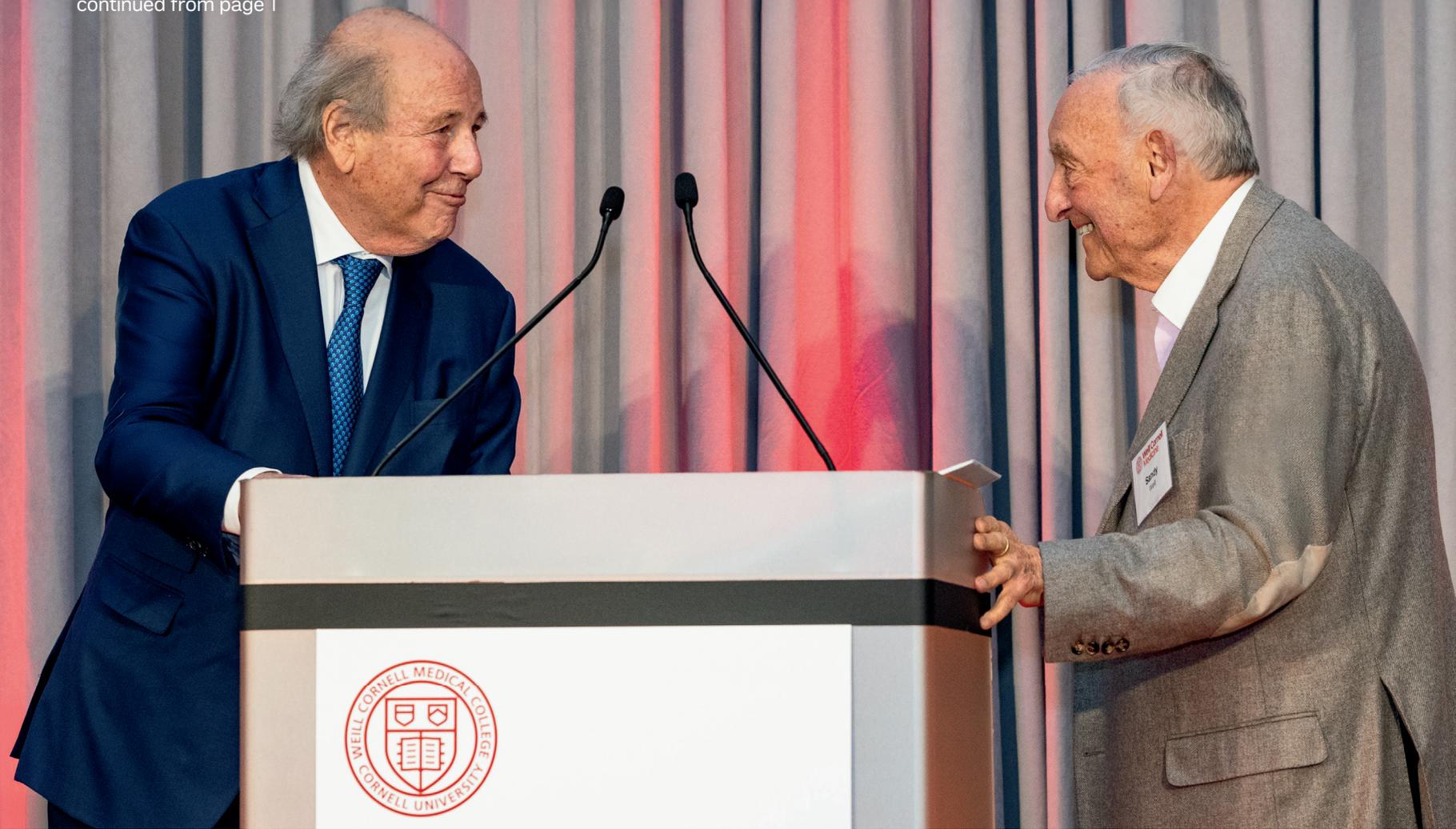
The newly named residence greatly expands Weill Cornell Medicine's student residential space and provides aspiring doctors, scientists and health-care leaders with a modern living and learning

*Continued on page 2*

**We're  
Changing  
Medicine.**

# Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall Celebrates Completion

continued from page 1



Board of Fellows Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil and Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford I. Weill

environment that will enable them to thrive. The building is four blocks from the institution’s clinical, research and education buildings, ensuring that students can live and learn in the same environment.

“This is about our students, who are going to be clinicians, scientists and educators,” says Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and provost for medical affairs of Cornell University “The centerpiece of their education is going to be this building. This is where they will come to live; this is where they will come to learn; this is where they will relax.”

“There’s really no better way to change medicine and make it sustainable than to create a new student residence, where students will have amazing living and learning opportunities,” says Board of Fellows Chair Jessica M. Bibliowicz. “So, for the sustainability of health care, medicine and Weill Cornell, I think this is as an exciting day as I can remember. And I want to thank our lead donors, who really made this possible.”

The 16-story, 173,000-square-foot residence, which will house 272 students, features 163 studio apartments, seven

one-bedrooms and 51 two-bedroom apartments, each equipped with a full kitchen. Additionally, the building includes several communal spaces for study, collaboration, recreation, fitness and socialization.



Board of Fellows Chair Jessica M. Bibliowicz

The residence joins Weill Cornell Medicine’s suite of initiatives to enhance the student experience. To help more students realize their educational aspirations, Weill Cornell Medicine in 2019 expanded its scholarship program to eliminate educational debt for medical students who qualify for financial aid. That same year, the institution opened the Feil Family Student Center, a 16,200-square-foot campus space that expanded facilities for classes, meetings, quiet study and informal gatherings.

“Education has always been front and center in my family’s philanthropy to Weill Cornell Medicine, which goes back nearly 50 years, so I can’t tell you how honored we are to have been a part of making this student residence come to life,” says Mr. Feil. “Our brilliant students deserve so much. They deserve the best education, and they deserve the very best place to live while they are studying hard to be great doctors and researchers. They need a place to learn, feel protected and secure, and collaborate with each other. This is their home.”

“Our students inspire us every day with their talents and determination,” says Mr. Weill. “Along with our debt-free scholarship program — which Joan and I supported early on — with this beautiful new residence, we’re giving our students the support they need to reach their goals. In a few months, the first students will move in and make this place an exciting center of student life. They will have opportunities to have fun, make friends and, of course, study in a collaborative environment.”



Dr. Robert A. Harrington, Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine

The light-filled and eco-friendly building features study nooks, meeting rooms, a fitness center, yoga and music rooms, a student lounge, an outdoor garden and a multipurpose activity court. Weill Cornell Medicine’s Board of Fellows, working closely with current students, conceptualized the building to ensure that its amenities and design would fulfill students’ needs.

One such space is a rooftop lounge with an adjoining terrace, which Dr. Edwin Su (M.D. ’97) and his family generously supported. Dr. Su and his wife, Dr. Karen Lin Su (M.D. ’97), named the Sky

Lounge Lobby, and together they joined with Dr. Edwin Su’s siblings, Kevin Su, Melinda Su and Dr. Sherwin Su, to name the Sky Lounge/Roof Terrace in honor of their parents, Dr. Philip C. Su and Wen-Huey L. Su. Their late father was a prominent neurologist who inspired two of his children — Edwin and Sherwin — to pursue careers in medicine.

“This beautiful new student residence is more than just a building,” says Dr. Edwin Su, vice president of the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association and chair of its Fundraising Committee. “It is a promise: A promise that Weill Cornell Medicine will continue to nurture, support and inspire students, with beautiful communal spaces and a design focused on wellness and sustainability. This residence will be a place where students can study, collaborate, and build relationships that will shape their lives and careers.”



Board of Fellows Vice Chair Richard Ruben, Jeffrey Feil and Board of Fellows member Bruce Ratner



From left: Lee and Jeffrey Feil; Sanford I. and Joan Weill; Dr. Joseph Safdieh, senior associate dean for education; Dr. Barbara Hempstead, dean of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences; and Dr. Robert A. Harrington



Dr. Karen Lin Su (M.D. ’97) and Dr. Edwin Su (M.D. ’97), vice president of the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association



Sanford I. Weill

JoinTheChange.weill.cornell.edu



Sky Lounge atop the Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STUDIO BROOKE



# From Our Dean

**“The gathering of so many donors and friends was a powerful reminder of the extraordinary generosity and commitment that made this moment possible.”**

At last month’s ceremonial ribbon-cutting for the new Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall, there was a powerful sense of pride and possibility in the air. It was inspiring to see the thoughtful planning and craftsmanship that went into the building, and to experience the state-of-the-art space where our students will not only live, but also thrive. The gathering of so many donors and friends was a powerful reminder of the extraordinary generosity and commitment that made this moment possible.

But beyond that, there was a shared awareness that for decades to come, the Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall will be home to thousands of students preparing to become the science and health-care leaders of tomorrow. And an understanding that as an academic medical center, it is our role to equip these students with the necessary tools and training to overcome any obstacle – and to empower them to lead with both excellence and compassion.

Today, we are navigating a time of transformation in science and health care, marked by innovation, complexity and rapid change. But even in uncertain times, there are constants that we can rely upon: the passion and dedication of our students, who arrive here ready to learn and ready to lead; the tireless efforts of our faculty and staff, who drive our work forward with dedication and care; and the enduring support of our donors, whose belief in our mission – to care, discover, teach and serve our community – makes so much of this possible.

These values ground us, even as the world around us evolves. And it is this spirit that can be felt in everything we do, and everything we build together.

With gratitude,

**Robert A. Harrington, M.D.**

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

# Extraordinary Bequest from Margaret and Ian Smith Supports Student Scholarships and Medical Education

Margaret Smith, a longtime champion of Weill Cornell Medicine, has made an extraordinary \$20 million bequest to strengthen student scholarships and elevate medical education at the medical college. This remarkable gift will specifically help fund the institution's transformative Debt-Free Scholarship Program, which replaces student loans with scholarships that cover tuition, housing and other living expenses for all medical students with demonstrated financial need.

Mrs. Smith is the widow of former Board of Fellows member A.J.C. "Ian" Smith, retired chair of Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc., a global professional services firm. Mr. Smith, who died in 2022, was also co-chair of Weill Cornell Medicine's Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society, which honors donors who have established planned gifts or named Weill Cornell Medicine as a beneficiary in their wills or trusts.

"Ian and I both believed that philanthropy could be a force for good," says Mrs. Smith. "Although we never had children, here at Weill Cornell Medicine we saw an opportunity to help young people pursue their dreams."

**"Ian and I both believed that philanthropy could be a force for good."**

Margaret Smith



The couple felt so strongly about the importance of supporting medical education, they committed \$10 million to create the Margaret and Ian Smith Clinical Skills Center in 2008. The 10,000-square-foot facility is a centerpiece of the medical college's curriculum, providing students a realistic environment where they can practice their new skills on mannequins and patient actors.

Margaret Smith, center, surrounded by students of Weill Cornell Medicine.



# Extraordinary Bequest from Margaret and Ian Smith Supports Student Scholarships and Medical Education *continued*

In addition to supporting student programs, the Smiths have also been generous supporters of Weill Cornell Medicine's research enterprise, including the Israel Englander Department of Dermatology and the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine.

"With their exceptional philanthropy, Margaret and Ian have cemented their legacy as two of our most committed supporters, especially of our students," says Jessica M. Bibliowicz, chair of the Board of Fellows. "The Smiths exemplify the kind of donors who make Weill Cornell Medicine unique and special."



JOHN ABBOTT

Dr. Richard P. Cohen with Margaret Smith. Dr. Cohen, clinical professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, is the Smith family's longtime physician who inspired their support of medical education.

## A Love Affair with New York City

Mrs. Smith's beloved husband, Ian, was born in Glasgow, Scotland and raised there in the years after World War II. He lost his father at an early age, and his mother, unable to afford her son's education, found him a job as a delivery boy at an insurance company. It proved to be an industry he loved. He rose quickly, becoming an actuary by age 25, one of the youngest in Scotland at the time, according to Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Smith emigrated to Canada in the early 1960s, where he eventually met and married Margaret, a young woman born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The couple decided to move to New York City in 1975 to further his career at Marsh & McLennan.

For Mrs. Smith, especially, New York was love at first sight.

"Coming to New York City felt very comfortable," she says. "We loved the energy, the people and this sense that New York was like a collection of small villages, which appealed to us."

To get to know the city better, a friend suggested she volunteer at New York Hospital (now NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center). Soon, Mrs. Smith helped out in the hospital

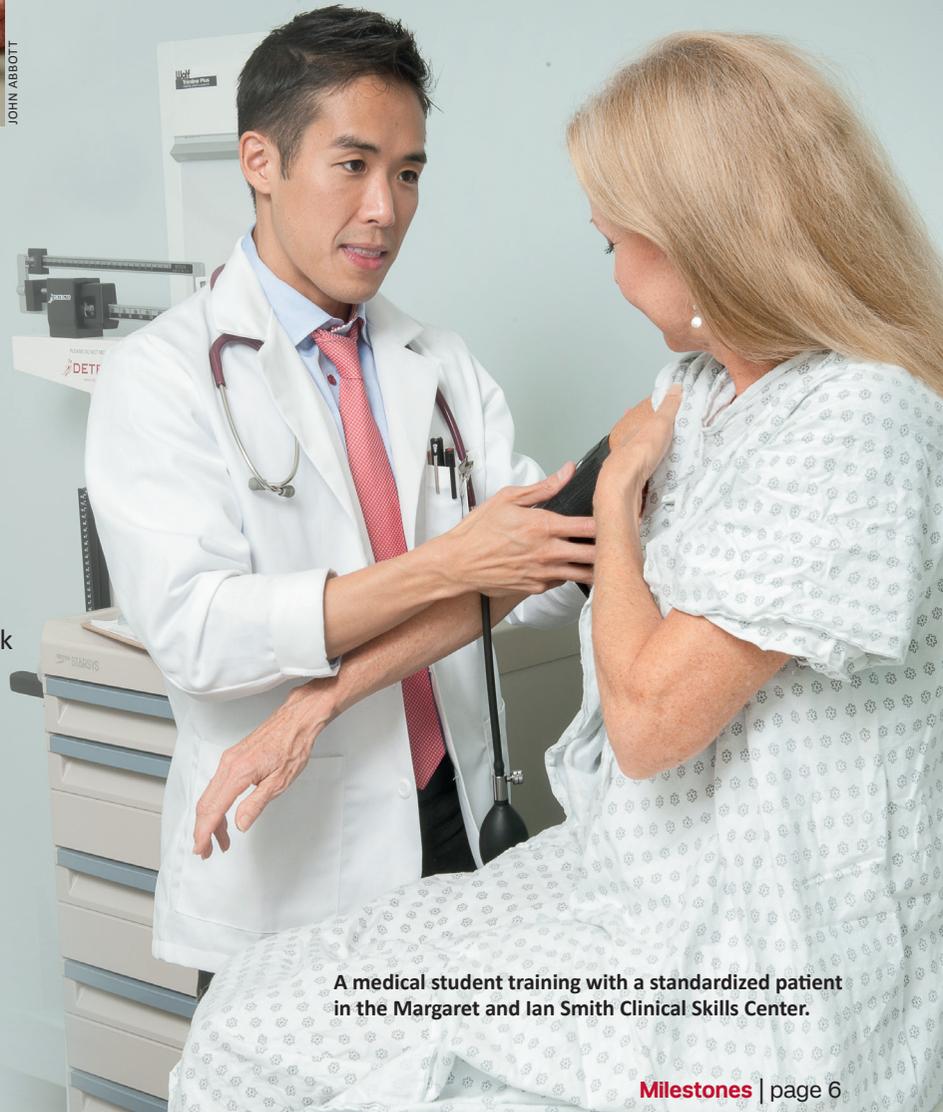
gift shop and delivered items to patients' rooms. She enjoyed working with staff and connecting with patients, and she remained a volunteer for many years.

Mr. Smith was equally active as a volunteer in his adopted city. In addition to Weill Cornell Medicine, he was committed to assisting nonprofits that improved quality of life in New York City, including the Central Park Conservancy and Carnegie Hall. He joined the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows in 1998 and served as chair of the Board's Government Relations, Community Affairs and Domestic Affiliations Committee (now known as the External Relations Committee).

**"Margaret Smith's remarkable generosity will have a lasting impact on our talented future physicians."**

Dean Robert A. Harrington

"Margaret Smith's remarkable generosity will have a lasting impact on our talented future physicians," says Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "A gift like this comes from the heart – it's about lifting the financial burden so our students can focus fully on becoming the compassionate, skilled doctors our communities count on."



A medical student training with a standardized patient in the Margaret and Ian Smith Clinical Skills Center.

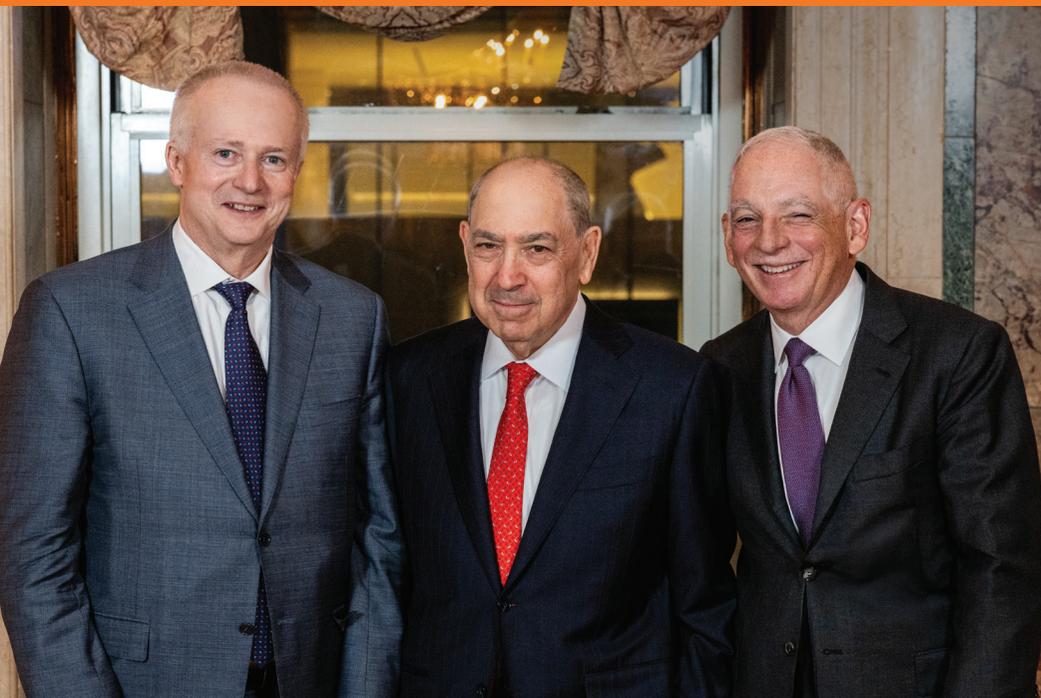
# Events

## Dean's Council Meeting Highlights Cardiovascular Care

The Dean's Council Spring Meeting, held on April 8 at the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center in the Belfer Research Building, offered members the opportunity to hear from heart health specialists Dr. Jonathan Weinsaft, chief of the Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Division of Cardiology; Dr. Joy Gelbman, associate professor of clinical medicine; and Dr. Jessica Peña, associate professor of clinical medicine and of clinical medicine in radiology. The event featured a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Weinsaft, titled "Heart Health: Innovative Strategies for Risk and Prevention."



Dr. Jonathan Weinsaft (left), chief of the Greenberg Division of Cardiology, with Weill Cornell Medicine Dean's Council members Ellen and Richard Fox



## Greenberg Dinner Honors Dr. Richard Cohen (M.D. '75)

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award Dinner, held on April 24 at The Plaza, celebrated Dr. Richard Cohen (M.D. '75), the 2025 recipient of the award. Dr. Cohen, an internist and clinical professor of medicine, has spent his entire 50-year career at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian, where he currently serves as an attending physician. The award was established in 1980 by Board Fellow Maurice R. Greenberg and the late Dr. Peter Guida and is presented annually to a senior member of the medical staff for exceptional and longstanding service.

From left: Dean Robert A. Harrington, M.D., honoree Dr. Richard Cohen (M.D. '75) and Steven J. Corwin, M.D., president and chief executive officer of NewYork-Presbyterian

## Children's Health Council Recognizes New CHIF Awardees

The Children's Health Council recognized its two new Children's Health Investigators Fund (CHIF) recipients at the group's annual all-member meeting and reception at the Starr-Greenberg Conference Center on May 8 in the Belfer Research Building. The event featured presentations by awardees Dr. Emilie Grasset, an assistant professor of immunology in pediatrics, and of microbiology and immunology and; Dr. Woan-Yu Lin, a postdoctoral associate in the Iliev Laboratory, both of Weill Cornell Medicine. The Children's Health Investigators Fund provides support for early-career pediatric investigators, so that they can establish promising results that will qualify them for large-scale federal grants.



From left: Dr. Woan-Yu Lin, Dr. Emilie Grasset, Children's Health Council (CHC) Chair Casey Weiss, CHC Vice Chair of Membership Dr. Whitney Snider and CHC Vice Chair of Programming Erika Feil-Lincoln

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