

Weill Cornell
Medicine

milestones



Twenty Years and Counting

Twenty years ago, Weill Cornell Medicine took on the name of Joan and Sanford I. Weill, and launched a bright, new era of dynamic expansion, successfully propelling the institution to its position as a formidable leader in global healthcare.

With extraordinary donor support and strong leadership from the Board of Overseers, a series of well-executed strategic plans and groundbreaking initiatives – powered by a transformational gift and the renaming of the institution in 1998 – have placed Weill Cornell Medicine at the forefront of biomedical science, medical education and patient care.

“As we fulfill our imperative to improve human health, we continue to make a significant impact on the lives of patients in New York and around the world,” says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. “Our institution is truly a triple-threat powerhouse, with excellence in all parts of our mission to Care, Discover and Teach.”

Care

Weill Cornell Medicine’s compassionate, exemplary clinical care has always been at the heart of its mission – with physicians, researchers and educators collaborating to accelerate the pace of healthcare breakthroughs and improve patients’ lives.

Over the past two decades, Weill Cornell Medicine has dramatically expanded its clinical footprint and extended the range of services for patients, with more than 1,300 physicians currently providing care through 18 academic clinical

departments at over 40 sites in New York City. The highly successful *Advancing the Clinical Mission* campaign – launched in 2002 and completed in 2005 – raised \$750 million and provided for construction of the Weill Greenberg Center, the institution’s flagship ambulatory care facility at East 70th Street and York Avenue, which opened in 2007. The building, funded wholly by philanthropy,

was named in honor of benefactors Joan and Chair Emeritus Sandy Weill and Overseer Maurice and Corinne Greenberg, who collectively donated over \$175 million to that campaign.

Exemplifying the robust academic clinical mission at Weill Cornell, the 13-story facility consolidated numerous clinical programs under one roof, providing patients with access to primary and specialty care, as well as imaging. The building also houses the Margaret and Ian Smith Clinical Skills Center, an advanced teaching center for medical students.

“Our visionary supporters understand that superior patient care requires collaboration across all facets of our mission,” says Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman of Weill Cornell Medicine’s Board of Overseers. “Our patients receive the best treatments possible, thanks to these important relationships between physicians, researchers and educators.”

As services for patients continued to expand, Weill Cornell Medicine – in partnership with NewYork-Presbyterian – broadened its reach throughout Manhattan and into Brooklyn and



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Queens, and added more than 550 physicians, 140 of them practicing at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital.

The institution's worldwide network of collaborators also includes the GHESKIO Centers in Haiti, Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and global health programs on six continents.



ROGER TULLY

Discover

Over the past two decades, the research enterprise at Weill Cornell Medicine has expanded significantly, with increasing numbers of physicians and scientists working to speed the most innovative discoveries to patients in need. Weill Cornell Medicine's collaborative programs and talented faculty continue to attract leading investigators dedicated to improving human health through cutting-edge translational research.

Weill Cornell Medicine's vision for a 21st-century research enterprise gained momentum with *Discoveries that Make a Difference*, a campaign that ran from 2006 to 2013 and raised \$1.3 billion, laying the foundation for unprecedented growth. The campaign was marked by the Weills' transformative gift of \$250 million, as well as gifts of \$1 million or more from 154 other donors.

The centerpiece of the campaign was a state-of-the-art translational research building that would encourage interdisciplinary collaboration.

That 18-story facility, which opened in 2014, was named the Belfer Research Building in honor of Overseer Robert and Renée Belfer, who donated \$100 million toward its construction and related programs. The structure – adjacent to the Weill Greenberg Center – has facilitated Weill Cornell Medicine's bench-to-bedside efforts, helping speed newly discovered therapies to patients.

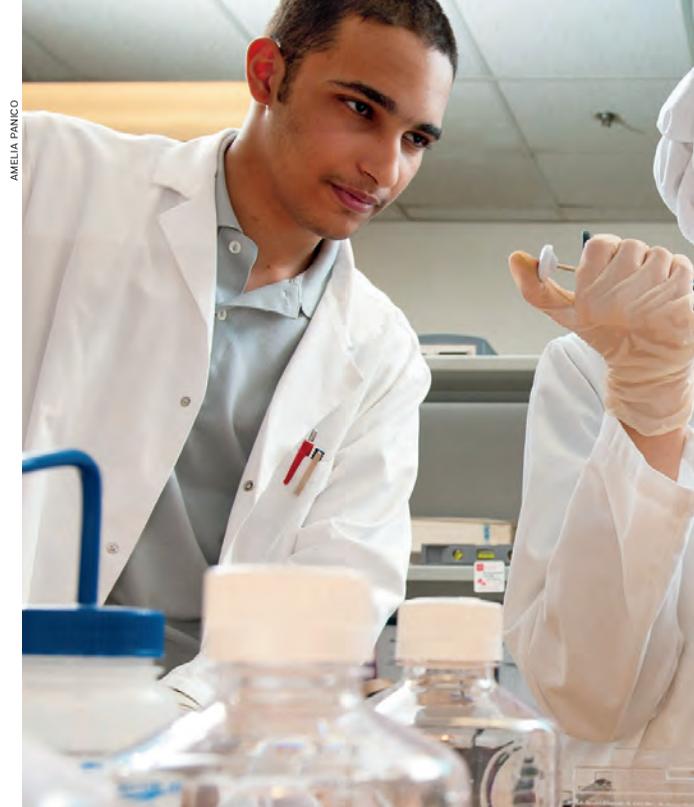
Overseer Maurice and Corinne Greenberg and The Starr Foundation also donated a total of \$100 million toward construction of the research facility – and were honored with the naming of The Starr Foundation-Maurice R. Greenberg Conference Center, which spans the second and third floors of the Belfer Research Building. The Greenbergs and The Starr Foundation have a historic partnership with Weill Cornell Medicine that includes more than \$330 million in critical philanthropic support for medical education, scientific innovation and clinical care over the past three decades.

The Belfer Research Building contains 13 floors of laboratories with numerous research hubs that focus on making the groundbreaking discoveries that can make a critical difference in patients' lives. Key institutes and centers developed during this period include: the Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer's Disease Research Institute, the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health, the Caryl and Israel Englander Institute for Precision Medicine, the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute, the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Center for Metabolic Health and the Cardiovascular Research Institute.

More than 70 senior and early-career investigators have been recruited since the opening of the Belfer Research Building, leading to an approximate 25 percent increase in sponsored research funding at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The expanded capabilities in the Belfer Research Building have ushered in a new era in research, with computational biology and precision medicine playing an increasingly important role in developing targeted therapies for patients.

"With the support of our donors and friends, we have dramatically enhanced our research initiatives, allowing us to accelerate scientific discovery and provide the best possible care to our patients," says Chairman Bibliowicz. "We will continue to break boundaries as we advance medicine and healthcare."



AMELIA PANICO

In addition, Weill Cornell Medicine has implemented a range of initiatives that foster entrepreneurship and promote alliances with the biopharmaceutical industry. Those initiatives include the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute (Tri-I TDI), an alliance among Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and The Rockefeller University, in partnership with Takeda Pharmaceutical Company (housed in the Belfer Research Building), which expedites early-stage discoveries into therapies for patients. The Daedalus Fund for Innovation – launched by the Office of BioPharma Alliances and Research Collaborations and supported completely by philanthropy – also helps accelerate early-stage research projects by providing needed funding to investigators.

Teach

Weill Cornell Medicine is one of the leading medical schools in the United States, producing accomplished academic physicians who advance medicine through research. With its award-winning faculty, a state-of-the-art clinical skills center and a new curriculum that uses innovative teaching methods, Weill Cornell Medicine is continuing to build upon its position as a premier academic medical center that provides a world-class education to the next generation of physician-scientists.





Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell University established a global presence in medical education when Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q) launched a pre-medical program in Doha, Qatar in 2002 and opened its doors to medical students in 2004. Enrollment at WCM-Q has grown rapidly, from 25 first-year pre-medical students in fall 2002 to 280 students from more than 30 countries in 2017. WCM-Q graduated its 300th medical student last year.

Weill Cornell Medicine's expansion beyond the New York metropolitan area includes a research-focused affiliation with Houston Methodist, in Houston, Texas; an affiliation with Bugando Medical Centre and the Weill Bugando School of Medicine in Mwanza, Tanzania; and the Salzburg Medical Seminars and the Open Medical Institute in Austria.

Scholarship support has been integral to Weill Cornell Medicine's capital campaigns, enabling countless students to graduate with less debt. Over the past 15 years, Weill Cornell Medicine has raised nearly \$85 million in scholarship support.

Weill Cornell Medicine's *Campaign for Education*, announced in 2014 and concluded in 2017, surpassed its fundraising goal, generating nearly \$69 million for curriculum reform, education endowments, student scholarships and facility enhancements, including a new 16,200-square-foot student center made possible by the Feil family's gift of \$12.5 million. The Feil Family Student Center, currently under construction on the main campus, will expand the institution's dedicated student space by nearly 75 percent.

A new curriculum, which debuted in the 2014-2015 academic year, focuses on increased patient interaction and innovative learning methods, broadening the medical school experience as it prepares future physician-scientists to be global healthcare leaders.

"As we look toward the future, we are poised to increase momentum and accelerate growth across our mission," says Dean Choi. "I am confident that Weill Cornell Medicine will continue to innovate and thrive, cementing our reputation as a worldwide leader in academic medicine."

Building the Legacy of a Lifetime

Over the last 20 years, Joan and Sanford I. Weill's longstanding dedication to Weill Cornell Medicine has made a transformative impact on the institution named in their honor.

The couple's heartfelt support has touched every facet of Weill Cornell Medicine, establishing the institution as an innovator in research and clinical care, and forging a new paradigm for global engagement and medical education.

For the Weills, philanthropy has always meant more than financial support – it's about giving their time, energy and intellect to the causes that they feel deeply passionate about.

"We are incredibly grateful to have Joan and Sandy Weill as champions of our institution," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "Their enthusiasm and generosity have led to a period of unprecedented advancement for Weill Cornell Medicine and positioned us at the vanguard of academic medicine."

Mr. Weill's bold and enterprising leadership as chairman of the Board of Overseers came at a critical time for Weill Cornell Medicine. During his tenure as chairman, Mr. Weill helped raise \$3 billion and propelled the institution through two decades of strategically planned growth. Additionally, Mrs. Weill has been a steadfast champion for women's health as co-chairman of the Women's Health Symposium. Together, the Weills' passion for philanthropy has left an enduring mark on the institution, starting with their first major gift in 1992, which established the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Education Center.

"Joan always reminds me that shrouds don't have pockets," says Mr. Weill, Chair Emeritus of the Board of Overseers. "We have been partners in everything we've done, and together we made a commitment to share our blessings for the benefit of human health."

Over the past three decades, the Weills and the Weill Family Foundation have given more than \$600 million to Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell University, including a landmark \$100 million gift in 1998 – at the time, the single largest gift in the history of Cornell.

In 2002, the Weills gave a second \$100 million gift to help build the Weill Greenberg Center, the institution's award-winning ambulatory care center. In 2007, they made a historic gift of \$250 million to the *Discoveries that Make a Difference* campaign, which enabled the construction of the Belfer Research Building. In 2013, the Weills made another \$100 million gift to establish the Weill Center for Metabolic Health and the Joan and Sanford I. Weill and the Weill Family Foundation Global Health Research Laboratories.

In 2014, Weill Cornell Medicine celebrated the couple's dedication to the institution with the naming of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine, the largest department at Weill Cornell, and the endowment of its chairmanship.



"We are tremendously proud to be part of this extraordinary institution and its mission to advance lifesaving discoveries," says Mrs. Weill. "Weill Cornell Medicine exemplifies our vision of excellence in healthcare and the potential it has to impact lives on a global scale."

Under Mr. Weill's leadership, the institution built bridges both nationally and abroad. The Weills are longtime champions of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and have been passionate supporters of Weill Cornell Medicine affiliates GHEKIO in Haiti and the Weill Bugando School of Medicine in Tanzania. Mr. Weill was also instrumental in bringing together the partnership between the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and Cornell University to create Cornell Tech on Roosevelt Island.

"We are honored to celebrate 20 years of bearing the Weill name," says Dean Choi. "As Weill Cornell Medicine looks to the future, the Weills will be an indelible part of the institution's legacy – and a sustaining inspiration for the growth that lies ahead."

From Our Dean

With tremendous growth across all areas of our mission over the last 20 years, **Weill Cornell Medicine has been transformed** into a global healthcare powerhouse.



As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the renaming of Weill Cornell Medicine in honor of longtime leaders and partners Joan and Sanford I. Weill, we are proud to reflect upon the many achievements we have made over the last two decades.

These successes were only made possible because of our visionary donors, friends, faculty and students, whose ongoing support and commitment have ensured our place as a leading institution in academic medicine providing exemplary patient care, making groundbreaking discoveries and educating future healthcare leaders.

With tremendous growth across all areas of our mission over the last 20 years, Weill Cornell Medicine has been transformed into a global healthcare powerhouse. Our list of accomplishments is long: We have seen significant growth of our global education mission through the founding of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and our partnership with Weill Cornell Bugando in Tanzania and the Open Medical Institute in Salzburg, Austria; the creation of the Weill Greenberg Center, which established Weill Cornell's first freestanding dedicated clinical space; the expansion of interdisciplinary collaboration and clinical innovations through the construction of the Belfer Research Building; and substantial enhancements of the educational experience and scholarship support for our students.

All of this impressive momentum has positioned us spectacularly for the future. As we plan for our next 20 years of improving care for our patients, continuing critical discoveries in the laboratories and preparing the best and brightest students, Weill Cornell's mission to positively impact academic medicine and society inspires our efforts.

I am humbled by the incredible generosity bestowed on our institution, which continues to make these advancements possible.

With gratitude,

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD

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

Save the Date: Alumni Reunion 2018

The Weill Cornell Medicine Alumni Reunion will take place from Friday, October 5 through Saturday, October 6, offering panel discussions featuring distinguished alumni, institutional tours, class get-togethers, a gala dinner dance and an opportunity to learn about the exciting developments taking place at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Class years ending in '2, '3, '7 and '8 are celebrating milestone reunions, and, as always, all alumni are invited back to campus to commemorate another year since graduation.

We hope to see you there!

For updates, go to:

<https://alumni.weill.cornell.edu/reunion>





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Medicine**

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The We Are Weill Cornell Medicine campaign highlights the unique Weill Cornell Medicine community and introduces many of the people and achievements that make this institution distinctive. To learn more about this campaign, and to read more stories like this one, please visit news.weill.cornell.edu.

Dr. Mark Lachs
Irene F. and I. Roy Psaty Distinguished Professor
of Clinical Medicine
Co-Chief, Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine

Raised mainly by his grandparents, who were healthy and active into late age, Dr. Mark Lachs saw firsthand how quality medical care can enhance the life of older adults. This relationship had a dramatic impact on his interest and eventual career in geriatrics and gerontology.

"I find older people to be the most compelling population to care for," he says. "They've built and maintained this country and we owe them dignity and respect, especially through their medical care."

As the Irene F. and I. Roy Psaty Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine and co-chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Lachs focuses on treating the whole person – an integrative approach to maximizing the quality of life for older adults. And in a time when the baby-boom generation is set to exceed 61 million people by 2030, geriatrics is crucial to the future of medicine.

"The research we're doing in this division is extraordinary," says Dr. Lachs, author of the book "Treat Me, Not My Age," and president of the executive committee of the board of directors for the American Federation for Aging Research. "We have an amazing balance of excellent clinicians and scientists who are experts in their areas of interest."

The division boasts several collaborative and innovative efforts, such as the EGL House Call Program, which provides in-home care to older adults living in New York City. Funded by a significant philanthropic gift from the EGL Charitable Foundation and established in 1997, the mission is to bring the doctor's office directly to the patient's home.

"The program enables us to get to know patients where they're most comfortable, and it allows medical students to see older people in a different setting, not just in the hospital when they're at their weakest," says Dr. Lachs. "If a patient is cared for at home, they may not need the hospital and that also makes economic sense."

The division also encourages the integration of geriatrics into all fields of medicine, to ensure comprehensive treatment.

"Oftentimes, older adults are infantilized or denied modern technology because of their age. By getting to know them and their families, their successes, their hobbies *and* their symptoms, we address the whole person," says Dr. Lachs. "This harkens back to the finest traditions in medicine about service, respect and dignity."

#WeAreWCM

Dr. Mark Lachs



A. KINLOCK

events



STUDIO BROUKE

A young scientist enjoys Family Science Day activities.

Children's Health Council Family Science Day

The Weill Cornell Medicine Children's Health Council hosted its fourth annual Family Science Day on February 10 at the Belfer Research Building. The popular event offered children and families the opportunity to join graduate students in a series of educational, hands-on science activities. The Children's Health Council is a group of families and individuals committed to supporting the quest for solutions to some of today's most pressing health issues facing children and adolescents.

Healthy Living Symposium in Palm Beach

The Healthy Living Symposium in Palm Beach brings together leading physicians and scientists from Weill Cornell Medicine to share their expertise with donors and friends, and provide strategies for disease prevention and healthier living.

This year's symposium, held on February 5 at The Breakers in Palm Beach, was filled to capacity and featured the following speakers and topics:

Dr. Louis Aronne, the Sanford I. Weill Professor of Metabolic Research and director of the Comprehensive Weight Control Center, who discussed nutrition and metabolic health.

Dr. Roger Härtl, professor of neurological surgery and co-director of the Weill Cornell Medicine Center for Comprehensive Spine Care, who spoke about back pain.

Dr. Conor Liston (MD '08), PhD, assistant professor of neuroscience and psychiatry, who addressed brain health.

On February 3, also in Palm Beach, the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association held its Alumni and Friends Breakfast, which included presentations by Dean Augustine M.K. Choi and Student Overseer Raul Martinez-McFaline. Later that day, Annette and Joseph Allen hosted a delightful reception at their home in Palm Beach, attended by Dean Choi and supporters of Weill Cornell Medicine.



From left: Dr. Conor Liston (MD '08), Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Louis Aronne, Dr. Roger Härtl

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

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