



milestones



Honoring Our Scholarship Supporters

For many medical students, scholarships are key to making their education possible, and Weill Cornell Medicine is grateful for our donors who ensure that these students can confidently pursue their aspirations.

"We are so appreciative of the sustained support of our community, alumni, faculty and friends who allow us to make medical education a reality for so many students who would not be able to be here without their assistance," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine.

Ishani Premaratne, a member of the class of 2020 who has received a scholarship, is particularly appreciative.

"We owe a significant debt of gratitude to donors who have chosen to support a future generation of physicians," says Premaratne. "We have a mutual love and respect for this field and its ability to impact lives in varying ways. With scholarship, there's a tangible reduction in debt that students can benefit from, but it can also give students a chance to explore fields they might not have otherwise considered."

Last year, Premaratne was able to meet Dennis Poster, a longtime Weill Cornell Medicine benefactor who established multiple scholarships, including one that Premaratne has received for three consecutive years.

"When donors such as Mr. Poster choose to support medicine, it inspires us to make the field better and prompts us, as future physicians, to give back," says Premaratne, who anticipates a career in primary care medicine.

"We owe a significant debt of gratitude to donors who have chosen to support a future generation of physicians."

Ishani Premaratne, Class of 2020

"I believe strongly in scholarship," says Poster, a Dean's Council Executive Committee member who has established five scholarship funds. "These young students are the best and the brightest who will become world-class physicians. They shouldn't have the financial pressure of substantial debt while getting their education, or once they're treating patients."

Mr. Poster's scholarships have been established in honor of physicians who have treated him, and he has focused his donations to assist students pursuing careers in primary care, urology, neurology and cardiothoracic surgery.

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Honoring Student Scholarship Supporters

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“The students I’ve met are really tops,” he says. “In addition to personal thank-you notes, I even received handwritten holiday messages from each of them this year.”

Overseer Herbert Siegel and his wife, Jeanne, are among Weill Cornell Medicine’s top donors to scholarship. The couple funds the Siegel Family Student Prizes, which provide each of eight outstanding medical students with a \$25,000 scholarship annually.

“I am grateful to the scholarship donors who have made it possible for me to pursue opportunities that I never thought possible,” says Bethina Liu, class of 2021, who received a Siegel Family Student Prize in the 2017-18 academic year. “As a New York native, it means a great deal to me to be able to receive my medical training here and to care for the vibrant communities that make up this city.”

In the 2017-18 academic year, 66 percent of students enrolled at Weill Cornell Medicine received scholarship support, which will help prime the next generation of physicians and researchers for success. Over the last 17 years, Weill Cornell Medicine has raised more than \$100 million to provide scholarships to qualified students.

Endowed Scholarship Campaigns

2001-2005

Advancing the Clinical Mission
Raised: \$13M for scholarship

2006-2013

Discoveries that Make a Difference
Raised: \$31M for scholarship

2014-2016

Campaign for Education
Raised: \$33M for scholarship



“Without the generosity of my scholarship donors, I would not have been able to access the wide range of opportunities available at Weill Cornell Medicine,” says Gary George, a member of Weill Cornell’s class of 2021. “The tremendous resources of Weill Cornell Medicine and its prestigious affiliates have opened doors that I would not have been able to access, or even consider, without this generous support.”

Scholarship donors will be honored in April at the 10th anniversary of Salute to Scholarship, an annual event that celebrates scholarship donors and the exceptional Weill Cornell Medicine students who benefit from their philanthropy. The event offers the chance for students to meet the donors who helped them achieve their goals, and for donors to realize the impact of their gifts.

“Scholarship remains at the forefront of Weill Cornell Medicine’s priorities, and every gift is important,” says Dean Choi. “We want to make medical education possible for everyone, regardless of their family’s income. We’re committed to socioeconomic diversity among our student body, and by increasing that diversity, we can provide the best care to patients from around the city and around the world.”



JOHN ABBOTT

Teagan Marshall, Class of 2020
I am so grateful for the opportunity to study medicine at **my dream institution**, Weill Cornell Medicine. Getting my medical education wouldn’t be possible without the support I receive from generous donors.

Anthony Palillo, Class of 2022

Thank you to the donors who have provided generous support for me and my medical education. **My goal of working with patients to improve their mental health would not become a reality without your support.** I am sincerely grateful and I hope that I can give to others in the future as well.



JOHN ABBOTT



JOHN ABBOTT

Xiaohan Ying, Class of 2022

When my family first immigrated to the US, we never expected that I would become a physician, much less be fortunate enough to attend an amazing school like Weill Cornell. I would not be here without the generosity of our donors and **I can’t express how grateful I am for the opportunity to pursue my dreams.**



For the past decade, Overseer Herbert J. Siegel and his wife, Jeanne (sixth and seventh from right), have provided endowed gifts to students and faculty. The annual Siegel Family Prizes, first presented at the initial Salute to Scholarship event in 2010, recognize leadership, achievement and service to the medical college. The event included then-dean Dr. Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., third from left.

Meyer Cancer Center Marks Five Years of Advancing Cancer Research and Care

A transformational gift from Overseers Sandra and Edward Meyer and the Sandra and Edward Meyer Foundation, Inc. has made an extraordinary impact on cancer care and research at Weill Cornell Medicine.

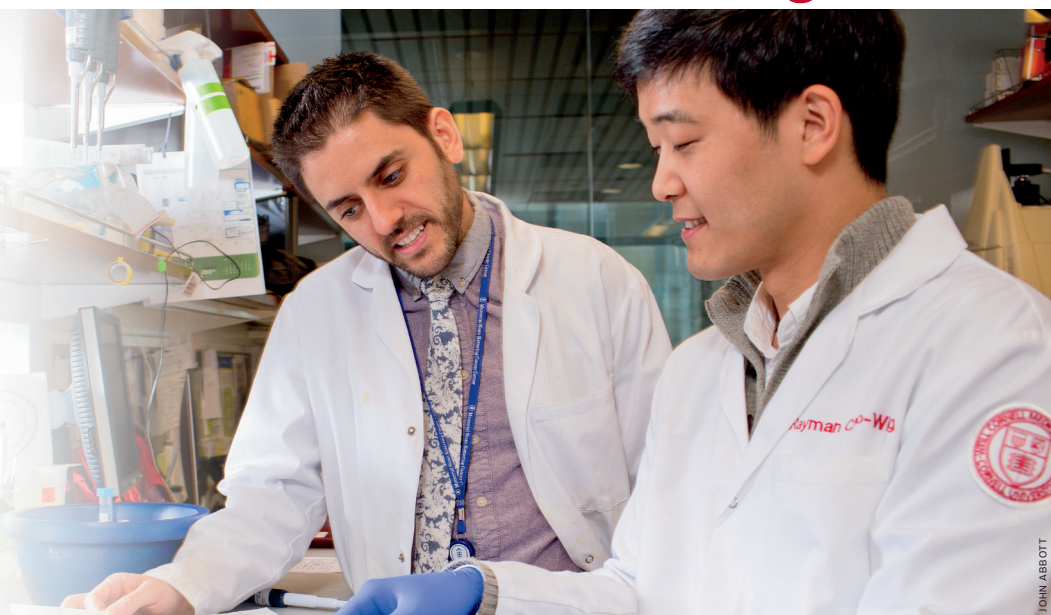
The Meyer family's \$75 million gift, which named the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center in 2014, has resulted in dramatic growth in cancer-related initiatives, with increases in faculty, funding for research, publications, clinical trials and prestigious awards and grants, along with expanded dedicated space for clinical care and research. Sparked by the Meyers' gift, Weill Cornell Medicine received more than \$500 million for cancer initiatives from government-sponsored research funding and philanthropy between 2014 and 2018.

"The generosity of the Meyer family has helped us translate basic science discoveries into individualized cancer treatments for patients," says Dr. Lewis Cantley, the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center and professor of cancer biology in medicine. "We are profoundly grateful for their generosity and vision for a multidisciplinary enterprise that is changing the paradigm for translational biomedical research and clinical care."

The Meyer Cancer Center unifies cancer research activities throughout Weill Cornell Medicine, partnering with researchers in the Caryl and Israel Englander Institute for Precision Medicine to match new biologically targeted therapies to patients in need. Over the past five years, there has been a marked increase in cancer-related clinical trial enrollment at Weill Cornell, advancing the latest cutting-edge discoveries that will one day benefit patients.

"The Meyers' gift facilitated dramatic advances in cancer care and research at Weill Cornell Medicine, with nearly 300 scientists, clinicians and bioinformaticians currently working together to ensure that patients receive the most advanced therapies for their disease," says Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman of the Board of Overseers. "The Meyer family's vision has made a profound difference in the lives of so many cancer patients and their families."

The Meyer gift has led to the transformation of cancer research and patient care at Weill Cornell, facilitated by the expansion of dedicated



From left: Dr. Evan Noch and Isaiah Yim, research technician, in the Meyer Cancer Center

space, including 81,000 square feet for cancer research and 150,000 square feet for cancer clinical care, and the addition of top cancer researchers and physician investigators from around the world. Since 2014, 17 basic science and translational researchers have joined the faculty of Weill Cornell as members of the Meyer Cancer Center.

"Thanks to the Meyer family, we have been able to expand our cancer initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine, allowing us to drive innovation and accelerate the discovery of groundbreaking therapies for patients," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine.

"From the beginning, our hope was to make an important difference in the lives of those fighting cancer, and we are proud of the Meyer Cancer Center's advances in cancer research and care," says Overseer Edward Meyer. "We look forward to continued progress and the further growth and development of lifesaving cancer initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine."

Manning Foundation Supports Mentoring Initiatives

A \$1 million gift from the James Hilton Manning and Emma Austin Manning Foundation will bolster Weill Cornell Medicine's commitment to fostering a dynamic culture of mentorship.

The gift will support initiatives in the Mentoring Academy, established in May 2018 by Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, with the mission of developing leaders in healthcare and science. Dr. Ruth Gotian, assistant dean for mentoring and chief learning officer in the Department of Anesthesiology, is the academy's executive director.



From left: Dean Augustine M.K. Choi and Dr. Ruth Gotian

The board members of the Manning Foundation, which has supported Weill Cornell Medicine since the early 1990s, were inspired by Dean Choi's passion for mentoring – and his advocacy for a world-class program that will nurture the next generation of physicians and scientists, and accelerate growth across the institution's mission.

"We started thinking about supporting the Mentoring Academy after meeting with the Dean and learning about his vision for mentorship," says John Bell, Jr., the foundation's president.

"We wanted to be right there with seed money to get this program up and running," says Susan Porter, the foundation's treasurer and a member of Weill Cornell Medicine's Dean's Council. "We understand how important mentoring is, and to see Dean Choi go forward and formalize a mentoring program is very exciting for all of us. It's going to make an extraordinary difference at Weill Cornell Medicine."

Board members of the Manning Foundation also include two Weill Cornell Medicine physicians – Dr. Martin Post, clinical assistant professor of medicine, and Dr. Gillian Shepherd, clinical associate professor of medicine – as well as Juliet Alexander, who is secretary of the foundation.

Dr. Gotian, who has been with Weill Cornell Medicine for 22 years, has long been an advocate of mentoring as a pathway to success.

"Research has shown that those who are mentored outperform those who aren't," she says. "This gift will allow us to mentor every single type of faculty member, from junior to senior, from clinical to basic science, and it will also afford us the opportunity to utilize various platforms and landscapes to develop and run our programs. We have almost 1,800 faculty members with at least that many unique needs, and there is no end to the programming we can do, and the mentoring that we can provide, so that we can have the greatest impact."

New mentoring initiatives launched at Weill Cornell Medicine in January, which is National Mentoring Month, included mentoring lunches, monthly mentoring chats with the Dean and a leadership development speaker series that kicked off with a lively presentation from Dean Choi on his personal journey with mentoring.

"We are so grateful for the Manning Foundation's commitment to a vibrant spirit of mentorship at Weill Cornell Medicine," says Dean Choi. "This generous gift will allow us to advance our mentoring initiatives on all fronts."



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As of February 2019

From Our Dean



Weill Cornell Medicine, along with our generous donors to student scholarship, is committed to empowering our students with the necessary knowledge and skills to become the healthcare leaders of tomorrow. In this issue's cover story, we celebrate our dedicated donors who are

committed to ensuring that qualified students are able to receive a Weill Cornell Medicine education.

We remain devoted to this promise, and have already made huge strides by enhancing our strong academic curriculum, providing our students with access to the latest technology, increasing clinical opportunities and prioritizing mentorship and peer support. But to retain the best and brightest students, and continue to produce world-class physicians and scientists, we must help them become better able to afford the cost of medical school.

Medical students nationwide face the daunting prospect of ever-increasing debt, which has the potential to directly influence their career path. The extraordinary generosity of our donors and friends will allow our students the option to pursue their medical passions with fewer concerns about financial implications.

Our donors' ongoing dedication to supporting our students is nothing short of exceptional. Not only do our students benefit from our donors' visionary philanthropy, but so will their many future patients. Together, with your commitment and dedication, we are tackling the healthcare challenges of today and promoting healthier generations for many years to come.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Augustine Choi".

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD

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

Healthy Living Symposium in Palm Beach



From left: Dr. Christopher Barbieri, Dr. Sarah Rutherford, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Silvia Formenti and Dr. Lewis Cantley

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

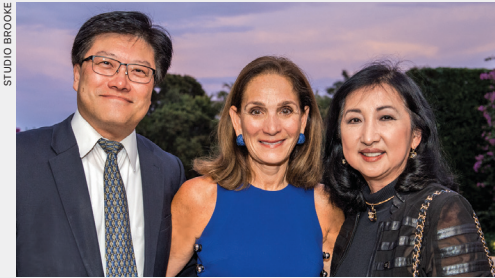
This year's symposium, "A Conversation on Cancer Research and Treatment," held on February 5 at The Breakers in Palm Beach, featured the following speakers and topics:

Christopher Barbieri, MD, PhD
Prostate Health in the 21st Century

Silvia Formenti, MD
Radiation + Immunology: Secret Weapons Against Cancer

Sarah Rutherford, MD
Treating Cancer in the Older Patient

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine, and Dr. Lewis Cantley, the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center. On February 2, Linda Berley hosted a lovely reception at her Palm Beach home, which was attended by Dean Choi, Dr. Mary Choi and supporters of Weill Cornell Medicine.



From left: Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Linda Berley and Dr. Mary Choi

Weill Cornell Medicine Graduate School Hosts Alumni

Nearly 40 Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences (WCGS) alumni gathered on January 17 to hear from newly appointed Dean Barbara Hempstead of WCGS, along with two pharmacology doctoral students, Christina Bebernitz and Corrin Wohlhieter. Dean Hempstead shared her vision for the school's future, while the students described a typical day of a graduate student in research training. Alumni in attendance represented graduates of the PhD, physician's assistant and master of science programs. The next WCGS alumni reception will take place on June 5.



From left: Newly appointed WCGS Dean Barbara Hempstead with PhD students Corrin Wohlhieter and Christina Bebernitz



WCGS Vice Dean David Christini at far right, with two alumnae from left, Aisha Abdullah, PhD '15 and Khadeejah Sultan, PhD '17

Children's Health Council Family Science Day



From left: Dr. Gerald Loughlin, Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine, and leadership members of the Children's Health Council, Mara Feil, Casey Weiss and Christina Truesdale

The Weill Cornell Medicine Children's Health Council hosted its fifth annual Family Science Day on February 9 at the Belfer Research Building. The popular event, attended by nearly 30 families, offered children the opportunity to join graduate students in a series of educational, hands-on science activities in chemistry, biology and engineering. This year, the event also featured activities for 11- to 14-year-olds, including work with a robotic simulator.



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.

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

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