



milestones



From left: Dr. Howard Kivell, Shelly Kivell, Overseer Richard Ruben, Amy Ruben, Lenore Ruben

TRAVIS CURRY

Ruben Family Gift Establishes Science to Industry Bridge Fund

Throughout their childhood, Lenore Ruben, Richard Ruben and Shelly Kivell experienced philanthropy in action firsthand. Their parents, the late Selma and Life Overseer Lawrence Ruben, and grandparents, Rochelle and Arthur Belfer, were deeply committed supporters of Weill Cornell Medicine, in addition to a variety of causes throughout New York City.

"Giving back has been a value in our family that's been passed down," says Mrs. Kivell, who serves on the Dean's Council with husband Dr. Howard Kivell and sister Lenore Ruben.

Well-known for their long-term involvement and generous philanthropy, the siblings have followed in their family's footsteps as the third generation to give to Weill Cornell – an institution they consider a part of their family. Building on

their family's legacy of support, Lenore Ruben, Overseer Richard and wife Amy Ruben, and Shelly and Dr. Howard Kivell, have established the **Selma and Lawrence Ruben Science to Industry Bridge Fund**, in honor of their parents, with a new gift of \$5 million.

Organized under the three-year-old Daedalus Fund for Innovation, the Selma and Lawrence Ruben Bridge Fund will provide funding to span the development gap between promising research ideas and partnership with industry to develop clinical treatments.

"Our goal is to accelerate the development of new cures and

therapies for patients to alleviate suffering and improve patient care," says Larry Schlossman, who manages the Daedalus Fund and serves as managing director of BioPharma Alliances and Research Collaborations at Weill Cornell Medicine.

"It appeared to us that there was a critical gap in research that needed philanthropic support. It's hard to move promising research beyond the lab and kick-start the commercialization process."

Overseer Richard Ruben

"Building relationships and fostering translational research alliances with industry is vital to achieving this core mission."

The Selma and Lawrence Ruben Bridge Fund will distribute two research awards annually for 20 years. These awards will have a significant and long-term effect on researchers' ability to advance innovative ideas with the potential to transform patient care.

"It appeared to us that there was a critical gap in research that needed philanthropic support. It's hard to move promising research beyond the lab and kick-start the commercialization process. That's where this gift is focused," says Mr. Ruben, who has been a member of Weill Cornell's Board of Overseers since 2012. "There's no government funding for this critical phase. There's no venture capital funding and there's no pharma funding yet. But something has to get research and groundbreaking discoveries beyond the lab."

The Ruben family connection to Weill Cornell Medicine dates back to the 1950s, when Arthur and Rochelle Belfer became patients of the late



It's an exciting time to be Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. We are on a trajectory of unparalleled growth in patient care, medical research and education – and rapidly advancing as a triple threat in academic medicine.

I am continually energized by the sense of commitment shared by every member of our community. We are dedicated to advancing our mission through increased collaboration between researchers and clinicians, and we are passionate about creating a culture of mentorship at all levels. Good mentoring is the key to success in academic medicine, and an integral part of a world-class medical education. By nurturing the next generation of leaders, we will accelerate growth in all three facets of our mission – Care. Discover. Teach.

With ongoing support from our leadership, donors and friends, we have cultivated a spirit of invention that has enabled us to increase our research portfolio and translate laboratory discoveries from bench to bedside, enhancing care delivery for patients.

The generous gift from the Ruben family, featured in this issue, exemplifies the important connection between visionary philanthropy and translational research. Our supporters play a vital role in cultivating the culture of entrepreneurship that will carry us successfully into the future.

I am grateful for the opportunity to lead Weill Cornell Medicine – and excited about the steady growth we have achieved. Together, we will build on our strong core values and rich legacy as we lead the way in shaping healthcare for the 21st century.

Thank you for your support.

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

Our supporters play a vital role in **cultivating the culture of entrepreneurship** that will carry us successfully into the future.

**Care.
 Discover.
 Teach.**

Ruben Family Gift Funds Innovative Research Awards continued from cover

Dr. Rees Pritchett, (MD '48), a renowned Weill Cornell Medicine physician and alumnus. Dr. Pritchett's warm demeanor and compassionate patient care made him a trusted family physician and friend. In the 60-plus years since their introduction, several significant gifts have been made by the Ruben and Belfer families to shape the institution.

"We continue to be amazed by the generosity and dedication of the Ruben family," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "This gift is a tremendous step toward our innovation and entrepreneurial goals here at Weill Cornell. The Ruben family legacy is an incredible example of how deeply philanthropy can impact an institution and its patients."

The Ruben family's experience with medical research and clinical trials guided their decision in giving, as they carefully considered how to make a lasting impact in their parents' honor. Their mother, Selma, who passed away in 2002, underwent experimental cancer therapies in the final stages of her life.

"We saw the power of research and the attempt to bring what everyone hoped to be effective treatments for otherwise incurable diseases to more patients," says Mr. Ruben.

Their father, Lawrence Ruben, passed away in July 2016. Selma and Lawrence Ruben's belief in the importance of medical research influenced the siblings' desire to support and accelerate qualified research projects across a spectrum of diseases.

"When innovative research is capitalized more generously, which is what the Ruben gift has now accomplished, it can allow a larger number of high-risk ideas to be selected, including some that take up to two years to test. Those

projects are often the ones with a bigger downstream impact," says Dr. Carl Nathan, the Rees Pritchett, MD, Professor of Microbiology, a position endowed by the extended Belfer family. "I can't emphasize enough how valuable this kind of expertly reviewed special support is to fulfilling our mission."

Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman of Weill Cornell Medicine's Board of Overseers, recognizes the Ruben family's commitment over the decades. "We are so grateful to the Ruben family for such a generous contribution. Larry and Selma Ruben were held in such high esteem in the Weill Cornell community, I know they would be very pleased with this meaningful expression of support."

The siblings agree that their parents would be very proud of this new gift made in their memory.

"I hope there will be a drug that comes out of this that will have an impact and better people's lives," says Mrs. Kivell. "It's rewarding when your philanthropic dollars can be directed in a purposeful way."

Lenore Ruben agrees. "To be able to be part of something that has the potential to provide patients with better outcomes is incredibly gratifying."

Dr. David Lyden, the Stavros S. Niarchos Professor in Pediatric Cardiology and professor of pediatrics, has been awarded the first Selma and Lawrence Ruben Science to Industry Bridge Fund grant. The grant will enable Dr. Lyden to develop antibody-based strategies to prevent and treat primary and recurrent brain metastases.





Education Campaign Exceeds Expectations

From left: Dr. Barbara Hempstead, Vice Chair Overseer Jeffrey Feil, Tyler Lincoln (grandson of Jeffrey Feil), Overseer Chairman Jessica Bibliowicz, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi

STUDIO BROOKE

Weill Cornell Medicine's highly successful *Campaign for Education* surpassed its fundraising goal, generating nearly \$70 million for a range of initiatives that will support and enhance medical education for all students.

The campaign, announced in October 2014, raised funds for curriculum reform, education endowments, student scholarships and facility enhancements – including the new Feil Family Student Center, made possible by a \$12.5 million gift from the Feil family. In addition, the largest single gift for scholarship in the history of Weill Cornell Medicine was received toward the end of the education campaign from the estate of Gertrude Feil, the mother of Overseer Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil.

"The success of this campaign reinforces our collective commitment to fostering excellence at Weill Cornell Medicine," says Overseer Sandy Ehrenkranz, who co-chaired the *Campaign for Education* with Dr. Richard Cohen (MD '75). "We recognize the vital role that education plays in our overall mission, and we will continue to actively advocate for its ongoing support."

"Today's medical students require an arsenal of skills in order to thrive in the rapidly evolving world of healthcare," says Dr. Cohen, a clinical professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. "Our future physician-scientists will be armed with those essential skills – and many will graduate without the financial burden of medical school debt."

Donors to the *Campaign for Education* dedicated nearly \$33 million to scholarship support, providing much-needed assistance for medical students – and far exceeding the goal of \$20 million. The campaign also raised more than \$5 million for education-related endowments – supporting faculty members and administrators engaged in education-related work – and nearly \$4 million for a new curriculum, unveiled in the 2014-2015 academic year, that transforms the paradigm of medical education.

"We've recognized that medicine is changing rapidly, and that the way we teach our students needs to keep pace," says Dr. Barbara Hempstead, senior associate dean for education at Weill Cornell. "Today's students need to be lifelong learners, curious about scientific advances and capable of adapting to and designing new innovations."

The new curriculum emphasizes increased interaction with patients, and utilizes modern learning methods – including podcasts and e-learning modules – to better train future physician-scientists in all aspects of healthcare delivery.

"The great success of the *Campaign for Education* illustrates our supporters' dedication to the academic mission at Weill Cornell Medicine," says Dean Augustine M.K. Choi. "Our visionary donors appreciate the

importance of a first-class medical education and know they are making a significant impact on the current and next generation of physicians and researchers."

With an extraordinary influx of funds for scholarship support, the campaign continued the momentum established during the *Advancing the Clinical Mission* campaign (which ran from 2001 to 2005, and raised more than \$13 million in scholarships) and the *Discoveries that Make a Difference* campaign

(which ran from 2006 to 2013, and raised \$31 million in scholarships). The *Campaign for Education* brought in numerous six- and seven-figure gifts for scholarships, enabling many students to graduate with less debt.

"Our students deserve the best medical education possible, in an environment that enriches the academic experience," says Jessica Bibliowicz, chairman of the Board of Overseers. "By supporting this critical fundraising initiative, we've succeeded in advancing the overarching mission of Weill Cornell Medicine."

Facility enhancements made

possible by the *Campaign for Education* include capital improvements to the Weill Education Center – established in 1998 by Joan and Sanford I. Weill and other donors, and renovated in 2015 – and the creation of the 16,200-square-foot Feil Family Student Center.

"My father and mother would have been thrilled to see this institution grow, both through facilities and scholarship," says Mr. Feil, who attended a wall-breaking ceremony in June marking the official start of construction of the new Feil Family Student Center. The center, situated on the first and second floors of the main campus buildings on York Avenue, will provide dedicated space for clinical education and skills development, and new areas for student activities and quiet study.

"It is remarkable what we have accomplished here," adds Mr. Feil. "This new space truly exemplifies Weill Cornell Medicine's dedication to the next generation of physicians, scientists and educators."

"Our visionary donors appreciate the importance of a **first-class medical education** and know they are making a significant impact on the current and next generation of physicians and researchers."

Dean Augustine M.K. Choi

Azucena Camelo-Basin Supports Weill Cornell's Efforts in Haiti

Azucena Camelo-Basin's smile spreads across her face as she recounts her recent trip to GHESKIO, Weill Cornell Medicine's partner clinic in Haiti. During her April 2017 visit, she met student recipients of scholarships she funded in honor of her late mother, Mary Camelo.

"My experience visiting GHESKIO exceeded all my expectations," says Ms. Camelo-Basin. "I got to meet the young women and children who were benefiting from our contribution and they were so happy with how the scholarships had helped them."

Ms. Camelo-Basin's philanthropy with Weill Cornell began in May 2016 with a \$35,000 scholarship fund that supported educational expenses for 15 adolescent girls and boys affected by HIV/AIDS.

Founded and directed by Weill Cornell Medicine faculty member Dr. Jean Pape (MD '75), GHESKIO – the Haitian Group for the Study of Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections – is a Weill Cornell-affiliated non-governmental organization based in Port-au-Prince that focuses on a three-part mission of clinical service, research and medical training to combat HIV/AIDS and related diseases.

Since 2016, Ms. Camelo-Basin has committed additional support to Weill Cornell and GHESKIO, including \$400,000 for research and \$175,000 for scholarships. Her most recent scholarship gift will

continue funding academic scholarships for young people in Haiti and honors Ms. Camelo-Basin's late son, Joshua Isaac Basin.

Ms. Camelo-Basin was drawn to GHESKIO's involvement in HIV/AIDS research and help for children and women in need – causes important to both her and her mother.

"Day to day, these women and children don't see a future for themselves. I hope these scholarships make them feel like they have opportunities," says Ms. Camelo-Basin. "My mom always told me that part of your responsibility is to help others. I met the children at GHESKIO and I saw their faces light up so much that it was all I could think about."

In honor of her late mother, Ms. Camelo-Basin's funding has also named the Mary Elvira Camelo Pediatric Unit at GHESKIO, and supports a series of research studies to optimize tuberculosis treatment in HIV-infected children and improve survival rates.

"We are grateful for the generous contributions from Ms. Basin and her family, which allow us to provide more adolescents with critical educational opportunities and healthcare resources," says Dr. Pape. "This type of philanthropic support not only bolsters important research and services, it offers hope to the whole community."

Ms. Camelo-Basin's gifts highlight global health initiatives as Weill Cornell continues to grow partnerships in Tanzania, Brazil and Qatar.



TRAVIS CURRY

"We are inspired by Ms. Camelo-Basin's most recent gift toward the incredible work at GHESKIO," says Dean Augustine M.K. Choi. "This long-term investment in global health and research is particularly important to our institution, and GHESKIO is just one example of how we're making a profound international impact."

In addition to her generous contributions to GHESKIO, Ms. Camelo-Basin has also included Weill Cornell Medicine in her estate plans.

"Weill Cornell's research has a profound impact on people worldwide," says Ms. Camelo-Basin. "Giving to areas such as research and global health saves lives and improves the quality of life for all of us."

Brause Family's Generosity Supports Junior Faculty

With the goal of supporting Weill Cornell Medicine's outstanding young faculty, the Brause family has made a gift to establish the Brause Family Award for Medical Education, Research and Patient Care. The award will provide members of the junior faculty with extra time to focus on advancing their research in the early stages of their careers.

"Weill Cornell stands at the forefront of academic medicine, and our rising stars must get the support they need in order to be most

productive," says Dr. Barry Brause, professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell, who established the award with five of his family members: wife Geraldine; sisters Rita and Roberta; and brother and sister-in-law Louis and Ruth. "This award reflects our longstanding appreciation of the quality of education at Weill Cornell Medicine, and the value of supporting doctors who are making a contribution to the development of the medical school curriculum."

The Brause family, longtime supporters of Weill Cornell, wanted to create an award that puts an emphasis on innovations in medical education, ultimately helping future physicians and researchers become skilled educators. The award, to be held by one faculty member for a three-year period – with the opportunity of a renewal – will enable the recipient to devote at least one day each week toward furthering his or her research in improving medical-education methods.

Dr. Brause, director of infectious diseases at the Hospital for Special Surgery, has been teaching at Weill Cornell since 1971. "It's always difficult, when you're junior faculty, to find time to finish a study so that it's publishable," he says. "Early-career educators often have trouble getting to the finish line because they get pulled away to do other things."

"This generous gift from the Brause family will provide meaningful support to our talented junior faculty members, allowing them to reach their full potential," says Dean Augustine M.K. Choi.

"Our greatest hope is that this award has a transformative impact on young faculty and their ability to train the healthcare leaders of tomorrow," says Dr. Brause.



TRAVIS CURRY

Clockwise from left: Ruth and Louis Brause, Dr. Barry and Geraldine Brause, Roberta Brause and Rita Brause

What Inspires Giving?

Meet Chairman Jessica Bibliowicz

After 10 years as a member of the Board of Overseers at Weill Cornell Medicine, Jessica Bibliowicz took the helm as chairman in January 2015. As a successful executive in the financial sector for nearly three decades, Ms. Bibliowicz's business acumen and passion for philanthropy made her an enthusiastic and inspirational leader during what became a time of transition at Weill Cornell. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University, the Board of Trustees of NewYork-Presbyterian and the Board of Directors of Jazz at Lincoln Center, to name a few.

Ms. Bibliowicz recently sat down with Larry Schafer, vice provost for external affairs, to speak about philanthropy's role at Weill Cornell Medicine and the importance of giving as we look toward the future of medicine.

LS: You've been chairman of our board for two years. Thinking back over that time, what have been the board's major accomplishments?

JB: It's very rare to have a transition of leadership at both the university and the medical college at the same time, but we did. We saw everyone come together – physicians, researchers, donors, students, faculty, staff and the Board of Overseers. Weill Cornell is an amazing institution and I'm so proud of our organization for its dedication through that transition. Then, with the appointment of Dean (Augustine M.K.) Choi, we knew we were on the right path. He and I are partners and there's a great mutual respect there. To me, the leadership transitions were the unexpected part of becoming chairman, but sometimes the unexpected is the most rewarding.

LS: Our Overseers have always been connected and committed, but these last couple of years, people really jumped in.

JB: When people feel needed and see that they can add value in many ways – not just by giving money – they forge a deeper commitment. Many of the Overseers have gotten to know Weill Cornell better than ever before. They've always been proud, but the more involved you get, the more you love the place.

LS: Your eyes light up when we talk about clinical care and research, but your eyes light up even more when we talk about our students. What is that like for you, to be involved with them?

JB: It's so much fun. I recently met with Dr. Rahul Sharma (emergency physician-in-chief for NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and an associate professor of clinical medicine) and three of his students who are part of our Healthcare Leadership and Management Scholars Program. They are amazing and incredibly passionate. They're working on telemedicine, expanding our outreach and bringing Weill Cornell to more people. With these students at the helm, the future is spectacular.

LS: I know that you and your husband have two terrific and successful sons. How have you worked with your family to teach them philanthropy?

JB: I think the most important thing for us is to let our kids be their own people and develop their own philosophy and strategy toward giving over time. One way we introduced them to philanthropy was on the eighth day of Hanukkah every year, we would give them each \$50 and tell them it

was for charity. We would let them decide how and where to donate it. It was incredible to watch them think about giving and decide how they wanted to contribute. Both our sons continue to be active with charitable organizations as adults.

LS: Your parents, Sandy and Joan Weill, have had an enormous impact on Weill Cornell and other institutions in New York City. (Sandy is Chairman Emeritus of the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Overseers and Joan is a dedicated volunteer, currently as co-chair of the Women's Health Symposium; both have been major benefactors.) Are there themes in your family around philanthropy and differences between the generations?

JB: When I first joined the Weill Cornell board, I saw my father's passion for it and over the past 10 years, it has become an amazing passion for me as well. I can say that it's been one of the greatest things I've ever done. My father and I are closely aligned with our philanthropic interests – healthcare, kids and education. I believe that each generation's way of giving changes, and the current generation, millennials in their 20s and 30s, is developing their philosophies now. I think that a lot of them are thinking about investments. Private funding is going to be critical to spur innovation, which is a great opportunity. One of the reasons that Weill Cornell is attractive is that we can share the science with our donors. Our doctors, our researchers, our students can talk about things that are so mesmerizing, so exciting and so promising. It makes it hard to say, "I don't want to invest in the future of medicine."

LS: Looking to the future, what are some expected opportunities for Weill Cornell in the next few years?

JB: I have this sense that we're on the cusp of some big discoveries – similar to the way that technology advanced and then saw a big boom. We are in a very strong and steady position as an institution. I see us continuing to grow our wonderful group of physicians and maintaining the highest quality of care. We will continue to focus on building our research capabilities and on bringing patient care and research together as close as possible. When the physicians are informing the scientists, and the scientists are informing the physicians, it is an incredibly patient-centric approach to healthcare.

LS: Dean Choi frequently references collaboration and that's what he means, getting physicians and scientists to work together. How do you see that benefiting Weill Cornell?

JB: We have such an incredible opportunity to take insights from patient care to the researchers who can then translate that information to formulate new medicines, devices, treatments, and a new way of thinking to create cures and improve people's lives. We've accomplished a lot and I think we can continue to do a lot more through collaboration, especially with Cornell University faculty in Ithaca and new Cornell Tech programs here in New York City. There are so many brilliant minds among Weill Cornell and our neighbor institutions: The Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Hospital for Special Surgery and Hunter College. I think we have a fantastic partner in NewYork-Presbyterian. The ability to collaborate and progress forward is tremendous. The medical school allows us to bring together great physicians and scientists who contribute to the future of medicine. We are sending brilliant, passionate and caring physicians, researchers and physician assistants out into this world.



RICHARD LOBELL

Partners in Medicine Spring Luncheon

The semi-annual Partners in Medicine spring luncheon, held June 7 in the Belfer Research Building, featured a presentation titled “No Pain, Yes Gain!” by Dr. Neel Mehta, medical director of the Pain Medicine Center, co-director of the Center for Comprehensive Spine Care and assistant professor of anesthesiology.

Dr. Mehta, whose research focuses on spinal cord stimulation, specializes in minimally invasive procedures for musculoskeletal pain. His talk covered new research in pain management and included strategies that help reduce pain and improve quality of life.



From left: Todd Eisenbud and Dean Augustine M.K. Choi

The Partners in Medicine program – which hosts biannual luncheons featuring experts in a variety of medical specialties – recognizes donors whose support plays an important role in fulfilling the mission at Weill Cornell Medicine.

To learn more about the program, please contact Lorelei Schroeter, director of annual and special giving programs, at 646-962-9531 or las2026@med.cornell.edu.



Dr. Neel Mehta

Dean's Circle 20th Annual Dinner

Members of the Dean's Circle, Weill Cornell Medicine's alumni giving society for leadership donors, gathered for the society's 20th annual dinner at the Belfer Research Building on June 22.

The event offered an opportunity for Dean Augustine M.K. Choi to induct new members and recognize advancing members of the Dean's Circle, which was founded in 1997 to honor alumni who have made significant financial commitments to ensure the continued excellence of Weill Cornell Medical College.

Since the founding of the Dean's Circle, members have donated \$49.5 million to Weill Cornell Medicine.

Fundraising chairman Dr. Michael Alexiades (MD '83), past president of the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association and co-chair of the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society, served as host of the dinner.

The Dean's Circle honors alumni who give outright gifts or pledges of \$25,000 or more, or established planned gifts of \$50,000 or more. The names of Dean's Circle members are listed on a plaque displayed prominently in the Weill Education Center, in the Sandra and Edward Meyer Research and Education Building, at 1300 York Avenue.

To learn more about the Dean's Circle, please contact Clara Sharp, director of alumni strategy and engagement, at 646-962-9484 or clc2016@med.cornell.edu.



Members of the Dean's Circle at the group's annual dinner in June. Dean Augustine M.K. Choi and his wife, Dr. Mary Choi, are in the front row, second and third from the right.

Greenberg Award Dinner

The 37th annual Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award Dinner, held at The Plaza on May 18, honored Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, surgeon-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery and chairman of the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The award, endowed in 1981 by Overseer Maurice R. Greenberg, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of NewYork-Presbyterian, has been presented annually to a senior member of the medical staff for exceptional and outstanding service.

Dr. Michelassi, who joined Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian in 2004, is an internationally renowned gastrointestinal surgeon with expertise in the surgical treatment of inflammatory bowel disease, and gastrointestinal and pancreatic cancers. He has earned numerous awards for his contributions toward advancing the treatment of digestive diseases.



From left: Overseer Maurice R. Greenberg and Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi



From left: Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Overseer Maurice R. Greenberg, Corinne P. Greenberg, Dr. Steven J. Corwin, president and chief executive officer of NewYork-Presbyterian

In presenting the award to Dr. Michelassi, Mr. Greenberg spoke of the physician-scientist's peerless reputation in the field of gastrointestinal surgery. "You join a group of distinguished doctors and scientists whose contributions to our medical center define the excellence of our healthcare mission," he said.

Speakers also included event chair Bernadette Castro, whose husband, the late Dr. Peter Guida, conceived of the idea of the distinguished service award in 1980.

Salute to Scholarship



From left, Dean Augustine M.K. Choi, Dr. Barbara Hempstead, and Jeanne Siegel (fourth from right) with the 2017 Siegel Family Student Prize recipients: Daniel Lapidus, Sarah Littlehale, Edwin Rosendo, Teagan Marshall, Iliana Scandariato, Jeremy Ho, Kristen Berry and Tarek Khader.



From left: Kristen Berry, Jeanne Siegel, Jeremy Ho

The eighth annual Salute to Scholarship, held May 11 at Olin Hall, celebrated the generosity of scholarship donors and showcased the medical students who benefit from their philanthropy. Speakers included Dr. Christopher Barley, clinical assistant professor of medicine, and Dr. Richard Lynn (MD '71). The event, also attended by faculty members and alumni, features a Q & A session with Dr. Jonathan Bar (MD '17), moderated by Dean Augustine M.K. Choi.

The program concluded with the presentation of the Siegel Family Student Prizes, funded by Overseer Herbert and Jeanne Siegel. The \$25,000 prizes were awarded to eight students, two from each of the classes of 2017-2020.

To learn more about scholarship opportunities, please contact Lucille Ferraro, director of campaign planning and strategic partnerships, at 646-962-9491 or luf2003@med.cornell.edu.

We Are Weill Cornell Medicine

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

Dr. Timothy Dutta, MD ’99
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Timothy Dutta (MD ’99) wasn’t far along in his training at Weill Cornell Medicine when he found himself fascinated by the resilience of the human heart.

“You’d see people going into the cardiac unit on the verge of death, and then walking out and recovering and resuming a normal, healthy life,” says Dr. Dutta, who practices both internal medicine and cardiology. “What we can do to help cardiac patients is amazing.”

Dr. Dutta, a member of Cornell University’s class of 1995 and Weill Cornell Medicine’s class of 1999, credits his mentors at Weill Cornell for inspiring him to pursue a career that combines patient care with teaching. Doctors often encounter scenarios that are unique in nature – and students benefit greatly from educators who are also clinicians, he says.

“It’s one thing to lecture about the science of a heart attack, but it’s totally different when you’re at the bedside – not just making the decisions and picking the drugs, but weighing all the risks and talking to the patients,” Dr. Dutta says. “Medical students need to be around people who do this all the time. The physicians I studied with were phenomenal role models. They were the people I wanted to be like.”

But Dr. Dutta’s early experiences at Weill Cornell were more than professionally inspiring. He also met his future wife, Dr. Nerissa Guballa (MD ’99) – now a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist and a clinical instructor in obstetrics and gynecology at Weill Cornell.

Dr. Dutta, who’s been teaching since he was a resident, is continually energized by his students. “They’re so enthusiastic, and it’s just an honor to work with them,” he says. “You know they’re going to be great doctors when they’re through with this program.”

Scholarship funding has enabled many talented students to pursue careers in medicine, and the generosity of donors remains critical to Weill Cornell’s success as a world-class institution, says Dr. Dutta, who is a member of the Dean’s Circle, Weill Cornell Medicine’s alumni giving society for leadership donors.

“Philanthropy allows you to focus on doing what’s right in every aspect of the mission,” he says. “Weill Cornell opened so many doors for me, and it’s gratifying to help the institution’s future physician-scientists realize their dreams as well.”

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