

M I L E S T O N E S

DISCOVERIES
THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE
THE CAMPAIGN FOR WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE



WINTER 2011-12

THE NEW Belfer Research Building



The Belfer Research Building banner hangs prominently on the facade of the construction site. **To learn more about the dedication and get a glimpse inside this new state-of-the-art facility, see pages 6-7.**

In what one speaker called a “once-in-a-century event,” nearly 300 people, including major benefactors, physician-scientists, Weill Cornell officials, and students, assembled on November 9 next to the construction site on East 69th Street between York and First Avenues.



Robert and Renée Belfer

It summed up one of the biggest moments in Weill Cornell’s research history in just three words: Belfer Research Building.

The Belfer Research Building will support the Medical College’s commitment to collaborative translational research that promises to lead to pioneering new treatments and cures for some of the world’s most daunting illnesses – cancer, infectious diseases, and neurodegenerative disorders among them.

“This building will be a powerful catalyst for scientific discoveries,” said speaker Carolyn Maloney, congresswoman for District 14, which includes Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

The \$650 million building is the centerpiece of Weill Cornell’s \$1.3 billion *Discoveries that Make a Difference* Campaign. More than \$1.1 billion has been raised toward this goal in just over five years, including an impressive 116 gifts of \$1 million or more, of which 37 specifically support the new Belfer Research Building.

The finished building will be 18 stories and 480,000 square feet. It will double Weill Cornell’s research space.

Their goal: to hear the long-awaited announcement of the names of the anonymous donors who gave \$100 million toward the construction of the new research building – construction that has been students’ early-morning wake-up alarm, and a source of curiosity for passersby, for nearly two years.

When the names Renée and Robert Belfer were announced amid enthusiastic applause, a banner rose slowly up the face of the construction site.



L to R: Weill Cornell student Jeffrey Russ, Cornell University President David J. Skorton, Board of Overseers Chair Sanford I. Weill, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, and Time Capsule Committee Chair Helen Appel, enjoy placing the final items – banners signed by guests at the dedication – into the time capsule before it is sealed.

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD LEADERSHIP



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher as the new Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College. It is rare when the baton can be passed to a new leader who is the right person at the right time to move an institution to the next level of excellence. We believe that Dean Glimcher is such a leader and are delighted to have her on board.

Her pioneering and collaborative research, often conducted in partnership with the private sector, her clinical background, her reputation as a dedicated mentor and teacher – along with her vision and drive for excellence – all make her highly qualified to be at the helm of Weill Cornell Medical College, especially during a time of unprecedented growth in our biomedical research enterprise. For an inside look at Dean Glimcher, see her interview on pages 4-5.

As we begin the new year and this transition, it is an opportune moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished at Weill Cornell in the last

15 years. Together, within the framework of a focused strategic plan, we have elevated our missions of teaching, research, and patient care. Together, we improved student education by continually enhancing our curriculum. We expanded our clinical services by opening our first ambulatory care facility, the beautiful Weill Greenberg Center. We entered into a period of great collaboration between the Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and expanded our collaborations with Cornell in Ithaca. We vastly expanded our reach, with new affiliations in New York City, Houston, Tanzania, and our campus in Qatar.

Importantly, we made significant advances in research, and our greatest roadblock to research growth – lack of adequate research space – will be removed with the opening of the Belfer Research Building in 2014.

It is gratifying to reflect on these accomplishments. And we are confident that with Dean Glimcher at the helm, even more great things will be achieved.

Sanford I. Weill
Chair, Board of Overseers

Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil.
Co-Chair, Board of Overseers
Vice President, Cornell University

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Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D.
Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medical College
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

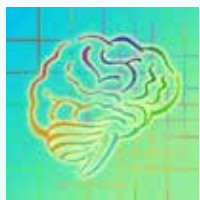
Four Generous Gifts to Spark

NEUROBIOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH

La Fondation Sackler – The Sackler Foundation

Generous gifts from the **Mortimer D. Sackler, M.D. family's Canadian foundation, La Fondation Sackler – The Sackler Foundation**, have endowed four new faculty positions, a research fund and a summer institute to support interdisciplinary psychiatric research.

Four Mortimer D. Sackler, M.D. positions – two Professorships and two Associate Professorships – will be given to accomplished scientists whose focus will be on how the brain develops, as well as the neurobiological reasons behind how this development can go awry and lead to mental illness. Each position will be within both the Department of Psychiatry and the **Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology** at Weill Cornell. The Sackler Institute, established and endowed in 1996, is focused on research and training using novel brain imaging methodologies and mouse-to-human genetic approaches to study mental health and mental illness from a neurodevelopmental perspective.



Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology

The **Mortimer D. Sackler, M.D. Research Fund** will support the Sackler Institute's continuing research efforts, including genetic research into why and when brain development falters and how that affects

behavior. This gift will help move the field of psychiatry in the direction of preventive and personalized medicine.

The **Mortimer D. Sackler, M.D. Summer Institute in Developmental Neuroscience**, newly named in honor of the longstanding support of the Sackler family, both mentors and trains the next generation of basic researchers and physician-scientists in the areas of development, mental health and illness.

"The Mortimer D. Sackler, M.D. family has been visionary in supporting research to understand the biology of mental illness and to discover new treatments to alleviate the devastating psychological pain of these disorders to the individuals and their families," says B.J. Casey, Ph.D., Sackler Professor of Developmental Psychobiology and Director of the Sackler Institute for Developmental Psychobiology. "Already we are discovering not only who, but when during development, an individual may be most responsive to these treatments."

"We are simply thrilled that the strategic vision of the late Dr. Sackler, the Sackler family, and the Foundation has led to the creation of a magnificent interdisciplinary program in psychiatric research here at Weill Cornell" says Jack Barchas, M.D., the Barklie McKee Henry Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Dyson Foundation

Thanks to a generous \$2 million gift from the **Dyson Foundation**, Weill Cornell Medical College will establish the **Anne E. Dyson, M.D. Professorship in Pediatric Research**, allowing the College to recruit a world-class physician-scientist dedicated to discovering breakthroughs in children's health.

The Dyson Professorship is named in honor of the late Dr. Anne E. Dyson who was a pediatrician and Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, an Overseer at Weill Cornell, and a devoted philanthropist.

"Anne was extremely passionate about her work in pediatrics," says Robert R. Dyson, President and Director of the Dyson Foundation, and Anne's brother. "This professorship allows us to honor her in the perfect way – by **promoting critical research that will improve children's lives.**"

The Dyson family and the Dyson Foundation have supported Weill Cornell for more than 30 years. Their generosity has supported efforts across an array of disciplines, including work in cardiology, genetic medicine, ophthalmology and pediatrics.

"By establishing this professorship, the Dyson Foundation is ensuring that Weill Cornell continues to be **a leader in discovering treatments and cures** for some of the most challenging health issues affecting children and families today," says Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil., Co-Chair of the Board of Overseers.

"This professorship allows us to honor her in the perfect way – by **promoting critical research that will improve children's lives.**"

Robert R. Dyson
President and Director of the Dyson Foundation



Anne E. Dyson, M.D.

Advances in Treatments

MITOCHONDRIA: A KEY TO THERAPIES

Stealth Peptides, Inc.



Travis Wilson, CEO of Stealth Peptides; Gerald Chan, Ph.D., Co-Founder of Morningside Group; and Hazel H. Szeto, M.D., Ph.D. '77

With a generous \$1 million gift, **Stealth Peptides, Inc.**, a privately held biopharmaceutical company, is supporting research that may spark treatments for a variety of conditions ranging from atherosclerosis to Parkinson's disease. The research is being conducted by and under the direction of Hazel H. Szeto, M.D., Ph.D. '77, Professor of Pharmacology in the Department of Pharmacology at Weill Cornell.

Dr. Szeto's pioneering work is focused on protecting the mitochondria, the "power house" of a cell, which provide the energy needed by the cell to move, divide, and contract, along with a variety of other vital cell processes. When mitochondria are damaged, which can happen as a result of disease, a cascade of complicated biochemical events can occur. Because of this, **protecting the mitochondria from injury may be the key to treating a wide variety of disorders, including cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.** Damage to the mitochondria is also suspected to be a primary contributor to aging.

At an event on December 16th, Dr. Gotto, then Dean, led the Medical College in celebrating Dr. Szeto's productive research and longstanding commitment to Weill Cornell, along with the gift from Stealth Peptides, by naming the research program in mitochondrial therapeutics at Weill Cornell in her honor. Along with her other research and clinical contributions, Dr. Szeto was President of the Weill Cornell Alumni Association from 2008 - 2010.

"The accomplishments of Dr. Szeto are stunning in that she discovered an entirely novel class of compounds that target mitochondria, and this is unique from both a research and clinical perspective," says Lorraine J. Gudas, Ph.D., Revlon Pharmaceutical Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Professor of Pharmacology, and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology. "The research led by Dr. Szeto will alter the way we approach the development of medications and treatments for disease now and in the future," she says.

BRAIN INJURY TREATMENTS

Jerold B. Katz

On a summer day in 2005, a *New York Times* article came across the desk of **Jerold B. Katz**. The story featured Weill Cornell doctors Nicholas Schiff, M.D. '92, and Joseph Fins, M.D. '86, and detailed their game-changing work in the science and ethical issues behind treating brain-injured patients.

A successful business leader and well-known philanthropist, Mr. Katz's life changed in 1988 when his 22-year-old son Lenny sustained a serious brain injury in a car accident while returning home from college. Subsequently, Mr. Katz developed an intellectual curiosity in neurology research and minimally-conscious states, which was directly related to his interest in both Lenny's condition and in the kinds of brain injuries and closed head trauma afflicting soldiers in times of war.

Deeply committed to improving care for brain-injured patients, Mr. Katz found the work of Drs. Schiff and Fins fascinating and immediately reached out to set up a meeting. He was incredibly impressed by the doctors' compassion and expertise. Now, nearly seven years later, Jerold and Lenny Katz are among the most ardent supporters of Drs. Schiff and Fins's research program, known as the **Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury**, or CASBI. Over the past several years, the Katzes have made substantial gifts in support of CASBI, including a recent \$2 million gift to endow the **Jerold B. Katz Professorship in Neurology and Neuroscience**. Dr. Schiff is the first to hold the professorship, which supports his work in the Laboratory of Cognitive Neuromodulation at Weill Cornell.



Jerold B. Katz

"This research is making tangible differences in the lives of our patients," says Dr. Schiff. "Whether it's being able to feed yourself again, to stand and walk, or to not have to live in a skilled nursing facility – every step is hugely important." The CASBI program is unique because Drs. Schiff, Fins, and colleagues collaborate to understand not only the neuroscience of brain trauma, but also the social and moral implications for brain-injured patients and their families.

"Their research is truly revolutionary," says Mr. Katz. "It's very satisfying to know that the gifts that Lenny and I are making support breakthrough research at the Medical College and the work of dedicated, innovative physicians, such as Dr. Schiff and Dr. Fins."

"This is an extremely intricate field, from both a scientific and an ethical perspective," says Dr. Fins, the E. William Davis, M.D., Jr. Professor of Medical Ethics and Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics, whose work Mr. Katz also supports. "The collaborative approach I've been able to take with Dr. Schiff and our many colleagues here at Weill Cornell has made it possible to untangle the complicated issues involved in brain injuries, and it's helped us engage this area of research for a population of patients who are often marginalized and neglected. **Our efforts have begun to bring the fruits of neuroscience advances to patients and their families, who also need our support.**"

Dear Friends,

We have much to celebrate in this new year.

We have raised more than \$1.125 billion towards our *Discoveries* Campaign goal of \$1.3 billion. At the same time, we have reached an important Campaign milestone with the dedication and naming of the Belfer Research Building in honor of the generosity of Renée and Robert Belfer. These achievements capped off an incredible 15-year run by Dr. Gotto.

Thanks to your incredible support, we are poised to catapult Weill Cornell into a new era that will expand and accelerate our collaborative research, with the goal of speeding up improved treatments, and cures, for people in New York and around the world.

Now, the priority for Dean Glimcher, the Board of Overseers, and the Campaign Steering Committee continues to be the \$225 million ***Research Leads to Cures Initiative***. This phase of the Campaign focuses on **the recruitment of 30 new top scientists** who will join our faculty and help spearhead the research, much of which will take place inside this magnificent new Belfer Building. That recruitment process is already underway, as it can take several years to bring on board the most renowned and promising researchers.

Donors who make significant capital gifts to the Belfer Research Building, or significant recruitment and program gifts for the *Research Initiative*, will be recognized with appropriate named spaces in their honor. (See pages 6-7.)

Please join us. Together, we will make it possible to deliver discoveries that will lead to longer and healthier lives for us all.

Thank you again for all you have done to bring us to this exciting phase of the Campaign.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Appel
Campaign Chairman



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Meet

Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher

On January 1, 2012, Laurie H. Glimcher, M.D., took the reins as the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University. Dr. Glimcher, one of the country's leading researchers and physician-scientists, was previously the Irene Heinz Given Professor of Immunology at the Harvard School of Public Health, where she directed the Division of Biological Sciences program, and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, where she headed one of the top immunology programs in the world. In her first *Milestones* interview, we get an inside look into some of her perspectives on teaching, research, and patient care – and how she feels about her move to Manhattan.

Q: What were the main factors in your decision to accept the position as Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean at Weill Cornell Medical College?

A: It is a huge honor to be the next Dean and Provost of Medical Affairs at Weill Cornell and Cornell University. This position is widely acknowledged to be the most attractive Deanship in any academic medical center in the U.S. When I was first asked whether I was interested in this position, I spent time trying to find out as much as I could about Weill Cornell. What I learned intrigued me. When offered the position, I was delighted to accept because **Weill Cornell is in all respects already a wonderful place; but, even more attractively, it is also a place with huge potential to do more.** Weill Cornell is a first-rate clinical enterprise and I am very eager to build on that excellence and expand the clinical enterprise. We offer a superb medical education to an outstanding group of students, and I am excited about our efforts to refresh the medical school curriculum.

The Weill Cornell mission is tripartite, and the third piece is our presence in biomedical research. With the resources we now have, we should be one of the top ten medical schools in this country. The barrier to that goal has been a lack of research space to allow us to recruit as many leading biomedical researchers as we would like to have. With the construction of the Belfer Research Building, that has changed. Thanks to Dean Gotto's remarkable success and vision in fundraising for key areas, including bricks and mortar, and to the incredibly generous support from our donors and especially from our Overseers, Weill Cornell is now poised – beautifully poised – to take the next step.

We now have an extraordinary opportunity to build on our already strong research presence to become a first-class biomedical research institution. A substantial part of my career has been dedicated to research, and building connections in the biomedical research community. I felt that my particular strengths were aligned perfectly with the future of Weill Cornell, and that leading this great institution could make a larger impact on the medical community and on the future of health care than continuing to work in my lab on my own projects.

Q: Faculty are already being recruited for the Belfer Research Building. What are your priorities for the new faculty hires?

A: Something that David Skorton (*President of Cornell University*) and I both agree on is the importance of faculty excellence. We already have outstanding faculty at Weill Cornell – but our numbers have been small because we're a relatively small medical school. As we begin to grow and expand, there are going to be a lot of new possibilities on the horizon. **We aim to attract talented researchers who are also risk-takers, who want to take a chance and be a part of our upward trajectory.** It is also important to continue emphasizing diversity, to recruit more women into both senior and junior faculty positions as well as physicians and scientists from diverse backgrounds. A lack of diversity is a problem across all universities, especially at the senior level, and I believe we need to be mindful of this deficiency as we seek to expand our faculty.

Q: What do you see as potential barriers to recruitment?

A: **With the Belfer Building under construction, this College is ready to achieve the preeminence in the biomedical sciences that it has already achieved in clinical medicine.** The combination of academic excellence and attractive location should make it possible to recruit first-rate senior and junior faculty in several carefully chosen scientific fields of high unmet medical need. Our biggest barrier to recruitment may also be our biggest strength – New York City. As we all know, it is expensive to live in New York City. Obstacles such as expensive housing, or long commutes, can be burdensome to young faculty. But New York City is also an amazing and energizing resource. With the recent success of Cornell University in winning the right to build a New York City Tech Campus on Roosevelt Island (*below*) and the presence of institutions like Memorial Sloan-Kettering and The Rockefeller University right next door, I see this city becoming the premier biomedical research center in this country within the next ten years. I think it will be "the place to be" for basic and translational researchers.

Q: How does improving patient care fit into this strategy?

A: Research is the road that leads to the clinical therapies that improve patients' lives. This is the end game. To achieve this end, it is important for us as an institution to align our biomedical research strengths with the clinical strengths we already have at Weill Cornell and NewYork-Presbyterian. These include key areas such as neurodegenerative disease, cancer, osteoporosis, stem cell medicine, gastrointestinal disease, and metabolic syndrome – which includes obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. These are all diseases that are under the umbrella of aging, or "healthy living."

Q: Last month, Cornell University, in collaboration with The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, won the competition to build the New York City Tech Campus. What impact will this have on Weill Cornell?

A: This new campus will be just moments away from our campus – which is truly phenomenal. The research areas will be organized in overlapping and flexible hubs around several themes. Entrepreneurship and innovation that improve people's lives through engineering and science are the heart and soul of this new mission and epitomize the pioneering spirit. I want Weill Cornell to be a pioneer in everything that it does. We are facing watershed moments in this country in clinical care, in medical education, and in biomedical research. The challenges these pose will require bold new ideas and a commitment to excellence. **Excellence comes from perseverance, preparation, commitment, courage, insight, and innovation.** Neglect any one of these and the result is mediocrity. The pioneering opportunities for collaboration between Weill Cornell faculty and the faculty at the Tech Campus are limitless.

Q: We're next door to Memorial Sloan-Kettering and The Rockefeller University as well as NewYork-Presbyterian. We're part of Cornell, a major research university. What do you see as the key next steps for leveraging these connections to benefit our research?

A: Weill Cornell is unique among medical schools in its vigorous and successful partnering with institutions both here in the U.S. and abroad, diverse partnerships which I am also committed to and excited about continuing. **Every one of these partnerships has been ground-breaking.** Weill Cornell forged an effective Tri-Institutional (*Tri-I*) relationship with Rockefeller and with Memorial Sloan-Kettering. This includes the joint graduate school enterprise with Sloan-Kettering Institute with our excellent graduate students – who are key partners in the research enterprise. It also includes the Tri-I M.D.-Ph.D. Program, which is equipping future leaders to build the bridges of translational medicine. These are relationships that Weill Cornell, Memorial, and Rockefeller are committed to expand and leverage through building key joint core facilities and perhaps by joint recruitment of outstanding faculty. Our close partnership with and proximity to NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, which is repeatedly ranked as one of the top hospitals, has forged physician-scientist partnerships and led to translational research projects that are a win-win for scientists, physicians, students, and patients. And of course our “parent,” Cornell University, is one of the country's leading research institutions, and we anticipate even more fruitful collaborations with scientists on the Ithaca campus.



Q: You have a reputation for being supportive of promising young researchers. As president of the American Association of Immunologists, you started a program to provide supplementary funds for post-doc fellows who are primary caregivers of dependents. What was your strategy behind that?

A: The reality is that women often still have primary responsibility for child-rearing, which can make it difficult for them to dedicate the time and energy they need to grow their careers. During the early stages of my career, I was raising three children with a husband who, as a transplant surgeon, had a daunting schedule – and I was trying to balance seeing patients and running a lab with having a family. When I look back at those years, I truly wonder how I did it. I was lucky to have a good support network, but many young researchers do not have those resources. I think that as an institution it is important for us to not only provide intellectual and emotional support to young female faculty, but to honestly put our money where our mouth is and make it possible to bridge the gap that holds back so many women in the sciences.

Q: In this Campaign, we have raised nearly \$22 million for scholarships. Yet, even with good cost controls, our students graduate with an average debt of \$131,000. It is lower than the average student debt of \$177,000 for private medical schools, but still daunting. What strategy would you propose for reducing their debt burden?

A: The good news is that we do better than most other institutions at reducing student debt. The bad news is that debt is still an enormous burden for medical students – and often influences their career choice. There are students who would like to go into primary care or lower-paying specialties, but just can't do it because they have so much debt to pay back. I have no doubt that part of the reason the physician-scientist is vanishing is because

“I want Weill Cornell to be a pioneer in everything that it does. We are facing watershed moments in this country in clinical care, in medical education, and in biomedical research. The challenges these pose will require bold new ideas and a commitment to excellence.”

– Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher

people say “how can I spend three years in a low paying fellowship when I have debt and a family to support?” This debt is definitely limiting choices and ultimately impacting our healthcare system; so what can we do about it? First, we can continue to do more of what we are doing by raising more scholarship funds for those students who need it – which is most students. Or, we could try something daring – and try to raise enough money to provide full tuition for all of our students – now *that* would be incredible.

Q: What are your early impressions of living in New York City?

A: I've lived in the suburbs of Boston my whole life, so I am thrilled to relocate to the heart of New York City. It's the best city in the world to live in. I love that I'm able to walk to work every day, and I look forward to running in Central Park and along the East River – when it warms up a bit. I'm also a huge fan of the theater and the opera. What better place to enjoy those than in New York?

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: This outstanding institution has welcomed me with open arms, and I want to thank all of you for your tremendous support and enthusiasm. Weill Cornell is located in a geographic environment – New York City – that offers our students, clinicians, and scientists a wealth of opportunities not available at most medical schools. **All elements are in place to leverage our many strengths and propel us into the very top ranks of medical schools.** It is an enormous privilege to oversee and guide this transformation. I'm immensely excited about setting out on this journey together with all of you.

DEDICATED TO

THANK YOU! It took Weill Cornell 100 years to reach its current level of research space. With the completion of the Belfer Research Building in 2014, we will double our research capacity and be positioned to move into the vanguard of discoveries for ways to treat, and even cure, some of our most intractable and dangerous health issues such as heart disease, neurological illnesses, cancer, and a range of childhood disorders.

Below are a few photos from the celebration held on November 9 to recognize Renée and Robert Belfer for their gift and to thank the many donors to the Belfer Research Building. Renderings on the opposite page show two of the named spaces inside.



Barbara B. Friedman, Vice Chair of the Board of Overseers, Joan Weill, and Helen Appel celebrate at the dedication ceremony.



Sanford I. Weill, Chair of the Board of Overseers, signs one of the banners that was later placed and sealed in the time capsule. The capsule, which will be installed in the lobby of the Belfer Research Building, is sealed with instructions to reopen it in 2098 to mark the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Medical College and the 100th anniversary of its renaming in honor of Joan and Sandy Weill.



"I am personally very excited not only by the expanded research potential at Weill Cornell," said David Skorton, President of Cornell University, "but also by the expanded opportunities that the Belfer Research Building presents for collaboration between our two campuses."



Dr. Gotto, surrounded by a group of medical students at the celebratory brunch held in Olin Hall.



Friends and supporters eagerly await the announcement of the \$100 million gift from Renée and Robert Belfer, and the naming of the Belfer Research Building.

YOUR HEALTH

Where Research Leads to Cures

As you enter the Belfer Research Building, one of the first spaces you see will be The Starr Foundation-Maurice R. Greenberg Conference Center. It emphasizes elegance, simplicity and a calming spirit conducive to reflection and discovery. With a skylight terrace, conference rooms, reception hall, and fully integrated technologies for in-house and international meetings, it will be a hub where physician-scientists, educators, students, and researchers from around the globe collaborate on the latest discoveries and research breakthroughs. Corinne and Maurice R. Greenberg, and The Starr Foundation, have generously supported medical education, patient care, and research at Weill Cornell for more than 25 years.



Integrated, open research suites – including the **John Kanas Family Suite in Children's Health Research** (pictured here) – augment greatly our physician-scientists' opportunities to exchange ideas and work together in a collaborative environment. This suite, named in honor of Elaine and John Kanas for their generous support of research facilities inside the building, is one of 16 suites in the Belfer Research Building. Each of the suites includes a Principal Investigator Laboratory Zone with multiple research labs, and an adjacent lounge and conference room.

© Renderings by Ennead Architects LLP

Women's Health Symposium

Which supplements can I trust? How do I keep track of all of my medications? How does the FDA make sure that my medications are safe?

Two hundred fifty participants in this fall's 29th annual *Women's Health Symposium* empowered themselves with answers to these critical health questions and more. The symposium, "*Helping or Harming? Navigating the Supplement and Medication Maze*," featured Lorraine J. Gudas, Ph.D., Revlon Pharmaceutical Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and Chair of the Department of Pharmacology; and Mark S. Lachs, M.D., M.P.H., The Irene F. and I. Roy Psaty Distinguished Professor of Clinical Medicine. It was moderated by Herbert Pardes, M.D., Executive Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

"We are all oversaturated with information about which medications and supplements to take," said Dr. Lachs. "Because of this, there has never been a more important time to partner with your doctor to determine the best method of treatment for you and your health."

This year, the Symposium was dedicated to the memory of Myra Mahon, who was Co-Chair of the Women's Health Symposium Executive Steering Committee. Myra was also Co-Chair of the Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award Dinner, and a member of the Executive Committee of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center's Lying-In Hospital. In 2007, the Medical College's Patient Resource Center was named in her honor – in gratitude for the extreme commitment and generosity shown by Myra and her husband Arthur Mahon, Vice Chair of the Weill Cornell Board of Overseers, to the Medical College.

"Myra was an inspirational woman," said Orli Etingin, M.D., Lisa and Sanford B. Ehrenkrantz Professor in Women's Health and Medical Director of the Iris Cantor Women's Health Center, who was a facilitator at the symposium. "She is greatly missed by all of us."



Dr. Lorraine J. Gudas and Dr. Mark S. Lachs engage the audience with answers to questions about medication and supplement use at the Women's Health Symposium.

Thank You, Dr. Gotto!



L to R: Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil., Co-Chair of the Board of Overseers and Vice President, Cornell University, and Anita N. Gotto; Joan and Sanford I. Weill, Chair of the Board of Overseers. The portrait of Dr. Gotto was revealed during a special dedication and tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Gotto in December. It will be displayed at 1300 York Avenue along with those of other prior deans in the Uris Faculty Room.

Dr. Gotto was honored at several events this fall as he prepared to step down after a decade and a half of service as Dean and assume the role of Co-Chair of the Board of Overseers of Weill Cornell and Vice President of Cornell University.



Dr. Gotto and his daughter, Teresa Teague, enjoy themselves at an intimate gathering to celebrate his outstanding achievements during his 15 years as Dean of Weill Cornell.

For more information, please contact Lucille Ferraro, Campaign Director, at 646-317-7387 or luf2003@med.cornell.edu.

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