



**Weill Cornell  
Medicine**

Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society | Spring 2022

# Philanthropist



Dean Augustine M.K. Choi

## Transforming the Future of Medicine

As one of the most accomplished health-care institutions in the country, Weill Cornell Medicine is fueling critical advances and setting the standard for global excellence.

Now, Weill Cornell Medicine is poised to transform health care through its \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* fundraising campaign, launched publicly in June 2021. It is the largest campaign in the institution's history and the first fundraising initiative in decades to simultaneously address all three facets of Weill Cornell Medicine's mission to care, discover and teach. The campaign will focus on creating a more personalized, evidence-based approach to patient care, while building a stronger bridge between foundational science and

*(continued on page 3)*

**For details about the Legacy Match Challenge, please see page 8.**

# From the Stimson Society Co-Chairs

Dear Friends,

As we look toward a brighter, post-pandemic future, we remain grateful for your remarkable partnership. Your steady support has helped us to continue to provide excellent patient care, conduct groundbreaking research and train the next generation of medical leaders – even during one of the most challenging periods that we've faced as an institution.

Last June, Weill Cornell Medicine launched an ambitious, \$1.5 billion campaign that synergizes all three institutional missions: to care, discover and teach. Building on our legacy of innovative advances in medicine and science, the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign will elevate the standard for clinical care; invest in bench-to-bedside research discoveries, including a precision health enterprise focused on personalized prevention and treatment; and support a diverse and gifted student body. We're Changing Medicine – and we invite you to change it with us.

To inspire legacy gifts, we have created the ***We're Changing Medicine Legacy Match Challenge***, an exciting initiative that offers a special current gift match and recognition for individuals who make new or increased planned gift and estate commitments to Weill Cornell Medicine.

In this issue of *Philanthropist*, you will read inspiring stories of individuals who have created meaningful legacy gifts that will impact the future of medicine. One of those generous donors, featured in our lead story, is Francis Sorin, who left an extraordinary estate gift to Weill Cornell Medicine that will be used to support critical campaign priorities. Another donor, Elizabeth Schaper, made her gift in honor of her beloved physicians. Both of us have also made our own legacy commitments to support Weill Cornell Medicine. In this issue, we're proud to feature a story about how Dr. Alexiades established a generous bequest gift to support scholarship, as part of the Legacy Match Challenge.

As these articles illustrate, with thoughtful planning, you can make a lasting impact on the future of medicine.

Our sincerest thanks to those of you who have already named Weill Cornell Medicine as a beneficiary in your will, living trust, retirement fund, gift annuity, charitable trust or other planned gift. We value your thoughtfulness and your membership in the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society.

We hope you find this issue of the *Philanthropist* newsletter informative and inspiring, and we thank you for being an important part of the Weill Cornell Medicine family.

Sincerely,



**A.J.C. Smith**  
Member, Board of Fellows  
Co-Chair, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society



**Michael Alexiades, M.D. '83**  
Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery  
Co-Chair, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society

**We're  
Changing  
Medicine.  
Change it with us.**



# Transforming the Future of Medicine (continued from the cover)



A new student residence will offer enhanced living and learning spaces (above and at right).

clinical care, and empowering students with the necessary resources to become tomorrow's health-care leaders.

"Weill Cornell Medicine has long been at the forefront of groundbreaking and transformative medicine. We have enhanced and modernized clinical care, research and medical education, and we are always looking toward the future. Now we're ready to push our institution – and health care – even further," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine.

Key campaign priorities include investments in foundational, translational and clinical research, and a focus on a wide range of clinical care areas, including precision health, infectious diseases and immunology, children's health, women's health and diseases that affect the brain, heart and metabolic system. The campaign is also enhancing students' living and learning experience, with the establishment of a scholarship program that provides debt-free education to medical students in need, as well as the construction of a new student residence within walking distance of campus. Expected to be completed in 2025, the modern residence will prioritize health and well-being, with 221 fully furnished apartments.

"Our commitment to our patients drives this momentous campaign," says Dean Choi. "To provide the best care possible, we're bringing together world-class scientists and physicians to transform the future of medicine. The time is now."

Already more than halfway toward its goal, the campaign has been newly supported by a transformational gift of \$40 million from the estate of Francis Sorin, an attorney and former patient who spoke often of his gratitude to



The residence is expected to be completed in 2025.

Weill Cornell Medicine. He established the gift in his will in 2019 and lived to the age of 101.

Mr. Sorin made his first gift to the institution in 2012 as a member of Partners in Medicine, a recognition society created to honor the special generosity of contributors who provide essential support for existing programs and new initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine.

"Mr. Sorin's profound generosity will enable us to advance many of our campaign priorities, allowing us to get closer to fulfilling our ambitious goals, and we are so very grateful," says Dean Choi. The extraordinary gift from his estate is



unrestricted and may be used to support numerous areas at the Dean's discretion, including clinical care, research, education, capital and equipment needs, and efforts to recruit and retain outstanding physicians and scientists.

"We are touched by this extraordinary gift from Mr. Sorin's estate – a heartfelt gesture from one of our Partners in Medicine who truly understood the power of planned giving," says Jessica M. Bibliowicz, chairman of the Board of Fellows. "Mr. Sorin has established an enduring legacy at Weill Cornell Medicine, and we will forever be grateful for his generosity."

With the goal of inspiring other donors to create their own legacy by making a planned gift, Weill Cornell Medicine has established a matching gift program called the **Legacy Match Challenge**. This initiative will allow Weill Cornell Medicine to recognize donors' future estate gifts now and enable them to have an immediate impact on the campaign during their lifetimes, through a special matching fund offer (see details on page 8).

"This magnificent opportunity will allow our committed supporters to further leverage their support, to build a deeply meaningful legacy, and to have a lasting impact on the future of medicine through their participation in the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign," says Dean Choi.

# Make the Greatest Impact with Your Giving

There are many creative solutions and flexible strategies that can help you to achieve important financial goals for you and your loved ones, while at the same time maximizing the impact of your giving to Weill Cornell Medicine.

Planned gifts can be tailored to meet your unique needs and philanthropic vision. Your contribution can be for current use, or you can create an endowment fund in your family's name that will provide future and ongoing support. You can direct your gift to a specific area that has special meaning for you, or you can direct your support to our greatest need. And you can honor a special physician or a loved one.

Strategic gift planning provides you with the opportunity to design your personal legacy.

## Future Gifts

These gifts are easy to arrange, with little or no upfront costs. They allow full control of your assets during your lifetime and reduce estate taxes for your heirs. Your estate gift to Weill Cornell Medicine can be for a specific dollar amount, a percentage or a remainder of your assets.

- **Make a Bequest in Your Will or Revocable Trust.** This popular way to create a lasting legacy is as simple as adding a sentence or codicil to your will. If you have already included Weill Cornell Medicine in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may honor your generosity.
- **Designate Weill Cornell Medicine as a Beneficiary of Your:**
  - **Financial Accounts:** Bank, brokerage or retirement account, life insurance or donor-advised fund.
  - **Real Estate, Bargain Sale or Retained Life Estate:** Contribute the entire asset, or donate it and continue to live in the property.
  - **Other Assets:** Art, personal collections, private or corporate stock, cryptocurrency or royalties.

**And now, for a limited time, your estate or beneficiary designation gift may qualify for our Legacy Match Challenge, allowing 10 percent of your gift to be matched!**

Please refer to the back page of this newsletter for more details on this important opportunity.

You can share this sample language with your attorney or account administrator for your revocable will or beneficiary designations: *"Cornell University, in Ithaca, NY, for the benefit of its Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, NY."* Our tax ID is #15-0532082. If you would like to personalize or restrict your gift, simply contact us and we will help you or your advisor with the language needed to support your vision.

## Gifts that Provide Tax and Payment Benefits

Life income gifts allow you to make a gift now and receive income for you and your loved ones in return. These types of gifts can also provide significant tax benefits.

- **Charitable Gift Annuity:** Provides attractive, immediate fixed annuity payments, based on age of the annuitant(s) when established.
- **Charitable Remainder Trust:** Provides fixed rate or variable rate payments, with greater flexibility than a CGA.



## We Can Help

We are always happy to talk with you about creating your legacy. For more information on gift or estate planning, or to request a customized, obligation-free gift illustration, please return the enclosed reply form or contact:

**Lisa Lager, Director of Planned Giving**  
**646-962-9567**  
**[plannedgiving@med.cornell.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@med.cornell.edu)**



# Legacy Gift in Support of Scholarship

**"A legacy gift to Weill Cornell Medicine is one of the best ways to make an enduring impact. I feel very gratified that I've left something here that will be remembered long after I'm gone."**

Dr. Michael Alexiades (M.D. '83)



JOHN ABBOTT

With a generous bequest in support of scholarship, Dr. Michael Alexiades (M.D. '83) and his wife, Dr. Patrice Buonocore, hope to provide students at Weill Cornell Medicine with a path to successful careers as physicians, unencumbered by the debt faced by many who graduate from medical school.

"I've always been grateful to Weill Cornell, and this is an opportunity to give back," says Dr. Alexiades, alumni co-chair of the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society and a professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery. "We need to make sure that our future leaders of medicine don't graduate with excessive financial burdens that affect their ability to succeed, both clinically and academically."

The institution's debt-free scholarship program is one of the key components of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, which aims to improve the student experience through a variety of initiatives that foster diversity, improve students' living and learning environments, and promote their physical and emotional well-being.

The couple's bequest will be added to the Michael M. Alexiades, MD '83 and Patrice M. Buonocore, DDS Scholarship, which was established in 2015. The couple, who were married when Dr. Alexiades was in medical school, have long supported the institution.

Dr. Alexiades, an orthopedic surgeon at Hospital for Special Surgery, joined the Weill Cornell Medicine faculty in 1989. Since 2014, he has served as alumni co-chair of the

Stimson Society, which honors donors who have established planned gifts. He is also a former member of the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows and is currently a senior advisor to the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association, for which he served as president from 2010 to 2012.

"Students who graduate from here really love the school, love the experience they had, and go on to do amazing things at other institutions around the world – as well as at Weill Cornell Medicine," says Dr. Alexiades. "I think that's why we have such a robust alumni organization that's so involved with the medical center."

"Support from alumni like Dr. Alexiades is critical to the ongoing success of our alma mater," says Alumni Association president Dr. Joseph Habboushe (M.D. '06), assistant professor of clinical emergency medicine (interim). "We are deeply grateful for his generous gift and his years of dedication to Weill Cornell Medicine."

Planned gifts, such as bequests, offer tremendous flexibility to donors, says Dr. Alexiades. "There may be alumni or patients who don't have the ability to make a gift right now, but it's something they can establish for the future," he says. "A legacy gift to Weill Cornell Medicine is one of the best ways to make an enduring impact. I feel very gratified that I've left something here that will be remembered long after I'm gone."



# The Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society

Honoring Your Commitment to Patient Care,  
Medical Research and Education

Weill Cornell Medicine's Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society is named for Dr. Lewis Atterbury Stimson, a pioneering surgeon who helped found the medical college in 1898. Dr. Stimson had a noble goal: to create a center of learning for generations of health-care leaders.

The Stimson Society is composed of individuals who, like Dr. Stimson, share a passion for excellence in medicine – and are dedicated to supporting patient care, research and education. Their generosity ensures that the institution's innovative programs receive the steady, reliable source of funding that allows us to respond to critical health challenges and transform the future of medicine.

The society provides ongoing recognition and honors a distinguished group of alumni, faculty, staff, patients and friends who have established planned gifts by making a life income gift or by naming Weill Cornell Medicine as a beneficiary of their wills, trusts or other assets.

Members are presented with a Stimson Society recognition certificate and can choose to be listed in Stimson Society honor roll publications. Special events designed for Stimson Society members are held throughout the year, highlighting research and patient care advances, educational initiatives and valuable charitable gift planning information.

Members of the Stimson Society community share the common bond of philanthropy and vision to provide for the needs of future generations. We invite you to join with other philanthropists who share your passion.

To learn more about joining the Stimson Society, please contact Lisa Lager, Director of Planned Giving, at [plannedgiving@med.cornell.edu](mailto:plannedgiving@med.cornell.edu) or 646-962-9567.

If you are a Stimson member who has already included Weill Cornell Medicine as a beneficiary in your plans, thank you!

Our **Plan Well, Live Well** webinar series is designed especially for the Stimson Society community and provides valuable perspectives from experts on personal, financial, estate and charitable planning. These events offer the opportunity to learn how to build a more stable financial future, supplement retirement income, provide more for loved ones and enhance the impact of your giving.

Recent webinar topics include:

- How to Make the Most of Year-End Charitable Giving
- Creative Strategies to Pass Your Wealth to Your Heirs
- What You Need to Know About New Tax Proposals
- Financial and Estate Planning for Women
- Understanding Market Opportunities and Risks During Unusual Economic Times

**Please save these dates for upcoming webinars: May 24, July 19, September 20 and November 15.**



# Gifts to Honor Beloved Physicians

When Elizabeth Schaper talks about the trio of Weill Cornell Medicine physicians who've changed her life, she always uses the same three words: "My dream team."

With gratitude to neurologist Dr. Frank Petito, neuro-ophthalmologist Dr. Marc Dinkin and ophthalmologist Dr. Christopher Starr (M.D. '98), Ms. Schaper has made a bequest, for future use – as well as a generous cash gift, for current use – in support of research and training led by each of her Weill Cornell Medicine doctors.

"I couldn't ask for better, more caring physicians who are also extraordinarily competent in their fields," says Ms. Schaper. "When you have that feeling of security, even though you might have tough medical situations to live with, it makes a huge difference in your life. I'm very grateful and in awe of just how dedicated they've been to me since day one."

From the moment nearly five years ago, when she sought treatment at Weill Cornell Medicine, Ms. Schaper's doctors have collaborated in her care, helping to resolve her migraine headaches, double vision and dry eyes, and following up with regular check-ins.

"When you're in the unknown and in this dark hole, and you don't know where to turn for help, it's a very scary experience," says Ms. Schaper. "And when you find the doctors who can give you answers to the problems going on in your body, there's nothing like it."

Dr. Petito is the Finbar and Marianne Kenny Professor in Neurology and a professor of clinical neurology; Dr. Dinkin is the Helen and Robert Appel Clinical Scholar, and an associate professor of ophthalmology and of ophthalmology in neurology; and Dr. Starr is an associate professor of ophthalmology.

"The three of them work together like a well-oiled machine – they really are like teammates," says Ms. Schaper.

"We are extraordinarily grateful for Ms. Schaper's gifts in support of our programs in neurology, neuro-ophthalmology and ophthalmology," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "Donors are the lifeblood of our institution, and Ms. Schaper's thoughtful philanthropy will make a tremendous impact on our ability to care, discover and teach – now and in the years ahead."

Making the decision to direct her philanthropy to a world-class academic medical center was an easy one, says Ms. Schaper.

"Weill Cornell Medicine is at the top of its game, and it needs to have the funding to maintain the high level of excellence that patients have come to expect," she says. "Helping people remain healthy and alive is, to me, the greatest goal for any philanthropist."



TRAVIS CURRY

"I couldn't ask for better, more caring physicians who are also extraordinarily competent in their fields."

Elizabeth Schaper

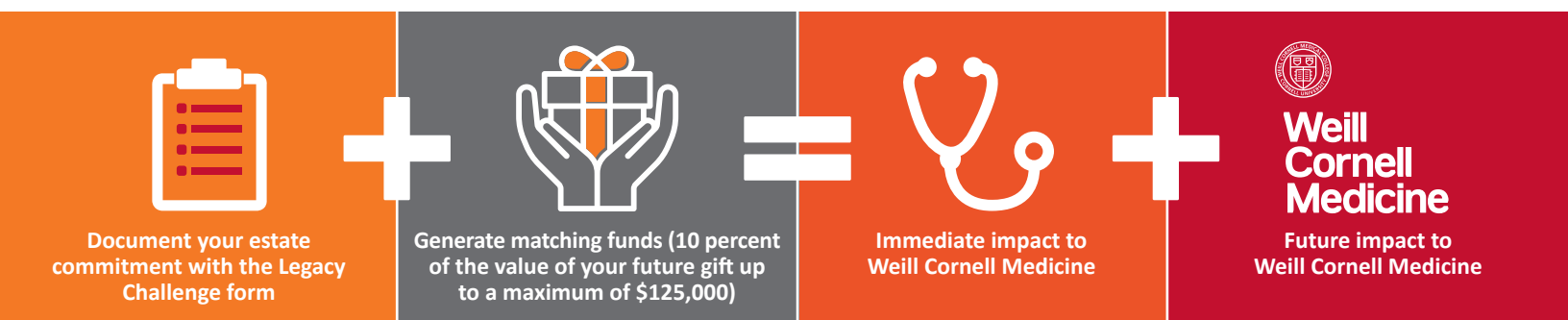
From left: Dr. Frank Petito, Dr. Marc Dinkin, Elizabeth Schaper and Dr. Christopher Starr

# Announcing the launch of the *We're Changing Medicine* Legacy Match Challenge

## Your Future Gift Can Generate a 10 Percent Match Today

**For a limited time, your new or increased legacy gift to Weill Cornell Medicine will activate a special matching fund gift!** When you notify us in writing of your legacy gift intention, the *We're Changing Medicine* Legacy Match Challenge will generate an immediate cash matching gift equal to 10 percent of the face value of your future gift to support the new student residence.

This unique Legacy Match Challenge has been created in honor of the late Francis Sorin, a grateful Weill Cornell Medicine patient and Partner in Medicine supporter. This challenge is designed to inspire new and increased legacy gifts, like Mr. Sorin's gift, from people like you who believe in the future of medical science.



### How It Works

Simply let us know that you have named Weill Cornell Medicine in your estate or as a beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance or bank account, and share a few details about your gift by sending in the enclosed confidential form.

Your future gift will then trigger an immediate cash gift *in your name* to support the new student residence.

All Legacy Match Challenge donors will be honored on a plaque in the new student residence and will be recognized as members of the Stimson Society. Donors who contribute \$750,000 or more may also qualify for special naming recognition.

### Please join the Legacy Match Challenge and maximize your impact!

We are grateful to all donors who have already included Weill Cornell Medicine in their estate plans. If you have a legacy gift plan already documented with our planned giving specialists, you can still be a part of the Legacy Match Challenge by increasing your existing gift plan.

If you have already included Weill Cornell Medicine in your plans but haven't yet informed us of your intent, please contact us so that your gift can qualify for this special match opportunity.

To qualify for Legacy Match Challenge funds, gifts must be new or increased gifts of a minimum of \$50,000. The Weill Cornell Medicine *We're Changing Medicine* Legacy Match Challenge will run through June 30, 2023, or as long as matching funds are available.

We would be happy to provide more details or speak with you to ensure that your gift qualifies for the Legacy Challenge. Please contact Lisa Lager, Director of Planned Giving, at 646-962-9567 or [lil2033@med.cornell.edu](mailto:lil2033@med.cornell.edu), or return the enclosed Statement of Support form.

**Participation in the Legacy Match Challenge is easy – your future legacy gift will make an impact today and be remembered for generations to come.**

This publication is prepared for the general information of our friends and supporters. Its purpose is to describe current developments that may be helpful in your tax and financial planning. Please consult your attorney or other advisor as to the applicability of any option to your personal situation.

If you wish to have your name removed from lists to receive fundraising requests supporting Weill Cornell Medical College in the future, please either 1) write to us at: Privacy Office, Weill Cornell Medicine, 1300 York Avenue, Box 303, New York, NY 10065; 2) call us at 646.962.9565; or 3) e-mail us at [optoutwcmc@med.cornell.edu](mailto:optoutwcmc@med.cornell.edu).

Copies of our annual report may be obtained from Cornell University, or by contacting the New York State Attorney General's Charities Bureau, at FOIL Section, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, 212.416.8401, <https://www.charitiesnys.com>