

Holiday Greetings From Dean Gotto

As another year passes and we move into 2007, the Weill Cornell community can look back on the past year and be proud of our accomplishments. We continue to train some of the brightest medical students in the country, as our incoming classes grow in number each year. Our facilities have also grown and improved: In January we will open the new Ambulatory Care and Medical Education Building and renovations continue to increase laboratory space for our research enterprise. We opened a new capital campaign with Cornell University in Ithaca, one of the largest in the history of higher education, on the heels of successfully completing our own capital campaign, "Advancing the Clinical Mission," ahead of schedule.

As we look forward to 2007, let us be grateful for our many blessings, remember those who are suffering or are in need, and rededicate ourselves to achieving our highest goals.

Wishing you health, happiness and peace in this holiday season,

Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr.
Dean and Provost for Medical Affairs
Weill Cornell Medical College

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Patent No Longer Pending: Weill Cornell Faculty Honored for 2006 Inventions

In fiscal year 2006, Cornell received patents for 13 inventions made by Weill Cornell investigators, among them a method for enhancing bone density, a method of using cox-2 selective inhibitors for liver disease, and an improved ultrasound scanning method for the eye. The Weill Cornell researchers and inventors were recognized for their work during a reception held Dec. 8 in Griffis Faculty Club.

"Obtaining a patent can be a long and arduous process, but it is one of the key steps in transforming a basic research finding into a commercial product that can improve the quality of life for us all," said Dr. Brian Kelly, director of the Weill Cornell Office of Technology Development and vice president of the Cornell Research Foundation. "We are extremely happy to mark this milestone in the life of an idea, and to recognize our faculty for their inventiveness and for their invaluable cooperation in protecting these inventions."

The event was attended by Cornell President David Skorton, who also holds a primary faculty appointment in internal medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College, and featured remarks by Dr. Kelly, Robert Richardson, senior vice provost for Research at Cornell University, and Dr. David Hajjar, executive vice dean of Weill Cornell Medical College and dean of the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences. For information on research and technology development at Weill Cornell, visit www.med.cornell.edu/research.

The inventors recognized, with their departments and titles of their patents, were:

- Drs. David J. Christini (Physiology and Biophysics), Bruce Lerman (Cardiology) and Kenneth Stein (Cardiology): Intracardiac Detection and Control of T-Wave Repolarization Alternans
- Dr. Kendall A. Smith (Microbiology and Immunology): Low-Dose Interleukin 2 Therapy
- Dr. Ronald G. Crystal (Genetic Medicine): Method of Enhancing Bone Density
- Drs. Weiguo Cao (Biochemistry), Francis Barany (Microbiology and Immunology) and Jie Tong (Microbiology and Immunology): High Fidelity Thermostable Ligase and Uses Thereof
- Drs. Ralph L. Nachman (Medicine), Andrea Crombie (Hematology and Oncology) and Jeffrey Laurence (Infectious Diseases): Methods and Compositions for Inhibiting HIV Infectivity
- Dr. Steven S. Gross (Pharmacology): Reversing or Preventing Premature Vascular Senescence

- Drs. Richard Watts (Radiology), Yi Wang (Radiology) and Martin R. Prince (Radiology): Method and Apparatus for Anatomically Tailored K-Space Sampling and Recessed Elliptical View Ordering for Bolus-Enhanced 3D MR Angiography
- Drs. Francis Barany (Microbiology and Immunology) and Joseph P. Day (Microbiology and Immunology): Coupled Polymerase Chain Reaction-Restriction Endonuclease Digestion-Ligase Detection Reaction Process
- Dr. Richard D. Granstein (Dermatology): Protective Immunity or Immunological Tolerance Induced with RNA, Particularly Total Cellular RNA
- Drs. Steven A. Goldman (Neurology and Neuroscience) and Abdel-latif Benraiss (Neurology and Neuroscience): Method of Inducing Neuronal Production in the Brain and Spinal Cord
- Dr. Andrew Dannenberg (Gastroenterology and Hepatology): Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibition
- Dr. Neil H. Bander (Urology): Modified Antibodies to Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen and Uses Thereof
- Drs. Ronald Silverman (Ophthalmology), Mark Rondeau (Ophthalmology) and D. Jackson Coleman (Ophthalmology): Precision Ultrasound Measurement for Intraocular Lens Placement

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Awards & Honors

Dr. Scott Blanchard, assistant professor of physiology and biophysics, is the recipient of a \$200,000 James D. Watson Investigator grant from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research. The award will help support Dr. Blanchard's research in developing novel imaging instruments that can be used to isolate and probe biomolecule structure and function at the single molecule scale to detect the activities of therapeutic agents used in the prevention and treatment of disease. The grant is part of the \$225 million Generating Employment through New York State Science (Gen*NY*sis) program, which was created to maximize the potential of the world-class life sciences research being conducted at New York's public, not-for-profit and private academic research institutions. The Watson grant recognizes and supports outstanding scientists and engineers who, early in their careers, show potential for leadership and scientific discovery in the field of biotechnology.

Dr. Frank Chervenak, the Given Foundation Professor and chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was recently elected for membership of the World Academy of Art and Science, a non-official network of 500 individuals from diverse cultures, nationalities and intellectual disciplines chosen for eminence in art, the natural and social sciences, and the humanities. Its activities focus on the social consequences and policy implications of knowledge. The international association was an idea originating some time after World War II by leading scientists and intellectuals, among them Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer, who had played a part in the development of the atomic bomb and were deeply concerned about how it and other scientific advances might be used—or misused.

Dr. Chervenak has also been named the 2006 recipient of the Award in Science and Medicine from the Turkish Women Association, an honor recognizing Dr. Chervenak's dedicated service to education and care in the area of obstetrics and gynecology and maternal-fetal medicine. Among the honorees at the awards presentation, to be held in Istanbul in January 2007, are Lech Kaczynski, president of Poland; Tayyip Erdogan, prime minister of Turkey; and Kadir Topbas, mayor of Istanbul.

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