

## **CTSC Speed-Networking Event Helps Scientists Find Collaborators**

What has worked for entrepreneurs looking to expand their client network, Weill Cornell Medical College thinks could work for scientists looking for research collaborators.

More than 80 basic and clinical scientists gathered at the Weill Greenberg Center on Oct. 30 for the Translational Research Bazaar, a speed-networking session organized by Weill Cornell's Clinical and Translational Science Center; the goal was to find scientific common ground for collaboration.

Seated at a long table in a large room — basic scientists on one side, clinical on the other — participants had about three minutes to exchange cards, share bios and give one another a very brief summary of their work. Then, at the sound of a bell, the clinical researchers moved one chair to the right. Animated conversations filled the room. For those whose scientific spark was lit and a connection made during the thirty-five rapid-fire rounds, a wine and cheese mixer followed, offering the potential partners an opportunity to discuss their work and possible collaboration.

"Our purpose is to spur collaboration not only between basic and clinical scientists, but between our partner institutions as well," said Dr. Julianne Imperato-McGinley, CTSC program director at Weill Cornell.

The CTSC seeks to create partnerships between scientists from Weill Cornell Medical College, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Hospital for Special Surgery, Cornell University Cooperative Extension in New York City, Hunter College School of Nursing, Hunter College Center for the Study of Gene Structure and Function, and Weill Cornell-affiliated hospitals. By combining the intellectual power of these institutions, research and medical discoveries could be more quickly facilitated from the laboratory to the patients that need them.

"We had an unprecedented response to the event invitation," said Sherrie Vassallo, a research facilitator on the CTSC Research Support team and one of the event organizers.

According to Dr. Imperato-McGinley, 90 percent of the exit survey responses indicated that participating scientists had met at least one potential new partner at the Research Bazaar.

One of those scientists, Robert Dottin, Ph.D., director of the Hunter College Gene Center, said, "The Bazaar was a great idea that clearly achieved its intended goals. People couldn't stop talking when the bell rang. This was a fantastic opportunity for our Hunter investigators to understand more about the Clinical and Translational Science Center and what its goal is."

Dr. Hazel Szeto, professor of pharmacology at Weill Cornell, found at least three new collaborators — including Yuhang Ren, Ph.D., of Hunter College — at the event.

"I went to the Bazaar because I am always on the lookout for collaborators who can add a new dimension to our research," Dr. Szeto said. "Yuhang can provide me with sophisticated physical methods to study electron transfer. This will complement what I can do with biochemical tools."

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## **Weill Cornell Honors Dedicated Staff**

Weill Cornell Medical College held numerous awards presentations over the past several weeks to honor its long-serving faculty and staff.

On Nov. 17, employees with 10 or more years of service — including five individuals celebrating 50 years at Weill Cornell — gathered for a cocktail reception at Griffis Faculty Club. Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., dean of the Medical College, and Dr. David Hajjar, dean of Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences and executive vice dean at the Medical College, presented each honoree with a certificate of appreciation, a plaque and a gift certificate.

Faculty and staff celebrating five years of service were honored at luncheons on Oct. 20 and 22 at Griffis Faculty Club as well. Each employee was presented with a certificate of appreciation and gift certificate by Dr. Gotto and Stephen M. Cohen, executive vice dean for administration and finance and associate provost.

### **50 Years**

Aaron J. Marcus, M.D.  
Isadore Rosenfeld, M.D.  
Peter G. Wilson, M.D.  
Erich E. Windhager, M.D.  
Susan Zakoian

### **45 Years**

Hilary A. Elliot  
Aileen F. Kass, M.D.  
Harvey Klein, M.D.  
Ralph L. Nachman, M.D.

### **40 Years**

Maria Lita Alonso, M.D.  
Steve J. Borhi  
Milagros T. Lagman  
Babette B. Weksler, M.D.  
Marc E. Weksler, M.D.  
Daniel Wellner, Ph.D.

### **35 Years**

Olaf S. Andersen, M.D.  
Cheryl Avellanet  
John J. Caronna, M.D.  
William W. Frayer, M.D.  
Daniel Gardner, Ph.D.

Paul D. Kligfield, M.D.  
Jeanne Macaluso  
Virginia M. Pickel, Ph.D.  
Jonathan D. Victor, M.D., Ph.D.  
Fun-Sun Yao, M.D.

### **30 Years**

Phyllis A. August, M.D.  
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D.  
James B. Bussel, M.D.  
Richard B. Devereux, M.D.  
Gustavo Frindt, M.D.  
Gary E. Gibson, Ph.D.  
David P. Hajjar, Ph.D.  
Stephen W. Hurt, Ph.D.  
P. Anne McBride, M.D.  
Barnett S. Meyers, M.D.  
Marian G. Napoletano  
William A. Rubenstein, M.D.  
Christine Sinclair-Prince  
E. Darracott Vaughan Jr., M.D.  
Bruce T. Volpe, M.D.  
Michael A. Zullo, M.D.

### **25 Years**

Hyacinth Afflick  
Yong H. Auh, M.D.  
Neil H. Bander, M.D.  
Jacqueline F. Borden  
Deanna C. Brousseau  
Ina N. Cholst, M.D.  
Gina M. Dejesus  
Minna R. Fyer, M.D.  
Nancy M. Hamel  
Claudia I. Henschke, M.D., Ph.D.  
Jonathan L. Jacobs, M.D.  
Alan A. Kessler, M.D.  
George Makari, M.D.  
Charles Maltz, M.D., Ph.D.  
Alan Z. Manevitz, M.D.  
Jose Medina  
Diane M. Murray  
Peter M. Okin, M.D.  
Agnes Peterson

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David N. Posnett, M.D.  
Donna Reilly  
Louise N. Rivas  
Howard F. Roper  
Joseph T. Ruggiero, M.D.  
Carolyn B. Schnall  
Mary Josephine Ward, Ph.D.  
Luise L. Weinstein, M.D.  
Philip J. Wilner, M.D.  
Elizabeth A. Wood  
Robert D. Zimmerman, M.D.

### **20 Years**

Mary L. Anderson  
Ann B. Beeder, M.D.  
Elena G. Berardi  
Laura Biscotto  
Julie A. Carty  
Rosalina M. Castillo  
Helena Chicketano  
Marta V. Cobham  
Leona Cohen-Gould  
Jessica G. Davis, M.D.  
Owen K. Davis, M.D.  
Andrea M. Dobrenis, M.D.  
Susan Evans, Ph.D.  
Rita Falbel  
Jill Fong, M.D.  
Janice Francis-Richard  
Maura D. Frank, M.D.  
Fred Gilbert, M.D.  
Scott J. Goldsmith, M.D.  
Miroslawa Janicki  
Dragan Kragul  
Lazena Kromopawiro-Leckie  
Douglas R. Labar, M.D., Ph.D.  
Hung-Ching Liu, Ph.D.  
Sybil P. Magwood  
Eugene McKenzie  
Raymond Michel  
Claudia Mills  
Octavio Morales  
Mary Paranicas  
Eduardo Perelstein, M.D.

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Michael Rubin, M.D.  
Ralph Slepian, M.D.  
Lisa B. Sombrotto, M.D.  
Houri Tcheroyan  
Jean H. Thomas  
Tomy Thomas  
Isabel Valderama  
Terry A. Vazquez  
Grace Wilkens  
C. James Wright

### **15 Years**

Jacqueline Amador  
Jeffrey T. Aronoff  
Jack D. Barchas, M.D.  
Sima Bobovnikova  
Sherisse S. Brown  
Lisa Cabrera  
Lissett Checo  
Harold Chin, M.D.  
Ellen Connelly  
Christine Anne Connor  
Ronald G. Crystal, M.D.  
Alex Deconiglio  
Ruba S. Deeb, Ph.D.  
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Thutrang Du  
Laura E. Edwards  
Jo-Anne Elikann  
Toni P. Feinbloom  
Baruch Fishman, Ph.D.  
Jack Fishman, Ph.D.  
Donna M. Galvin  
Eileen Garcia  
Carmen M. Ghyll  
Rita M. Golden  
Dana L. Gurvitch, M.D.  
Sharon Hird, M.D.  
Elizabeth Leef Jacobson, M.D.  
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Isaac Kligman, M.D.  
Sibel Akyol Klimstra, M.D.

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Miklos Toth, M.D., Ph.D.  
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Boi-Linh Susan Vuong  
Darlene E. Walker  
Annette M. Williams

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Ion Wa Chao

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## **In Memoriam: Dr. Margaret W. Hilgartner**

Family, friends and even a former patient of Dr. Margaret W. Hilgartner gathered at Uris Auditorium on Nov. 6 to share memories and stories of the brilliant doctor, devoted friend and caring wife, mother and grandmother. The event was officiated by the Rev. Curtis Hart, M.Div., director of pastoral care and education at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

"It is because of Margaret that I came to New York. It is because of Margaret and the foundations she laid in hemophilia that I remained in New York," said Dr. Donna DiMichele, medical director of The Regional Comprehensive Hemophilia Diagnostic and Treatment Center at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. "She was a fierce advocate for the people she cared for and the people she worked for."

Dr. Hilgartner passed away on Aug. 19.

Margaret W. Hilgartner was born in 1924 in Baltimore, Md. She attended Bryn Mawr College and received her M.D. from Duke University in 1951. Dr. Hilgartner moved to New York in 1955 for an internship at Bellevue Hospital, and followed with a pediatric residency and fellowship in pediatric hematology at New York Hospital.

It was at that time that she became interested in newborns with coagulation problems and the clinical care of children with hemophilia.

Along with Dr. William Arnold, Dr. Hilgartner developed the first classification of hemophilic arthropathy at the Hospital for Special Surgery. She and her colleagues, Drs. Louis Aledort and Dick Lipton, introduced self-infusion and comprehensive care to patients of all ages in New York City.

Her major research contributions were in the areas of complications with transfusion/infusion therapy, autoimmune responses, treatment of inhibitors and the infections complications of hepatitis and HIV.

Dr. Hilgartner served as the director of the Comprehensive Hemophilia Treatment Center from 1970 to 1995 and was the division chief of pediatric hematology/oncology at the Hospital from 1978 to 1992. She also served as president of the Children's Cancer and Blood Foundation from 1992 to 1995.

In 2007 Dr. Hilgartner was given a lifetime achievement award from the Hemophilia and Thrombosis Research Society.

Sarah Schapiro was just one of many patients whose lives were made better under Dr. Hilgartner's care.

"Dr. H' taught me not to let my disease define who I am," said Schapiro, who noted that Dr. Hilgartner was her friend as well as her physician and that she attended both her Bat Mitzvah and wedding.

"She was a fierce advocate for the people she cared for and the people she worked with," Dr. DiMichele said.

Despite her lifelong dedication to medicine, Dr. Hilgartner had a fulfilling personal life marked by a love for travel, ballet, needlepoint and gardening.

She was also universally regarded as a highly fashionable dresser who often expressed herself through her clothing.

"I always knew she had an important meeting when she would wear her high heels," remembered Dr. James Bussel, director of the Platelet Disorders Program at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell.

Dr. Patricia Giardina, chief of the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and director of the Thalassemia Program, first met Dr. Hilgartner in July of 1969. She was an intern on her first pediatric surgery rotation and Dr. Hilgartner helped her with a particularly ill child.

"She guided me through the care of that infant just as she guided me through my entire career," Dr. Giardina said.

While Dr. Maria New, professor of pediatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, remembered Dr. Hilgartner as "regal" and "always a model of fashion," Dr. Giardina revealed that her favorite lunch hardly matched her elegant appearance.

"She used to get so excited when they had turkey legs for lunch at the old New York Hospital Cafeteria," she said.

Dr. Milton Arky, Dr. Hilgartner's husband of 50 years, attended the memorial tribute, as did their three children and many family friends. Her youngest son, Jack Arky, played a song he wrote for his late mother the day after she died.

At a reception following the service, Les Lieberman, chairman of the Children's Cancer and Blood Foundation, and Ivan Obolensky, who sits on the foundation's board, paid further tribute to Dr. Hilgartner, one of the organization's founders and past president.

Dr. Gerald Loughlin, the Nancy C. Paduano Professor and chairman of pediatrics, closed the ceremonies with the announcement of the department's plans to establish a named chair within the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology in honor of Dr. Hilgartner's accomplished life and career.

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## Awards & Honors

**Dr. Harvey Lincoff**, professor emeritus of ophthalmology and the Newhouse Clinical Scholar at Weill Cornell Medical College, and world-renowned retinal specialist, received the prestigious Charles Schepens Gold Medal and delivered the inaugural Charles Schepens Lecture at the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology's Retina 2008 Subspecialty Day on Nov. 6. Dr. Lincoff was awarded for his innovative contributions to advancing the treatment of retinal disease, particularly retinal detachment, and for pioneering the development of numerous surgical techniques that have been adopted by ophthalmologist throughout the world. Dr. Lincoff spoke on "The Evolution of Retinal Surgery" before the general assembly of retinologists. Dr. Lincoff continues to combine his clinical practice at Weill Cornell with research. He is studying eyes with optic pit maculopathy for the source of the subretinal fluid and proving the efficacy of ambulatory occlusion for the treatment of detachment emanating from retinoschisis. Contact: hal2005@med.cornell.edu, (646) 962-6600.

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