

## **Commencement: Celebrating Weill Cornell and WCMC-Qatar Class of 2008**

A four-year journey reached its conclusion Thursday, May 29, as Weill Cornell Medical College and Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences held commencement exercises at Manhattan's famed Carnegie Hall. The graduating class of 2008 included 13 M.S. degrees, 39 Ph.D. degrees and 96 M.D. degrees. The ceremonies were presided over by Dr. Charles Walcott, dean of the Cornell University Faculty; Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., dean of Weill Cornell Medical College; and Dr. David P. Hajjar, dean of Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. The ceremony was preceded by an invocation by the Rev. Carlos B. Quijano, O.P.

Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, introduced the inaugural graduating class from the Medical College's school in Qatar, the first graduates of an American medical school offering its M.D. degree abroad.

In his remarks — which began with a moment of silence for Stephen H. Weiss, the first chairman of the Weill Cornell Medical College Board of Overseers, who passed away in April — Dr. David J. Skorton, president of Cornell University, lauded the remarkable achievements of the graduating class. They published papers, engaged in critical research, excelled at clinical care and, perhaps most importantly, embraced their responsibility to the global medical community by assisting local physicians in treating underserved populations in Haiti, Tanzania and other nations.

Many of the graduates of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences mentored students in New York City public schools, and the pioneering class from Doha pursued anti-smoking campaigns and vaccination drives in their local communities in Qatar.

As graduates of one of the world's most prestigious medical schools and ready to embark on their residencies, Dr. Skorton reminded the young doctors that the responsibility and good works expected of them will only continue to increase.

"The intentions and actions of the physician and the scientist must be motivated only by their aspiration to enhance the general welfare," Dr. Skorton said. "For this reason, in addition to developing your skills as clinicians and biomedical researchers, your teachers have worked hard to impart to you a sense of the ethics that underlie medicine and biomedical research."

As a practicing cardiologist, Dr. Skorton impressed upon the graduates the ethical issues that have surfaced in his own career, such as treating patients whose cardiac conditions could possibly have consequences for others. The graduates are entering a new world of medicine, where screening and genetic testing could reveal not only disease, but the possibility of future illness. These new technologies not only bear the hope of future cures but also risk of great ethical dilemmas.

"Your years at this medical school have provided you with the finest scientific and clinical training available," Dr. Skorton said. "I hope they have also given you a strong ethical and moral

framework that will continue to provide context and meaning to what you do — long after some of the specific techniques you learned seem quaint and obsolete."

Omar Vandal, the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences student speaker, echoed Dr. Skorton's remarks, painting science not only as a conduit to bettering the lives of others, but also as a common thread that connects us all.

"Science is not only a pursuit that strives to remove boundaries, but one that can also bridge the chasms around us," Vandal said.

Before Dean Gotto and Dean Alonso administered the Hippocratic oath and presented the candidates for the degree of doctor of medicine, Medical College student speaker Scott Kaplan injected a healthy dose of humor into the formal proceedings.

With an easel and a large pad of newsprint serving as visual accompaniment to his speech, Kaplan — via a pie chart — instructed the audience on how he prepared to address his classmates. And while most of his preparation consisted of figuring out just exactly who voted for him as speaker, and watching the first two seasons of HBO's "The Wire," Kaplan assured the audience that at least a fraction of his time was spent actually writing a speech that urged his classmates to keep a sense of perspective regarding their new professions.

"In the future take care and take time to take it easy," Mr. Kaplan said. "We can work hard and still find some time for ourselves."

The commencement exercise also honored two distinguished members of the Medical College and Graduate School alumni. Amir Askari, Ph.D., class of 1960, received the Graduate School's alumni award of distinction, and Elizabeth G. Nabel, M.D., class of 1981, was so honored by the Medical College Alumni Association.

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## **Weill Cornell Medical College Convocation**

All Weill Cornell Medical College graduates are remarkable. But even among that elite class, there are those who distinguish themselves even further. Such students are honored with special awards in various categories at the Medical College's Convocation ceremony. Outstanding graduates, other medical students, faculty and staff are recognized for distinguished achievement, dedication to scholarship and/or research, devotion to teaching or service, or demonstration of exceptional professional qualities. Prizes were presented on May 28, 2008.

The first prizes, **The Clarence C. Coryell Prizes in Surgery and Medicine**, are endowed by a bequest from Dr. Coryell, a 1903 graduate of the Medical College.

**The Coryell Prize in Surgery** is awarded to the student who attains the highest performance in surgery during the third and fourth years.

### **John Rocco MacMillan Rodney**

**The Coryell Prize in Medicine** is awarded to the student having the highest general average in medicine at the end of the third year.

### **Jennifer Anne Inra**

The prize for "**general efficiency**" in the **Department of Medicine** is given in memory of Alfred Moritz Michaelis, a 1925 graduate of Weill Cornell Medical College who died shortly after his graduation.

### **Kelly Christine Vranas**

**The Oskar Diethelm Prize for Excellence in Psychiatry** honors Dr. Oskar Diethelm, chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College from 1936 to 1962. It is awarded to the medical student who has demonstrated exceptional interest and ability in psychiatry through research, clinical activities or scholarly work.

### **Elena Kamenkovich**

**The Joan Severino Parisi Prize in Internal Medicine** was established in 1989 by Dr. Alfred F. Parisi, a 1963 graduate of Weill Cornell Medical College, in loving memory of his wife, Joan Severino Parisi. The prize is awarded to the graduating senior who, in the judgment of the faculty, has demonstrated both a warm and caring relationship with patients and a high level of scholastic achievement in internal medicine.

### **Ari Joshua Kriegsman**

**The David and Gladys Drusin Memorial Prize** was established by their family and friends to recognize both scholastic achievement in medicine and those intangible human qualities associated with a good physician. Candidates for this prize are recommended by the chairman of the Department of Medicine to the dean of the Medical College at the conclusion of the third year.

### **Jessica Ruth Bauman**

**The T. Campbell Thompson Prize for Excellence in Orthopedic Surgery** was established to recognize Dr. Thompson for his interest in teaching and leadership in the field of orthopedic surgery. Dr. Thompson was surgeon-in-chief of the Hospital for Special Surgery from 1955 to 1963. The prize is awarded to the member of the graduating class who has shown greatest proficiency in orthopedic surgery. This year's winner is:

### **Owen Lawrence Ala**

**The Mitchell Spivak Memorial Prize in Pediatrics** is a memorial to the father of Dr. Jerry Spivak, class of 1964, and is awarded to the member of the graduating class who has achieved the best record in pediatrics.

### **Sona Narula**

**The Gustav Seeligmann Prize for Efficiency in Obstetrics** was established by an anonymous donor in recognition of the work of Dr. Gustav Seeligmann, instructor at the Medical College and a prominent New York obstetrician in the early 1900s. The prize is awarded to the member of the graduating class who has achieved the best record in obstetrics.

### **Jenica Nicholls Upshaw**

**The Henry C. and Anne Hayworth First Honor Prize** was established by Nan A.S. Hayworth, M.D., '85, and Scott D. Hayworth, M.D., '84, in honor of their parents. The prize is awarded to the student who has the highest academic standing in the class upon completion of the first year of medical school.

**Anthony E. Rosen (in absentia)**

**The Viola Borkon Memorial Prize** was established in 1992 by Mr. Sidney Borkon, in loving memory of his wife, Viola Borkon, who was a patient of Dr. Isadore Rosenfeld, clinical professor of medicine. The prize is awarded annually to the student who has placed at the top of the class for scholastic performance upon completion of the pre-clinical curriculum.

**Anthony E. Rosen (in absentia)**

**The George S. Meister Prize in Pediatrics** was established in memory of Dr. Meister of the class of 1926 as an expression of the esteem in which he was held. The prize is derived from a fund contributed to by the members of his family, close friends and associates, his classmates in chemical engineering from New York University and his classmates at Weill Cornell Medical College. First awarded in 1967, the prize is given each year for special achievement in pediatrics to a member of the graduating class selected by the Department of Pediatrics.

**Adrienne L. Davis**

**The Elise Strang L'Esperance Prize in Public Health** is awarded to the woman student in the graduating class who best reflects the attributes and values of Dr. Elise Strang L'Esperance, who graduated from the Women's Medical College of The New York Infirmary for Women and Children in 1901. Dr. L'Esperance served on the faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College for over 40 years. She and her sister, May Strang, founded the Strang Cancer Prevention Clinics at Memorial Hospital and The New York Infirmary in memory of their mother.

**Elizabeth Brightstar Enschede**

**Adrienne Davis**

**The George G. Reader Prize in Public Health** was endowed in 1992 by friends and colleagues of Dr. George Reader, '43, who served as chairman of the Department of Public Health from 1972 to 1992. A cash prize is given to the graduating student who, in the judgment of the Department's faculty, shows the most promise in the field of public health.

**Sean Emile Collins**

**Andrew Danforth Graustein**

Established by the Department of Surgery in 1995, **The G. Thomas Shires II Prize in Surgery** is awarded to the graduating medical student who exemplifies the qualities of an academic surgeon interested in patient care, science and education. Dr. Shires exhibited these qualities throughout his surgical career as a physician, scientist, educator and chairman of four major departments of surgery in the United States.

**Brant William Ullery**

**The Alan Van Poznak Award for Excellence in Anesthesiology** was established in 1990 by the Department of Anesthesiology in recognition of Dr. Alan Van Poznak's contribution and dedication to the medical education of Weill Cornell Medical College students.

**Andrew Ernest Hudson**

**The Richard N. Kohl Prize for Excellence in Psychiatry** was established in 1993 by a bequest from the late Dr. Richard Kohl, professor emeritus of psychiatry. The award, made upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Department of Psychiatry, is given to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in psychiatry.

**Karen Aruna Adler**

**Conor Michael Liston**

**The David Clayson Prize for Creativity** was established by Dr. David Clayson, a beloved faculty member for many years, who noted the importance of the arts and humanities in preparing students to become sensitive and caring physicians and in enriching their lives. Dr. Clayson was professor emeritus of clinical psychology in psychiatry, and consulting psychologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and the Hospital for Special Surgery. The prize is given "to that student completing the third year of medical school who has best demonstrated the ability to balance ongoing involvement in the creative process with the rigors of a medical education."

**Amandeep Singh**

**The Charles Horn Prize** is awarded to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership and service to the medical community.

**Anthony Mario Rossi Jr.**

**The Gustave J. Noback Memorial Prize in Anatomy** was established in 1962 by Miss Berthe Manent, a graduate of The New York Hospital School of Nursing, in memory of Dr. Gustave J. Noback. Dr. Noback will be remembered for his great kindness and generosity to all of his students, and also for his work in research and sculpture. The recipient, a student who has performed outstanding work in the field of anatomy, is chosen by the director of the Program in Gross Anatomy.

**Tanya Lila Hamilton**

**The Gustave J. Noback Memorial Fund for Advanced Study and Teaching in the Field of Anatomy** was established by a second fund from Miss Berthe Manent to help meet the needs of young men and women entering the field. The recipient of this prize is also selected by the director of the Program in Gross Anatomy.

**Yael Leal**

**The Weiss Prize for Excellence in Clinical Medicine** was established by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Weiss in 1979 as an expression of the high esteem in which they hold their physician, Dr. Harvey Klein, The William S. Paley Professor of Clinical Medicine. The award is given to the member of the graduating class, who, in the opinion of a committee chaired by Dr. Klein and including the chairman of the Department of Medicine, best exemplifies the qualities necessary for the attainment of outstanding bedside clinical competence in the field of internal medicine.

**Ohm Mohan Deshpande**

**The Herman L. Jacobius Prize in Pathology** was established in 1945 by a gift from Dr. Lawrence Jacobius in memory of his son, Dr. Herman Jacobius of the class of 1939, who gave his life in the Netherlands in World War II. The prize is awarded to the student in the third or fourth year class, who, in the opinion of the Department of Pathology, merits recognition for the highest scholastic attainment and outstanding performance in pathology.

**Ashley Marie Cimino**

**The Medical Society of the State of New York** recognizes a graduating student at each medical school in the state for outstanding community service, whether related or unrelated to the field of medicine.

**Marissa Raymond-Flesch**

**The Yvette and Seymour Feil Prize in Medicine** was established in 2000 and is awarded to a member of the Weill Cornell Medical College's graduating class. Chosen by the Department of Medicine's chairman and faculty, and approved by the Office of the Dean, the student selected will pursue a career in internal medicine, and will demonstrate the exceptional qualities of a gifted physician including compassion, caring, and the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

**Ross Francis MacDonald**

**The William C. Thro Memorial Prize** was established in memory of Dr. William C. Thro of the class of 1901 whose deep interest and devotion to clinical pathology found expression in the teaching and practice of this subject at his alma mater from 1910 to 1938. The Thro Prize is awarded to the student who achieves the best record in the pathophysiology course.

**Lindsay Norris Lally**

**The Sarah O'Laughlin Foley Prize in Clinical Medicine** was established by Dr. William T. Foley, clinical professor emeritus of medicine and a member of the class of 1937, in memory of his mother. The recipient, a member of the graduating class, is selected by the chairman of the Department of Medicine for excellence in clinical medicine.

**Erika Maria Moseson**

**The Jay Lawrence Award for Clinical Proficiency in Infectious Diseases** was established in 1988 by Mrs. Lawrence in memory of her husband. Selected by the chief of infectious diseases and Dr. Charles R. Steinberg, professor of clinical medicine, the prize is awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in clinical infectious diseases.

**Sean Emile Collins**

**The Faith Stewart-Gordon Prize for Excellence in Rehabilitation Medicine** is awarded to the student who demonstrates a sincere interest in physical medicine and rehabilitation and shows the most promise to excel in that field.

**Alon Terry**

**The Moselle and Milton Pollack Prize in Medical Ethics** was established by a gift from the Pollacks, long-term patients of Dr. Charles R. Steinberg. Judge Pollack has had a distinguished career on the federal bench and an abiding interest in professional ethics. The prize is granted to the medical student who has demonstrated exceptional interest and ability in the field of medical ethics.

**Emily Ann Spengler**

**The Ralph I. Poucher Prize for Proficiency in Obstetrics and Gynecology** was established in 1989 by Mrs. David D. Thompson in memory of her father. The prize is awarded to a graduating woman student for proficiency in obstetrics and gynecology.

**Lindsay Norris Lally**

**The Henry Adelman Memorial Award for Excellence in Geriatric Medicine** was established to honor the memory of Henry Adelman, father of Ron Adelman, M.D., professor of medicine and co-chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology. The award is given annually to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated excellence in clinical and academic performance, research accomplishments, and extracurricular work in the field of geriatrics over the four years of medical school.

**Nicholas John Connors**

**The Anthony Seth Werner, M.D., Memorial Prize** was established by Dr. Aaron S. Werner in memory of his son, Dr. Anthony Seth Werner, who, at the time of his death in 1968, was assistant professor in the Department of Medicine. The prize is awarded to a member of the graduating class for excellence in the study of infectious diseases.

**Anna Elizabeth Jackson**

**The Barbara Schmalzriedt Gast Memorial Fund for Rheumatoid Arthritis:** Established in 1995, gifts from the family of the late Mrs. Gast have created this fund for an annual prize to recognize a graduate or medical student involved in the area of rheumatoid arthritis.

**Matthew Louis Scherer**

**The Edward Norton Prize in Ophthalmology** was established by Roland D. Carlson, '58, (AB '54) to honor and remember Dr. Edward W.D. Norton, '46, in appreciation of his influence on Dr. Carlson's life and for his love of ophthalmology. Dr. Norton was an instructor of ophthalmology and founder of Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. This award is given to the graduating medical student who, in the judgment of the chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology, has most clearly demonstrated excellence in ophthalmology or a genuine interest in a career in the field.

**Connie June Chen**

**The George Ladas Prize for Efficiency in Gynecology** was established in 1980 by George Ladas, class of 1927, in memory of his mother. The prize is awarded to the senior medical student who has demonstrated the greatest proficiency in gynecology.

**Ashley Marie Cimino**

**The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine's Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award** is given to the student who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in emergency medicine as selected by the faculty of the Medical College. The Society is dedicated to the improvement of emergency, urgent or critical care of the acutely ill or injured patient by promoting research, and by educating health care professionals and the public.

**Nicholas John Connors**

**The Franklyn Ellenbogen Prize in Hematology-Oncology** was established by a gift from the Franklyn Ellenbogen Jr., Memorial Foundation in honor of Ralph L. Nachman, M.D., formerly the E. Hugh Luckey Distinguished Professor in Medicine and chairman of the Department of Medicine. The prize is given to a graduating student who has demonstrated significant evidence of achievement in hematology/oncology.

## **Elan Bomsztyk**

**The E. Darracott Vaughan Jr. Prize** was established in 2000 by former residents of Dr. E. Darracott Vaughan Jr., chairman of the Department of Urology. The award is presented to a candidate interested in pursuing a career in urology, who demonstrates exceptional promise. The recipient is chosen by the chairman of the Department of Urology.

## **David I-Wang Chu**

**The American Academy of Neurology Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology** is awarded annually to a graduating medical student who exemplifies outstanding scientific achievement and clinical acumen in neurology or neuroscience, and outstanding personal qualities of integrity, compassion and leadership.

## **Scott A. Kaplan**

In appreciation of the exemplary medical skill and compassionate care that Dr. William J. Ledger has provided to three generations of their family, David and Betty Cooper-Wallerstein established **The William J. Ledger Prize in Obstetrics and Gynecology** in 2003. The Ledger prize is awarded annually to a member of the graduating class who has demonstrated an affinity for, and an interest in, the field of obstetrics/gynecology. The dean of Weill Cornell Medical College has joined Dr. Ledger in determining who shall receive this prize.

## **Jennifer Anne Inra**

**The Fabrizio Michelassi Medical Student Annual Award** was established by the Helen S. Tanenbaum Medical Award Fund of the New York Community Trust in honor of Fabrizio Michelassi, M.D. The award is presented to a member of the graduating class of the Medical College who intends to become a practicing surgeon and displays the qualities of humane, responsive, respectful and personalized care exemplified by Dr. Michelassi. The purpose of the award is to recognize the healing value of caring for patients as individuals, rather than just fighting disease.

## **Harma Khachig Turbendian**

**The Harry L. Bush Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Vascular Biology** was established in 2002 by David and Betty Cooper-Wallerstein in gratitude to Dr. Bush for his outstanding care and kindness to his patients. The prize is designed to stimulate interest and recognize achievement in vascular biology among medical students. It is awarded annually to a member of the graduating class of the Medical College who, in the opinion of the prize committee, has demonstrated critical investigation and significant achievement in any of the diverse disciplines encompassing vascular biology from the molecular to the clinical level. A committee consisting of the dean of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, the chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, and Dr. Harry L. Bush Jr. selects the recipient. The award is based on written submission of independent critical analysis of experimental, clinical or published data in an area of vascular biology.

**Matthew Louis Scherer**

**The Dean William Mecklenburg Polk Prize** was established in memory of William Mecklenburg Polk, M.D., L.L.D., first dean of the Medical College, who served from 1898 until 1918.

**Brett Aaron Lenart**

**Brant William Ullery**

**The Dean's Research Award** was established in 1984 with funds made available from an anonymous donation to the Medical College. This cash award is presented to a student who, in the judgment of the Student Research Committee, has performed an outstanding piece of original biomedical or clinical research.

**Gabriel C. Brooks**

**Jennifer Louise Hellawell**

**The Alan von Kreuter Cancer Research Prize** was established in 1991 in memory of Alan von Kreuter, whose daughter Betsy and son-in-law Juan Carlos Felix graduated from the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences in 1988, and Weill Cornell Medical College in 1984, respectively. Candidates for this prize are recommended by the Student Research Committee to the dean of the Medical College. The prize is awarded to a medical student for outstanding research in the basic mechanisms of cancer and related diseases.

**Elan Bomsztyk**

**The Gustavo Cudkowicz Memorial Prize in Immunobiology** given for the first time in 1983, was established by the colleagues, friends and family of the late Dr. Cudkowicz to perpetuate his interest in immunobiology and medical education. The prize is awarded by the Student Research Committee for outstanding research in immunobiology.

**Daniel Adam Greninger**

**The Dr. Harold Lamport Biomedical Research Prize** was established at several medical schools by Mrs. Lamport in memory of her husband, distinguished service professor of physiology and biophysics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Given by the Student Research Committee for a thesis reporting original biomedical research, the prize is awarded to a medical student who is a candidate solely for the M.D. degree.

**Barbara Carina Schreck**

**The Sondra Lee Shaw Memorial Prize** was established by Mrs. Joan S. Friedman in memory of her sister, Dr. Sondra Lee Shaw, '52. This prize is awarded by the Student Research Committee to the student who has produced an outstanding research paper in the field of neurology, pharmacology related to the nervous system, or behavioral science.

**Ariella Aliza Hochsztein**

**The Harold G. Wolff Research Prize**, established in memory of the late chief of neurology at The New York Weill Cornell Medical Center, is given to the medical student who has completed the most outstanding piece of original research in the neurological or behavioral sciences.

**Daniel Scott Weisholtz**

It is a pleasure to present a special award to the following graduate in recognition of his service as a leader in student government. He has served most ably as class president and is held in high esteem by both students and faculty.

**Anthony Mario Rossi Jr.**

**The Paul Sherlock Prize in Internal Medicine** was established by the members of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society of the class of 1985 and the Cornell University Weill Medical College Alumni Association to honor Dr. Paul Sherlock, class of 1954, a popular and respected teacher until his death in 1985. The award is determined by vote of the graduating class, and is presented to the graduating student who is pursuing a career in internal medicine and who has demonstrated exceptional integrity and compassion in caring for patients, as exemplified by Dr. Sherlock.

**Ross Francis MacDonald**

**The John Metcalf Polk Prizes** were established in honor of the son of the first dean of the Medical College, John Metcalf Polk, a graduate of the class of 1899, who remained at the College as an instructor until his death in 1904. These prizes, the highest scholastic honors a student can achieve at Weill Cornell Medical College, are given to the three students who placed at the top of the class for scholastic performance throughout medical school.

**Jenica Nicholls Upshaw**

**Ashley Marie Cimino**

**Natalie Elaine Jennifer Casemyr**

The American Medical Women's Association presents the **Glasgow-Rubin Memorial Achievement Citations** to those female students who graduate in the top 10% of their class and the **Glasgow-Rubin Memorial Award** to the woman who graduates first in her class. Dr. Maude Glasgow, a 1901 Cornell University Medical College graduate, established this award in honor of her sister Janet. The certificates also recognize Dr. Roberta G. Rubin, who through her generous gift to the Glasgow fund, has made possible the continuation of the certificate program.

The 2008 Janet M. Glasgow-Rubin Memorial Achievement Citations are awarded to:

**Ashley Cimino**

**Natalie Elaine Jennifer Casemyr**

**Jessica Ruth Bauman**

**Elena Kamenkovich**

**Kelly Christine Vranas**

**Tanya Lila Hamilton**

**Ariella Aliza Hochczstein**

**Erika Maria Moseson**

And the 2008 recipient of the Janet M. Glasgow Memorial Award is awarded to:

**Jenica Nicholls Upshaw**

**The Hayworth-Gold Award for Excellence in Medical Professionalism** established this year (in memory of Henry C. Hayworth) recognizes up to two students annually for exemplary demonstration of knowledge, communication, technical skills, and clinical and ethical reasoning as reflected in daily practice during their third year. The awardee is chosen by members of the faculty familiar with the students and their clinical training.

**Allison Schulman**

**Andrew Olson**

**The Compassionate Physician Award**, presented by the Department of Psychiatry, was established in 2006 by a bequest from David Panzer in honor of Richard Glass, M.D. The award will go to a graduating student who has consistently demonstrated compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients while exhibiting the attributes of a scientifically excellent physician. The student has illustrated professional behavior, shows respect for others, demonstrates cultural sensitivity in work with patients and family members of diverse ethnic or religious backgrounds, seeks and accepts criticism using it to improve performance, and is personally committed to objective self-evaluation of his/her own skills.

**Tanya Lila Hamilton**

**Ashley Marie Cimino**

**The Good Physician Award** was established by the late Dr. Philip M. Stimson, class of 1914 and emeritus clinical professor of pediatrics. An engraved tray is awarded to that member of the graduating class who, by vote of the class, best exemplifies the intangible qualities of the "Good Physician."

**Ashley Marie Cimino**

**The Leonard P. Tow Humanism Awards**, presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, were first given in 1998 by a newly established grant-making organization that believes that a key component of medical education is compassionate and humanistic care of patients. By vote of a committee of faculty members and students, these awards are presented to recognize and honor one faculty member and one graduating student who demonstrate the highest standard of compassion and sensitivity in their interaction with patients.

**Jessica Ruth Bauman**

And the faculty recipient is:

**Dr. Anthony Ogedegbe**

**Class of 1952 Resident Physician Prize** was established in 1993 by the class of 1952 at its 40th reunion. This prize, by vote of the graduating class, is given to a New York-Presbyterian Hospital resident physician who has demonstrated excellence in and dedication to the instruction of medical students.

**Dr. James Horowitz**

**The House Staff Teaching Award** was established by the class of 1990 and the Alumni Association to honor the Weill Cornell-affiliated house officer who best demonstrates clinical excellence and dedication to teaching.

**Dr. Reem Z. Sharaiha**

**The Senior List** was established by the class of 1994 to recognize 16 faculty members who have made a commitment to and demonstrated excellence in teaching. Lapel pins will be given to these faculty members in here in the auditorium immediately following Convocation.

Dr. Charles L. Bardes, Associate Dean and Professor of Clinical Medicine

Dr. Ilya Bialik, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Dr. Richard P. Cohen, Clinical Professor of Medicine

Dr. Byron Demopoulos, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

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Dr. Timothy C. Dutta, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Dr. Domenick Falcone, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Lyuba Konopasek, Associate Professor of Pediatrics

(The late) Dr. Richard Lent, Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Dr. Veronica LoFaso, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

Dr. Susanna R. Morales, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

Dr. Estomih Mtui, Associate Professor of Clinical Anatomy in Neurology and Neuroscience

Dr. Anthony Ogedegbe, Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Soula Priovolous, Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery

Dr. Keith Roach, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

Dr. David Rubin, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Joseph Safdieh, Assistant Professor of Neurology

The Medical Student Executive Council has established two awards for excellence in teaching in the basic science courses. **The First-Year Teaching Award** goes to

**Dr. Lawrence Palmer**

**The Second-Year Teaching Award**, given by the second year class for excellence in teaching:

**Dr. Edward Parrish**

**The Volunteer Clinical Faculty Award of Alpha Omega Alpha:** This award, which is recommended by the graduating class and selected by student members of the AOA chapter, is given to a voluntary faculty member who effectively and generously donates his time, skill and experience to teach clinical skills.

**Dr. Richard P. Cohen**

**The Charles L. Bardes, M.D. Teaching Prize** was established in 2000 by David and Betty Cooper-Wallerstein, in gratitude for the excellent and compassionate medical care provided by Dr. Bardes to three generations of the Cooper-Wallerstein family. The quality of life of the late Adele and Joseph Cooper, during their declining years, was protected and enhanced by Dr. Bardes' professional dedication. The prize is awarded annually to a member of the faculty, who, in the opinion of the prize committee, has been an outstanding teacher at the Weill Cornell Medical College, demonstrating leadership, dedication and concern for the students. The recipient is selected by a committee consisting of the senior associate dean for education, the associate dean for curriculum, and Dr. Bardes.

**Dr. Joseph Safdieh**

**The Richard A. Herrmann, M.D. Teaching Award** was established in 2000 by Mrs. Marilyn N. Herrmann, in loving memory of her late husband. A member of the Department of Medicine for many years, Dr. Herrmann was considered a gifted clinical teacher. The award is given to an outstanding teacher in the third year, and is chosen by vote of the third-year class.

**Dr. Kirsten Healy**

**The Elliot Hochstein Teaching Award** was established by the class of 1971 and Alpha Omega Alpha in recognition of the late Dr. Elliot Hochstein's compassion, skill and distinction as a physician and teacher. The award is given to the faculty member who best exemplifies these qualities by a vote of the graduating class. The winner will be listed on the permanent plaque in the Wood Library.

**Dr. Byron Demopoulos**

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## **Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences Convocation**

Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences held its 2008 Convocation ceremonies on May 28. Graduate School leadership, including Dr. David Hajjar, dean; Dr. Randi Silver, associate dean; and Francoise Freyre, assistant dean, presented the following awards for special achievement.

"You're really going to make a difference in the field of medical research for years to come," Dr. Hajjar said. "We know that this next generation of scientists — all of you sitting in this room — will make a difference."

### **2008 Vincent du Vigneaud Prize**

**Zhucheng Chen**, "Mechanism of Homologous Recombination From Crystal Structure of RECA-SSDNA/DSDNA Filaments" (Professor Nikola P. Pavletich)

**Marybeth Carrie Garceau**, "Identification of PDE5 as a Target of S-Nitrosylation" (Professor Steven S. Gross)

**Jaclyn C. Greimann**, "Activities and Structure of the Eukaryotic Exosome" (Professor Christopher Lima)

**Lisa Placanica**, "Evidence of an Atypical Gamma Secretase in Cells of Hematopoietic Origin" (Professor Yueming Li)

**Tyler Simpson**, "Therapeutic TREG Depletion Generates Robust Systemic Responses and Transferable Anti-Tumor Immunity in an Autologous T-Cell Adoptive Cell Therapy Model" (Professor James Allison)

**Ameer N. Thompson**, "Molecular Mechanism of PH Sensing in KCSA Potassium Channels" (Professor Crina Nimigean)

**Kai Xu**, "The Study of Interaction Between Henipavirus and Their Host Cell Receptors" (Professor Dimitar Nikolov)

**Xiaoxiao Xue**, "Kinesin Switch During Epithelial Cell Polarization" (Professor Geri Kreitzer)

### **2008 Vincent du Vigneaud Awards of Excellence**

**Rebecca Clare Ahrens**, "Investigation of Arrhythmias in Anthropomorphized Murine Cardiac Myocytes" (Professor David Christini)

**Clare Veronica LeFave**, "Oncogenicity of Aberrant Alternative Splicing Events in Gliomas" (Professor Luca Cartegni)

**Judith Mesicek**, "Elucidating the Role of Ceramide Synthase in Radiation-Induced Apoptosis"  
(Professor Richard Kolesnick)

**Elissaveta Petrova**, "Hedgehog Acyltransferase: A Novel Therapeutic Target in Pancreatic Cancer" (Professor Marilyn Resh)

**Kymora Bernisha Scotland**, "Analysis of REX-1 (ZFP42) Function in Retinoic-Acid Induced Differentiation" (Professor Lorraine Gudas)

**Yuan Tian**, "Substrate Feedback Regulation of Secretase Activity" (Professor Yueming Li)

### **2008 Vincent du Vigneaud First-Year Awards**

**Christina Crump**, "Using Salicylhydroxamic Acid and Phenylboronic Acid in Bioorthogonal Chemistry" (Professor Samie Jaffrey)

**Armen Kherlopian**, "Long-Range Connectivity, Event-Driven Networks, and Complex Stimuli: Next Steps in Visual Cortex Modeling" (Professor Jonathan Victor)

### **2008 Julian Rachele Prize**

**Meera Mani**, "The Dual Phosphatase Activity of Synaptojammin 1 Is Required for Both Efficient Synaptic Vesicle Endocytosis and Re-Availability at Nerve Terminals" *Neuron*, 56: 1004-1018 (2007) (Professor Timothy Ryan)

**Matthias Stephan**, "T-Cell-Encoded CD80 and 4-1BBL Induce Auto- and Transcostimulation, Resulting in Potent Tumor Rejection" *Nature Medicine*, 13: 1440-1449 (2007) (Professor Michel Sadelain)

### **Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring Award**

**Charles Inturrisi, Ph.D.**

### **2008 Distinguished Student Commencement Speaker Award**

Omar Vandal

### **2008 Student Service Award**

Hajira Begum Koeller

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## **WCMC-Q Graduates Cruise to the End of their Journey**

With the lights of Weill Cornell Medical College reflecting off the East River, several members of the inaugural graduating class of Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar took a few moments to reflect on the past six years of their lives while enjoying a dinner cruise around Manhattan with their family, friends and Medical College physicians and administrators Tuesday night.

"It's been six years, fantastic ones at that. And I will continue to cherish them for years to come," said Ibrahim Sultan. "It's a very nice way of ending our eventful journey. It's been the best six years of my life."

The graduates expressed joy for their accomplishments, a bit of sadness at reaching the end of this journey, and an overwhelming gratitude to Dr. Daniel R. Alonso, dean of WCMC-Q, the Medical College, and its biggest supporters, Joan and Sanford Weill.

"This graduating class will not only be great doctors but will show the world how our cultures can work together to make this a better world," Mr. Weill said.

The boat cruised south along Manhattan's west side, slipped under the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges and reached the Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center as the lights of the skyline shined bright.

"There is your spiritual medical home," Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., dean of the Medical College, announced as the ship passed the 59<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge. "Some of you will spend the next several years of your lives there, but all of you will share a permanent attachment with it."

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## **Dr. Matthew Fink Presents "Information Please" Seminar**

When Dr. Matthew Fink began to practice medicine, there was little in the way of treatment for those who suffered from a stroke or dementia. The brain — how it develops and how to keep it healthy — was largely unmapped territory. However, much has been learned since that time. During a presentation May 20 at Weill Cornell Medical College's most recent "Information Please" luncheon at the Weill Greenberg Center, Dean Antonio M. Gotto Jr., was pleased to introduce Dr. Fink, who gave his presentation "Saving Your Brain: How to Prevent Stroke and Dementia" to a packed room. Dr. Fink discussed risks of stroke and dementia and how to prevent these disorders. He also shared information on exciting new treatments and research initiatives.

Dr. Matthew Fink, professor of clinical neurology and vice chairman for clinical services in the Department of Neurology and Neuroscience at Weill Cornell Medical College, and chief of the Division of Stroke and Critical Neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, has spent almost three decades studying the brain and neurological disorders such as stroke and dementia.

Founded by Weill Cornell Overseer Daisy M. Soros, Information Please offers friends of the Medical College the opportunity to learn about new research and other issues of contemporary relevance in medicine. Participants of this ongoing series interact first-hand with leading physicians and researchers in an informal setting. Audience members include Weill Cornell overseers and other long-standing friends of the Medical College.

Stroke, Dr. Fink said, is the third leading cause of death in the United States, claiming 150,000 lives per year. It is also the leading cause of long-term disability and the most common occasion for entry into a nursing home, as 70 percent of stroke victims who worked before their stroke are unable to return to work after it.

But with proper prevention methods, strokes very much are preventable.

"With current knowledge and technology, we can prevent 50 to 80 percent of strokes," Dr. Fink said.

Operations such as carotid endarterectomy — which removes the artery-blocking plaque that leads to stroke — can reduce the risk by 60 percent. Maintaining a healthy diet and taking statins can prevent the build-up of atherosclerotic material, and can even cause the regression of plaque over time.

If the time for prevention has passed, it is important to know the warning signs of a stroke, and what to do if you start experiencing symptoms such as sudden weakness, numbness or paralysis of the face, arm or leg; unexplained dizziness; sudden severe headache with no apparent cause; or sudden blurred vision.

"The critical point is if you have symptoms, get to a hospital immediately for treatment," Dr. Fink said. "Do not delay."

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Where a stroke is instantaneous, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia run a more deliberate, corrosive course. But prevention is still possible.

The elimination of cardiovascular risk factors — such as high cholesterol and blood pressure — reduces the risk of dementia later in life, Dr. Fink said. Exercise, diet and controlling your weight, especially abdominal girth, are also keys to retaining cognitive function.

"Physical exercise has a direct benefit on your brain," Dr. Fink said.

Those who attended *Information Please* on May 20 came away with potentially life-saving information and a timely update on important research and clinical initiatives at Weill Cornell.

# # #

## **First-Year Students Honor Anatomy Donors at Memorial Service**

On April 22, first-year medical students gathered for the Anatomy Memorial Service, an annual tribute to remember and honor the men and women who donated their bodies for science. The 104 students of the Class of 2011 sang, read poems and offered personal thanks to the 26 individuals and their families who generously gave of themselves for the benefit of medical education.

The Memorial Service marks the end of the anatomy component of the "Human Structure and Function" course for first-year students, often a rite of passage for many students.

"It wasn't until we started this course that the enormity of the responsibility of being a physician was appreciated and realized by our group," said William Gordon. "We are truly humbled by our donors' gifts."

Dr. Carol Storey-Johnson, senior associate dean for education, reminded students that many of their most important teachers will be their patients. "No member of our faculty can teach you in the way that the donors have," she said.

"We'd like to thank you for taking us away from the figures, charts and diagrams, and bringing us back to the humanity of medicine," added Heather Player, in remembrance of her group's donor, Helen J.

Special acknowledgement was given to the families of donors, many of whom were in attendance.

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**Save the Date: Report on the "State of the Medical College  
and Graduate School of Medical Sciences" (June 10)**

Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., provost for medical affairs and dean of Weill Cornell Medical College, will give his annual presentation on the "State of the Medical College and Graduate School of Medical Sciences" on Tuesday, June 10, at 4 p.m. in Uris Auditorium. Faculty and staff are invited to attend.

# # #

## **Going With the Flow: Risk Factors and Treatment Options for Vascular Disease**

In 1990, 39 percent of the all Americans lived to see the age of 65. Ten years later, that number more than doubled to 86 percent.

Americans are certainly living longer, and while this is regarded largely as the positive result of medical and scientific advancements, there is also a darker consequence to our ever-expanding life spans.

"People are living much longer and they are living robust lives in their later years," said Dr. Craig Kent, the Greenberg-Starr Professor at Weill Cornell Medical College and chief of vascular surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. "A result of that is a better chance of vascular disease."

Dr. Kent, along with Dr. Ageliki Vouyouka, an assistant professor of surgery at Weill Cornell and assistant attending vascular surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, discussed vascular disease in depth during their recent lecture "Going With the Flow: Risk Factors and Treatment Options for Vascular Disease," at Uris Auditorium. The lecture was part of the Medical College's spring Health and Wellness Seminar Series.

The damage caused by vascular disease can vary. The plaque that develops in arteries can lead to poor leg circulation, resulting in functional disability, and to another extreme, possible amputation of a limb.

Aneurysm and stroke are other, more deadly, possibilities. An aneurysm occurs when an artery becomes dilated and ruptures. It is a very common cause of death, accounting for about 30,000 fatalities a year, which is comparable to the annual death tolls of prostate and breast cancer.

Despite this, vascular disease remains an underdiagnosed disease. Most people who have it, Dr. Kent said, don't even know it.

This is especially true of women, Dr. Vouyouka said. Women, on average, live longer than men, and lacking estrogen in the postmenopausal phases of their lives, leave them more susceptible to developing vascular disease. And although the reasons aren't fully known — perhaps because women are underrepresented in most large vascular clinical trials — doctors have observed that arterial disease behaves differently in women.

What is known is that carotid surgery and stenting are effective treatments for vascular surgery. Also, individuals over the age of 65 who smoke, have heart disease or a family history of vascular disease should be regularly screened.

"Sometimes vascular disease doesn't give symptoms," Dr. Vouyouka said. "Most of the time you do a CAT scan for something else and you find an aneurysm. If patients with aortic aneurysms do develop symptoms, it might be too late."

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## **Faculty Appointments and Promotions**

### **Appointment to Professor**

**Clifford C. Dacso, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.**, Professor of Clinical Medicine. (Dr. Dacso is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

**Victor Fainstein, M.D.**, Clinical Professor of Medicine. (Dr. Fainstein is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

**Ching-Hsuan Tung, Ph.D.**, Professor of Chemistry in Radiology. (Dr. Tung is on staff at The Methodist Hospital Research Institute in Houston, TX.)

**Stephen T.C. Wong, Ph.D.**, Professor of Computer Science and Bioengineering in Radiology. (Dr. Wong is on staff at The Methodist Hospital Research Institute in Houston, TX.)

**Janice L. Zimmerman, M.D.**, Professor of Clinical Medicine. (Dr. Zimmerman is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

### **Promotion to Professor**

**James A. Eastham, M.D.**, Professor of Urology. (Dr. Eastham is on staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.)

**Neal F. Lue, Ph.D., M.D.**, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology with tenure.

### **Appointment to Associate Professor**

**Charles E. Butler, M.D.**, Adjunct Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery (Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery). (Dr. Butler is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

**Edi Brogi, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. (Dr. Brogi is on staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.)

**Gulchin A. Ergun, M.D.**, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine. (Dr. Ergun is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

**Bruce Moseley, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery. (Dr. Moseley is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

**Jose A. Perez Jr., M.D., M.S.Ed., M.B.A.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine. (Dr. Perez is on staff at The Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX.)

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**Einar M. Sigurdsson, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Neuroscience.

**Xiaobo Zhou, Ph.D.**, Associate Research Professor of Biomedical Imaging in Radiology. (Dr. Zhou is on staff at The Methodist Hospital Research Institute in Houston, TX.)

**Promotion to Associate Professor**

**John D. MacGillivray, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Clinical Orthopaedic Surgery. (Dr. MacGillivray is on staff at Hospital for Special Surgery.)

**Y. Lynn Wang, M.D., Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

**Gianna Zuccotti, M.D., M.P.H.**, Associate Professor of Clinical. (Dr. Zuccotti is on staff at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.)

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## Awards & Honors

**Dr. Marc Goldstein**, professor of urology and reproductive medicine, was presented with an honorary Doctor of Science degree on May 28, along with Nobel laureate Dr. Joseph Murray (who performed the first successful human kidney transplant), from State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center. Dr. Goldstein received his medical degree from SUNY Downstate in 1972.

**Dr. Min Lu**, professor of biochemistry, is the recipient of part of a \$15.6 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The grant, awarded to 10 investigators at different institutions, will be used in support of a new program to foster the study of B cells, immune cells that can produce antibodies with the capacity to neutralize HIV. The program aims to strengthen and expand the scientific foundation of HIV vaccine research through a network of 10 research teams nationwide that will share resources, methods and data to accelerate progress.

The **Department of Medicine** honored residents and fellows in a series of annual award celebrations in May. The following is a list of awards presented and their recipients.

### **The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual David E. Rogers Memorial Research Award**

**Paul Basciano, M.D.**

Internal Medicine Resident (PGY3)

"The Utility of Post-Remission Screening Imaging in Hodgkin's Lymphoma for Identification of Relapse"

**Seth Bender, M.D.**

Internal Medicine Resident (PGY3)

"Left Ventricular Mass Predicts Mortality but Not Arrhythmic Events in ICD Recipients"

**Sharon Rubin, M.D.**

Internal Medicine Resident (PGY3)

"Scientific Abstract for SGIM"

**Shahryar Saba, M.D.**

Internal Medicine Resident (PGY3)

"Relationship of Plaque Characteristics Defined by Coronary Computed Tomographic Angiography to Exercise-Induced ST-Segment Depression and Impaired Functional Capacity During Treadmill Exercise Testing"

### **The Sixth Annual Department of Medicine Fellow Award**

**Marcus Butler, M.D.**

Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine

"Genetic Determination of SPOCK3 Gene Expression in the Human Small Airway Epithelium"

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**Laura A. Kirkman, M.D.**

Division of Infectious Disease

"Genetic Diversity in Virulence Genes of Plasmodium falciparum"

**Ben Levy, M.D.**

Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology

"Taxanes Inhibit AR Nuclear Accumulation in Cell Lines and Metastatic Prostate Cancer Patients"

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