Greetings,

Welcome to our 2nd monthly newsletter edition. We thank everyone for the positive feedback regarding our first!

Please note that our office is participating in the hosting of two upcoming events. Come to celebrate and toast our 4th year graduates and recognize those who have worked to support diversity in our community at the Diversity Celebration May 17. And join in reflecting on where we are as a diverse community, where we want to go and what each of us has to contribute at the SPARC Diversity Retreat June 17. Please see below for more information.

Also, Weill Cornell Medicine has started its faculty engagement survey. Please check for the email and respond to ensure that your voice is heard. It is completely anonymous. If you have not received an email then please let us know. We are hoping to have participation from all of our faculty. It takes only a few minutes to complete.

Kind Regards,

Linnie Golightly, M.D.  Rache Simmons, M.D.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion
The following four awards will be given:

- The Ida Sophia Scudder, M.D. Award for Excellence
- The Louis Wade Sullivan, M.D. Award for Excellence
- The Bruce Laine Ballard, M.D. Award for Excellence in Mentorship
- Administrative Staff Award

Hosted by The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Student Affairs, and Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine

**For additional information, please contact Fatima Doumbia, fad2011@med.cornell.edu**

---

**SPARC**

2017 Diversity Retreat

**Building Our Community:**

Diverse, Inclusive, and Strong

Hosted by The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Student Affairs, and Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine

Saturday, June 17th, 2017

8:30AM to 5:00PM

Belfer Research Building

3rd Floor

413 East 69th Street

New York, NY 10021

Please RSVP using the link below:

http://sparcdiversityretreat.eventbrite.com/s=75487680

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Mindy Fullilove

The New School

Retreat Facilitator:

Sandrine Tunezerwe

Center for Creative Leadership

---

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
NYP/WCM Hunter College Mentoring Initiative

Marissa Lombardo, MD, a Hunter alum, resident, and Clinical Associate in Medicine is starting a new mentoring initiative with Hunter pre-medical undergraduate students. On March 9th, 2017, Dr. Lombardo, Elen Gusman (3rd year medical student), and Dr. Elizabeth Wilson Anstey, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs whom are also both Hunter alumni met with the pre-med advisor of Hunter College to discuss starting her initiative with Hunter students. Dr. Lombardo hosted her inaugural meeting on March 24th, 2017 with the first cohort.

Congratulations,
Dr. Lombardo!
Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure (HPREP)  
2017 Graduation Ceremony

On Friday, March 17, 2017, 94 high school students successfully completed Health Professions Recruitment Exposure (HPREP) program this spring. Dr. Linnie Golightly was the keynote speaker and Dr. Dana Zappetti gave welcoming remarks to open the ceremony. Originally, this student-run program, HPREP, was created by the Weill Cornell Medicine Chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) to address the issue of the declining enrollment rates of underrepresented groups in medical school in 1989. As a result, HPREP officially graduated its first class in 1990. This ten week program held in spring semesters provides high school students with opportunities to engage in discussions with physicians where a wide range of medical issues are addressed. Students were able to attend several panels that featured a physical therapist, a healthcare consultant, a genetic counselor, and a researcher. In addition, these students gained insight into the college application process including how to write a research paper, applying for financial aid, and writing a personal statement. This year’s HPREP coordinators: Jonathan Galati, Nicole Luche, Jae Seong No, Edwin Rosendo, and Iyan Younus offered direction for these high school students in writing their research papers, college essays, the common application.

Congratulations to the 2017 HPREP Graduates!

(From left to right): Dr. Capello, Dr. Golightly, Iyan Younus, Nicole Luche, Dr. Zappetti, Edwin Rosendo
Grenada Visit: Live Healthy Me, Inc.

Live Healthy Me, Inc. an organization in the leadership of Dr. Carol McIntosh, F.A.C.O.G., O.B.E., who is has vast experience in women’s health and gynecological issues spearheaded this five-day visit to Grenada. The organization was supported by the Ministry of Health and Social Security under the leadership of Hon. Minister Nikolas Steele. Dr. McIntosh was also accompanied by renowned Gynecologic Oncologist, Dr. Kevin Holcomb, F.A.C.O.G. who is the Director of the Gynecologic Oncology and Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at New York Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Holcomb along with other members of the health team performed surgeries on patients diagnosed with cancer and precancerous lesions. All surgeries were performed in St. Georges General Hospital (SGH). Dr. Holcomb also gave lectures on cervical cancer caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Lectures were tailored to the audience, one addressed to medical professionals at SGH and one addressed to the community and staff at Blue Horizon Garden Resort. The team is expected to return to Grenada again on May 22nd-26th, 2017.

Health Team Members (from left to right): Dr. Kevin Holcomb, Dr. Danielle Wright OB/GYN Chief Resident at Inova Fairfax Hospital, and two anesthesiologists based in Grenada
Nicole Cruz, M.D. has been named the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA) Resident of the Year. Dr. Cruz is currently a senior resident in the Residency Training Program in Internal Medicine at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Campus. She works with Dr. Monica Guzman of the Division of Hematology-Oncology, evaluating the expression level of CD123 in leukemic cells of AML patients to emphasize the relevance of the receptor as a potential CAR-T cell target. In addition, she serves as the Co-Chair of the Department in Medicine’s House staff Committee promoting mentorship and works to strengthen diversity and community amongst peers. Dr. Cruz will begin her fellowship in Hematology-Oncology at Cornell in July 2017 and she will receive her honorary award at the NHMA National Meeting in Washington, D.C. in May 2017.

Congratulations, Dr. Cruz!

Anthony Watkins, M.D. was recently featured in #WeAreWCM campaign advertisements. Dr. Watkins is an Assistant Professor of Surgery and the Program Director of the General Surgery Residency Program. He shared his personal words in a Weill Cornell Medicine featured video: “Medicine is part of the DNA of who I am. But what I’ve found equally important is the human element, what drives me is this interest and desire to make a meaningful impact in people’s lives.”

Congratulations, Dr. Watkins!

To view the #WeAreWCM featured video, please visit the link below:

https://www.facebook.com/WeillCornellMedicine/videos/vl.1178067955599164/10158388529580481/?type=1&theater

Carol Storey-Johnson, M.D. is the recipient of the 2017 Association of American Medical Colleges Northeast Group on Educational Affairs (NEGEA) Distinguished Educator Award. Dr. Storey-Johnson is a Professor of Medicine and the Senior Associate Dean of Education at Weill Cornell Medicine. She has contributed immensely to the field of medical education in teaching, professional development of others, and scholarship. She is to receive her award at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry on Saturday, May 6, 2017.

Congratulations, Dr. Storey-Johnson!
Fabrizio Michelassi, M.D. is the recipient of the 2017 Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Michelassi is a Professor of Surgery and Chairman of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine. He is also the Surgeon-In-Chief at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. The Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award is awarded to a senior member of the medical staff at New-York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell who has given exceptional and longstanding service. It also includes a $50,000 grant to the recipient to use toward his or her current work. Dr. Michelassi will be honored at The Plaza on Thursday, May 18th, 2017. Dr. Michelassi has been a voice in diversity at Weill Cornell Medicine. With his leadership, WCM has been chosen as the host for the prestigious Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS) Meeting in 2019. Congratulations Dr. Michelassi!

RESEARCH, GRANTS, AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Grant Writers Coaching Group for NIH Awards

Program that supports underrepresented faculty in medicine (URM) who are actively working on a K or R NIH grant proposal
Includes:
- 1 day intensive workshop, individual coaching, and 2 to 3 months bi-weekly virtual group meetings and on-going support

Apply for the 2017 Grant Writers Coaching Group of NIH Awards

Deadline:
June 21, 2017 at 11:59PM EST

Please visit the website:
http://www.cvent.com/events/2017-aamc-grant-writers-coaching-group-for-nih-awards/event-summary-cfeb3dc150264bf383f510b88009615e.aspx

Contact Tai Conley, minfac@aamc.org