Message from the Executive Committee on Diversity & Inclusion

Greetings, we hope this message finds you safe and well.

We join you in celebrating the end of summer and reflecting with those in our community of the Jewish faith on the past year. We welcome the new class of 2025 and look forward to the promises of a new academic year with them. Lastly, we applaud the efforts of all in our community who continue, in these turbulent times, to provide clinical care, community education and research to ameliorate suffering and end the pandemic.

We celebrate with you WCM’s receipt of the Crain’s Excellence Award in Diversity and Inclusion this July! This award was possible due to the incredible work of members at all levels in our community here at WCM. Thank you to all!

Please be sure to save the date for our upcoming events: our September Diversity Town Hall will take place on September 14th (see zoom here) and our next Dean’s Quarterly Diversity Seminar will be held on September 22nd (register here). Our October Town Hall is scheduled for October 13th.

As always, we welcome your suggestions regarding how we can work together to build a more diverse and inclusive community, where everyone knows that they belong.

Best Regards,

Linnie Golightly, Joy Howell, & Rache Simmons
Beyond this, our diverse patient population is comprised of 29% cis women, 28% cis men, and 43% transgender or gender non-conforming individuals. To provide for these patients, we have in place a medication reimbursement program, helping our patients gain access to the necessary medication for their care without financial constraints.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous work of our volunteers. Currently, the Wellness Qlinik organization has over 50 active members. We are looking forward to welcoming new residents and a new medical student board this fall and will be recruiting more student volunteers, including physician assistant students. Throughout the year, we continuously welcome attending physicians, psychologists, and fellows while simultaneously expanding our team to include pre-medical students and social workers.

With 2021 soon coming to a close, we plan to continue our virtual offerings, in part by expanding our group therapy service. We are looking forward to a new installment of our virtual Coping Skills Group starting in October, which we are currently recruiting participants for. In doing so, we will continue to promote culturally inclusive and accessible LGBTQ+ education and care across Weill Cornell Medicine and the greater New York City community.

The Wellness Qlinik is open on Wednesdays from 6-9PM. We welcome you to learn more about us at https://wellnessqlinic.weill.cornell.edu/

If you are interested in volunteering or supporting our efforts in any way, please email us at wellnessqlinic@med.cornell.edu.
We are excited to announce that Weill Cornell Medicine has been recognized as a Diversity Champion by Crain’s New York Business as part of its first annual Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion Awards! The award celebrates New York City individuals and businesses that are leading by example and holding themselves and others accountable for diversity and inclusion initiatives.

This award would not have been possible without the work of our many collaborators, program leaders, and staff, whose commitment to diversity has allowed for us to develop initiatives in which we can truly better our community. Thank you to all!

The Executive Committee on Diversity & Inclusion

Lennie Dolightly, Joy Howell, Rache Simmons
RECENT EVENTS

SPARC Tri-I Diversity Retreat
"Living the Dream: Engaging, Surviving, and Thriving in a Research-based Career"

The 2021 Tri-I SPARC retreat was held on Saturday, June 5th. The theme of the event was "Living the Dream: Engaging, Surviving, and Thriving in a Research-based Career." This event featured keynote addresses by Olujimi Ajijola MD, PhD Director, Clinical Autonomic Neuroscience Programs, UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center, and Assistant Director, UCLA Specialty Training and Advanced Research and Tamia Harris-Tryon, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Dermatology, UT Southwestern Medical Center, as well as a panel on "Pearls from the Pros: the Art of Expert Grant Writing." Over 60 members of the Tri-I community attended the event.

Dean's Quarterly Diversity Seminar
"Sick from Freedom: The Untold Story of the Spread of Infectious Disease among Formerly Enslaved People during the Civil War and Reconstruction."

On Tuesday, June 8th, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion held a Dean's Quarterly Diversity Seminar featuring Professor Jim Downs, Gilder Lehrman-National Endowment for the Humanities Professor of Civil War Studies and History at Gettysburg College. Dr. Downs discussed his book, Sick From Freedom: African American Illness and Suffering during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Over 50 participants attended the event.
RECENT EVENTS

Breaking Bread
"Everyone Belongs"

The Breaking Bread “Everyone Belongs” was held on June 30, 2021. Cosponsored by Medical Education and the Graduate School, the event was facilitated by Dr. Renee Alexander of Cornell-Ithaca and Dr. Linnie Golightly, Associate Dean of Diversity & Inclusion. Participants shared their reactions to the ongoing violence against Jewish and Asian American Communities and discussed how WCM can ensure that all community members feel a sense of belonging. Representatives from the Pastoral Care and Education Department joined in the discussion.

WISER Summer Program

WISER is a collaborative pipeline program between Cornell’s Ithaca campus and WCM, which provides historically underrepresented and/or low income students with biomedical research and field experience. This year, the WISER program ran from June 21-August 2. Students worked directly with their WCM faculty mentors on a research project. The cohort watched lectures given by WCM graduate students and faculty, as well as national speakers. They also completed an online virology course and obtained information on different career paths and advice on how to navigate admission processes. This year’s program concluded with each student's final presentation of their research and a closing virtual reception including mentors and WCM faculty.
**RECENT EVENTS**

**ACCESS Summer Research Program**

This summer the ACCESS program was spearheaded by Dr. Melissa Boneta-Davis and Dr. Avelino Amado. The program was developed with the support of two graduate assistants, Chloe Lopez-Lee (G3, Neuro) and Ifeh Akano (G2, Pharm), and Ms. Chantel Gooding and Dr. Megan Allen. In addition to the grant writing workshop participants gained virtual laboratory experience with faculty mentors, attended biomedical research lectures and discussions, journal clubs, professional development workshops, and took part in social activities. The summer was capped off by a closing ceremony and presentations at the annual Leadership Alliance Network Symposium.

**Traveler's Summer Research Fellowship (TSRF)**

After the Travelers Summer Research Fellowship Program (T-SRF) *was paused* in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the summer program *was mounted virtually* for the first time in its 53 years in 2021. Twenty-nine students from across the United States were accepted into the program and paired with Faculty Sponsors at Weill Cornell Medicine to participate in research remotely. In addition to the remote research work, the participants attended daily lectures that included Public Health and health equity topics, career panel discussions, and practical workshops. During the final week of the program, the participants gave oral presentations of their research projects.
Fordham Health Career Conference

The annual Fordham Health Career Conferences had 20 participants from various New York City high schools that met virtually on Mondays and Wednesdays from July 12 through July 28. All participants were part of the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at Fordham University. Participants learned about social determinants of health, COVID-19 vaccines, and different health care professions from Weill Cornell/New York-Presbyterian professionals from nursing, social work, and medicine.

COVID-19 STEM Community Education and Empowerment Internship

Over 300 pre-medical students participated in the third cohort of the COVID-19 STEM Community Education and Empowerment Internship held from July 19th, 2021 to August 4th, 2021. The purpose of the internship was to empower students interested in medical and health fields to disseminate accurate information about COVID-19 and vaccination by educating diverse communities and raising awareness about COVID-19. Participants engaged in 20 hours of education and community building. Faculty for the internship were provided by Weill Cornell Medicine and partner institutions The Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYU Grossman School of Medicine/NYU Langone Health, and SUNY Downstate Medical School.
SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Dr. Kiel Telesford, who was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) K22 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to research "Ethnicity-associated, differential CNS demyelinating autoimmune disease severity: reconciling identity, ancestry and neurotoxic antibody response." The grant will provide 2 years of mentored support and 3 years of independent support.

Congratulations to Dr. Geraldine McGinty for her promotion to Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Dr. McGinty is currently Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Contracting Officer of the Weill Cornell Medicine Physician Organization and an Associate Professor of Clinical Radiology and of Population Health Sciences. In 2019, she received the Jessica M. and Natan Bibliowicz Award for Excellence in Mentoring Women Faculty.

Fond Farewell

We are saddened to announce that Dr. Said Ibrahim and Heather Lynne Johnson have left their respective roles as Senior Associate Dean of Diversity and Administrative Director for the Office of Diversity & Inclusion for new positions at Northwell Health. We wish them all the best as they begin this new phase in their journeys!

Dr. Avelino Amado, Diversity Program Manager at Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences will be starting a new fellowship for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as a Science & Technology Fellow at the Department of Defense this September!
UPCOMING EVENTS

"Women at Weill Cornell Medicine: An Update for 2021"
Diversity Town Hall

Tuesday, September 14, 4-5pm

In recognition of Women in Medicine month, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will be hosting the September Diversity Town Hall. Please join us as we recognize the many outstanding achievements of our WCM women faculty and reflect upon the upcoming challenges facing us. Dr. Rache Simmons, Associate Dean of Diversity & Inclusion, and Director of the Office of Women will be the speaker and moderator.
Click here to join.

Make Your Match:
Residency Diversity Open House

Saturday, September 18, 12-3pm

The Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM), WCM-New York Presbyterian Residency Programs, Minority Housestaff Committee, and WCM Diversity Center of Excellence are pleased to invite medical students to the annual “Make Your Match” program. Please share the below announcement with students.

The Make Your Match Program is a diversity open house that provides medical students with more information about the residency match process. There will be participation from Weill Cornell-NYP Residency Program representatives from a number of programs including a few joint programs with Columbia!
Click here to register and see the list of participating programs.
UPCOMING EVENTS

"Unique Approaches Towards Promoting Diversity in Clinical Research"

Dean's Quarterly Diversity Seminar

**Wednesday, September 22, 5:30-7pm**

Please join us for our next Dean's Quarterly Diversity Seminar on Wednesday, September 22, 5:30-7pm featuring Dr. Winston Price, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at PCOM South Georgia. Dr Price was named the National Medical Association’s (NMA) 2021 Practitioner of the Year. He previously served as the 105th President of the NMA.

A Weill Cornell Medicine alum, Dr. Price is a practicing pediatrician in Bainbridge and is heavily involved in the Southwest Georgia region, supporting efforts to increase the number of Black men in medicine and addressing disparities in healthcare.

Click [here](#) to register.

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Virtual Resilience Workshop

**Women Physicians of NYP**

**Thursday, September 30, 8am-12pm**

Please join the Women Physicians of NYP for their annual Fall Workshop on Thursday, September 30th. The theme of this year's workshop is Virtual Resilience and will feature Dr. Sharon Melnick, a leading authority on stress resilience and women's leadership. This interactive workshop will address the challenges and stresses of working in healthcare as women physicians, especially during a pandemic. Participants will be given tools that will energize and empower them to gain control, self-advocate, and thrive in their work and personal life.

Click [here](#) to register.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Islamophobia: Then and Now
Racial and Social Justice Book Club
Tuesday, October 5, 5:15-6:30pm

For their 6th book club, the Racial and Social Justice Book Club of the Department of Radiology will be reading *How Does It Feel To Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America* by Moustafa Bayoumi. Winner of the Arab American Book Award, *How Does It Feel To Be a Problem?* sheds light on the repercussions of Islamophobia on Arab and Muslim Americans by exploring the lives of seven twenty something Brooklynitges living in post 9/11 America.

Discussants: Dr. Sidra Javed-Tayyab (MSKCC Radiology), Dr. Sabrina Mahboob (MSKCC Radiology) and Fatima Saleem (WCM Radiology).

To learn more about the state of Islamophobia today, the discussants invite participants to watch the following presentation by the Center for Islam and Global Affairs: https://youtu.be/oNIROjDp3w

Please click [here](#) to join the meeting.

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Hanna H. Grays Fellow Program
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

**Deadline: Wednesday, December 1st**

The Howard Hughes Medical Institutes' 2022 Hanna H. Grays Fellowship Application is now open. HHMI is looking for talented early career scientists, with a specific focus on those from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences, including individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. HHMI will select and support up to 25 Hanna Gray Fellows in this competition cycle. The competition is open to all eligible applicants, with no nomination required. Fellows do not need to be working in HHMI labs.

Click [here](#) to for more information.
COVID-19 RESOURCES

To help keep the WCM community up-to-date on recent developments and provide answers to frequently asked questions, the WCM Human Resources department has created a COVID-19 information webpage. You can access the page on or off-campus (using your CWID and password) at [https://wcmcentral.weill.cornell.edu/covid19](https://wcmcentral.weill.cornell.edu/covid19)

WCM STUDENTS

Students can review the current resources which include both psychiatry and counseling

[https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/student-resources/](https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/student-resources/)

[counseling@med.cornell.edu](mailto:counseling@med.cornell.edu)
[studentmentalhealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:studentmentalhealth@med.cornell.edu)

WCM STAFF

[https://wcmcentral.weill.cornell.edu/resources/covid-19-updates/faculty-staff](https://wcmcentral.weill.cornell.edu/resources/covid-19-updates/faculty-staff)

RECOMMENDED READS

"I entered medicine after another career. You can too"

Lala Tanmoy Das
WCM MD-PhD student

*The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)*

*News and Insights*

July 13, 2021

[Access Link](https://wcmcentral.weill.cornell.edu/resources/covid-19-updates/faculty-staff)
Visit our DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WEBSITE for news features, events information, student and community groups, and resources: diversity.weill.cornell.edu

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

- Private Facebook group
- Interested in fostering diversity and inclusion
- Requirements: Active Facebook account and must be affiliated with WCM either as a current or past trainee or faculty member

**For more information, please contact the social media administrator, Elaine Barfield, elb2020@med.cornell.edu**