



Weill Cornell Medicine

Diversity & Inclusion

24th
NEWSLETTER
EDITION

SUMMER/FALL
2021



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: The annual **Women Physicians of NYP Workshop** will be held on September 30 (see page 10). Our next **Diversity Town Hall** will be held on October 13 in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. Lastly, **Diversity Week 2022** has been scheduled for April 25–29th!

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

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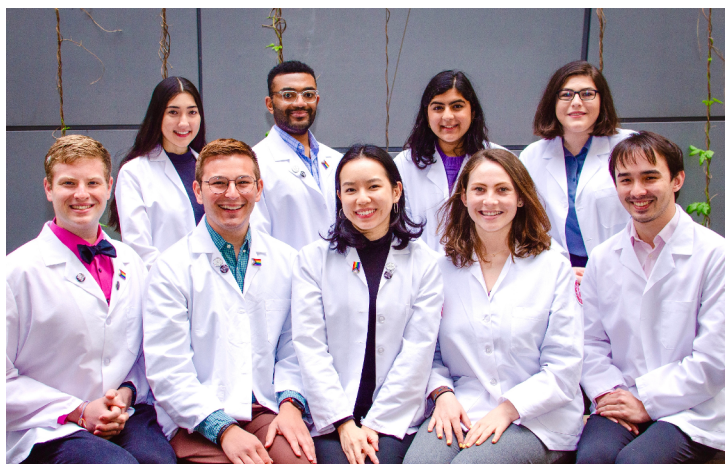
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SAVE THE DATE

September 30	Women Physicians of NYP Workshop
September 30	Cyma Rubin Women in Science Lecture
October 5	Race & Social Justice Book Club - Islamophobia: Then & Now
October 13	Diversity Town Hall - Latinx Immigration and US Refugee Policy
November 10	Diversity Town Hall - Native American Heritage Month
November 16	Dean's Quarterly Diversity Seminar Speaker: Chiquita Collins, PhD, Chair-elect of the AAMC Group on Diversity & Inclusion (GDI)

DIVERSITY HIGHLIGHT

WCM Wellness Clinic



Wellness Clinic Student Board

The Weill Cornell Medicine Wellness Qlinic is the first student-run clinic in New York City to offer free mental health care to those who identify as LGBTQ+, regardless of insurance status. Since opening our doors in 2019 and celebrating our two-year anniversary this past spring, we have remained dedicated to serving the needs of the LGBTQ+ community and to bridging the mental health disparities they often face. Although 2020 and 2021 have certainly been unprecedented years, we are pleased to have been supported and surrounded by the incredible and hardworking members of the Wellness Qlinic to continue offering mental health care to the LGBTQ+ community.

In 2020, we fully transformed our clinical operations to a virtual platform and had our first telepsychiatric visit. Since that time, we have continued conducting telepsychiatric visits, and have offered several hundred appointments thus far in 2021. We have continued to prioritize treating patients at no cost, including the 31% of our patients who are uninsured, allowing them to receive care to which they would not otherwise have access.

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 Qlinic 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 Qlinic 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.

RECENT EVENTS

Crain's Excellence in Diversity Award!



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!

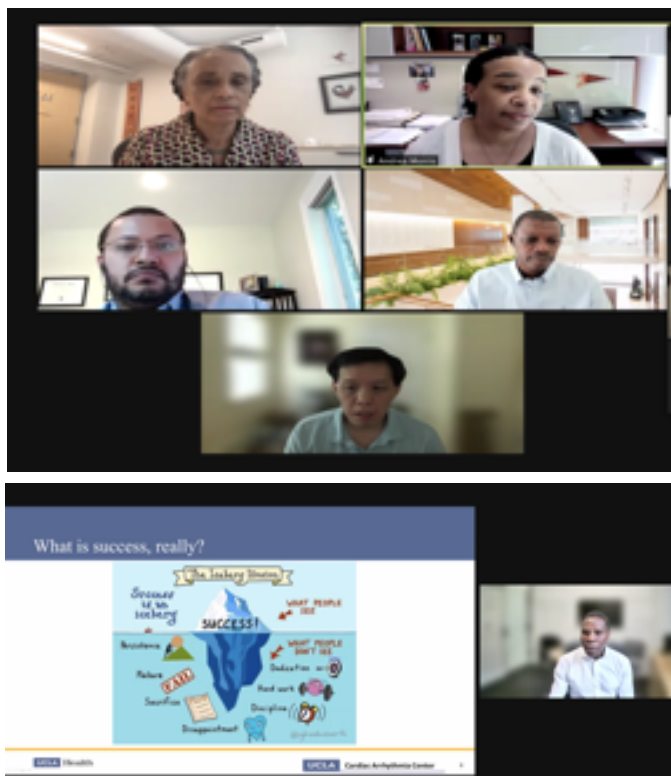
The Executive Committee on Diversity & Inclusion

Linnie Golightly, 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

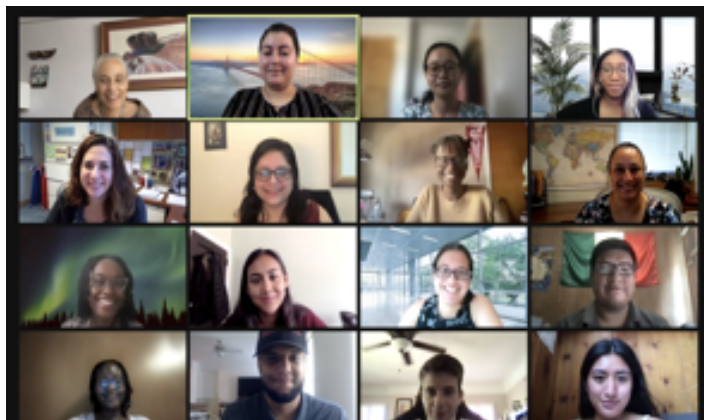
Breaking Bread "Everyone Belongs"



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.

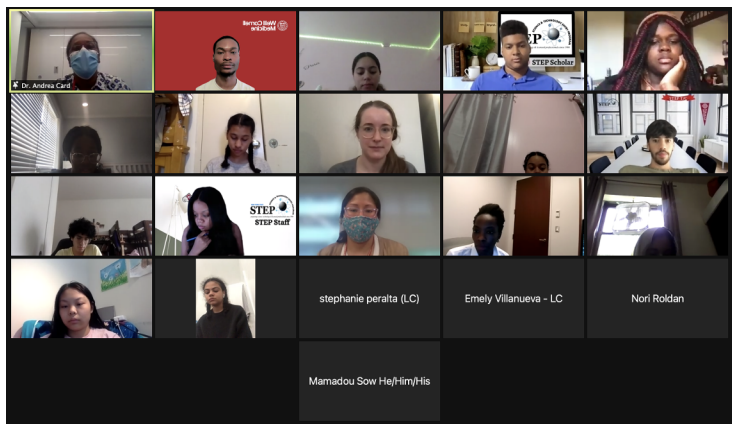
Traveler's Summer Research Fellowship (TSRF)



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.

RECENT EVENTS

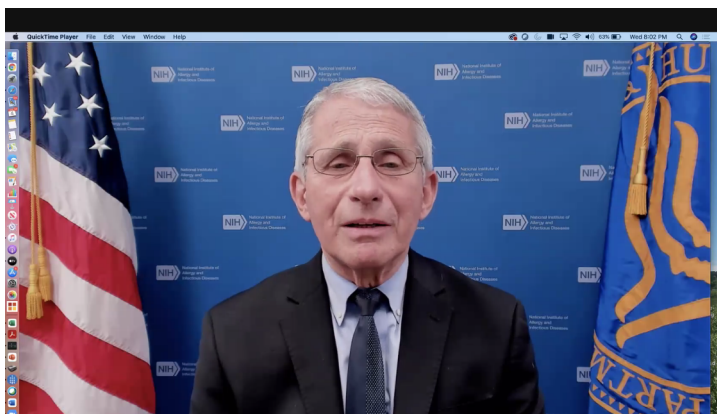
Fordham Health Career Conference



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!



Kiel Telesford, PhD

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.



Geraldine McGinty, MD

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



**Said Ibrahim, MD
MPH MBA**

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!



**Heather Lynne
Johnson, MS**



Avelino Amado, PhD

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!

UPCOMINGEVENTS



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. .

Click [here](#) to register.

Cyma Rubin Women in Science Lectureship



Thursday, September 30, 11am-12pm

WCM will be hosting the Cyma Rubin Women in Science Lectureship. This year's featured speaker is Dr. Helen Hobbs, Dallas Heart Ball Chair in Cardiology Research, Philip O'Bryan Montgomery Jr., M.D., Distinguished Chair in Developmental Biology, and Eugene McDermott Distinguished Chair for the Study of Human Growth and Development at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Hobbs' renowned research focuses on how dysregulation of lipid uptake and trafficking contributes to human diseases.

Please click [here](#) to register.



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 Brooklynites living in post 9/11 America.

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

DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Keystone Symposia Fellows Program

Deadline: Friday, October 15



The Fellows Program aims to give early-career scientists from underrepresented (UR) and other disadvantaged backgrounds the support and skills they need to successfully pursue leadership and decision-making roles in academic, industry and government research sectors. This one-year program is designed around key programmatic elements to enhance confidence, leadership skills, networking opportunities, and visibility of Fellows within the biological and biomedical research community. Fellows will learn from career-development workshops and hands-on immersion experience, working directly with eminent scientists from the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to pursue their career goals.

Since its inception in 2009, the Program has enhanced the professional and career development of 69 early-career investigators, and they look forward to welcoming 8 new Fellows in the coming months.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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>

WCM STUDENTS

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

[https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/student-resources/
counseling@med.cornell.edu
studentmentalhealth@med.cornell.edu](https://medicaleducation.weill.cornell.edu/student-resources/counseling@med.cornell.edu)

WCM 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](#)

STAY IN TOUCH!

Visit our **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION WEBSITE** for news features, events information, student and community groups, and resources: diversity.weill.cornell.edu



JOIN US ON
FACEBOOK



Weill Cornell Medicine
Diversity & Inclusion

- ▶ 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****

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