



Weill Cornell Medicine

Diversity & Inclusion

28th
NEWSLETTER
EDITION

SUMMER/FALL
2022



Message from the Executive Committee on Diversity & Inclusion

Greetings,

We hope that everyone had a great summer and is enjoying the fall. We welcome all new students, residents, fellows, post-docs, staff and faculty to our community!

We had an incredible summer during which students were hosted on campus for several summer programs including: Advancing Cornell Career Experiences for Science Students (ACCESS), Travelers Summer Research Program, Weill-Ithaca Summer Experience in Research (WISER), and High School Catalyst, to name a few. We wish them a fruitful academic year!

Our academic year is off to a tremendous start. Please mark your calendar for the numerous upcoming events including the first **Diversity Town Hall** of the year on the "**Status of Women at Weill Cornell Medicine**" on **Oct. 12**. Also note upcoming funding opportunities such as the **Mastercard Diversity Mentorship Pilot Grant Program**.

As always, we welcome your suggestions.

Yazmin Carrasco, Linnie Golightly, Joy Howell, Rache Simmons & Fanesse George

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SAVE THE DATE

October 12	Diversity Town Hall
October 12	Racial and Social Justice Book Club
October 13	LGBTQ+ Mentorship and Networking Series
October 13	AAMC Mid Career Faculty Seminar
October 20	Cornell Center for Health Equity Symposium

WELCOME INCOMING STUDENTS!

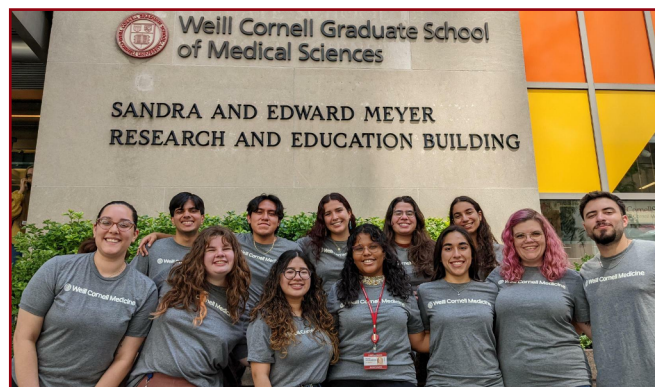


Weill Cornell Medicine welcomes the incoming class of graduate and medical students! In their honor, the **Annual Orientation Diversity Mixer**, also known as the Cookout, was held at the Belfer Research Building Terrace on August 22, 2022. The Cookout was hosted by the **Office of Student Diversity**, the **Tri-Institutional Minority Society** ([TIMS](#)), and **Students for Equal Opportunities in Medicine** ([SEOM](#)). Opening remarks were made by medical student Ernesto Morfin Montes de Oca (MD), and graduate student Josue Barnes. Students gathered in community, enjoyed good food and fun times.

RECENT EVENTS

Advancing Cornell Career Experiences for Science Students (ACCESS) Summer Internship Program

The Office of Student Diversity at the graduate school hosted 10 undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds from different institutions around the nation and Puerto Rico. The ACCESS program provided these students with hands-on experiences in the laboratory along with professional development, community building and networking opportunities. Students participated in various activities as well as the Leadership Alliance National Symposium in Hartford, CT. They presented their research findings to their peers and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center community during a poster session on the last day of their summer experience. Thank you to all who provided mentorship and support during the program!



The ACCESS 2022 Cohort included ten Access students and two graduate assistants, Natalia Del Rosario Rivera Sanchez and Brittany Robaina-Caicedo.

RECENT EVENTS

High School Catalyst Program



The 2022 Catalyst graduate student-run leadership team. Left to right: Gabriella Chua, Co-president; Alexander Emmanuelli, Co-president; Pedro Silberman, Founder; Clare Cahir, Coordinator; Victoria Rasmussen, Coordinator; Juan Sebastian Andrade Martinez, Coordinator; Kristin Ludwicki, Coordinator

The High School Catalyst Program is a partnership between the Weill Cornell Graduate School, the Memorial Sloan Kettering Postdoctoral Association, and the HYPOTHEkids New York Bioforce Program. Catalyst aims to provide New York high school students from self-reported underrepresented minority, disadvantaged, and/or first-generation backgrounds with a rigorous 7-week biomedical research experience through a fruitful pairing with a scientific mentor as well as lively virtual programming including a weekly selection of scientific seminars, workshops, journal clubs, and discussions. Since the summer of 2020, Catalyst has run an all-virtual platform where the program culminates in each students' completion of a two-page research proposal with guidance from their mentor and a presentation on their proposal in the form of a 3-Minute Thesis talk. In addition, all Catalyst students received a stipend for their efforts thanks to both Bioforce and a generous donation to the graduate school from Dr. Carl Nathan, Professor of Medicine and Chairman of Microbiology and Immunology. The program concluded with a fantastic ending ceremony that included celebratory remarks by Weill Cornell Graduate School Dean, Dr. Barbara Hempstead, and selected talks by Catalyst students. Thank you to all the mentors and mentees that participated in this year's program!

RECENT EVENTS

Travelers Summer Research Program



The Office of Student Diversity was pleased to resume in-person programming for the Travelers Summer Research Fellowship. Travelers is Weill Cornell Medicine's 54-year-old, signature pipeline program that brings 29 undergraduate students from underrepresented and financially disadvantaged backgrounds to campus for an immersive research experience. This research can be clinical, basic science or translational. The research experience was supplemented by presentations on important public health topics, career panel discussions and occasional opportunities to observe clinical care. The students presented their research to their peers and selected faculty at the end of the season. Many described that this was a transformative experience for them. We thank each of the faculty sponsors, lecturers, those who participated in the panel discussions and who provided opportunities for observation in the clinical space. We look forward to an exciting season again next year!

RECENT EVENTS

Tri-Institutional Minority Society's Summer Scholars Research Program (TIMS SSRP)



The 2022 TIMS-SSRP cohort, graduate student-run leadership team composed of Yoselin Paucar Iza (Weill Cornell), Manisha Raghavan (Sloan Kettering), and Joe Shen (Sloan Kettering) **and faculty advisors** Drs. Dan Heller and Renat Shaykhiev.

TIMS SSRP is a graduate student-led initiative that aims to provide research opportunities to NYC-based undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds in science who aspire to pursue a career in biomedicine. TIMS SSRP scholars were immersed in the research-intensive environments across Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), and Rockefeller University. During the 11 weeks of the program, scholars engaged in full-time research, bootcamp and training sessions, scientific writing workshops, research seminars, journal club sessions, professional development workshops, and a bioinformatics introductory course. The TIMS SSRP 2022 cohort, which included students from several CUNY colleges, including Hunter College, John Jay College, and City College, went on to join labs at Weill Cornell Medicine, MSKCC, and Hospital for Special Surgery. This year, TIMS SSRP was coordinated by graduate students Yoselin Paucar Iza (Weill Cornell), Manisha Raghavan (Sloan Kettering), and Joe Shen (Sloan Kettering).

RECENT EVENTS

Juneteenth Panel Discussion



Black Joy: Addressing the Past and Appreciating the Future of Blackness

To commemorate Juneteenth, Fanesse George, Assistant Director of Staff Diversity, Inclusion & Engagement, moderated a panel discussion on June 16, 2022, with leaders from Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University, and Cornell Tech. The panelists addressed the history of Juneteenth, the current commercialization of the holiday, the future of Blackness and many other compelling topics.

Bystander Intervention Training

Combating Anti-Muslim Bias

The Office of Staff Diversity, Inclusion, & Engagement hosted a Bystander Intervention Training on August 10, 2022, to provide the Weill Cornell Medicine community with tools and strategies to safely respond and react when witnessing anti-Muslim bias incidents and discrimination. This marked the department's first CME-accredited workshop and was led by training specialists from the [New York City Commission on Human Rights](#).

RECENT EVENTS

**Weill Cornell Initiative to Maximize Student Development
(Weill Cornell IMSD) Retreat**

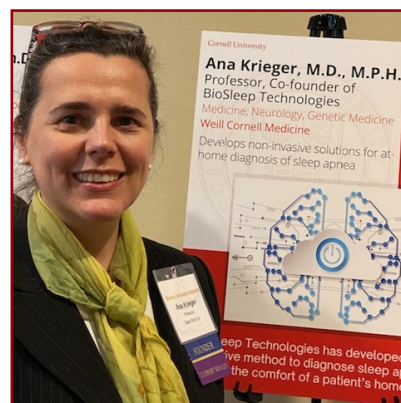
The **Weill Cornell IMSD** aims to increase the number of Ph.D. students from underrepresented backgrounds who are trained to conduct exceptional research and continue as leaders in biomedical research careers. This summer, the **fourth cohort of IMSD Fellows** joined Weill Cornell Medicine. **Cinthia Garcia** (Pharmacology), **Aliya Holland** (Pharmacology), **Yasmine Issah** (Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis), and **Anthony Villegas** (Neuroscience) were selected from a stellar group of incoming first-year Ph.D. students and joined the robust community of IMSD Fellows, Scholars, and IMSD-EX fellows at the Weill Cornell Graduate School. As IMSD Fellows, these incoming first-year students had the opportunity to start their first graduate school rotation; as well as participate in the Early Start program – a series of round table discussions designed to provide tools to tackle life in graduate school. We thank all the student leaders and faculty who joined us this summer for these enriching discussions. At the end of the Early Start Program, the IMSD community came together for a one-day retreat where we reflected on the achievements of our community and set new goals for the upcoming academic year. Wishing our newest cohort IMSD fellows and the rest of our IMSD community an excellent upcoming academic year!

RECENT EVENTS

Inaugural Women Innovator Awards



Three Cornell scientists were honored during a June 1, 2022 ceremony promoting women's engagement in innovation and commercialization. **Dr. Sheila Nirenberg**, the Nanette Laitman Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and a professor of physiology and biophysics at Weill Cornell Medicine, received the inaugural Barbara McClintock Women Innovator Award, which recognizes women innovators whose outstanding inventions have made a tangible impact on society. The Rising Women Innovator Awards, given to two recipients, recognize women whose inventions have transformative potential and are in early stages of commercialization. The two inaugural awards honored **Dr. Greeshma Gadikota**, Croll Sesquicentennial Fellow and assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering in the College of Engineering; and **Dr. Alexa Schmitz**, a postdoctoral researcher in the lab of Dr. Buz Barstow, assistant professor of biological and environmental engineering in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The awardees were selected among faculty members who presented posters of their projects during the event.



RECENT EVENTS



2022 Rally for Medical Research




Students and faculty members headed to Capitol Hill on September 14, 2022 to meet with Senator Schumer's office and other legislators to advocate for sustained and predictable National Institute for Health (NIH) funding to support breakthrough medical research and treatments. The delegation was organized by **Alessia Daniele**, Associate Director of Federal Relations at Weill Cornell Medicine and included **Daniel C. Pollay Jr.**, Executive Director Government & Community Relations; **Kelsey Hopland**, Ph.D. student; **Soumya Sharma**, Ph.D. student; **Shoshana Rosenberg**, Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences; **Linnie Golightly, M.D.**, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion; **Divya Ramchandani**, Research Associate in Cardiothoracic Surgery; **Gabrielle Peterson**, Ph.D. student; **Filippo Pederzoli**, Postdoctoral Associate in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Katherine Lopez, Ph.D. student.

RECENT EVENTS


NIH/NMA 2022 Academic Career Development Workshop




National Institutes of Health



National Medical Association



2022 ACADEMIC CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
Saturday and Sunday, July 30-31, 2022
Georgia World Congress Center,
285 Andrew Young International Blvd NW
Atlanta, GA 30313



As part of the National Medical Association (NMA) annual convention, the National Institute of Health (NIH) in collaboration with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) hosted a career development workshop on July 31, 2022 in Atlanta, Georgia for URiM senior resident fellows, postdoctoral scientists and early investigators. Dr. Linnie Golightly, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Microbiology & Immunology and Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion was invited to present with Kofi Kondwani, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Community Health & Preventive Medicine of the Morehouse School of Medicine. The presentation, "Pursuing a Career in Global Health: Research and Career Development Opportunities" focused on ways to enhance the development of physician-scientists in global health.



RECENT EVENTS

Health Professionals in Training (HPIT)

The Department of Pediatrics launched a new pathway program, entitled **Health Professions In Training** at Innovations High School in partnership with the Stanley Isaacs Center and the NYC Beacon Program. Dr. Jane Chang, Dr. Melanie Wilson-Taylor and Dr. Joy Howell as well as other faculty and staff from the Department of Pediatrics, visited the school twice monthly to engage with a cohort of approximately 15 students interested in healthcare professions. The students were exposed to a variety of healthcare professionals including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, speech, occupational and physical therapists, and audiologists. They were given the opportunity to engage in active learning sessions on vital signs, as well as physical examination and chest compressions that utilized high fidelity mannequins and task trainers. Other sessions included use of school-based microscopes to visualize different types of blood cells.



In addition to launching the longitudinal collaboration with the Beacon/Innovations team at the school, the Department successfully launched an internship for two HPIT participants. Marie Toure and Skylin Acquino, two juniors from Innovations were selected to serve as the inaugural pediatric interns. After completing the onboarding process, they were exposed to a variety of care areas and specialists including outpatient, inpatient and intensive care pediatrics, genetics, newborn medicine, anatomy lab, the Permar lab and had the unique experience of attending the Class of 2026 White Coat Ceremony. The Department of Pediatrics is expanding both of these programs during the 2022-2023 academic year.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Diversity Town Hall

The Status of Women at Weill Cornell Medicine

This will be followed by a Q & A session.

Hosted by the Executive Committee on Diversity & Inclusion



Rache Simmons, M.D. FACS

Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion

Director, Office of Women

Co-Chair, Women Physicians at NYP

Breast Surgeon, Weiskopf Professor of Surgery

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 4:00pm – 5:00pm

WEBINAR LINK: <http://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/606222067>

Meeting ID: 606 222 067

This session will be recorded

If you wish to send questions in advance, please email Dr. Rache Simmons at: rms2002@med.cornell.edu

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Radiology Racial Social Justice Book Club Documentary 'Eating Our Way to Extinction'

Wednesday, October 12, 5:15-6:30 pm



Discussants:

- Elizabeth Hecht, M.D. (WCM Radiology)
- Natasha Wehrli, M.D. (WCM Radiology)
- Sarah Naiman, Ph.D. (Opinion Dynamics)

[Register here](#)

WCM LGBTQ+ Mentorship and Networking Series

**Sponsored by: WCM LGBTQ+ Steering Committee and Diversity
Center of Excellence**

Thursday, October 13, 2022, 5-7pm

**Belfer Research Building, 413 E. 69th Street BB 302-A, BB 302-B, BB
302-C**

The goal of this network is to foster mentoring relationships across all career stages and departments – medical students, residents, fellows, and faculty. The WCM LGBTQ+ Mentorship and Networking Series will cover various aspects of professional and personal development.

[Click here to register](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

AAMC Mid-Career Minority Faculty Seminar

October 13-15, 2022

AAMC Headquarters Washington, DC

The AAMC Mid-Career Minority Faculty Seminar is a leadership development program designed specifically for mid-career faculty who aspire to leadership positions in academic medicine. This unique blended-learning program takes a culturally responsive approach to address the specific needs of the participants including small group mentoring sessions and a CV review for career development planning. This Seminar consists of both virtual learning sessions/webinars and an in-person two and a half-day event.

Who Should Attend?

Individuals at the associate professor level who aspire to leadership positions in academic medicine.

[Click Here For More Information and Registration](#)



Cornell University



Weill Cornell
Medicine

Cornell Center
for Health Equity



Cornell Brooks
Public Policy

You're invited to the 3rd Annual Cornell Center for Health Equity Symposium

Healthy People 2030:
Shifting Power to Communities



Keynote Speaker

Tyson H. Brown, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
Director, Center on Health & Society
Associate Scientific Director of Social
Sciences, Center on Aging
Duke University

*Talk Title: Health Equity Research
on Structural Racism: Challenges, Innovations
and Opportunities*

Thursday, October 20, 2022 | 5–7pm ET

Pre-Symposium Collaborative Research Discussion
Location: TBD

Friday, October 21, 2022 | 8am–5pm ET

Belfer Research Building | Conference Room 302-ABCD
413 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021

To RSVP for one or both events, go to:
<https://tinyurl.com/5kjcfew>

[Centerfortheequity.cornell.edu](https://centerfortheequity.cornell.edu)

INTERNAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Mastercard Diversity Mentorship Pilot Grant

Deadline: November 1, 2022

The objective of the Weill Cornell Medicine Mastercard Diversity Mentorship Pilot Grant Program is to provide support for early career underrepresented minority in medicine (URiM) faculty interested in pursuing a career as physician-scientists or translational scientists. The program provides \$50,000 to fund a promising research project during the early years of the first faculty position at WCM.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NIH Research Opportunities for New and "At-Risk" Investigators to Promote Workforce Diversity (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to encourage applications for research projects within the NIAID mission. This FOA seeks to support either (a) a New Investigator (NI), an individual who has not previously competed successfully for substantial, independent funding from NIH, or (b) are an 'At-Risk' investigator, an individual who had prior support as a PD/PI on a substantial independent research award and unless successful in securing a substantial research grant award in the current fiscal year, will have no substantial research grant funding in the following fiscal year, from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups underrepresented in the health-related sciences.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Calling individuals interested in becoming Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) researchers: Improve health of SGM people along the cancer continuum

Applications due Wednesday, November 16, 2022

FREE & VIRTUAL

FUNDED BY NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Workshop Dates: Thursday, February 23rd, Friday, February 24th, and Monday, February, 27th, 2023

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

NIH Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Diagnostics and Disease Management Tools for Use in Underserved Populations

Due dates on or after February 5, 2022 and subsequent receipt date through July 6, 2025

The NHLBI seeks R01 applications for **diagnostics and disease management tools** that have the power to deliver breakthroughs to enable prevention and treatment of heart, lung, blood and sleep diseases in underserved communities.

For More Information and To Apply [Click Here](#)

EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Notice of NHLBI Participation in PAR-22-105 "Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)"

(NOT-HL-22-026) National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is to support studies that will identify, develop, and/or test strategies for overcoming barriers to the adoption, adaptation, integration, scale-up, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, practices, programs, tools, treatments, guidelines, and policies. Studies that promote equitable dissemination and implementation of evidence-based interventions among underrepresented communities are encouraged. Conversely, there is a benefit in understanding circumstances that create a need to stop or reduce ("de-implement") the use of practices that are ineffective, unproven, low-value, or harmful. In addition, studies to advance dissemination and implementation research methods and measures are encouraged. Applications that focus on re-implementation of evidence-based health services (e.g. cancer screening) that may have dropped off amidst the ongoing COVID pandemic are encouraged.

[Click here to learn more and apply](#)

Welcome!



Patricia Philippe has joined the Office of Diversity and Inclusion as Research and Diversity Coordinator. Patricia earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics with a minor in Psychology from New York University. Her background is in marketing, project management and community outreach for a number of healthcare organizations including Mount Sinai Health System, Healthfirst, the Visiting Nurse Service of New York and Montefiore Medical Center. Patricia will provide support for the planning and implementation of diversity and/or research related activities for those who are Underrepresented in Medicine (URiM).

RESOURCES



COVID-19

Latest Updates >

To help keep the Weill Cornell Medicine community up-to-date on recent developments and provide answers to frequently asked questions, the Human Resources department has created a COVID-19 information web page. 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/covid19>

RECOMMENDED READS AND PODCASTS

"Why Faculty of Color are Leaving Academe"

The Chronicle of Higher Education

Too many find themselves disenfranchised, exhausted, and isolated.

[Access Link](#)

"Fem N' Leadership with Geraldine McGinty"

Intersectionality Podcast

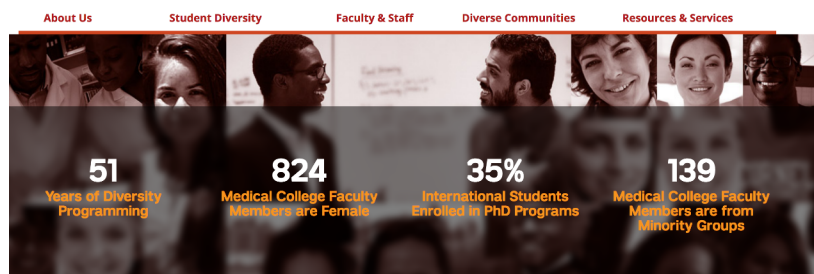
An interview with Geraldine McGinty, Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs

[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****

Editors: Dr. Linnie Golightly and Patricia Philippe