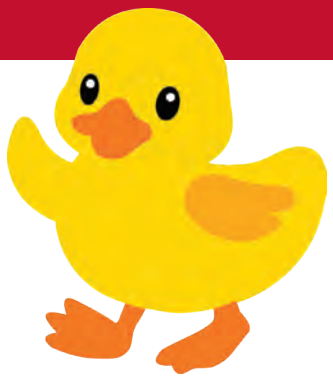
ANNUAL REPORT 2026

Weill Cornell Medicine
Pediatrics











Building Children's Health



@WCMPediatrics

NewYork-Presbyterian
Children's Hospital of New York
Komansky Children's Hospital

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Message from the Chair



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends,

Children's Health at Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) rests upon a remarkable foundation that fuels our momentum. Our lineage traces to 1854 with the founding of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital by Mrs. Cornelius DuBois as the first hospital in the nation serving children. Originally founded to care for the children of wet nurses, the scope expanded to provide lying-in care for women and children, pediatric medicine, and training. Following its 1934 merger with New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, that commitment continues to shape how we care for families.

Today, as stewards of the nation's first children's hospital, we carry forward this heritage alongside a responsibility to shape child health. This year brought progress across our mission at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian's Children's Hospital of New York.

Through strategic planning, we sharpened our focus around core pillars: compassionate care, discovery, family experiences, mentorship, and measurable outcomes. Through our Children's Health at WCM framework, we are deepening interdisciplinary collaboration to build seamless care pathways for children and youth of all ages.

Highlights include:

Expanding Clinical Reach: Broadening our footprint in Lower Manhattan and Long Island City to deliver specialized care directly to local neighborhoods.

Advancing Discovery: Expanding our research portfolio in size and breadth while advocating for vital biomedical and prevention resources.

Cultivating Future Leaders: Strengthening our pipeline through strategic initiatives, including our joint Allergy and Immunology Fellowship with Columbia Medical School partners, and robust high school, internship, and medical school interest groups.

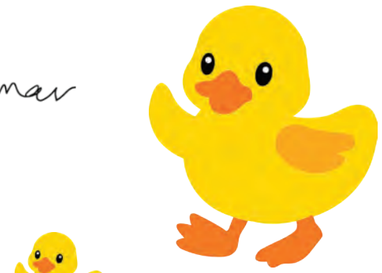
Achieving a future where every child attains optimal health and joy requires collaboration across medicine, education, policy, and community partnership. Guided by our history and united by purpose, we will continue defining what comes next in children's health.

Thank you for being part of our legacy—and our journey.

Sincerely,

Sallie R Permar





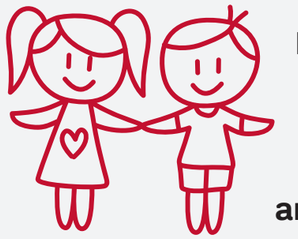
Department of Pediatrics
Highlights

We celebrated the announcement of NewYork-Presbyterian's commitment to becoming the **Children's Hospital of New York**, delivering **one standard of quality pediatric care across nine campuses**.

At a Glance

400+
Faculty and Staff

250,000+
ambulatory appointments annually caring for children



17
Divisions and Sections

40,000+
Children treated in ambulatory setting in the ambulatory setting by pediatric providers



2026

Program Spotlights

Neurogenetics Program



The program cares for children with **neurological and neurodevelopmental disorders such as epilepsy and profound developmental delay** that have a genetic cause, and for families of children still searching for a diagnosis. Child neurologists, medical geneticists, developmental pediatricians, physiatrists, occupational therapists, and genetic counselors work together to find the cause, understand the condition, and provide targeted therapeutics.

✶ First-in-Human Therapies for Rare Diseases

Led by Dr. Zachary Grinspan, the program partners with families, foundations, and scientists worldwide to develop and deliver new therapies for rare diseases. Since April 2025, the team has delivered three first-in-human therapies for IRF2BPL disorder, Cockayne syndrome, and a SYT1 mutation, supported by the cross-specialty TIGER team to ensure safety and clinical readiness.

✶ Answers Already on the Pharmacy Shelf

Dr. Jacqueline Burré discovered that an FDA-approved drug can correct protein misfolding caused by STXBP1 mutations in the laboratory. Dr. Zachary Grinspan leads the resulting clinical trial with Children's Hospital Colorado, which has treated 50 children with encouraging early results.

✶ Expert Care and Clinical Trials

The program provides expert care and access to clinical trials for complex and undiagnosed neurological diseases. Dr. Juan Pascual, Chief of Child Neurology, leads NIH-funded research and treatment trials focused on Glut1 deficiency, mitochondrial diseases, and undiagnosed conditions. Dr. Asim Shahid directs clinical trials for Dravet syndrome.

✶ Learning From Every Family

Natural history studies of MEF2C and STXBP1 disorders are building evidence for future clinical trials. Through the ARIA IMPACT Network, Weill Cornell helps connect children with profound autism and epilepsy to clinical trials, while the Pediatric Epilepsy Learning Healthcare System pools data across 20 centers to improve treatment decisions.

At a Glance

3
first-in-human gene and oligonucleotide therapies delivered since April 2025 to children with ultra-rare neurogenetic conditions

50
children treated in the glycerol phenylbutyrate basket trial, an FDA-approved drug repurposed from a Weill Cornell laboratory discovery

20
centers in the Pediatric Epilepsy Learning Healthcare System, a national research consortium led from Weill Cornell

Food Allergy and Intolerance Program

The multidisciplinary Food Allergy and Intolerance Program brings together specialists in Allergy, Gastroenterology, Nutrition, and Psychology to provide coordinated care for children with food allergies, gastrointestinal conditions, and related nutritional and behavioral challenges.

A Unified Allergy–GI Approach

Allergy and Gastroenterology jointly evaluate complex cases and align on treatment planning, which gives families an organized path through diagnosis (rather than fragmented care that is often a result of multiple specialty visits). In addition to this organized treatment, skin and specific IgE food testing, endoscopic evaluation, biologic evaluation, and feeding and growth support are also provided.

Since launching in 2019, the EoE portion of the Eosinophilic GI Disorders program has grown significantly, from 103 to 270 active patients, as of April 2026.

Advancing Care Through Allergy Research

Under the leadership of Dr. Perdita Permaul, our allergists – Dr. Priya Katari, Dr. Dana O'Toole, and Dr. Miriam Samstein – have helped build the program's food allergy research efforts to better understand the epidemiology, natural history, underlying mechanisms, and therapeutics of IgE-mediated food allergy. The team is engaged in industry-sponsored food allergy clinical trials as well as real-world clinical research on oral immunotherapy and other treatments, including an ongoing collaboration with the Latitude Food Allergy group. Findings have been presented at national meetings and submitted for publication in medical journals.

The program is projected to perform approximately **1,803 oral food challenges in 2026**. Annual endoscopy volume for eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE) increased from **496 in 2022 to 1,464 in 2025**, reflecting significant program growth.

Advancing Care Through GI Research

Dr. Aliza Solomon and her research team collaborate with investigators across departments, institutions, and pharmaceutical companies to better understand the nutritional impact on eosinophilic esophagitis, explore the role of environmental allergens, and bring new treatments to pediatric patients through clinical trials. Future collaborations will focus on studying One Health approaches in allergic gastrointestinal disorders. Findings from this work have been published in medical journals and presented at national and international conferences.

Comprehensive, Family-Centered Care

The program provides comprehensive support beyond medical diagnosis, with specialists in Allergy, Gastroenterology, Psychology, and Nutrition addressing education, anxiety, feeding, and nutritional needs. The team also offers advanced diagnostic and treatment options, including oral food challenges, immunotherapy, and biologic therapies.

The Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Program

The Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Program, led by Dr. Adriana Perez, provides comprehensive care for children and young adults up to age 24 with chronic, genetic, metabolic, autoimmune, and other complex liver conditions. The program offers inpatient and outpatient care, dedicated hepatology and liver transplant clinics, and specialized procedures, including therapeutic endoscopy and diagnostic liver biopsies.

Through close collaboration with Pediatric Surgery, Interventional Radiology, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, critical care, and the pediatric liver transplant program at Columbia, the team provides coordinated multidisciplinary care. The program also extends its expertise through consultations across NYP-affiliated hospitals and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

At a Glance

10
children received life-saving liver transplants since the program was established in September 2023.

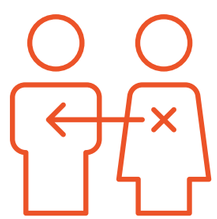
3
children placed on the transplant list ultimately avoided liver transplantation.

1
child with acute liver failure recovered after diagnosis and treatment of a rare metabolic disease.

2
children with liver tumors avoided transplantation through successful treatment and surgical intervention.

Research

The program participates in national clinical trials and research initiatives focused on pediatric liver transplantation and rare liver diseases. In collaboration with adult hepatology, the team is also studying how maternal liver disease and pregnancy may affect children's health.



The Pediatric Behavioral Health Integration and Innovation Program

The program's vision is to ensure that all **children, adolescents, and families** receive **comprehensive behavioral healthcare to support lifelong well-being**. Team-based mental health services are integrated across clinical, educational, and research settings. A multidisciplinary team, including psychologists, pediatricians, social workers, and psychiatrists, provides evidence-based care in primary, subspecialty, and inpatient settings, including 17 pediatric medical and surgical specialties



- **Launched a new Biofeedback Program**
  To noninvasive, interactive mind-body technique uses real-time feedback, games, and graphs to help children build self-regulation and coping skills and reduce symptoms of pain and anxiety.
- **Established a new partnership with HSS**
  to expand access to psychology services for patients within Pediatric Rheumatology.
- **Launched the WCM School-Based Mental Health Program** to help schools respond to students' mental health needs earlier through staff and caregiver education, consultation, and direct pathways to high-quality care.
- **Established a new brief autism evaluation program** aimed at reducing barriers to earlier diagnosis and access to care, which supports better long-term outcomes for children and families.

At a Glance

Conducted over 4,550 visits to 1,956 patients across our programs.

Published research on Pediatric Suicide Prevention Pathways in Primary Care

Clinical Divisions



Highlights

At a Glance

74,000
Children Served in 2026

Over the last five years:
41% increase in inpatient volume
62% increase in outpatient volume

Expanded outpatient care to:

Long Island City,
Lower Manhattan,
Queens, and Brooklyn



General Pediatrics

This program provides **comprehensive care** from birth through young adulthood by integrating **clinical care, research, education, advocacy, and community outreach**.

Services span inpatient care at **Komansky Children's Hospital**, newborn care at **Alexandra Cohen** and **Lower Manhattan Hospitals**, and outpatient primary, adolescent, and developmental care at **505 East 70th Street**. General Pediatrics encompasses:

Child Development
Provides evaluations and ongoing care to children with developmental needs and neurodivergence children.

Adolescent Medicine
Offers comprehensive primary care as well as consultations for patients with menstrual disorders, disordered eating, sexual health needs, and gender diversity.

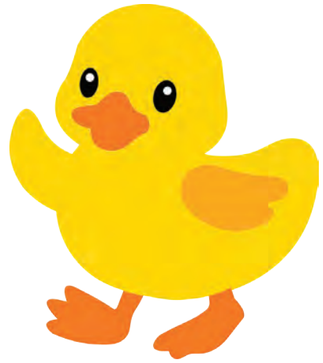
Behavioral Health
Provides care in the inpatient and outpatient settings to support children's and families' mental health needs for both short and long term counseling

Primary Care
Prioritizes continuity of care, fostering collaboration between specialists and primary care providers. It addresses social drivers of health, supports mental health risk prevention, and and provides comprehensive care for children with special health needs.

Hospital Medicine
Delivers high-quality, family-centered inpatient and nursery care by emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration, addressing social drivers of health, integrating mental health support, and ensuring smooth transitions between inpatient and outpatient care.

Pediatric Advanced Care Team
Supports children and families with complex or end-of-life needs in making goal-directed decisions throughout our care areas.





Accomplishments

- Expanded Behavioral Health program to surgical teams, Hospital for Special Surgery, and multiple outside high schools
- Collaborated with the Association to Benefit Children (ABC) to open new primary care site within their space
- Expanded hours at hospital-based primary care and adolescent medicine clinics to include evenings and Saturdays
- PACT team started outpatient video visits focusing on follow-up of inpatients
- Improved inpatient billing processes and submitted manuscripts for publication
- Quality improvement projects including, vaccine hesitancy addressing Vitamin K refusal, improving improving the nursery education program

Cardiology



Weill Cornell Pediatric Cardiology is an integral part of the Congenital Heart Center at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, the region's top-ranked facility for pediatric and adult congenital heart care. **Our focus areas include** non-invasive imaging, outpatient cardiac care, fetal echocardiography, and transcatheter and surgical interventions for congenital heart disease. **The Division of Pediatric Cardiology excels in clinical care and innovation**, achieving exceptional patient outcomes. Our team specializes in the pre- and post-natal diagnosis of congenital and acquired heart disease and the surgical, transcatheter, and medical treatment of a wide range of cardiac conditions. Our extended team of adult congenital cardiologists **also provides care for adult patients** whose heart disease is either congenital in origin or acquired during childhood.

In the stress lab, the team is studying the effect of music on pediatric exercise stress tests!

Care

During 2025-2026, our department expanded our offerings to better serve our patients. Our team now includes experts in imaging, pediatric lipid disorders and management and cross-sectional cardiac imaging (MRI and CT). The division expanded its team with five new faculty members with expertise in general cardiology, non-invasive imaging, pediatric MRI, hyperlipidemia, obesity and interventional cardiology.

The division added an additional outpatient cardiology location in Long Island City at the Weill Cornell Medicine Pediatric Cardiology office. Fetal echocardiography capacity has also increased through expanded presence at the WCM Pediatric Cardiology William Street Office and the addition of evening hours at WCM. The department has expanded the exercise stress test program and offers weekly cardiopulmonary exercise testing with Dr. Denis Donovan. Our clinical director, Dr. Sheila Carroll, continues to expand access for pediatric and fetal cardiac patients and organizes the combined morbidity and mortality conferences for Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery.

Discover

Our department engages in several exciting projects, including the division chief officer Dr. Bernhard Kuhn's NIH-funded randomized controlled clinical trials for beta blocker administration in tetralogy of Fallot run. In addition, our faculty are actively engaged in clinical research with our residents and other divisions in Pediatrics. Our fetal echo topics include predicting congenital heart disease in patients conceived via in vitro fertilization, tricuspid regurgitation in IVF patients and fetal counseling in CHD. Another project is evaluating the use of natural language processing to assess the digital health footprint of congenital heart disease on social media. In conjunction with the NICU, pediatric cardiology is evaluating trends in PDA medication management. With the pediatric ICU, we are conducting a quality initiative project on chest tube output in post op cardiac patients. Finally, in the stress lab, we are assessing the effect of music on pediatric exercise stress tests.

AWARDS

Honghai Liu (PhD) received an award for his platform presentation at the American Heart Association (AHA) Scientific Sessions 2025.

Anita Bargaje (BS) was invited to participate in the BCVS Early Career Poster Competition at the 2026 Basic Cardiovascular Sciences Scientific Sessions in Boston.

Teach

Our division is part of the joint pediatric cardiology fellowship with Columbia/Cornell. Each year, the program trains six pediatric cardiology fellows in clinical pediatric cardiology and imaging. We also teach medical students and residents through didactics, which take place in the office as well as in patient care units. Our faculty also train Maternal Fetal Medicine Fellows and Pediatric Cardiology fellows in fetal echocardiography.

Community

The pediatric cardiology department has hosted several educational meetings that extend beyond WCM to the wider community and education. We hosted the September meeting of The New York Pediatric Echocardiography Society (NYPES), bringing together pediatric cardiology imaging faculty and trainees from around NYC to review exceptional cases. Also, the department hosts the annual Sylvia Griffiths Lecture for the Pediatric Society of Greater New York and invited Shaine Morris, MD, from the Texas Children's Hospital/Baylor College of Medicine, to speak on Aortopathy Updates in pediatric patients.

Discovery

A basic science research program—led by Drs. Bernhard Kuhn and Honghai Liu—identified calcium signaling as a critical regulator of cardiomyocyte proliferation. This work provides the first direct evidence that pharmacological modulation of calcium signaling may stimulate the proliferation of heart muscle cells, revealing a potential therapeutic strategy for both correcting developmental defects associated with congenital heart disease and promoting myocardial regeneration after cardiac injury. These findings establish a strong foundation for the development of regenerative therapies and highlight the potential to repurpose existing FDA-approved calcium-modulating drugs to enhance cardiac repair.

Critical Care Medicine



The Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine offers **state-of-the-art care** for **infants, children, and adolescents with life-threatening medical and surgical conditions**. Multidisciplinary critical care is overseen 24/7 by fellowship-trained and board-certified pediatric intensivists in the Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICUs) at NewYork-Presbyterian's Children's Hospital of New York (CHONY)-Weill Cornell Medical Center and Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, as well as Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Key Accomplishments

- **Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care Unit (CICU) Program**
- **Brooklyn Methodist Hospital PICU**
- **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center PICU**
- **PICU Follow-Up Clinic**
- **Pediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship**

Innovative Programs

ECMO Curriculum

As part of our enhanced ECMO education program, over the past year we have implemented an in-situ PICU ECMO simulation series which takes place monthly. By conducting multi disciplinary, realistic clinical scenarios directly on the unit, this initiative strengthens team communication, optimizes workflows and enhances patient safety during high-risk ECMO emergencies.

ECMO Quality Initiative

A new quality initiative was developed and implemented to formalize and improve the process of referrals for ECMO and MSKCC.

Portable MRI

A new imaging program is to be piloted, utilizing MRI technicians to operate the portable MRI machine that is housed in the Neurologic ICU.

At a Glance

July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026

PICU Admissions
1266

Admission via Interhospital Transport
471

Average Length of Stay (LOS)
4.4 days

Mortalities
15

Mortality Rate
1.18%



Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI)

0 from 2025 to 2026 to date

Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)

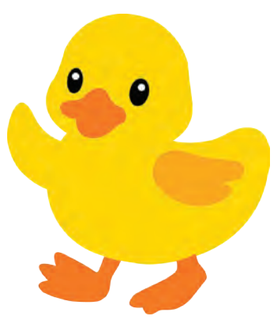
1 in 2025, 1 in 2026 to date

Unplanned Endotracheal Extubations

3 in 2025, 1 in 2026 to date

These metrics all compare favorably with our peer institutions nationally (Solutions for Patient Safety data).

NYP Campus	Volume
Alexandra Cohen Hospital	9
MSCH	102
NYP/Brooklyn Methodist Hospital	15
NYP/New York Presbyterian Queens	78
NYP/Westchester Hospital	5
NYPH/David H. Koch Center (DHK)	1
NYPH/Lower Manhattan Hospital	50
NYPH/The Allen Hospital	3
Grand Total	263



Endocrinology



Endocrinology delivers exceptional care for children with a wide spectrum of hormone and metabolic conditions. Through a **collaborative approach** involving physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, dietitians, diabetes educators, psychologists, and social workers, the program addresses **growth and puberty disorders, thyroid dysfunction, cancer-related endocrine conditions**, diabetes, weight disorders, and **genetic hormone imbalances**, ensuring each patient receives **personalized, expert care**.



Comprehensive Care Programs Include:

- Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Comprehensive Care Center – first in the nation and one of only eight in the U.S. offering comprehensive medical and surgical evaluation and management.
- Weight Management Program – family-centered approach to nutrition, exercise, medication, and bariatric surgery evaluation.
- Diabetes Program – provides cutting-edge treatment, diabetes risk screening, and access to FDA-approved therapy to delay insulin dependence.
- Pre-conception and prenatal counseling provides care to expectant parents seeking guidance related to endocrine disorders in collaboration with genetics and high-risk obstetrics teams.
- Bone health program – in collaboration with orthopedics, genetics, social workers, and physical and occupational therapy colleagues, and located at Hospital for Special Surgery, provides collaborative and personalized care for osteopenia, frequent fractures, and other complex bone conditions

Drove Innovation in Pediatric Endocrine Therapies

Elizabeth Gunckle, CPNP, led the development and rollout of a new treatment protocol offering children with early stage 2 diabetes access to an FDA-approved infusion therapy that helps delay disease progression.

Oksana Lekarev, DO served as Principal Investigator in a multi-site clinical study that led to the approval of a new therapy for congenital adrenal hyperplasia—the first alternative to systemic steroid treatment in decades.

Innovations in education and training

Oksana Lekarev, DO, and Karen Su, MD, created an additional, fourth-year non-traditional opportunity for fellowship research training with a focus on congenital adrenal hyperplasia. The program funded and trained a fellow to gain deeper expertise in this field, including hosting a regional CME course.

Expansion of services to Brooklyn and Queens

Emily Coppedge, CPNP, offers increased access to pediatric endocrine consultations in Brooklyn Heights. Dr. Carly Barron opened a new site for access to pediatric endocrine consultations in Long Island City, Queens.

Off-hours access

Various providers offer evening sessions and weekend consultations to increase access and decrease wait times for new referrals to the practice.

Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition

Provides **exceptional, state-of-the-art care** for children with a wide range of **gastrointestinal and hepatic disorders**. It is the most **comprehensive** center in the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut region for treating various gastrointestinal and liver disorders, including:

- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis)
- Very Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease (VEO-IBD)
- Celiac Disease
- Liver conditions and pretransplant evaluation
- Motility dysfunction
- Allergic and eosinophilic disorders of the GI tract
- Poor weight gain requiring assisted feeding devices



Expansion of Services in Brooklyn

Established a collaborative partnership with NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital to provide clinical coverage and support for the hospital and local referring providers. This collaboration enhances our ability to deliver comprehensive care, expand access to subspecialty expertise, and strengthen integration across the NYP network – benefiting both patients and medical staff in the Brooklyn community.

Launch of Food Allergy and Intolerance (FAIT) program

Launched in August 2024, the program supports children with food allergies and celiac disease through a multidisciplinary approach that includes physicians, dietitians, social workers, and other specialists. The program provides both in-person and virtual care, focusing on personalized nutrition and psychosocial support. The aim is to empower children and families to manage dietary restrictions effectively and improve overall quality of life.

Addressing a Critical Gap in Pediatric GI Care in NY State:

Establishing the Very Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease (VEO IBD)

An alarming trend in pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease is the substantial rise in Very Early Onset IBD (cases affecting children under 6 years of age). Despite the clinical urgency of this condition, until July 2024, when the Weill Cornell Very Early Onset IBD program opened, there were no specialized centers for VEO IBD treatment or research in New York City or New York State. Through multispecialty collaborations between GI, Immunology, Genetics, and other partners within the NYP community, our VEO IBD Center of Excellence serves as both a clinical sanctuary for affected families and a research hub for advancing scientific understanding.

Hematology/Oncology

The Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology provides exceptional, **state-of-the-art care for children with blood disorders and cancers**. Our team of hematologists and oncologists, along with our nurses, social workers, child life and art therapists is able to carefully assess each child, collaborating to ensure that **the care plan is individually tailored to his or her needs**, with the goal of returning children to lives that are as normal and productive as possible.

What Sets Us Apart

- We are the most comprehensive center in the Tri-State area for treating children with non cancerous(benign) blood disorders.
- We are a NYS-designated Hemoglobinopathy Specialty Center, providing comprehensive care to children and adolescents with disorders such as thalassemia syndromes, sickle cell anemia, and other red blood cell disorders.
- Our Comprehensive Thalassemia Center is one of the oldest and largest centers of its kind in the United States.
- Weill Cornell is also a federally funded Hemophilia treatment center providing care to patients with bleeding disorders.
- We have specialized programs for children with platelet disorders, clotting disorders and myeloproliferative neoplasms.
- We are a Children's Oncology Group designated center, caring for children with cancer.
- Our oncologists provide specialized care for children with leukemias, lymphomas and a variety of solid tumors.
- We have multispecialty collaborative programs addressing Late Effects, Survivorship and Fertility Preservation.



Division Growth

New clinical growth initiatives include expanding oncology services at Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, establishing a dedicated neuro-oncology program, and developing a stem and gene therapy-based hematopoietic stem cell transplantation program at Weill Cornell. The latter two initiatives will be developed in collaboration with teams at Columbia.

Research Recognition

Dr. Mohamad Hamieh, a scientist who joined the division just 2 years ago, was awarded an R37 grant for his work on CAR-T cells. This 7 year **Method to Extend Research in Time (MERIT)** award is a prestigious, highly-selective grant mechanism designed to provide long-term support to outstanding, productive researchers.

Infectious Diseases

Provides comprehensive and specialized medical care for neonates, children, and adolescents with **acquired or congenital infections,** particularly viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic infections. The clinical team manages infectious diseases which range from simple diagnosis to uncommon, more complex and severe, affecting multiple body systems, or associated with weakened immune systems. Our clinical providers have expertise in the following areas: complicated pneumonias, infections of bones and joints, skin and soft tissue infections, tuberculosis, congenital infections (in particular CMV), fever of unknown origin, Lyme disease, and more. The research teams are recognized for their research excellence in CMV and HIV.

Hospital-Wide Impact

Ensuring children get the right treatments in the safest way possible.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

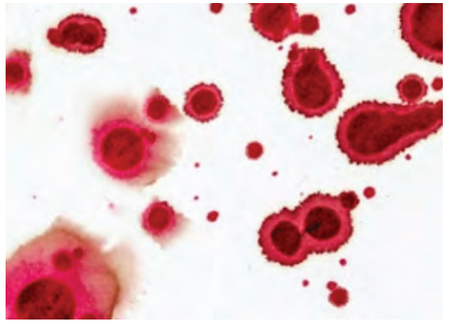
The team helps monitor and optimize how antibiotics and other infection-fighting medicines are used, ensuring treatments are effective while reducing the risk of drug resistance, side effects, and unnecessary use.

Infection Prevention and Control Program

The program creates and follows safety protocols, educates hospital staff, and responds quickly to outbreaks or new infectious threats, protecting vulnerable children and preventing the spread of infections within hospitals and clinics.

Partnerships with NYP Queens, Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and Hospital for Special Surgery

Continued collaborative partnerships to provide clinical coverage and support, enhancing the ability to offer comprehensive care and share expertise that benefits both medical staff and patients.



At a Glance

Acquired over
$9 Million
in Research Grants

in CMV and HIV vaccine development and immunology as well as congenital CMV and Tuberculosis clinical research.

Medical Genetics

Provides personalized, comprehensive care for children, adolescents, and families with a **wide range of genetic conditions**, integrating advanced genomic technologies, genetic counseling, and **multidisciplinary care to deliver expert consultation**, diagnosis, counseling, and medical management.

Clinical Growth and Access

The Division continued to expand access to genetics care across outpatient, inpatient, prenatal, and embedded specialty settings, with projected growth in total visits and wRVUs over the prior year.

Expansion of Fetal Genome Sequencing

Fetal genome sequencing continued to grow as a major clinical program, increasing from approximately 100 clinical cases in 2024 to approximately 200 clinical cases in 2025.

Cross-Departmental Collaboration

The Prenatal Genetics Service collaborated closely with Obstetrics, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and the Fetal Care Center to provide comprehensive evaluation, counseling, testing coordination, and multidisciplinary care planning for pregnancies with suspected genetic concerns.

Adult Medical Genetics Program

The Division advanced a new Adult Medical Genetics Program, expanding genetic counseling and medical genetics support into adult specialty areas including cardiology, nephrology, transplant, and pulmonary medicine.



Preventive and Preconception Genomics

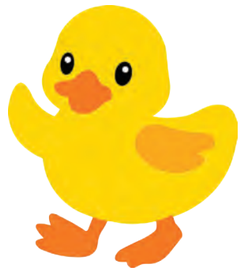
The Division established a preconception genomics counseling pipeline and initiated a preventive genomics pilot to expand access to proactive genomic risk assessment.

Educational Leadership

The Division expanded its role in medical student, resident, and genetic counseling education, including continued faculty partnership with the Master of Science in Genetic Counseling Program and curriculum development in genomic medicine, variant interpretation, dysmorphology, and risk assessment.

Faculty Recognition and National Visibility

Division faculty received institutional recognition for excellence in medical education and delivered invited presentations on fetal genome sequencing and prenatal genetic testing at regional, national, and international institutions.



Neonatology

Our comprehensive, **multidisciplinary team collaborates across a myriad of medical subspecialties** to ensure exceptional outcomes for newborns facing unique and complex medical challenges.

Specialty Care Programs (Care)

1. Establishment of Early Nutrition Program: Through this program, high-risk infants who are discharged from the NICU are seen for video visits 4-8 weeks after NICU discharge by a NICU nutritionist and neonatologist, securing long-term growth and neurodevelopment during the critical transition from hospital to home.
2. Expanding the NICU GRAD clinic for high- risk neurodevelopmental follow-up of infants discharged from NICU
3. ECMO for critically sick infants
4. Expansion of the robust Fetal Care Center (Neonatology lead: Dr. Ericalyn Kasdorf), collaborating with Maternal Fetal Medicine
5. In development: Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) for vascular access and Neonatal Hemodynamics program

Impact

~1,000 babies treated annually, including babies born locally and transferred from a large regional transport network

Global and Local Innovation (Discover)

The team is committed to research, advancing innovations in neonatal care and increasing positive outcomes locally and worldwide.

The Perinatal Intergenerational Research Institute (PIRI)

- Dr. Camilia Martin and Dr. Lauren Osborne are creating a data biorepository linking both clinical data and biological samples. PIRI aims to identify factors in pregnancy that may predict health risks for birthing parents and children.

Global Health

- Dr. Emily Ahn and Dr. Jeffrey Perlman have several projects including initiatives for cost-effective care and resuscitation education in lower resource settings (Tanzania and South Africa).

Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia

- In collaboration with the radiology department, Dr. Lauren Blatt is assessing lung structure and function in preterm infants with BPD using MRI

Neonatal Resuscitation

- Dr. Jayasree Nair and Dr. Jeffrey Perlman are evaluating neonatal heart rate response in the delivery room using a dry electrode heart rate monitor.
- Dr. Jayasree Nair and Dr. Victoria Eckels lead the unit's participation in the DRIVE network, a collaborative initiative focused on evaluating, benchmarking, and improving neonatal resuscitation outcomes for infants in the delivery room.
- Dr. John Mascari is evaluating impediments to successful intubation related to oropharyngeal secretion burden.



Technology

- Dr. James Kim is researching the use of wearable devices, including the Jessie Hug smart bracelet, to reduce intermittent hypoxia in preterm infants.
- Dr. Nina DeBenedictis is developing strategies to harness continuous hemodynamic monitoring data, driving improvements in neonatal outcomes.
- Dr. Giselle Gozum is collaborating with the bioinformatics team to translate complex data into improved patient outcomes.

Nutrition

- Dr. Camilia Martin along with her research team has several nutrition focused studies to improve growth and outcomes for newborns, including studies on metabolomics, microbiome and lipidomics of breast milk
- Dr. Liana Senaldi is optimizing congenital CMV screening in preterm infants and evaluating the impact of mammary CMV reactivation on human milk composition and its effect on preterm infants

Development

- Dr. Mary Vernov and Dr. Katherine Travis along with her research team are identifying therapies to promote brain development in NICU graduates.

Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

- Dr. Priyanka Tiwari and Dr. Vivien Yap lead our NICU's quality improvement initiatives, including extending our CLABSI-free period and advancing outcomes across the unit. Through their leadership of the unit's participation in the Vermont Oxford Network, they help ensure we continue to deliver the highest level of care and the best possible outcomes for our patients.

Translational Research

- Dr. Sean Cullen and Dr. Matthew Smith-Raska are investigating the epigenetic inheritance of obesity and metabolic disease risk in a murine model.

Novel Educational Opportunities (Teach)

Dr. Jayasree Nair and Dr. Emily Echevarria spearhead a unique regional medical and communication workshop "NICU LaunchPad" for neonatology fellows across NYC. Dr. Victoria Eckels and Dr. Nair are also expanding the exceptional multidisciplinary education for PAs, NPs, interns, medical students, residents, and fellows, is ensured daily and through activities such as The Advanced Neonatal Skills Workshop, which focuses on improving providers' expertise in procedural and communication skills.

Nephrology

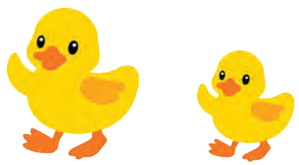
Provides exemplary comprehensive care for children with kidney conditions, including congenital anomalies, renal transplant, acute kidney injury, chronic **kidney disease, glomerular disease, electrolyte disorders, and hypertension**. Our **interdisciplinary team includes** physicians, nurses, social workers, and nutritionists to provide comprehensive care for children with all forms of kidney disease. In partnership with the Rogosin Institute, we offer advanced dialysis services including New York City's only home hemodialysis program for children.

Accomplishments and Innovations:

- Expanded services at NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital and NYP Queens, broadening access to specialized nephrology care for more children across New York City.
- Enhanced pediatric hypertension program with expanded 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring to enable more accurate diagnosis in children.
- Reduced kidney injury in hospitalized children through NAKI (nephrotoxic-associated acute kidney injury), a national quality improvement initiative. Our nephrotoxic medication exposure rates are consistently lower than national rates.
- Growth of our pediatric renal transplant program, under NYP Transplant, home to the largest living donor program on the East Coast.

Our 1-year and 3-year patient survival and graft survival rates are 100%

Referrals for transplant evaluation have increased by 60% over the past year.



Staff Achievements and Leadership Highlights:

1. **Dr. Oleh Akchurin** received NIH funding for his work in iron dysregulation in kidney fibrosis and renoprotective strategies.
2. **Dr. Hannah Kim** continues her clinical research on the role of sex hormones in CKD progression, and leads a new study evaluating menstrual cycles in females with chronic kidney disease and their association with kidney disease progression.
3. **Dr. Natalie Uy** and **Dr. Hannah Kim** are co-investigators for the clinical trial, "Post Approval Study for Treatment of Drug-resistant primary FSGS using the Liposorber LA-15 system."
4. **Dr. Diane Liu** was promoted to Medical Director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program at WCM.

Metrics relevant to the division (patient volume, outcomes):

1. Continued growth in patient volume over the past year, with a 20% increase in both inpatient consultations and telehealth visits.
2. 17% increase in clinical revenue in clinical revenue over the past year
3. Approximately 200 patients have been enrolled in our pediatric CKD registry and biorepository, with the ultimate goal of developing novel treatment strategies to slow progression of CKD.
4. Largest repository in the country of cryopreserved PBMCs (peripheral blood mononuclear cells) collected from children with CKD, to help investigate the role of iron in kidney fibrosis.

Neurology

Expert Neurological Care for Infants, Children, and Adolescents

Nationally recognized specialists delivering advanced diagnosis, innovative treatments, and compassionate care for children with neurological disorders—from common conditions to the most complex and rare diseases.

The Division of Pediatric Neurology at Weill Cornell Medicine provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art care for children with disorders of the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and muscles. We combine nationally recognized clinical expertise, groundbreaking research, and compassionate family-centered care to deliver individualized treatment for even the most complex neurological conditions. This aligns with the division's longstanding focus on comprehensive pediatric neurological care, multidisciplinary collaboration, and advanced diagnostics and treatment.

Why Families and Physicians Choose Us

Advanced Expertise for Complex Neurological Disorders

As one of the region's leading pediatric neurology programs, our faculty includes nationally and internationally recognized experts in epilepsy, neurogenetics, neuroimmunology, neonatal neurology, neuro-oncology, headache medicine, and rare neurological diseases.

Multidisciplinary, Coordinated Care

Our team brings together pediatric neurologists, nurses, nurse practitioners, dietitians, genetic counselors, social workers, child life specialists, researchers, and administrative professionals to develop comprehensive treatment plans tailored to each child's needs.

Innovation That Changes Lives

Our physicians and scientists are leaders in developing new treatments for neurological diseases, including precision medicine, gene therapies, novel epilepsy treatments, and research for rare pediatric neurological disorders.



Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Program

Our Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Program provides one of the most compehensive ranges of epilepsy services available for children, including:

- Long-term EEG monitoring
- Advanced neuroimaging
- Genetic testing
- Ketogenic diet therapy
- Precision medicine approaches
- Surgical and neuromodulation therapies for medically refractory epilepsy

The program is supported by a growing team of pediatric epileptologists, nurse practitioners, researchers, fellows, nurses, and care coordinators dedicated to improving outcomes for children with complex epilepsy. The program serves as a referral center for complex epilepsy evaluation and advanced treatment options.

- **Severe Headache and Migraine Program**
- **Neonatal and Neurocritical Care**
- **Rare Disease and Precision Medicine Programs**
- **Leaders in Research and Innovation**

Our Commitment

Every child deserves the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential. Our mission is to combine exceptional clinical care, innovative research, and compassionate support to help children with neurological disorders live healthier, fuller lives while providing families with the expertise and guidance they need throughout their journey.



At a Glance

2,200+
pediatric neurology
inpatient encounters at the Weill Cornell campus

✶

A leader in pediatric neurology research
with substantial NIH-supported investigator funding

✶

Access to specialized programs
spanning epilepsy, headaches, neurogenetics, neuroimmunology, neonatal neurology, neuro-oncology, and rare neurological diseases

✶

Patients and families seeking care
from across the United States and internationally

Pulmonology, Allergy, and Immunology

Provides expert care for children with a **wide range of lung and respiratory diseases, sleep disorders, allergies and immune disorders**. Services and Programs include: **Pulmonology, Sleep and Breathing Disorders** Center, **Aerodigestive** Center, and **Pulmonary Function** Testing (PFT). The division encompasses several excellent and collaborative programs including:

- **Pediatric Sleep and Breathing Disorders Center** - with support from experts in child psychiatry, Pediatric ENT, craniofacial and aerodigestive multidisciplinary care, child life and more, the center works closely with families to diagnose and care for children to ensure that they receive the rest they need to thrive.
- **Food Allergy and Intolerance (FAIT) Program** - in collaboration with Gastroenterology, the program supports children with food allergies and the early inflammatory bowel disease.
- **Interstitial Lung Diseases in Children (chILD) -** the division is part of the national group and registry, which is an ongoing collaboration with the bone marrow transplant team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
- **Allergy and Asthma Biologic Treatment** Program - the division offers cutting-edge biologic treatments to manage various allergic and immune system conditions. Biologic therapies are administered through injections or oral medications and work by targeting specific parts of the immune system involved in allergic reactions and inflammation. They can provide significant relief for patients who have not responded well to conventional treatments.
- **Bronchoscopy service** – division provides bronchoscopy services for infants and children in both inpatient and outpatient. A significant number of these invasive procedures are done in collaboration with our pediatric ENT and gastroenterology colleagues through our joint aerodigestive program if needed to effectively evaluate children with complex problems such as swallowing difficulties or frequent lung infections. This program reduces the need for separate procedures and increases safety and helps develop a joint treatment plan.

Pediatric Asthma Program

A collaborative effort between NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell and the Asthma Center at NewYork-Presbyterian Queens provides clinical, educational, and research components for children with asthma through comprehensive quality improvement and multi-site research initiatives.

Establishment of NICU Follow-Up Care Program

Developed a follow-up care program for premature infants with lung disease in the Weill Cornell Medicine Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and further built research collaborations to study the mechanisms and clinical characterization of neonatal lung disease in collaboration with investigators at Cornell University.

Pulmonary Function Testing Laboratory
New leadership helped revolutionize the Testing Lab, which specializes in evaluating how well a child's lungs are working. The tests the lab offers are simple, safe and noninvasive—designed with children's comfort in mind. Whether it's asthma, chronic cough, or another breathing issue, the lab helps doctors make accurate diagnoses and create personalized treatment plans.

Pediatric Sleep Lab
The Pediatric Sleep Lab is located at Weill Cornell's main campus to facilitate ease of access for outpatient sleep studies and to help provide inpatient sleep studies for infants and children.



Over 600
clinical encounters, continues to increase, now with dedicated OR time, within the past year.

Over 80
premature infants enrolled in a study that assesses factors for the development of lung disease



Child Life Services

Certified Child Life Specialists and Licensed Creative Arts Therapists help children and families cope with medical situations by individualizing care to meet the social, emotional, developmental, and educational needs of each patient through assessment, advocacy, therapeutic intervention, and empowerment.

At a Glance

YTD Service Level Impact Data

Year To Date Impact (Jan–Jun 2026)

8,248 Patients Served

3,547 Hours of Direct Patient Care

36 Service Lines Covered

28 Locations Covered

Quality Improvement Projects

Pediatric Poke Pain Prevention — Departmental QPS Project

The Department of Pediatrics QPS team partnered with Child Life to drive the Poke Pain Prevention initiative into Phase 2, advancing this program across Pediatric Services in inpatient and ambulatory settings.

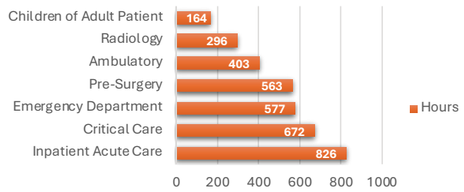
- Activated Epic order sets and staff education in the ambulatory setting.
- Refined inpatient workflows, reporting capabilities, and monitoring of pain-prevention practice
- Implemented multilingual patient/family surveys to measure satisfaction and identify barriers.
- Continued efforts shifted the departmental culture from treating procedural pain after it occurs to preventing it before it happens — reducing the risk of trauma and improving patient/family experience.

Radiology VCUG / CEVUS / Cystogram QI Project — Led by Alex Durning, MS, CCLs

Radiology CCLS, Alex Durning, sought to reduce the trauma young children can experience during VCUGs and to improve overall procedural compliance. Sedation for VCUGs was not offered due to concern that the child would not be able to void while sedated. Alex's initial data has helped prove otherwise.

- Evaluated sedation support for children ages 3–10 at greatest risk of medical traumatic stress during VCUGs
- 22 patients completed exams over the past year (12 sedated); sedation did not impact ability to void.
- Three patients were scheduled for unsedated exams and were ultimately too anxious to complete them and were rescheduled with sedation – all 3 were successfully completed with sedation.

YTD Hours of Care by Service (Jan-Jun 2026)





Patient Quality and Safety

Steadfastly dedicated to **enhancing patient quality and safety, striving to ensure the well-being of both patients and employees**.

Solutions for Patient Safety: Safety Culture and Hospital Acquired Conditions

Accomplishments

- Maintained an exceptional Serious Safety Event Rate of zero throughout the 2025–2026 academic year. Building upon prior safety initiatives—including proactive safety huddles, standardized patient escalation protocols, simulation training, and multidisciplinary review of all Rapid Response Team (RRT) events—we implemented a standardized RRT hot debrief process. Adoption of hot debriefs following RRT activations increased from 15% to 38%, strengthening team communication, learning, and psychological safety. This work continues to advance our culture of safety and resilience while supporting the delivery of high-quality patient care.

Departmental Quality Goals: Accomplishments to date

Childhood Immunization Rates

- We implemented a multifaceted quality improvement initiative to address declining childhood immunization rates in our predominantly publicly insured primary care population (HT-5).

Inpatient Behavioral Program

- Last year, the Inpatient Behavioral Program achieved major milestones, including implementation of universal aggression screening, expanded mental health support for staff, and successful approval of the Inpatient Behavioral Pathway through strong interdisciplinary collaboration.

Implementation of Poke Pain Prevention Program

- Our QPS team partnered with Blakely Rice, Director of Child Life, to implement the Poke Pain Prevention Program across Pediatric Services, advancing our goal of achieving ChildKind Designation. We successfully activated program-specific Epic order sets and staff education in the ambulatory setting, while continuing to refine inpatient workflows, reporting capabilities, and monitoring pain prevention practices.

Awards

- We were awarded a PANDA Grant by the Dalio Center for Health Justice entitled "Transforming Pediatric Outcomes Through Social Drivers of Health Responsive Care".

The NYPH Quality in Care Symposium Presentations



Penicillin Allergy De-labeling in the Pediatric Primary Care Setting Through Quality Improvement — Selected as a top GME quality improvement project for podium presentation by PGY-2 residents: Calista Domini Toben and Catherine Roukhadze.

Improving Early Childhood Vaccination Rates in the Post-Pandemic Era: A Quality Improvement Approach — Selected as a top Weill Cornell Medicine Quality Improvement Academy (WCM QIA) quality improvement project for podium presentation by Dr. Allison Gorman

International Exposure

Successfully established an international partnership between the Department, the WCM Office of International Affairs and the American Bulgarian Foundation, securing grant funding for a three-phase initiative to advance healthcare delivery in Bulgaria.

Family Advisory Council (FAC)

Established in 2007, the Komansky Children's Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC) engages nearly **40 parent volunteers** who partner with hospital leaders and staff to advance safe, high-quality, patient- and family-centered care. Through education, advocacy, and peer support, PFAC members have expanded their impact across the health system while helping patients, families, students, and staff feel more supported, informed, and connected. This past year, we achieved a historic milestone with the appointment of former **PFAC Chair** and Quality and Patient Safety leader Courtney Nataraj, as the **first PFAC member to serve on the NYPH Board**.



Pediatric and Pregnancy Loss Remembrance Service

- Revived the PFAC Remembrance Service for the first time since 2019, bringing together over **100 family members including 30 staff**, in person and virtually, to honor and remember loved ones through reflection, music, and art.

New Focus on Perinatal Support

- Established a new support initiative for perinatal patients experiencing extended hospital stays, hosting **16 support events** within a few months.

Dalio Center for Health Justice Grant

- Participating in the **Dalio Center for Health Justice PANDA grant initiative** to support food-insecure patients receiving care in Primary Care Clinic on HT-5.

Ambulatory PFAC

- Expanded outpatient engagement through community events providing safety resources and educational tools, partnership with the Patient Experience Team and Child Life Team, utilizing surveys and patient feedback to identify and address improvement opportunities.

Supporting PFAC Growth Across NYP

- As one of the NYPH's most established PFACs, our members helped lead system-wide efforts to strengthen council growth and engagement, contributing to PFAC governance, virtual panel development, and volunteer recruitment and onboarding across NYPH.

Family Support

- Strengthened patient and family support through 12 holiday celebrations, monthly support groups and family gatherings, weekly comfort rounds, and a Parent-to-Parent Mentoring Program that facilitated 70 family connections, fostering community, emotional support, and patient advocacy

Family Faculty

- Partnered with clinical education leaders to provide interactive, case-based training on communication, compassionate care, and patient- and family-centered care principles to more than 460 learners, including medical students, residents, and nurses.

Quality, Safety and Patient Experience

- Ensured parent and caregiver perspectives informed care and operations through participation on more than 20 hospital committees and expansion of the Simulation Discharge Program to support families of children with newly placed gastrostomy tubes.

Culture and Community

- Expanded The Extra Mile Program, providing essential clothing and 156 gift cards to support families in need, while contributing to cultural competency research and a national IPFCC collaborative.

NYP Brooklyn

NYP Brooklyn provides compassionate, **culturally sensitive care to children and families** throughout the borough. The program offers comprehensive pediatric services for patients from birth through age 21, with a **strong focus on supporting children's physical, mental, and emotional well-being**. Families have access to exceptional care at convenient locations across Brooklyn, from Park Slope to Gravesend.

Specialties Include

- Adolescent Medicine
- Behavioral Development / Health
- Cardiology
- Child Development
- Dentistry
- Endocrinology
- Emergency Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- General Pediatrics
- Genetics
- Hematology / Oncology
- Infectious Diseases
- Nephrology
- Neurology / Epilepsy
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Orthopedics
- Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)
- Pulmonology
- Sleep and Breathing Disorder Center
- Surgery



Key Milestones

- Launch of Pediatric Urology Program
- Launch of Pediatric Hepatology Program
- The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) maintained exceptional safety standards, achieving zero cases of bloodstream infections, urinary tract infections, and pressure injuries, reflecting a strong commitment to quality care and patient safety.
- The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) successfully completed full integration with Weill Cornell Medicine and now provides 24/7/365 coverage with attending critical care physicians, ensuring access to the latest advancements in academic medicine.
- Full integration of Gastroenterology and Neurology departments with Weill Cornell Medicine.
- Launch of pediatric nephrology services in Brooklyn, expanding access to specialized care.

Empowered Health Clinic: Advancing Pediatric Wellness

The recently launched Empowered Health Clinic is a forward-looking initiative focused on improving the health and well-being of children and adolescents. Designed to reduce obesity and related health risks in youth ages two and older, the program combines evidence-based care, education, and strong family engagement.

Through a holistic approach addressing physical, mental, emotional, and social health, the Empowered Health Clinic helps children build healthy habits, grow in confidence, and achieve a higher quality of life.

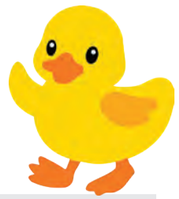
NYP Queens

Based in Flushing, **Queens, the hospital serves one of the most diverse communities in the nation** through four ambulatory care sites, a dedicated neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and inpatient units for children through young adults. NYP Queens is also a **major training site for WCM residents, fellows, and medical students**, integrating education and innovation into its mission of care.

Specialties Include

- Allergy/Immunology
- Behavioral Health
- Cardiology
- Gastroenterology
- General Pediatrics
- Hospital Medicine
- Nephrology
- Neonatology
- Neurology
- Pulmonology
- Surgery
- Orthopedics
- Urology





Collaborative Research

Partnered with WCM via the Asthma Program investigating sphingolipids and viral-triggered asthma in children and bronchopulmonary dysplasia in the neonatal population, and the impact of SARS-CoV-2 infection on respiratory viral immune responses in children.

Expanded Programs and Services

- Received **national recognition as a Level 3 Pediatric Epilepsy Center**.
- Launched **HANDY HELP** ("Homecare Asthma Nurse Directed Youth Home Environment and Learning Program"). Combining in-person home assessments with virtual consultations, the program has provided comprehensive asthma care, asthma education, and optimized care coordination for 34 enrolled patients.
- Created the **INSPIRE Autism Support Program** The Integrated Network for Supporting Parents and Informing Resources for Education to guide families in navigating autism services. The program consolidates medical, educational, and social support, ensuring children and families receive personalized, coordinated care.

Strengthened Leadership

- **Teresa McCann, MD, was** named **Division Chief of Pediatric Hospital Medicine and Director of Inpatient Pediatrics and the Newborn Nursery**.
- **Gopi Desai, MD, was named Director of Ambulatory Pediatrics at the Theresa Lang Children's Center (TLCC).** Under her leadership, the center expanded residency training and launched new programs, while advancing community health initiatives.

Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG)

Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG) is the newest service within the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, providing **comprehensive gynecologic care for patients from birth through age 20**. Our service bridges the gap between pediatric care and adult gynecology, focusing on both medical and surgical aspects of reproductive health. **We treat a wide variety of common gynecologic conditions** including menstrual and pubertal disorders, vulvovaginal conditions, contraceptive counseling and management, ovarian and uterine abnormalities as well as specialized care for patients with complex congenital reproductive tract anomalies, gender diversity, endometriosis and chronic pelvic pain, and Polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome. The team sees patients at WCM's main campus and NYP Queens.

Clinical and surgical volume
continues to increase, now with dedicated OR time, within the past year

Patients and families are highly satisfied rating an average of **5.0/5.0 satisfaction score** for the compassionate, age-appropriate care provided

Research Presentation
Julia Cron, MD, FACOG, and Aimee Morrison, MD FACOG were chosen to present a workshop, "From Periods to Parenthood: Long-Term Reproductive Impact of Common Adolescent Gyn Conditions" at the 2026 meeting of the World Congress of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology in San Francisco.

One of NYC's Few PAG Programs with Specialized Expertise
This is one of the few PAG programs with a fellowship-trained physician in New York City. This program increases access to care for this vulnerable population.

Cross-Institutional Collaboration
The division collaborates with MSKCC Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Program, HSS Pediatric Rheumatology Program, and NYP Columbia.

Implemented as a Clinical Elective
The division implemented a PAG clinical elective for Cornell medical students, Cornell residents, and residents from other institutions.

Research
Working with Cornell medical students and residents on several research projects including comprehensive reproductive health in young patients undergoing gonadotoxic therapy and the use of GLP-1 agonists in adolescents with PMOS.



Anesthesiology

Provides **anesthesia services for children requiring surgery**. Outside of the operating room, the team provides anesthesia for GI endoscopy, lumbar puncture, and other minor non-surgical procedures. In addition, our pediatric anesthesiologists provide sedation as needed to facilitate both invasive and non-invasive imaging procedures. The team includes faculty who are **individually skilled in difficult pediatric airway management, regional anesthesia, pain management, and congenital cardiac disease**.

Key updates for 2025-2026

Pediatric Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain Management Program

This year, our team, working with the PICU and CT surgery, has nearly completed the design and implementation of a pediatric cardiac anesthesia ERAS protocol. This will allow standardized high-quality post-op pain control for these children following congenital cardiac surgery, which can improve recovery by reducing the stress response.

Improvements in MRI Safety

This year, in conjunction with Radiology and Nursing, we made a significant improvement in MRI workflow and safety by creating an induction room for children who require anesthesia to undergo MRI. This room, which lies outside the MRI magnet and control room, allows the safe induction of anesthesia using all the useful ferromagnetic tools available, including videolaryngoscopy and ultrasound for difficult IV access. Additionally, parents can now safely remain present with the children during induction without the risk of exposure to the powerful magnetic field.

The cardiac MRI radiologic protocol has been updated to allow scans to be performed with spontaneously breathing patients – eliminating the need to intubate every child with congenital heart disease receiving a scan under anesthesia.

Pharmacy improvements

Our team has worked with pharmacy to add clinically useful concentrations of local anesthetics to the OR omnicells. This allows performance of pediatric nerve blocks without the need to make dilutions, eliminating a source of error that can lead to severe complications.

Provided Anesthesia for	5000+ Children last year	60 Pediatric cardiac bypass cases	500 MRI with selection	

Strategic planning

Dr. Aarti Sharma has been heavily involved in the planning and design of the new pediatric operating room suites on 7 West. This new unit will consolidate most of the pediatric procedures requiring anesthesia at WC in one central location, which will lead to greater periprocedural efficiency and facilitate safe anesthesia coverage.

Laboratory innovation

Our team is working to validate, and obtain NY State approval for the use of ROTEM in patients under 21 years of age, with the goal of decreasing unnecessary blood product transfusions.

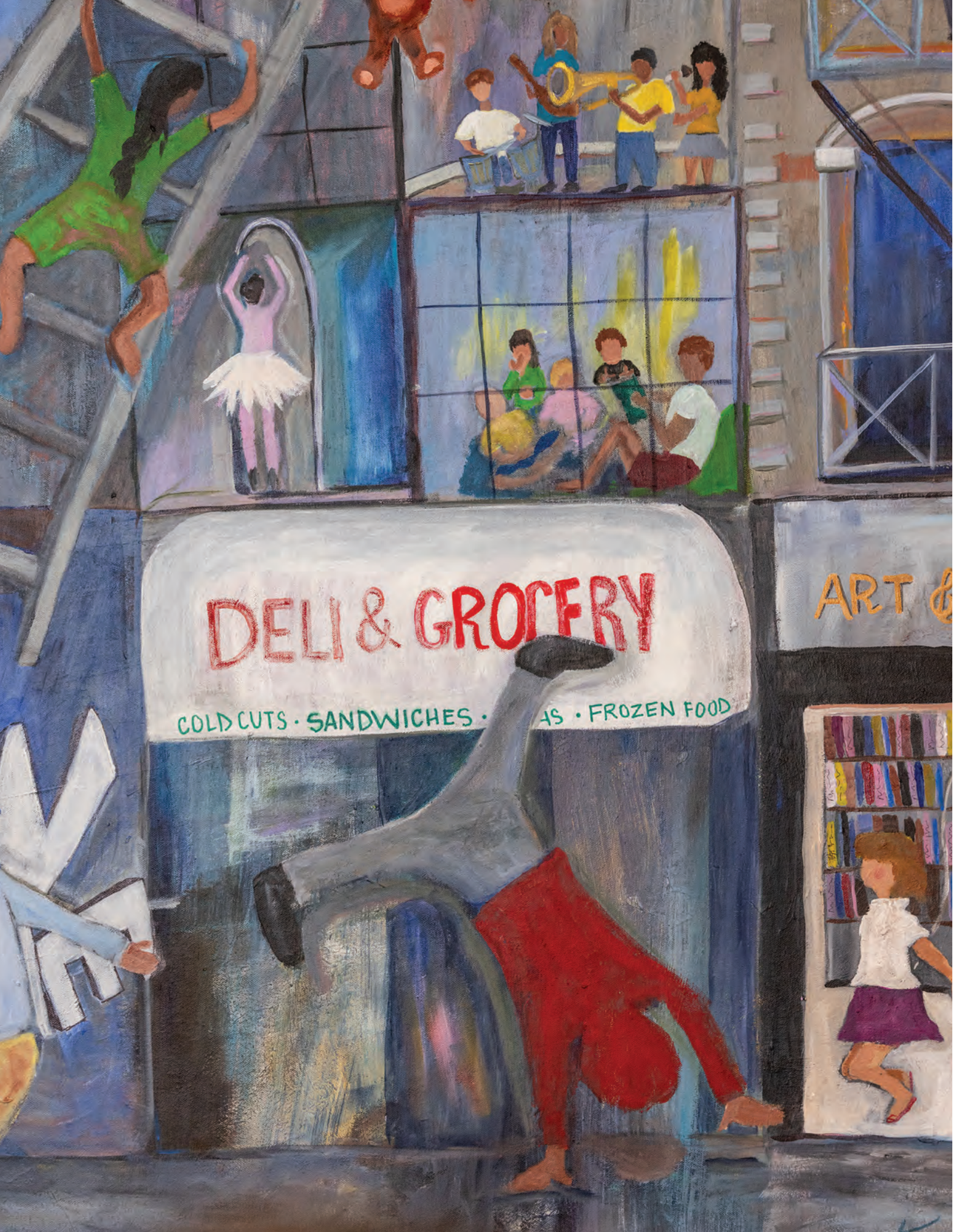
Clinical management

Jurgen De Graaf, a recent addition to our team, has lectured extensively both at NYP and across the country, on the importance of establishing and adhering to safe BP targets for pediatric patients.

Our team has been involved in launching a bicampus policy on the assessment and management of anesthesia for children who may be carrying the Venezuelan maternal mitochondrial variant, which places children at risk of severe neurological injury when receiving inhaled volatile anesthetics.

Our team is also working jointly with Columbia to develop a best practice advisory on perioperative management of children with Type 1 Diabetes who have an insulin pump.





Radiology

The division provides **comprehensive diagnostic imaging services** to infants, children, and adolescents in a modern, family-friendly environment. As a leader in the subspecialty, the dynamic team operates multimodality facilities **providing inpatient and outpatient clinical imaging** services to patients at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital locations across NYC, including Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, Lower Manhattan Hospital, and the Alexandra Cohen Hospital for Women and Newborns' **neonatal intensive care unit** (NICU). The 60-bed NICU at Cohen Hospital is a Level IV facility and the first in New York City with a **dedicated MRI and fluoroscopy/operating room** located within the NICU space.

All imaging—X-rays, ultrasound, CT, and MRI—is performed using state-of-the-art equipment with special consideration for child comfort and safety. Parents are encouraged to be with their children during examinations, and school-age children are accommodated to minimize missed school days.

At our outpatient imaging facilities, Weill Cornell Imaging at New York-Presbyterian, the division created the MRI "I am a Hero!" program, an initiative that minimizes the need for sedation during imaging exams. This program helps children understand what to expect during their scan and rewards them along the way for their courage.

Our pediatric radiologists are leaders in their field with strong national and international reputations and achievements. They are Diplomates of the American Board of Radiology and have earned Certificates of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Pediatric Radiology.

Fellowship Education

Collaborating with our pediatric radiology colleagues at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital to expand pediatric radiology fellowship training at Children's Hospital of New York.

Leading-edge NIH-funded research

NIH-funded research on chronic lung disease in premature infants using advanced MRI-based physiologic phenotyping with the dedicated NICU MRI system

We proudly collaborate with other divisions in pediatrics to improve patient care, including:

- *Pediatric gastroenterology*, to perform bowel ultrasound for Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- *Pediatric urology and anesthesia* to improve patient wellbeing during the imaging of certain kidney disorders by providing an oral sedation option for specialized X-Rays (Voiding Cystourethrogram) and by providing the option of using contrast enhanced ultrasound to perform these examinations without radiation.
- *Pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery*. Under the leadership of pediatric radiologist Dr. Christy Pomeranz, the division continues to expand its pediatric cardiac CT program for imaging of complex congenital heart diseases.
- *Maternal and Fetal Medicine team* to diagnose and clarify complex conditions using fetal MRI, helping determine comprehensive and multidisciplinary care for families with high-risk pregnancies.

Research



Highlights

Ranked
#16
among pediatrics departments in NIH funding from the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research in 2024



Our faculty had publications featured in journals such as:
The Lancet, The New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, Nature, Cell, and Science.

28
Faculty with NIH Awards

$34.5m
Value of NIH Awards

229
Clinical Studies

200
Publications

Drukier Institute for Children's Health

The Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health at Weill Cornell Medicine advances **research aimed at improving the health and well-being of children**. Bringing together investigators and clinician-scientists across disciplines, the Institute accelerates discoveries from the bedside to the laboratory and back to patients. Through patient-centered research, scientific collaboration, and mentorship of the next generation of pediatric researchers, **the Institute works to transform scientific discoveries into better approaches** to understanding, treating, and preventing childhood disease.

Currently Funded Cooperative Projects:

Immune Cells and Secretory Pathways Leading to Human Systemic Autoimmunity (2019-2029)

The Autoimmunity Center of Excellence aims at stratifying patients towards personalized approaches to treatment. The Center applies state-of-the-art technologies in immune profiling, cell biology and the field of nanoparticles to gain insight into disease contribution of two major and complementary compartments contributing to systemic disease: Immune Cells and Extra-Cellular Nanoparticles.

Center for Lupus Research (2017-2027)

The Cooperative Center of Research Translation entitled "Center for Lupus Research" aims to identify the upstream mechanisms leading to retention of mitochondria in SLE Red Blood Cells and to follow these dysfunctional pathways in pediatric and adult SLE patients during flares and remissions.

Early life respiratory viral infections shape immune development trajectories (2022-2027)

Early life viral respiratory infections elicit virus-specific immune responses that lead to distinct immune developmental trajectories, including skewing towards suboptimal immune responses upon future viral exposure, a phenomenon known as "imprinting".

Personalized Immunomonitoring to Understand Juvenile Dermatomyositis (2025-2030)

Juvenile Dermatomyositis (JDM) is the most common pediatric idiopathic inflammatory myopathy. JDM is a systemic autoimmune disease characterized by the presence of autoantibodies, increased interferon activity and infiltration of immune cells across involved tissues.

At a Glance | Drukier Faculty Funding FY2026:

- New Federal Awards (amount of entire grant period) **$9,233,294**
- New Non-Federal Awards (amount of entire grant period) **$750,000**
- Ongoing Federal Awards (amount for one year period) **$11,048,583**
- Ongoing Non-Federal Awards (amount for one year period) **$2,471,909**

Drukier Faculty Publications:

26 Peer Reviewed Journal Articles: (with impact factor >15 = 12)

10 Reviews, Spotlights, Perspectives

6 Archives

6 Collaborative Papers

Health Services Research and Health Data Sciences

Empowers **faculty and trainees in their research endeavors** by providing **robust data infrastructure, methodological expertise in health services research and health data science, database management, and comprehensive statistical and analytical support.** The team is equally committed to fostering a **data-driven culture of continuous improvement in child health** across clinical care, medical education, and research. Its work is distinguished by a **collaborative, multidisciplinary, and inclusive approach** that engages faculty across divisions and institutions to advance research, strengthen evidence-based decision-making, and improve health outcomes for children.

Grew the Departmental Research Portfolio

Several grants have been received, including the ECRIP (Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program) training grant, which supports New York teaching hospitals in enhancing research competitiveness for federal funding, and several internal Weill Cornell grants supporting innovative primary care research. The data science work also supported the successful application for the ARIA (Aligning Research to Impact Autism) clinical trial network, which is a $15 million collaboration with Columbia and the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

Increased Faculty Expertise Through Formal Research Training

Since 2023, **seven** faculty members and fellows have participated in **prestigious research training programs**, including the Center for Health Equity Research Fellowship and the ECRIP program. These opportunities have enhanced faculty expertise and contributed to a stronger research foundation.

AI Pipelines and Pilots

Developed HIPAA-compliant pathways to frontier large language models and implemented over 60 pilots involving chart summarization, biostatistical analysis, finding research cohorts, and supporting precision medicine initiatives.

Launched Data Science Office Hours

Successfully introduced departmental research office hours, which have seen **strong engagement** from a wide range of **faculty and trainees across divisions**. This initiative has fostered **collaboration, mentorship, and timely support** for research activities.

At a Glance

Research Office Hours Have Supported:

65 Projects
72 Investigators
24 Clinical Groups
12 Departments
6 Hospitals



Junior Faculty Spotlights

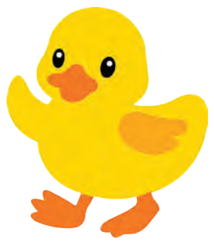


Alexandra Huttle, MD, MSc, is a general pediatrician and pediatric health services researcher focused on strengthening suicide prevention and behavioral health care in pediatric primary care. Her research develops scalable, evidence-based approaches to support youth identified as being at risk while reducing burden on clinicians and healthcare systems. Since joining the faculty in 2025, Dr. Huttle has published research in Pediatrics and Academic Pediatrics and currently serves as Site PI for an American Foundation for Suicide Prevention-funded clinical trial evaluating a digital suicide prevention intervention. She is also advancing technology-enabled strategies to improve suicide prevention in pediatric primary care.

Nitya Gulati, MBBS, is a pediatric hematologist/oncologist with a clinical and research focus on lymphoma and histiocytic disorders. Her research focuses on the development of novel therapies for patients with Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH). She serves as the vice chair of the Children's Oncology Group study, "ANHL2121: A Study with Tovorafenib as a Treatment Option for Progressive, Relapsed, or Refractory LCH." Additionally, she is studying the prognostic implications of the tumor microenvironment in primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma and Hodgkin lymphoma in collaboration with Dr. Lisa Roth's laboratory at NYU. She has been awarded the Robert Winn Excellence in Clinical Trials Career Development Award, Kristy Richards Precision Medicine CTSC Pilot Award, and Hyundai Hope On Wheels Foundation Young Investigator Award.







Education



Residency

Provides a **supportive and educationally rich environment** through which residents can **develop into outstanding pediatricians** equipped with the **skills to enter general pediatrics or fellowships** in pediatric sub-specialties.

The **three-year program** is designed to provide trainees with the **basic tools** with **increasing levels of autonomy and responsibility**. The program aims to support the trainees in **developing their career interests and tailors the curriculum to meet the needs of individual learners**.

Program and Curriculum Highlights		
Clinical Training	**Professional Development**	**Wellbeing and Resilience**
• Diversity of clinical sites • Simulation program • Teamwork training • Individualized curriculum	• Scholarly activity: Research and QI • Community pediatrics and advocacy • Resident as Teacher curriculum	• Focus on individual and organizational mentoring and support from peers and faculty • Resident engagement • Commitment to inclusion and belonging

Professional Identity, Advancement and Scholarly Work

Residents participate in mentored quality improvement in their ambulatory practices and individualized scholarly activity. These activities are integral in optimizing and advancing clinical care.

Primary Care Quality Improvement Projects:

anxiety screening in teenage populations, identification and management of postpartum depression, appropriate de-labeling of patients with penicillin allergy, optimizing vaccination rates in school-age patients.

Resident Scholarly Projects:

All graduating residents conduct scholarly projects in areas including basic science, translational or clinical research, quality improvement, medical education or community/ advocacy which they present, the Department's Pediatric Research Day. Many studies were selected for poster, oral and platform presentations regionally and nationally.

Professional Advancement:

Our graduates have sought prestigious post-training fellowship positions in the areas of critical care (1), cardiology (2), clinical informatics (1), emergency medicine (3), endocrinology (1), gastroenterology (1), genetics (1), neonatal intensive care (2), palliative care (1) and sports medicine (1). Two graduates have stayed as pediatric chief residents and four have pursued general pediatrics attending positions.

Fellowship

The department offers pediatric fellowships for advanced training in a variety of specialty areas. Our fellowship programs train physicians in the clinical and academic aspects of their chosen field of pediatric medicine to prepare them for leadership roles in patient care, education, and research.

Developing Research Expertise

Research development begins with the **pre-fellowship research fair**, during which newly matched fellows have the opportunity to hear from experienced basic, translational, and clinical researchers and begin to plan their fellowship research projects.

Throughout their three years of training, the fellows meet monthly to review their **research curriculum**. Notably, our research curriculum for fellows now includes a year devoted to learning to write abstracts, manuscripts, and grants.

At the end of fellowship, all of the graduating fellows presented their scholarly work at the annual **Department of Pediatrics Research Day**. The top three fellows in each research discipline were given awards and presented their research at the Departmental Grand Rounds.

At a Glance

Number of Fellows: 70

Fellowship Programs: 13

Fellows enrolled in Master's in Clinical Investigation: 3

Fellows enrolled in PSDP program: 1

Fellows enrolled in T32 programs: 1

Fellows enrolled in Health Equity fellowship: 1

Fellows who graduated in June 2026 have already published over 20 peer-reviewed publications during fellowship.

Simulation Center



Represents a dynamic **collaboration** between New York-Presbyterian Hospital and the Departments of Pediatrics, Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology, in partnership with the Center for Professional Nursing Practice and Education. Serves as a hub for **innovation in interprofessional and multidisciplinary training** – fostering a culture of collaboration and **continuous learning** across all levels of healthcare education. From **undergraduate medical education** (UME) for students, to **graduate medical education** (GME) for residents and fellows, and interprofessional education (IPE) for nurses and advanced practice providers, the pediatric simulation program delivers **longitudinal, hands-on learning experiences** that prepare pediatric providers for real-world healthcare challenges.

Enterprise-Wide Impact

Design, develop, and deliver simulation-based education across the entire NYP WCM enterprise. In 2025, the center delivered 34,012 interprofessional participant hours across GME, UME, and IPE programs. The Department of Pediatrics contributed a remarkable 10,114 hours of clinical, experiential simulation-based training, underscoring its leadership in immersive medical education.

Innovation Through Competition

2026 SIM Olympics brought together 12 of New York City's premier pediatric residency programs in a spirited competition featuring 10 interprofessional simulation events. Designed to gamify learning, the event fostered wellness, collaboration, and peer-to-peer instruction. By blending competition with cooperative learning, the SIM Olympics created a vibrant environment for skill development, self-reflection, and performance assessment.

Simulation as a Cornerstone of Medical Training

In the 2026 WCM GME Program Evaluation, graduating pediatric residents ranked simulation-based learning as the most valuable educational experience of their residency, surpassing all other instructional methods. Similarly, the Transition-to-Residency course, led by the WCM NYP Simulation Center, received some of the highest ratings from graduating medical students, solidifying its reputation as one of the most impactful components of the entire medical school curriculum.

Summer Internship Program

The department continues its full-time summer internship program, launched by Chief Administrative Officer Anita Mesi, MBA. This program offers high school, college, and graduate students invaluable exposure to the field of pediatric medicine and introduces them to various career opportunities in medicine and research. The 6- or 10-week internship allows students to gain hands-on experience in diverse areas such as research, education, quality care, community engagement, and administration.

The program has grown substantially since its inaugural group in 2023. In 2023, the program received 300 applications and selected thirteen interns across nine unique internship programs.

In 2025, the program received 539 applications, with 62% from college students, 26% from high school students, and 12% from post-baccalaureate or graduate students. From these, twenty-one interns were selected to participate across seventeen internship programs.



At a Glance

Applications received:
586

Interns accepted
20

Unique programs
18

Advocacy



Highlights

Every pediatrician has both the opportunity and responsibility to use **their OUTSIDE voice to improve the lives of children** beyond the walls of the hospital. Through education, communications, strategic partnerships, and storytelling, **our advocacy program equips trainees, faculty, researchers, and community partners to champion policies** that improve children's health and wellbeing.

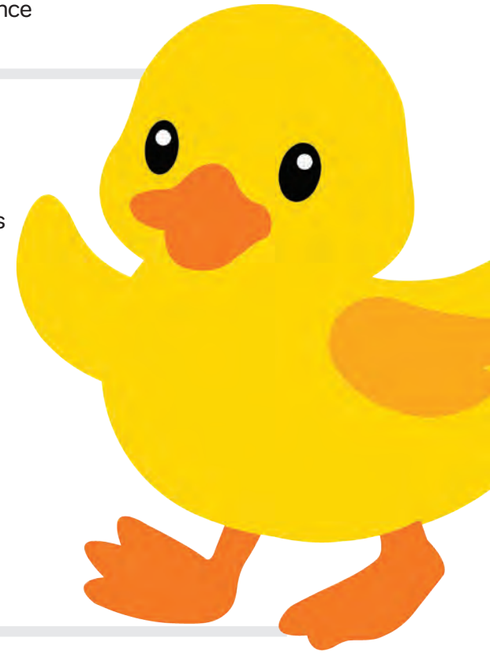
During 2026, we **expanded our advocacy infrastructure** by integrating advocacy into education, research, and clinical care while elevating the department's national voice on issues including pediatric research funding, Medicaid, the pediatric workforce, vaccines, congenital CMV screening, and children's mental health.

Faculty helped advance advocacy related to:

- Pediatric research funding
- Pediatric Scientist Development Program
- Medicaid and children's health coverage
- Pediatric workforce development
- Congenital CMV screening
- Vaccine confidence

Highlights

- **8 advocacy curriculum** sessions delivered
- **Organized 5 advocacy events**, legislative visits, or advocacy days
- **40 faculty and trainees** actively participating in Vertically Integrated Advocacy Groups
- **Participated in 35 congressional** or state legislative meetings
- **6 partner organizations** engaged across healthcare, academia, government, and nonprofit sectors
- **Delivered 3** invited national presentations
- **Convened 50 national leaders** representing healthcare, policy, philanthropy, government, and academia for "Medicaid Reimagined"







Key Accomplishments

Expanded National Leadership in Child Health Policy Department leadership **continued to influence pediatric policy through partnerships with First Focus on Children**, the Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs, Children's National, the National CMV Foundation, and the Broadway production Suffs. **This year, faculty traveled to the nation's capital for Children's Week**, where we advocated for Medicaid, SNAP, pediatric research, vaccine access, and SSI. **Faculty also spoke at several advocacy events**, including, the United Nations Foundation Shot@Life Summit, a panel discussion about advocacy following a performance of Suffs, the Create Good Conference, and DocFluCon.

Advanced the Era of the Child Initiative

Working with the Cornell Health Policy Center and Ariadne Labs, the Department continued developing the Era of the Child initiative following the inaugural Medicaid Reimagined convening. The initiative explores bold policy solutions including:

- Expanded pediatric behavioral health services
- Sustainable financing for pediatric care
- Whole-child approaches to health and wellbeing

Advocacy Education

Our advocacy curriculum continued to expand across medical student, resident, and faculty development.

Participants received training in:

- Legislative advocacy
- Storytelling
- Media engagement
- Effective communications

Congenital CMV Advocacy

Building upon Dr. Sallie Permar's internationally recognized CMV research, the Department expanded advocacy efforts supporting universal newborn CMV screening, early diagnosis, and public awareness.

Looking Ahead

Vision: Secure a future where every child achieves optimal health, well-being, and lifelong potential through discovery, exceptional care, education, and community impact.

Mission: Deliver cutting-edge, coordinated, collaborative, compassionate care that elevates the well-being of every child and adolescent, fueled by transformative early-life health discoveries; development of pediatric leaders; and partnership with families and communities, within Weill Cornell Medicine, a world-class academic institution, and the Children's Hospital of New York.

Nationally Recognized Clinical Care: Innovate primary, specialty, and preventive care across the full continuum of health

Breakthrough Research: Accelerate discovery through team science, clinical trials, AI, and data infrastructure to quickly translate research into practice

Compassionate Family Experience: Deliver timely, humane, and easy-to-navigate care from initial contact through adult care transition

Next Generation of Leaders: Inspire, educate, and mentor pediatric providers, scientists, and leaders

Health Impact: Drive measurable improvements in trust, access, and quality through advocacy and communications

Integrating and Executing Our Key Strategies

- **Multidisciplinary and Complex Care:** Expand subspecialty services and build comprehensive, coordinated programs for children with chronic and complex conditions.
- **Access and Referral Integration:** Strengthen internal referral alignment with Weill Cornell Medicine general pediatricians and expand services across new sites and Centers of Excellence.
- **Mental Health Integration:** Integrate mental health services directly into the continuum of pediatric care.
- **Educational and Workforce Innovation:** Modernize pediatric education and increase recruitment of medical students to the pediatric field.
- **Research Infrastructure Expansion:** Strengthen AI, data science, and team science infrastructure to support high-impact pediatric research.
- **Targeted Talent Acquisition and Leadership Growth:** Recruit and retain promising physician-scientists with demonstrated research success, and mentor leaders with dedicated time for program development.



Weill Cornell Medicine
Pediatrics

At the Department of Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine, we remain driven by our mission to **care, teach, discover,** and **advocate** for children and their health.

@WCMPediatrics

NewYork-Presbyterian
Children's Hospital of New York
Komansky Children's Hospital