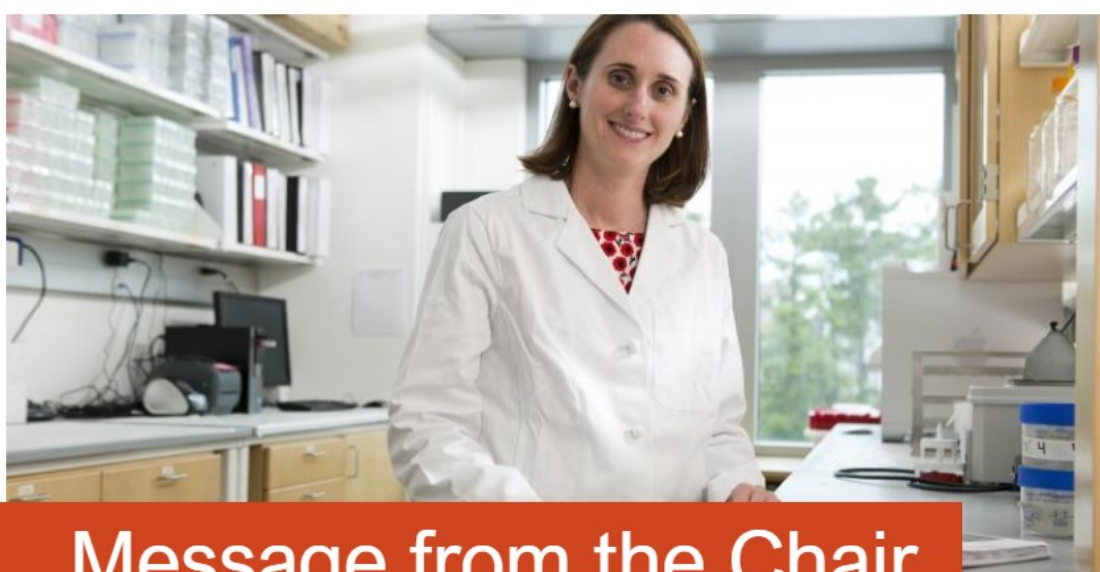


# WCM Peds News

**Weill Cornell Medicine**

**Department of Pediatrics Newsletter**

**April 2021**



## Message from the Chair

This past month marked the one-year anniversary since the **COVID pandemic** began in NYC, and all the challenging times, heartache, fatigue, and loss that has come with it. I thank our Child Life Services team and all contributors for memorializing this time and helping us reflect on the year through the March photo project. I also thank our pediatrics teams for providing care in unusual ways due to the changes in patient flow to support the adult programs who still have high COVID case numbers, and the exceptionally high census in the newborn nursery and NICU. I was also proud to work with a formidable pediatrics research team to submit a large NIH grant with adult and OB colleagues to study the late effects of COVID across the age span.

Each day we learn more about the high effectiveness of the **vaccines**, and with that the restrictions for vaccinated individuals are reducing – a welcome sign. Importantly, this month was also marked by initiation of SARS-CoV-2 vaccination for children down to age 16 with the Pfizer vaccine, in conjunction with the WCM Physician Organization, with all 16 year-olds in NYC eligible later this month. Moreover, Pfizer announced that children age 12-16 make strong immune responses to the vaccine and were protected against SARS-CoV-2 infection – another important sign science will defeat this pandemic. I thank you all again for the extraordinary work all of you do for our patients, our department, our colleagues, our trainees, and for children's health. Please also pass on my thanks to your families who have supported you in your work, particularly in this last year.

In education and research news, I am thrilled to announce our **Physician Scientist Training Program** leadership with the selection of David Lyden, M.D., Ph.D. as Director and Oleh Akchurin, M.D., Ph.D. as Associate Director, two accomplished, innovative, and energetic physician-scientists themselves. Our new departmental Physician Scientist Training Program will help NYP and WCM trainees successfully embark on a career in pediatric research by providing focused research support during their clinical training.

We are excited to congratulate our medical students and incoming interns on a great **Match Day!** Despite current challenges, these trainees have demonstrated their skills, commitment, and resilience, and are more than ready for this next step in their professional journey. We also congratulate our education leaders in successfully completing their recruitment.

An important piece of our work in the coming months is continuing to address healthcare disparities. We are making progress on the **integration of our pediatric sub-specialty practices** to provide an equitable medical experience for all of our patients and their families. The administrative and financial challenges for this major practice change are currently being discussed by WCM PO and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital leadership, and space reorganization is in initial planning stages.

I also want to add my voice to the many denouncing racism and racial violence at this time against our Asian and Asian-American colleagues. I was glad to be part of the **Moment of Silence** at the Belfer Research Building last week recognizing the importance of us coming together to fight hate and bias.

Thank you again for all you do, and I look forward to a Spring of re-openings with you!

Sallie



## Dr. Susan Bostwick appointed Associate Dean for Affiliations, Weill Cornell Medicine



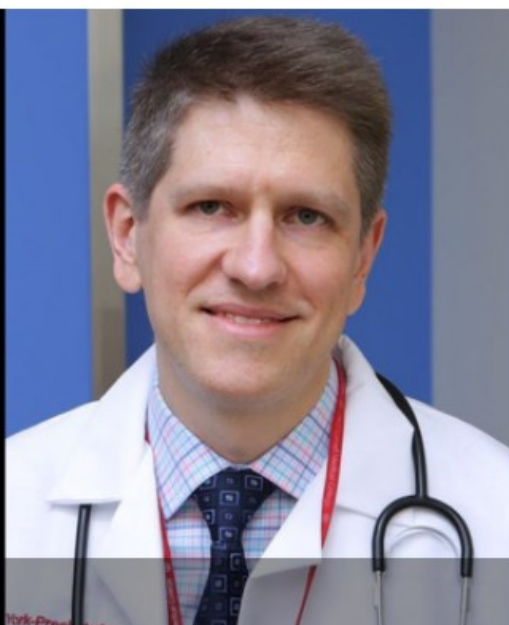
Dr. Susan Bostwick

Dr. Susan Bostwick has been appointed Associate Dean for Affiliations at Weill Cornell Medicine, effective July 1, 2021. In this new role, Dr. Bostwick will coordinate the College's relationships with academic medical centers and healthcare organizations nationwide. She will serve as a liaison with our affiliated hospitals, assisting in faculty affairs, student education, and other collaborations, as well as managing student training agreements with other institutions. Dr. Bostwick succeeds Dr. Oliver Fein, who is retiring, and will work closely with him in the coming months to ensure a smooth transition.

## Dr. David Lyden named Director of Physician Scientist Training Program; Dr. Oleh Akchurin Named Associate Director



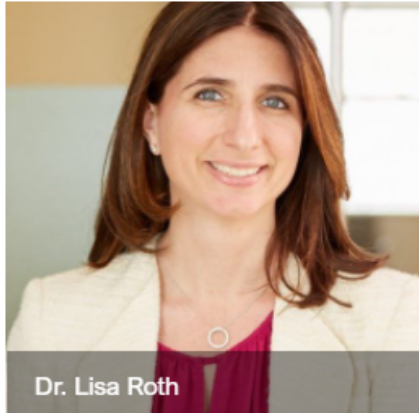
Dr. David Lyden and Dr. Oleh Akchurin



We are pleased to announce the appointment of David C. Lyden, M.D., Ph.D. as Director and Oleh Akchurin, M.D., Ph.D. as Associate Director of the newly launched Physician Scientist Training Program (PSTP) in the Department of Pediatrics. Physician-scientist development is a multi-faceted process that requires extensive mentoring and guidance throughout an individual's career, but particularly during periods of intensive clinical training, such as fellowship and residency. Building a departmental Physician Scientist Training Program will aid trainees at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in successfully embarking on a career in pediatric research by fostering research training during their clinical training. In their new roles, Dr. Lyden and Dr. Akchurin will work to develop the program to identify and train the next generation of pediatric physician-scientist leaders engaged in research to improve the health of children.

[Read more](#)

## Dr. Lisa Roth Named Director of Pediatric Oncology



Dr. Lisa Roth

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Lisa Giulino Roth, M.D. as the Director of Pediatric Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. An expert in pediatric oncology, Dr. Roth cares for children, adolescents and young adults with lymphoma and leukemia. In 2014, Dr. Roth launched Weill Cornell Medicine's Adolescent and Young Adult Lymphoma Program to meet the needs of young persons, ages 15 to 39, who did not quite fit in at pediatric or adult treatment centers, after she herself was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. As Director of Pediatric Oncology, Dr. Roth plans to expand clinical care and research in pediatric oncology and lead an effort to expand the clinical service through collaborations with NYP Queens and NYP Brooklyn Methodist. She will also work with the Meyer Cancer Center to apply for NCI Cancer Center designation. She will work with researchers within the department of pediatrics and beyond to increase clinical and laboratory research efforts focused on pediatric malignancies.

[Read more](#)

# Awards & Accomplishments



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**Dr. Thanakorn Jirasevijinda** has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award in field of education for the 2020-2021 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. The Fulbright is an international educational exchange program designed to promote international relationships and cultural understanding. With the Fulbright funding, he will be spending 6 months in Thailand working as a curricular consultant for a medical school that's starting an international program.

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**Dr. Sallie Permar** is the recipient of the Society for Pediatric Research's 2020/2021 Award in honor of E. Mead Johnson. She will be recognized at the SPR's national meeting in May.

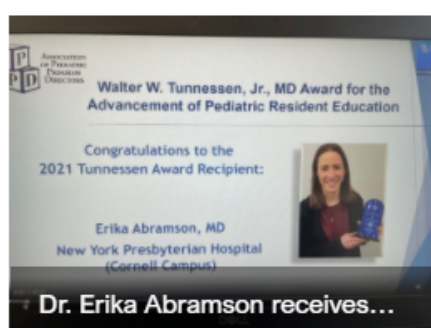
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**Dr. David Lyden** was elected a member of the Association of American Physicians (AAP). The AAP is an honorific, elected society of America's leading physician-scientists who exemplify the pinnacle of pioneering and enduring, impactful contributions to improve health.

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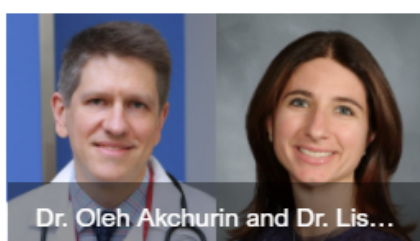


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**Dr. Erika Abramson** received the 2021 Walter W. Tunnessen, Jr M.D. Award for the Advancement of Pediatric Resident Education by the Association of Pediatric Program Directors (APPD). This award recognizes extraordinary or innovative contribution(s) in pediatric graduate medical education at a national level through APPD.

Dr. Abramson was commended: *"Not satisfied with simply improving the scholar activity training experience of the residents in our program, she has spent the past decade rigorously evaluating the state of scholarly activity training for pediatric residents and fellows nationally."*

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**Dr. Lisa Roth** and **Dr. Oleh Akchurin** received the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI) Young Physician Scientist Awards. The award recognizes physician-scientists who are early in their first faculty appointment and have made notable achievements in their research. With these awards, the ASCI seeks to encourage and inspire these physician-scientists through their participation in the Joint Meeting.

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Dr. James Killinger

**Dr. James Killinger** has been accepted to the NewYork-Presbyterian Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) Academy. The highly selective 18-month program provides strategic management and health policy training to up-and-coming NewYork-Presbyterian physicians.



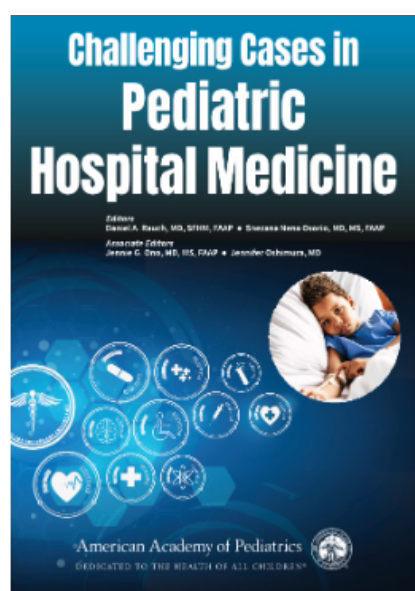
Dr. Jacqueline Gofshteyn

**Dr. Jacqueline Gofshteyn** received a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Weill Cornell Physician Scientist Program award. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund serves and strengthens society by nurturing a diverse group of leaders in biomedical sciences to improve human health through education and powering discovery in frontiers of greatest need.



Dr. Elaine Barfield

**Dr. Elaine Barfield** was selected as a Top Health Care Professionals Under 40 by the National Medical Association (NMA). The largest and oldest national organization representing African American physicians and their patients in the United States, the NMA is the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of disparities in health.



Recent book by **Dr. Nena Osorio** (co-editor) and **Dr. Jennie Ono** (co-associate editor), "Challenging Cases in Pediatric Hospital Medicine" (with eds Daniel Rauch and Jennifer Oshimura) received a 4-star review from Doody's review service.

## Activities and Service

- **Dr. Susan Bostwick** was appointed to PAS Board of Directors for 3 year term starting July 2021.
- **Dr. Jeffrey Dayton** was approved as member of Children's Oncology Group (COG).
- **Dr. Ralf Holzer** chaired the first meeting of the PICS / ACC / AEPC / APPCS / CSANZ / SCAI / SOLACI International Writing Committee on "Standards for Cardiac Catheterization of pediatric Patients and Patients with Congenital Heart disease."
- **Dr. Sotirios Keros** gave a "Transition to Internship" Financial Literacy/Wellness course for 4th Year medical students (3 hours pre-recorded with live Q&A) at Jefferson University Medical School.
- **Dr. Vivian Yap** was elected to the Eastern Society of Pediatric Research (ESPR) Council. ESPR supports pediatric researchers conducting clinical, basic science, and translational research as well as quality improvement and implementation science.
- **This year's NYP Pediatric IBD Transition to College Night went virtual!**

**Stress Management and Navigating Relationships in College**

- Access social support
- Engage in active relaxation and find time to clear your mind
- Get adequate sleep
- Recognize when thoughts impact your behavior and emotions
- "Talk back" to your unhelpful thoughts and generate new ones
- Keep a flexible and revolving door approach to the types of activities or strategies you choose to reduce stress
- Access campus mental health resources
- Consider who you want to know (i.e. roommates, professors, friends)
- Tell people early and on your own terms
- Manage negative predictions about telling others
- Remember that how you tell people impacts the way they react

Well Cornell Medicine 25 NewYork-Presbyterian

**NYP Pediatric IBD Transition to College Night**

Well Cornell Medicine NewYork-Presbyterian

Darlene Victor

So, you're going to college! Congrats!

- How do I make sure I continue to feel well while away from home?
- How do I get my medications and stick to my treatment schedule?
- Wow...now I am the one in charge of my IBD!

- Prepare for independence:** assess current health, potential areas of concern, and plan for healthcare and follow up BEFORE leaving for school
- Make arrangements:** inquire with your school's student health office about accommodations
- Identify a 24 hour pharmacy nearby**
- Find a "school doctor":** ask your current doc for a recommendation of a local GI who can help with any issues while you are at school
- Stay organized:** you are now the person in charge of taking medications, getting to appointments, and notifying the doctor of issues



# Recent Publications

- **A new podcast** from the Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease spotlights a recent paper by **Dr. Eric Mallack** on the onset of cerebral ALD in childhood. **Listen:** <https://soundcloud.com/user-109006120/all-about-ald>
- Ennamuri S, **Abramson E**, Mauer E, Gerber LM, **Nellis ME**. Changes in Clinical Course Before and After Do-Not-Resuscitate Order Placement in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Setting. J Palliat Med. 2021 Jan;24(1):107-111. doi: 10.1089/jpm.2019.0572. Epub 2020 Apr 3. PMID: 32250188. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32250188/>
- Jimenez-Kurlander L, **Antal Z**, DeRosa A, Diotallevi D, Pottinger E, Wilson N, Corcoran S, Boulad F, Friedman DN. COVID-19 in pediatric survivors of childhood cancer and hematopoietic cell transplantation from a single center in New York City. Pediatr Blood Cancer. 2021 Mar;68(3):e28857. doi: 10.1002/pbc.28857 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33355979/>
- White SJ, Barellio S, Cao di San Marco E, Colombo C, Eeckman E, Gilligan C, Graffigna G, **Jirasevijinda T**, Mosconi P, Mullan J, Rehman SU, Rubinelli S, Vegni E, Krystallidou D. Critical observation on and suggested ways forward for healthcare communication during COVID-19: pEACH position paper. Patient Educ Couns. 2021 Feb;104(2):217-222. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2020.12.025. Epub 2020 Dec 26. PMID: 33419600. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33419600/>
- Díaz, D. A., & **Clapper, T. C.** (2021). Escape rooms: A novel strategy whose time has come. Simulation & Gaming, 52(1), 3–6. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1046878120983044>
- **Ralf J. Holzer**, Aimee Armstrong. "Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization" In Moss and Adams' Heart Diseases in Infants, Children, and Adolescents. 10th edition, Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins. 2021 March. Volume 1. Chapter 17. ISBN 9781975116606
- **Traube C**, Gerber LM, Mauer EA, et al. Delirium in Children Undergoing Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation: a multi-institutional point prevalence study. Frontiers in Pediatrics 2021; In press.

See more [Recent Department publications](#)

# Recent Presentations

- **Drs. Dana O'Toole**, C Thomas, LM Gerber, **Elizabeth Feuille**, **Edith Schussler**, LM Bartinkas and **Perdita Permaul** presented a poster on "Parent perspectives on food allergy-related bullying/teasing screening practices by allergists and pediatricians" at the Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.
- **Dr. Jane Chang** was a co-presenter on "The COVID-19 Pandemic and Adolescent Nutritional Health: 'Unmasking' Nutritional Disparities" at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine Annual Meeting (online).
- **Dr. Nicole Kucine** was an invited speaker at the Texas Children's Weekly Hematology and Coagulation CME online conference, presenting "Myeloproliferative Neoplasms in Children – Getting Past the Tip of the Iceberg."
- **Dr. Zachary Grinspan** was an invited Speaker on "COVID-19 and Infantile Spasms, the New York City Experience" at the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society Annual Meeting (online).
- **Dr. David Lyden** was an invited speaker on "Pre-Metastatic Niche Formation: Exosomes and Exomeres" at the Cancer Genome Project's Systemic Effects of Cancer Conference (online).

See more [Recent Department presentations](#)

# Getting to Know...Dr.

## Kimberley Chien



*Dr. Kimberley Chien is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at Weill Cornell Medicine. She is also Clinical Director of Outpatient Pediatric Gastroenterology Clinics and Director of the Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Transition Program, and an Assistant Attending Pediatrician at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.*

- **How many years have you been at WCM:** 8 years.
- **What division do you belong to:** Pediatric GI, Hepatology and Nutrition.

- **What are your career interests and accomplishments:** Research interests are transition care in pediatric IBD and other chronic GI disorders, quality improvement in pediatric IBD, physician wellness and burnout. My accomplishments include Directorship of the WCM Pediatric IBD Transition Program, Committee member of multiple national Pediatric IBD transition committees, research and engagement in national efforts to evaluate and prevent physician burnout in pediatric GI community.
- **Where did you grow up:** Sands Point, NY (how many times have you moved in your life: (I would leave this part out since between education and medicine studies this can be numerous).
- **Where do you live now?** Tribeca.
- **What is best vacation you ever took and why?** My favorite vacation was Vietnam. I hiked the hills of Sapa, relaxed on a junk boat cruise in Halong Bay that got lost, learned about local food and culture by taking street market tours and local cooking, and snorkeled off of the Vietnam beaches.
- **What is the next place on your bucket list:** Beaches in the Philippines.
- **What do you enjoy doing when you're not working:** I love cooking, photography, travel and making jewelry.
- **What do you do to stay active:** I love volleyball but my joints might disagree 😊. So general gym exercise and yoga for now. And running after my kids!
- **If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Sushi or Italian.
- **Who is your hero or inspiration:** My dad.
- **How would your 10 year old self react to you what you do now?** She'd be happy since I told myself I'd be a doctor since I was 4 years old.
- **What makes you feel at peace:** My kids.
- **Interesting fact you want to share:** If I could do anything else in the world, I would be a travel photographer.

*If you would like to be featured in a future faculty spotlight or have question suggestions, let us know!*

## Research Highlights

The following new and renewal awards were made to faculty in the Department of Pediatrics from February 2021 - March 2021:




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**Dr. Katherine Hajjar** received a grant award for DOD application VR200050, "The Annexin A2 Pathway in Proliferative Vitreoretinopathy: A New Therapeutic Target" in the amount of \$250,000/year for 3 years.

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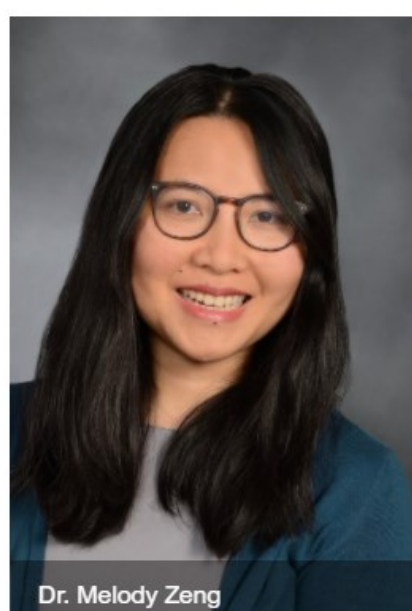


Dr. Jennifer Levine

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**Dr. Jennifer Levine** in the Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology received a Cooperative Agreement from the National Cancer Institute through The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (3 U10 CA180886-07S3, Specimen Banking Supplements, 03/01/2020 -02/28/2021). Project Total cost: n/a (depends on enrollment).

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Dr. Melody Zeng

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**Dr. Melody Zeng** in the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health received a research award from the National Institutes of Health for her project, "1R21 Defining the role of immunoglobulin G in cancer progression and metastasis." (12/01/2021-11/30/2023) Project Total cost: \$150,000

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# WCM Peds In the Media

- **Dr. Kathryn McElheny:** (New York Mets, 3/30/21): Dr. Kathryn McElheny named Mets head team physician. <https://newyork-mets.medium.com/dr-kathryn-mcelheny-named-mets-head-team-physician-3b45175686c>
- **Dr. Sallie Permar:**
  - (USA Today, 3/27/2021) Pregnant women 'didn't have the data' – until now: COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective, even for babies, study shows. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/03/27/covid-19-pregnancy-vaccines-safe-protect-moms-babies-study/6979881002/>
  - (USA Today, 3/16/2021) When can children get COVID-19 vaccine? Will it be safe? Here's what experts want you to know. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2021/03/16/covid-19-vaccine-when-can-children-get-it-coronavirus/4714963001/>
- **Dr. James Bussel:** (MedPage Today, 3/25/2021) Vaccines and Rare Clotting Disorders: What's the Link? <https://www.medpagetoday.com/special-reports/exclusives/91813>
- **Dr. Virginia Pascual:** (Science, 3/19/2021) Studies chase clues to immune syndrome in kids. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6535/1191>
- **Dr. Elizabeth Fiorino:** (Psychology Today, 3/8/2021) What One Pediatric Pulmonologist Thinks About Teenage Vaping: An interview with Dr. Elizabeth Fiorino. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/substance-use-stigma-and-society/202103/what-one-pediatric-pulmonologist-thinks-about-teenage>

## STORIES ILLUSTRATING THE GREATER GOOD

### KOMANSKY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL RECEIVES \$15K DONATION FROM COUNCIL MEMBER'S EMPLOYER

Kanisha Dolsingh, a member & former Chair of the Komansky Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council, has been passionate about Diversity, Equity & Inclusion throughout her life. She has brought that passion to the work she does for the Council in collaboration with the hospital's DEI leadership. In December 2020 she successfully petitioned her employer, BlackRock, for a donation to Komansky DEI family initiatives. BlackRock generously gave \$15K to be used to assist a diverse group of Pediatric patients and families in immediate need of help with food, transportation, and accommodations during their stay.



Dr. Joy Howell (left) and Kanisha Dolsingh (right) are pictured at Komansky Children's Hospital.

From The Positivity Project (Vol 27), an internal newsletter created by Alexandra Finkel, LCSW, a social worker in Pediatric Oncology at NYP/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

# Education News

## Match Day



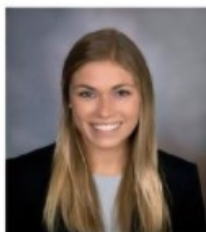
Kathryn Brady  
NY Medical College



Julia Buirke  
UMASS



Killian Burke  
UCSD



Julia Gombar  
Temple University



Ravali Inja  
St. Louis University



Jennifer Jonas  
Albert Einstein



Istvan Kanyo  
University of VT



Shama Khan  
Drexel University



Brienne Lubor  
Weill Cornell



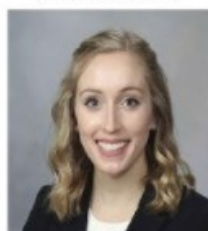
Christopher Mazzeo  
Stony Brook



Prithvi Mohan  
Weill Cornell



Veronica Ortiz  
Albert Einstein



Kathryn Phillips  
Mayo Clinic



Christine Scaglione  
University of Central FL



Jacob Shamash  
Rutgers RWJ



Morgan Smith  
UConn



Vicki Sun  
CUNY



Shouli Tung  
Cooper



Narissa Williams  
University of Buffalo



Rui Yang  
Tongji Medical College

## Residents

Congratulations to the **incoming Pediatrics Residency class of 2024!** We are excited to welcome this group of accomplished interns who come from 18 different medical schools including New York Medical College, Albert Einstein, U Mass, UCSD, Temple, St. Louis University, Cooper, University of Vermont, Drexel University, Stony Brook, Mayo Clinic, University of Central Florida, Rutgers RWJ, U Conn, CUNY, University of Buffalo, Tongji Medical College, and our own Weill Cornell Medical College.

Please also join us in congratulating the **2022-2023 future Chief Residents**, Dr. Lisa Bartucca and Dr. Alexandra Berardi-Bloomfield!

Undergraduates

This year, 5 students matched into categorical Pediatric programs, 1 into a Medicine-Pediatrics combined program, and 2 into Pediatric Neurology:

- Categorical programs include Massachusetts General Hospital, NYU, University of Colorado and NYPH/Weill Cornell (We are excited to welcome 2 Cornellians next year!!!)
- Medicine-Pediatrics combined program: Brown University
- Pediatric Neurology: Children’s Hospital Philadelphia & Northwestern Lurie Children’s Hospital

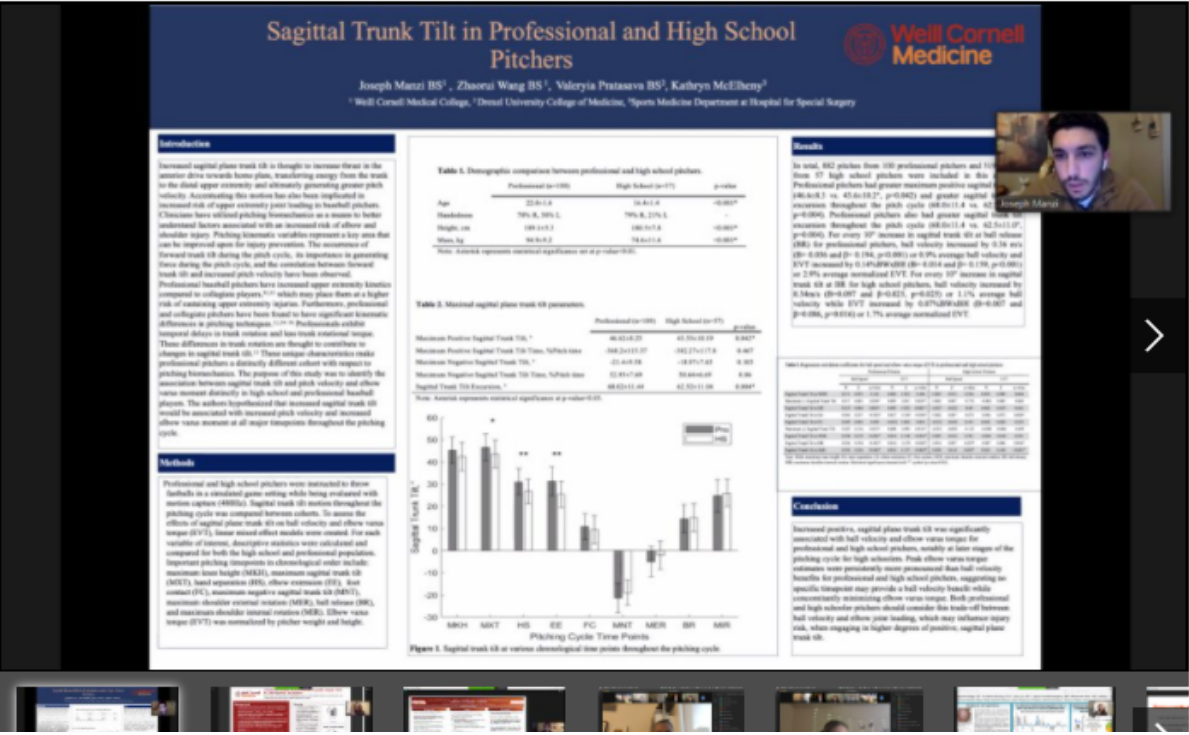
Pediatric Interest Group Research Day

Despite the pandemic that forced us to reschedule our annual Pediatric Interest Group Research Day from December to March, we hosted a successful virtual event via Zoom on March 10, 2021. We featured 7 student projects and counted 44 attendees (including presenters and faculty facilitators). The journal compendium, which contains the abstracts, interviews, research activities within the department and service learning opportunities.

Link to journal:

2021 Art & Science of Pediatrics

Screenshots from Pediatric Research Day



Events



Dr. Corwin, Dr. Forese, Dr. Choi, and Dr. Rustgi Host a Conversation about Anti-Asian Rhetoric, Bias, and Violence

In line with our commitment to respect for each other, our patients, and every individual in the communities we serve, please join us for a conversation on this important issue.

Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 10am-12pm

Zoom link will be provided in a reminder communication.



Pediatric Asthma Skills Fair

Via Zoom and In-Person (WCM: Rooms M-607 and M614; NYPQ: TBD) Note in-person sessions will be livestreamed.

April 23, 2021, 1-4pm

Contact: PedsAsthma@med.cornell.edu



WCM's 3rd Annual Diversity Week (virtual)

April 26 - May 1, 2021

Schedule of Events

Contact: Dr. Joy Howell, jd2002@med.cornell.edu

Virtual Residents Graduation Ceremony

Friday, June 18, 2021, 6pm-7:30pm

For details: contact Esther Rodriguez, esr2003@med.cornell.edu