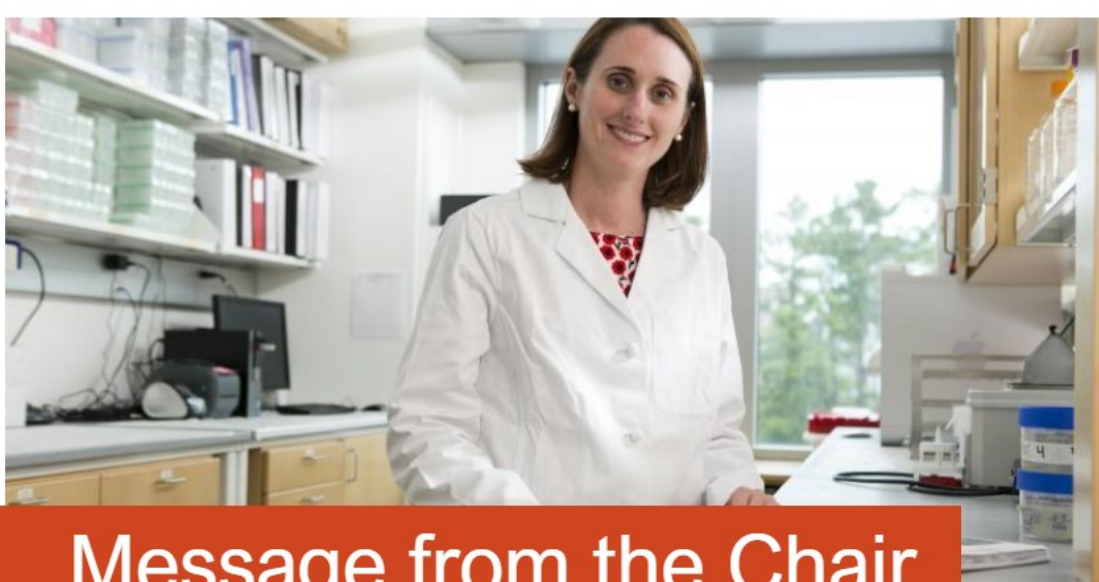




WCM Peds News

Weill Cornell Medicine
Department of Pediatrics
June/July 2021



Message from the Chair

Summer has arrived, camps and beaches are open, friends and families are gathering – it is a summer brought to us by the power of vaccines. We continue to champion vaccines, recognizing that our young children are still not able to be vaccinated, and there are ongoing issues of vaccine hesitancy, misinformation, and disparities. I am proud to work for both a hospital and medical school who are employing measures of vaccine requirements in order to best protect all of us and our patients.

Each week, I am inspired by the excellence of our faculty, trainees, and staff, apparent in the long list of accomplishments highlighted below. In addition to the breadth of national awards and grants, our Department has again been recognized by the institution for its work in education. Three of our faculty have been named to the Senior List, and three received awards for Teaching Excellence and Resident Research Mentoring. This year, our own Weill Cornell team won first place in the annual Sim Olympics, a fast-paced competition between area residency programs focusing on medical simulation skills and organized by Pediatric Emergency Medicine faculty. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our many supporters of the NYP Komansky Children's Hospital who continued to serve children and families alongside us despite many limitations imposed by the pandemic.

Summer is also the time we welcome our incoming Pediatric interns who navigated a unique interview and Match process. We also congratulate our graduates, whose impressive post-residency positions represent nine specialties (Critical Care Medicine, Hospital Medicine, General Pediatrics, Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Emergency Medicine, Adolescent Medicine, Pulmonary, and Neonatology) at pediatric practices and hospitals around the country.

On July 22nd, the Department hosts its first Fellowship Diversity Open House, led by Dr. Joy Howell, to attract applicants from diverse backgrounds to our excellent training programs. Fellowship directors and chiefs have been invited to participate and I look forward to a vibrant and productive evening.

Finally, I encourage faculty and staff to take well-deserved time this summer to rest and recharge, and spend time with family and friends as an important component of our wellness as a team of childhood disease-fighters. My family will be finally moving in full to New York City, so we will spend the summer getting to know our new home – and all of its summer joys and smells! Thus, I look forward to hopefully running into you more often as we explore the city!

Thank you for all you do for children and families.

Sallie

Dr. Jennifer DiPace Named Vice Chair of Education



The Department of Pediatrics is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Jennifer I. DiPace, M.D.** as Vice Chair of Education as of July 1, 2021. In this new role, Dr. DiPace will oversee the complex educational mission of the Department, including the coordination of faculty and trainees involved in that mission.

We would like to thank **Dr. Susan Bostwick** for her outstanding service as Executive Vice Chair of Education and Administration and are thrilled she will continue her leadership as Executive Vice Chair of Administration and Faculty.

A recognized and respected national leader in medical education, academic pediatrics and trainee/faculty mentorship, Dr. DiPace brings strong organizational skills and a commitment to collaboration and inclusion. As Vice Chair of Education, Dr. DiPace will lead the Department's educational initiatives across the spectrum of activities related to undergraduate medical education (UME), graduate medical education (GME) at both residency and fellowship levels, and professional development such as continuing medical education (CME).

She is eager to bring her commitment to and passion for educating the next generation of academic pediatricians into other areas of the Department including building new educational programs and initiatives, and partnering with the Director of the Physician Scientist Training Program to develop programs that prepare pediatric residents to become the next generation of physician-scientists in academic medicine.

[Read more](#)

Dr. Oleh Akchurin and Dr. Lisa Giulino Roth Receive ASCI Awards



Dr. Oleh Akchurin and **Dr. Lisa Giulino Roth** received Young Physician-Scientist Awards from the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). One of the nation's oldest nonprofit medical honor societies with more than 3,000 physician-scientists from all medical specialties, the ASCI seeks to support the scientific efforts, educational and mentorship needs and clinical aspirations of physician-scientists to improve the health of all people. The ASCI Council Young Physician-Scientist Awards recognize physician-scientists who are early in their first faculty appointment and have made notable achievements in their research.

[Read more](#)

Weill Cornell Wins the Gold at the 2021 Sim Olympics



Last month, Dr. Kevin Ching directed the 2021 Simulation Olympics with the help of Pediatric Emergency Medicine faculty Drs. Michael Alfonzo, Robert Finkelstein, Shweta Iyer, Rachel Kowalsky, Maria Lane, Vincent Uy, and PEM fellow Dr. Dana Lauture. The event, held at the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center campus, highlights medical and simulation skills of competing area residency programs.

Special congratulations to our own NYP/Weill Cornell Medical Center residents who took home the trophy!



Awards & Accomplishments



Dr. Kalliope Tsirilakis, Dr. Jamie Palaganas and Dr. Nicole Gerber graduated from Weill Cornell Department of Medicine's Quality Improvement Academy (QIA) certificate program.

Dr. Tsirilakis has also been accepted to the Weill Cornell Healthcare Leadership Fellow Class of 2022 with her project, "Pediatric Chronic Disease Home Management Program."



Dr. Eric Mallack received his M.S. in Clinical & Translational Investigation (Thesis: "A Longitudinal Analysis of Early Lesion Growth in Presymptomatic Patients with Cerebral Adrenoleukodystrophy.") Dr. Mallack, who completed his Masters of Science in August 2020, was recognized at Weill Cornell Medicine's 2021 Commencement ceremony. Drs. Julianne Imperato-McGinley and Mary Ward served as his advisors.



Dr. Maria Lame received WCM's Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Award for Excellence in Emergency Medicine.



Dr. Virginia Pascual received WCM's Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Award for Outstanding Medical Research.

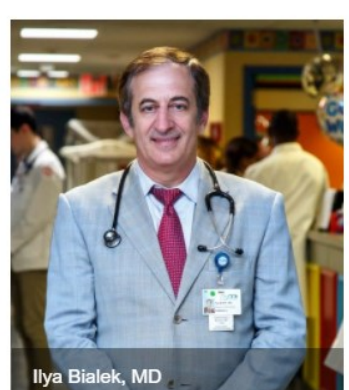


Dr. Marianne Nellis was reappointed the John D. and Lili R. Bussel, MD Assistant Professor in Pediatric Hematology for an additional three years.

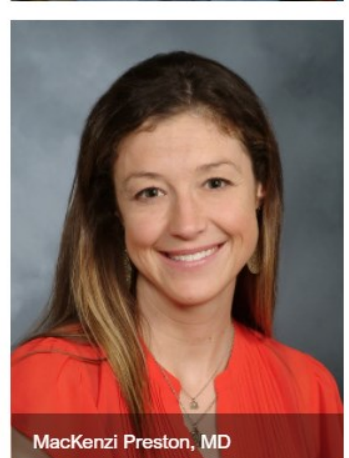


Dr. Jeffrey Perlman named by ILCOR peers as a “Giant” in the field of Resuscitation Science

The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) bestows this honor on only five individuals every five years. All ILCOR "giants" are recognized by their ILCOR peers for their outstanding commitment and careers in the field of resuscitation science, and significant contributions to saving lives.



Dr. Ilya Bialek received the Senior List teaching award.



Dr. MacKenzi Preston received the Senior List teaching award.



Dr. Yasmin Khakoo received the WCMC Neurology Department's Pediatric Neurology Teaching Award from the residents.



Dr. Kevin Ching was promoted to Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine. He is also the recipient of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Simulation Academy's "Simulation Innovation Award," received the Senior List teaching award, and received an Award for Teaching Excellence from the Pediatric Housestaff.



Dr. Melissa Rose received an award for Excellence in Resident Research Mentoring by the Resident Research Oversight Committee.



Dr. Deborah Levine received the President's Council of Cornell Women 2021 Affinito-Stewart award for her study, "Predicting Risk Factors for Hypotension in Severe Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)."



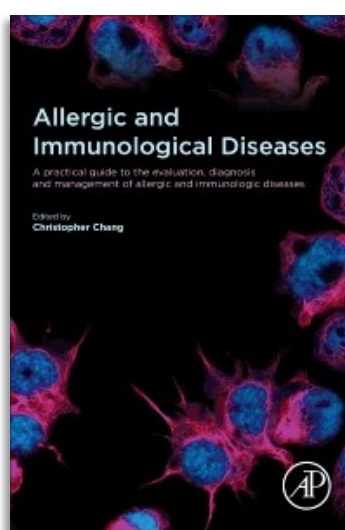
Dr. Neera Gupta

Dr. Neera Gupta was nominated and elected to serve as Chair, American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Institute Council Pediatric Gastroenterology and Developmental Biology (PGDB) Section.

Recent Publications

Books / Chapters

- **Feuille E**, Phipatanakul W, **Permaul P**. Chapter 38: Conventional medications for the treatment of allergic rhinitis and conjunctivitis in “*Allergic and Immunological Diseases – A practical guide to the evaluation, diagnosis and management of allergic and immunologic diseases, 1st Edition*” edited by Christopher Chang. 2021, Elsevier, United Kingdom (In Press)



Articles

- Pishko AM, **Bussel JB**, Cines DB. COVID-19 vaccination and immune thrombocytopenia. Nat Med. 2021 Jun 9. Online ahead of print. PMID: 34108715. <https://covid19.elsevierpure.com/de/publications/covid-19-vaccination-and-immune-thrombocytopenia>
- Leonard JC, Josephson CD, Luther JF, Wisniewski SR, Allen C, Chiusolo F, Davis AL, **Finkelstein RA**, et al. Life-Threatening Bleeding in Children: A Prospective Observational Study. Crit Care Med. 2021 May 12. PMID: 33990098. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33990098/>
- **Green CM**, Leyenaar JK, Nuncio B, Leslie LK. Where Do Future Pediatricians Learn Behavioral and Mental Health Skills? Academic Pediatrics. Online 29 May 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acap.2021.04.015>.
- **Gupta N**, Lustig RH, Andrews H, Gokhale R, Goyal A, Patel AS, Guthery S, Sylvester F, Siebold L, Leu CS. Clinical variables associated with statural growth in pediatric Crohn's disease differ by sex (The Growth Study). Inflamm Bowel Dis 2021; 27(6): 751-759. PMID: 32860033. “Editor's Choice / Leading Off” article (June 2021). <https://academic.oup.com/ibdjournal/article/27/6/751/5898810>
- Patel RM, Hendrickson JE, **Nellis ME**, Birch R, Goel R, Karam O, Karafin MS, Hanson SJ, Sachais BS, Hauser RG, Luban NLC, Gottschall J, Josephson CD, Sola-Visner M. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Recipient Epidemiology and Donor Evaluation Study-IV-Pediatric (REDS- IV-P). Variation in Neonatal Transfusion Practice. J Pediatr. 2021 Apr 7:S0022-3476(21)00323-1. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.04.002. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33836184. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33836184/>
- **Nellis ME**, Goel R, Hendrickson JE, Birch R, Patel RM, Karafin MS, Hanson SJ, Sachais BS, Hauser RG, Luban NLC, Gottschall J, Sola-Visner M, Josephson CD, Karam O. NHLBI Recipient Epidemiology and Donor Evaluation Study-IV- Pediatric (REDS-IV-P). Transfusion Practices in a Large Cohort of Hospitalized Children. n. 2021 May 11. doi: 10.1111/trf.16443. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 33973660. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33973660/>
- Marichannegowda MH, Mengual M, Kumar A, Giorgi EE, Tu JJ, Martinez DR, Romero-Severson EO, Liping Feng XL, **Permar SR**. Different evolutionary pathways of HIV-1 between fetus and mother perinatal transmission pairs indicate unique immune selection pressure in fetuses. Cell Reports Medicine. (CR-MEDICINE- D-20-00358R1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.xcrm.2021.100315>
- **Permaul P**, Peters MC, Petty CR, Cardet JC, Ly NP, Ramratnam SK, Ross K, Fitzpatrick A, Israel E, Bacharier LB, Phipatanakul W. The Association of Plasma IL-6 with Measures of Asthma Morbidity in a Severe Pediatric Cohort Aged 6-18 Years. Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice. Online ahead of print. 2021 May 20. DOI: 10.1016/j.jaip.2021.02.047
- **Yuen, A., Rodriguez, N., Osorio, S. N., Nataraj, C., Ward, M. J., Clapper, T. C., Abramson, E., & Ching, K.** Simulation-based Discharge Education Program for Caregivers of Children with Tracheostomies. Hospital Pediatrics, 11(6), 1-9. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1542/hpeds.2020-000984>

Recent Presentations

International

- **Ioulia Gourari, Stefan Worgall**, and **Perdita Permaul** (with C Thomas, and LM Gerber) gave an oral presentation, "Predictors of COVID-19 Symptom Severity in NYC Children: A Prospective Cohort Study" at the 2021 Virtual American Thoracic Society International Congress. **Dr. Gourari** was awarded a competitive 2021 ATS Abstract Scholarship Award from the Pediatric Assembly.
- **Nicole Kucine** was an invited expert at the annual MPN Spring Symposium 2021, an international annual conference with a focus on quality of life of patients with myeloproliferative neoplasms, 5/28/21.
- **Madhavi Lakkaraja** (fellow) had a Late Breaking abstract, "Predictors for Neurotoxicity on Day of Infusion of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cells using Discovery Proteomics Platform," accepted for presentation at the Virtual International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy (ISCT) 5/26/21-5/28/21.
- **Marianne Nellis** gave an oral presentation on "Oral presentation: Platelet Storage Duration and Clinical Outcomes in Critically Ill Children" at the Norman Bethune Symposium, Centre for Blood Research, Vancouver, BC, 5/18/21.
- **Perdita Permaul** was also a co-presenter (with MC Peters, CR Petty, JC Cardet, NP Ly, SK Ramratnam, K Ross, A Fitzpatrick, E Israel, LB Bacharier, and W Phipatanakul) on behalf of the NHLBI SARP-3 Investigators at the Virtual American Thoracic Society International Congress on "The Association of Plasma IL-6 with Measures of Asthma Morbidity in a Severe Pediatric Cohort," 5/2021.

- **Sallie Permar** presented "Similarities & difference between sexual and postnatal transmission: implications for prevention" at the International Maternal Pediatric Adolescent AIDS Clinical Trials (IMPAACT) Network Virtual Workshop on Postnatal Prophylaxis: Optimizing Research and Accelerating Access to Innovation, 6/2021.
- **Christine Salvatore** presented on "COVID-19: the Pediatric Perspective" at the Weill Cornell OMIInar in Infectious Diseases, 2021, Salzburg, Austria (virtual), 5/13/21.

National and Regional

- **Emily Ahn, Sean Cullen, Steven Pon, Carl Blake, Eric Wilsterman, Rae-Jean Hemway, Kerry-Ann Mohrman, Jeffrey Perlman, Snezana Osorio, and Priyanka Tiwari** presented "Reducing Unplanned Extubations in a Level IV NICU" at the NYP CLER QI virtual poster session, 5/20/21.
- **Jessica Bush, Ansi Hakkim, Georgina Hartzell, and Priyanka Tiwari** presented "Impact of Race, Insurance Status and Primary Language on Postpartum Depression Screening in a Level IV NICU" at the NYP CLER QI virtual poster session, 5/20/21
- **Nisha Narayana** (with John Park, Roshni Patel, Pablo Castaneda, and Ethan Wiener) presented ""No labs, no problem!": the utility of pre- operative labs for healthy children with supracondylar fractures" at the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM)'s virtual meeting, 5/12/21.
- **Virginia Pascual** was a lecturer on the Stratification of pediatric SLE at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI), Virtual Immunology 2021 - Lupus Research Alliance Symposium, 5/14/21.
- **Perdita Permaul** served as a faculty mentor for fellow case presentation, "A Tale of Two Brothers" at the Clinical Immunology Society National Webinar Meeting and was an invited speaker at Allergy Grand Rounds, Division of Allergy and Immunology at the University of South Florida, presenting "The Environment, Obesity and Asthma in Children: What are the Relationships?" May 2021.
- **Liana Senaldi, Lauren Blatt, Jin-Young Han, Giselle Gozum, Susan Venturini, Sherrie Hauft, Vivien Yap, Karen Acker, Snezana Osorio, and Priyanka Tiwari** presented "A QI Initiative to Reduce Antibiotic Utilization in Newborns with Transient Tachypnea of the Newborn" at the NYP CLER QI virtual poster session, 5/20/21.
- **Kalliope Tsirilakis** and **Perdita Permaul** provided their expertise for a QNS info session webinar for families on childhood asthma and allergies, "Your child's asthma and allergies: a chat with the experts." [Play video](#)



Getting to Know...Dr.

Melanie Wilson-Taylor



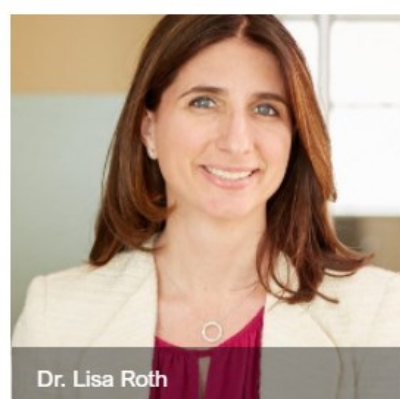
Dr. Melanie Wilson-Taylor is Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Assistant Attending Pediatrician in the Division of General Academic Pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medicine and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. She also serves as Associate Director for Pediatric Graduate Medical Education.

- **How many years have you been at WCM:** I have been at WCM since I started medical school in 2000 and surprised myself by staying for residency and eventually as faculty in Pediatrics (starting 2008). I ventured out into private practice for 5 years and returned to Cornell in the past year.

- **What is your favorite part of the workday?** I love working with residents and being able to enhance their perspective on working with children and families. If I can impart any information, even something small to a trainee, I feel accomplished that day.
- **Where do you live now:** I was born and raised in Brooklyn. I moved back to Brooklyn after residency to Old Mill Basin (for those less familiar, it is the part of the Brooklyn subway map where there are no trains).
- **What is the best vacation you ever took and why:** Travelling to Barbados with my husband, children (pre-pandemic) has been the greatest experience because we get to visit my husband's family and explore the island. It has been a tradition starting with my husband's great-grandmother to go back every summer and it keeps my children connected.
- **What is the next place to visit on your bucket list:** I am trying to visit every state in the US. My husband is helping me with this mission. Next year we might tackle the middle states and the national parks.
- **What do you enjoy doing when you are not working:** In the summer, I love sitting on my deck with my feet up reading a book.
- **What do you do to stay active:** I have been trying to go to local dojo for a cardio-fitness class. It started when my children were karate students and I still go when I can.
- **What is the last book you read?** Most recent book was for the Pediatric book club: The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace.
- **How would your 10-year-old self react to what you do now:** My 10-year old self would be proud. Being a physician and a teacher was exactly what I wanted to be when I was a kid but did not know at the time that I could do both. She would be surprised that I figured out how to do it simultaneously.
- **What makes you feel at peace:** Practicing yoga and going to church. I do not get to do either very often but when I do, I feel at peace.
- **Interesting fact you want to share:** I recently got a pandemic dog, Sundae for my children and husband a few months ago. When I was kid I was terrified of dogs, so it is ironic that I became a dog mom and actually like it.

If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in a future faculty spotlight, or have suggestions for questions, let us know!

Research Highlights



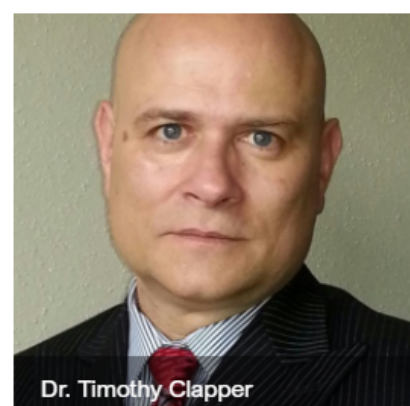
Dr. Lisa Roth

Dr. Lisa Roth received the Alice Bohmfalk Charitable Trust Grant, a Weill Cornell Medicine Research Dean Administration office grants (limited submission). The grant is for one year (7/1/21-6/30/22) for a total of \$61,247.



Dr. Eric Mallack

Dr. Eric Mallack received a K23 Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for (NINDS) for his study, " Leveraging myelin-sensitive imaging to predict early lesion pathogenesis in cerebral adrenoleukodystrophy." His collaborators include Dr. Thanh Nguyen (Weill Cornell Medicine) Patricia Musolino (Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital), Elizabeth Sweeney (Weill Cornell Medicine). In this project, Dr. Mallack and his team will study the transition from normal brain development to cerebral demyelination using advanced imaging techniques in order to widen the treatment window, provide lead-time for possible preventative strategies, and thereby help maximize neurological outcomes.



Dr. Timothy Clapper

Dr. Timothy Clapper has received an NYP MDxPX grant to support his project, "An innovative multi discipline project to improve delivery of bad or difficult news," to improve the ambulatory surgery patient experience. The grant will award up to \$10,000 for a 1-year period (7/1/21-6/30/22).



Dr. Marisa Censani received a 2021 Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq) Pilot Project award as Co-principal Investigator with Lead Principal Investigator Dr Tashara M. Leak, Assistant Professor of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University, for "Addressing Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus Disparities Among Low-Income Households with Adolescents Using a Novel Telehealth Lifestyle Intervention" The project has been awarded \$50,000. The Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq) annually sponsors collaborative pilot projects that support research to achieve health equity and, by consequence, investigates several issues pertaining to health disparities and social justice.

Dr. Inbal Wortzel received a Research Assistance for Primary Parents (RAPP) award from Weill Cornell Medical College. The award will provide funding for 1 year at \$50,000. 07/01/2021-06/30/2022.

WCM Peds In the Media

- **Jonathan Avery** (HealthAffairs): [Fentanyl Test Strips Empower People And Save Lives—So Why Aren't They More Widespread?](#)
- **James Bussel** (New York Times): [The Faces I'll Remember, Long After I Put My Notebook Down: Denise Grady reflection on her retirement as NYT journalist.](#)
- **Zachary Grinspan** (STAT): [The parents hoped an existing drug might keep their kids from having seizures. Then they saw the price.](#)
- **Sotirios Keros** (USA9): [How to treat a rare disease: Zach's story.](#)
- **Karen Onel** (RheumatologyAdvisor): [More Than Just a Pronoun: Ethics of Sex/Gender Assessment in Pediatrics \[Podcast\].](#)
- **Sallie Permar** (The Atlantic): [The Only Way We'll Know When We Need COVIBoosters.](#)
- **Sallie Permar** (WCM Newsroom): [Dr. Sallie Permar's Work Protecting Mothers, Infants from HIV, CMV Lands Her Among 'Giants'.](#)
- **Sallie Permar** (WCM Newsroom/ScienceDaily): [Two COVID-19 vaccines show safety, strong immunity in infant models.](#)

The New York Times

The Faces I'll Remember, Long After I Put My Notebook Down

In two decades covering medicine for The New York Times, the people I met, and the truths they revealed, have always stayed with me.

Looking for help with an article in January, I told Dr. James Bussel, an expert on blood disorders at Weill Cornell Medicine, about a [woman who had developed a severe bleeding problem](#) after a Covid vaccination. He surprised me by asking for the family's phone number, so he could offer to help. Guided by Dr. Bussel, the woman's doctors altered her treatment, a course change that the patient believes saved her life. Since then, Dr. Bussel has provided similar help in about 30 to 40 other cases of this rare disorder around the country.

When I asked why he was willing to get involved, he said he had become a doctor to help people, and added, "I feel like I have this specialized knowledge and it would be silly to waste it, if I could make a contribution and help somebody."

Events

Department of Pediatrics

Fellowship Diversity Open House

Thursday, July 22, 2021, 7pm

For details, please contact:

Carlene Bryan at
cnb2001@med.cornell.edu

Send Us Your Activities and News!

Send your news, awards, honors, activities, and achievements to
mob2005@med.cornell.edu

Deadline for August issue: July 23, 2021

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Weill Cornell Medicine
Pediatrics



NewYork-Presbyterian Kids
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