The Virtual 5th Annual
Primary Care & Hospital Medicine Innovations Symposium

Thursday, February 24, 2022 | 8:30am–2:30pm EST
via Zoom
8:30–9:00am
Opening Remarks

Fred N. Pelzman, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Medical Director, Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates, General Internal Medicine
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD
Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean
Weill Cornell Medicine
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

Judy Tung, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Chief, Section of Adult Internal Medicine, General Internal Medicine
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

9:00–10:00am
Keynote Speaker
Public Health and Healthcare in the (Post) COVID-19 Era in NYC: Opportunities, Challenges, and the Road Ahead

Ashwin Vasan, ScM, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Population and Medicine, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

10:00–10:30am
Leveraging Fellowships for Careers in GIM

Christopher Gonzalez, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Tanveer-E-Fatema R. Hassam, MD
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Zachary Mulvihill, MD
Instructor in Medicine

10:30am–12:00pm
Primary Care Innovation Program Part 1
Competitive Seed Grant Awardees 2021–2022

David Zhang, MD & Ramsey Kalil, MD | Resident Project
Jonathan Lin, MD | Faculty Project
Brian Eiss, MD | Faculty Project
Jyoti Mathad, MD | Faculty Project
Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, MD | Faculty Project
David Scales, MD | Faculty Project

12:00–1:00pm
Lunch & Poster Session
Boxed lunches will be available in Hospital Medicine (Starr 5) | WCIMA (4th floor) | LMH 156 William Street (6th floor)
*limited availability

1:00–1:30pm
Top 2 Oral Abstract Session

Asia Gobourne, MD | Instructor in Medicine
Caregiver Strain is Associated with Worse Self-Care Among Caregivers with Hypertension

Brittany Toffey, MD | Clinical Associate in Medicine
To Care for Them, We Need to Take Care of Ourselves: A Qualitative Study on the Health of Home Health Aides

1:30–2:15pm
Primary Care Innovation Program Part 2
Competitive Seed Grant Awardees 2021–2022

Amita Kulkarni, MD | Faculty Project
Elizabeth Reznik | Student Project
Nicolas Blobel & Hyejin Kim | Student Project

2:15–2:30pm
Closing Remarks & Raffle Drawing

Monika M. Safford, MD
John J. Kuiper Professor of Medicine
Chief, General Internal Medicine
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine

A full list of all abstracts and posters will be available on our website, please visit:
careinnovation.weill.cornell.edu
Ashwin Vasan, ScM, MD, PhD is a primary care physician and public health expert with more than 15 years of experience working to improve health (mental+physical), social welfare, and public policy for vulnerable populations. He has been elected as the New York City Health Commissioner effective March 1, 2022. Since 2014 he has been on the faculty at Mailman and at the College of Physicians and Surgeons where he cares for low-income, Medicaid/Medicare or uninsured patients from Washington Heights, Harlem, and the South Bronx as a primary care internist at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Dr. Vasan is currently the President & CEO of Fountain House, one of the world’s oldest and largest community-based mental health and public health charities. He graduated from Harvard School of Public Health in 2004 with a Master of Science, earned his Ph.D. from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine in 2015.

Fred N. Pelzman, MD is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine. He serves as the Medical Director for the Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates, and practices General Adult Internal Medicine. Dr. Pelzman directs the ambulatory educational curriculum for medical house officers, and is the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in teaching. Additionally, Dr. Pelzman is the co-director of the Weill Cornell Primary Care Innovation program and writes an online column about transforming our national healthcare system.

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD is the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Provost for Medical Affairs of Cornell University. He has a longstanding commitment to the training of physician-scientists. His research interest has focused on the regulation and function of stress response genes in response to oxidative stress. He has translated the two decades of basic discoveries made in the signaling pathway and function of HO/CO to human patients with lung and vascular diseases. His research team has recently completed 2 NIH-supported Phase II clinical trials, in the treatment for human sepsis and lung fibrosis. Dr. Choi has authored more than 377 peer-reviewed manuscripts and is currently the Principal Investigator of multiple NIH RO1’s.

Fred N. Pelzman, MD is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine. He serves as the Medical Director for the Weill Cornell Internal Medicine Associates, and practices General Adult Internal Medicine. Dr. Pelzman directs the ambulatory educational curriculum for medical house officers, and is the recipient of numerous awards for excellence in teaching. Additionally, Dr. Pelzman is the co-director of the Weill Cornell Primary Care Innovation program and writes an online column about transforming our national healthcare system.

Judy Tung, MD is the Associate Dean for Faculty Development and the Section Chief of Adult Internal Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine. A leading expert in General Internal Medicine, Dr. Tung has spoken nationally on innovative models of primary care, including the Hospital Medical Home and the Ambulatory Teaching Practice. Additionally, she directs a college-wide faculty development course called the Leadership in Academic Medicine Program (LAMP). Dr. Tung’s life’s work is the cultivation of individuals to their highest potential.

Monika M. Safford, MD is a clinician-scientist with clinical expertise in preventive healthcare, treatment of acute and chronic illness, and the coordination of care for those with complex diseases. Dr. Safford has served as Chief of General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine since January 2016. Her research program focuses on health equity in cardiovascular diseases, and includes clinical epidemiology as well as stakeholder-engaged implementation trials in vulnerable populations. With more than 260 papers published in top tier journals, she is an expert in patient-centered research on diabetes, cardiovascular epidemiology and prevention, and health disparities.

Christopher J. Gonzalez, MD is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He received his MD and residency training in Internal Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, and attained research training in clinical epidemiology and health services research as the inaugural HRSA Health Equity Research Fellow at the Weill Cornell Diversity Center of Excellence. He is a practicing Primary Care physician at Settlement Health, a safety-net clinic in East Harlem, and a health equity researcher focusing on assessing and addressing the social determinants of Latinx health in the United States.

Ramsey Kalil, MD is currently Chief Medical Resident in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety in the Weill Cornell Department of Medicine. He earned his B.A. in Chemistry from Duke University in 2014, his M.D. from Stony Brook University in 2018, and completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine in 2021. As a rising fellow in Cardiovascular Disease at the Texas Heart Institute, Ramsey’s academic interests include procedural cardiology, structural heart disease, and improving outcomes in patients with cardiac disease.
Jonathan Lin, MD is a nephrologist at The Rogosin Institute and Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He specializes in management of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and extracorporeal therapies including dialysis and apheresis. He has been instrumental in the development of much of the clinical content in Epic for Nephrology and maintains a strong interest in designing clinical tools within electronic health record (EHR) systems to facilitate clinical decision making.

Brian Eiss, MD is an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. Since 2017, Dr. Eiss has also served as the Clerkship Director of Weill Cornell Medicine’s Ambulatory Medicine Clerkship, the core medical student outpatient rotation. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Eiss is passionate about teaching and serves as the “in-house geriatrician” at WCIMA, where he supervises internal medicine residents in their outpatient practices and leads the outpatient resident seminars in geriatrics and advance care planning.

Jyoti Mathad, MD is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology in the Center for Global Health at Weill Cornell Medicine. Her primary research interests include the immune and metabolic changes of pregnancy and their impact on the pathogenesis of infectious diseases. She has been conducting NIH-funded research in India for the past 12 years.

Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, MD is an Assistant Professor at Weill Cornell Medical Center and hospitalist at NYP/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Lower Manhattan Hospitals. At the bedside, in the classroom, and through research, Dr. Bloom-Feshbach harnesses communication and mentoring tools with the goals of promoting healing for patients and a culture of humanism in medicine. Dr. Bloom-Feshbach conducts mixed-methods action research on group peer mentoring at Weill Cornell and with C-Change, the National Initiative on Gender, Culture and Leadership in Medicine. At Weill Cornell, she leads the Patient Care and Physicianship and Transition to Clerkship curricula for second year medical students. As Senior Faculty with VitalTalk, she teaches serious illness communication skills, and is passionate about the mission of ensuring all patients receive care aligned with what matters most to them.

David Scales, MD, PhD is a hospitalist and medical sociologist at Weill Cornell Medicine. His research interests center on structural determinants of health and medical communication, with his current projects focusing on building Covid-19 vaccine confidence in online communities and understanding the therapeutic (placebo) effect of point of care ultrasound.

Asia Gobourne, MD is a dual fellow in the Health Equity Research and the Diversity in Leadership Fellowships of Weill Cornell Medicine. She obtained her medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College in 2018 and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell in 2021. Her research interests include healthcare disparities in the management of chronic conditions with a special interest in transitions of care.

Brittany Toffey, MD is currently an internal medicine resident at Weill Cornell Medicine. She received her MD/MPH from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. She is interested in primary care and preventative cardiology.

Amita Kulkarni, MD is the first-year fellow at NYP-Weill Cornell/Columbia’s joint Gynecologic Oncology fellowship program. She completed her medical training and Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at Brown University/ Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island. Her research interests include quality of life and sexual health of gynecologic cancer patients as well as addressing cancer disparities and improving outcomes through innovative, patient-centered interventions.

Elizabeth Reznik is a fourth year medical student at Weill Cornell Medicine with interests in women’s health and internal medicine. Under the mentorship of Dr. Auja McDougale, she is conducting a quality improvement project in order to improve screening rates for intimate partner violence. She graduated from Princeton University in 2018 with a degree in molecular biology.

Nicolas Blobel is an MD-PhD student who served as the Research Co-Director at the Weill Cornell Community Clinic from September 2019-2021. He is pursuing his graduate studies in Agata Smogorzewska’s Lab at the Rockefeller University, where he is working on identifying the metabolic drivers of Head and Neck Squamous Cells Carcinomas in patients with Fanoni Anemia.

Hyejin Kim is an MD-PhD student who has been serving as the Research Co-Director at the Weill Cornell Community Clinic since September 2020. She is pursuing her graduate studies in Luciano Marraffini’s Lab at the Rockefeller University, where she is studying the molecular mechanisms of how bacteria utilize CRISPR-Cas immune systems to defend themselves against viral pathogens.
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Expand Your Expertise
Training in General Internal Medicine

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<th>Integrative Health and Wellbeing Fellowship</th>
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<td>• Tailored one-on-one faculty mentorship from a multidisciplinary team of faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine, Cornell University, and Hunter College</td>
<td>• One-year fellowship designed to achieve proficiency in basic and advanced point of care ultrasound</td>
<td>• Two-year fellowship designed to offer comprehensive education and hands-on experience in the field of Integrative Medicine</td>
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<td>• Collaboration opportunities through the Cornell Center for Health Equity, the Weill Cornell Center for Global Health, the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, Cornell Tech, and other affiliated programs</td>
<td>• Obtain national certification in both basic and advanced point of care ultrasound</td>
<td>• Includes clinical teaching and experience in the field, participation in interdisciplinary clinical discussions, and mentorship of medical students and residents</td>
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<td>• Vibrant, supportive environment created by our Diversity Center of Excellence</td>
<td>• Gain experience in organizing and leading a monthly educational conference in POCUS</td>
<td>• Fellows will receive mentorship to develop and complete a clinical, research, and/or educational project</td>
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<td>• Two to three-year fellowship duration depending on prior training of the candidate</td>
<td>• Participate in POCUS research with the goal of presenting results at a national meeting</td>
<td>• Fully recognized by the American Board of Integrative Medicine</td>
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<td>• Participants will be hired as hospital medicine faculty upon completion of fellowship</td>
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Learn more about our fellowship programs by scanning the QR code: #ProudtobeGIM

Sponsored by the Primary Care Innovation Program, Weill Cornell Medicine Psychiatry, Weill Cornell Obstetrics & Gynecology, Weill Department of Medicine, and the Pelzman Foundation

Thank You to Our 2022 Planning Committee!
Judy Tung, Fred Pelzman, Christopher Gonzalez, Juveria Abdullah, Cecilia Nicol, & Arta Habili
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