

# General Internal Medicine Newsletter



## Message from Division Leadership

As we celebrate the start of another new academic year, GIM continues to be characterized by growth and accomplishment, even in the face of challenges and uncertainty we continue to live through. Welcome to our new physicians in Hospital Medicine, WCIMA, and Integrative Health & Wellbeing. The division also welcomes the largest cohort of fellows to date in our GIM Research Fellowship funded on the recently received T32 training grant, our POCUS Fellowship, and Integrative Health & Wellbeing Fellowship program. We continue to lead the way in response to the pandemic with over 10 research projects in COVID prevention, treatment, health equity, and community education. GIM's COVID-19 registry has surpassed 4,000 patients and resulted in over a dozen reports in high-impact journals. In addition, an impressive 946 students served as vaccine and prevention ambassadors, leading community talks and outreach in areas that need it most. Speaking of students, we received over 900 applications for 17 spots in 13 divisional programs this summer for the newly named the **Anita Mesi GIM Summer Internship Program**, recognizing Anita's contributions to establishing this thriving and popular initiative. Once again our faculty swept teaching awards given by the college, further highlighting our division's commitment to training the next generation of healthcare providers. It has been a pleasure to witness these many milestones in the short time since I joined GIM, and I look forward to getting to know more of you and supporting your efforts as we embark on an exciting academic year.

**Blake Rambo, JD, MBA | Division Administrator**

## Research Updates

**Madeline Sterling, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was awarded an Administrative Supplement to Promote Research Continuity and Retention of NIH Mentored Career Development (K) Award Recipients and Scholars from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for

\$50,000 from September 21, 2021, through September 23, 2022.

## Cornell Center for Health Equity (CCHEq)

Cornell Center for Health Equity members contributed to the design and development of two New York State initiatives that seek to build public health capacity of individuals, communities, and the state, and through that, help to advance health equity in New York State.

### The **New York State Citizen Public Health Leader**

**Training** aims to build knowledge, awareness, and agency among New Yorkers. This free distance-learning course shares health-related information and calls to action in plain language and engaging videos, with goals to improve health literacy and to facilitate connection and communication with peers, allies, and key social resources. This training helps community members take an active role in helping their networks prevent and rebuild from the effects of COVID-19, and integrate health promotion into their own lives. This short course is open to all NYS residents 16 years and older. To learn more, click [here](#).

The five-part **New York State Public Health Essentials Training** makes up a key part of New York State's Public Health Corps Fellowship. The Public Health Essentials Certificate is an 80-hour, self-paced program that has both a web-based and facilitated project-based curriculum focused on equipping learners with the foundations of public health so they can better serve their communities. The training helps learners explore the public health approach and methods, the demographics and health status of people living in their county, and the resources they can build upon to close health-related gaps. Via training and with mentoring, learners complete project work that is directly applicable to their county, including county resource guides, county demographic and health profiles, statements of need/opportunity, and outreach and communication plans to better engage with

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underserved communities. This practice equips learners to engage with higher-risk, vulnerable populations and community members; collaborate with existing programs; work with community gatekeepers to understand community perceptions and barriers; set up “pop-up” education sessions; generate interest in and acceptance of public health initiatives; and gather and report key data to the county and state. All 1,000 Fellows will complete the course to earn a Cornell certificate and work embedded in communities to support the COVID-19 response and advance public health and equity. To apply, click [here](#).

## Diversity Center of Excellence (DCoE)

The Diversity Center of Excellence had a busy summer and early fall season. The center was able to reach over 300 pre-college participants through the COVID-19 STEM



Community Education and Empowerment Internship (CCEEIP) and Health Career Conferences in July. Over 400 medical students and residents were reached through the annual diversity open houses for residency programs and fellowship programs. These programs were successful and possible due to the continued support of the General Internal Medicine faculty and trainees. Faculty and trainees who are interested in sharing their journey to medicine with pre-medical students can email [dcoe@med.cornell.edu](mailto:dcoe@med.cornell.edu).

The July cohort of the COVID-19 STEM Community Education and Empowerment Internship (CCEEIP) had high school senior participants engaged in 20 hours of education and community building, which ended with a capstone presentation reviewed by over 15 faculty and trainees part of the Weill Cornell Medicine and partner institutions, including GIM faculty **Andrea Card, MD**, **Anthony Ogedegbe, MD**, **Jennifer Chester, MD**, **Monika**

**Safford, MD**, **Monika Shah, MD**, and **Ramsey Kalil, MD**, fellow **Asia Gobourne, MD**, and resident **Lindsay Clarke, MD**. Staff member **Rosio Ramos** will be joining as the program coordinator to launch the fourth cohort on October 20, 2021.

The annual Fordham Health Career Conferences had 20 participants from various New York City high schools that met virtually on Mondays and Wednesdays from July 12 through July 28 and was planned by faculty lead **Andrea Card, MD**. All high school participants were part of the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at Fordham University. Participants learned about social determinants of health, COVID-19 vaccines, and different health care professions from Weill Cornell/NewYork-Presbyterian professionals in nursing, social work, and medicine.

**Graduate Medical Education Diversity Initiatives** co-hosted the 2nd annual Fellowship Diversity Open House on July 15 with the Department of Medicine Fellowship programs. The virtual program was attended by over 50 trainees internationally and with participation from the General Internal Medicine Research faculty.

The annual **Make Your Match** residency diversity open house had record attendance, with over 375 participants on Saturday, September 18. Over 50 Weill Cornell Medicine faculty and trainees joined to provide mentorship to medical students from across the country and globe. The Minority House Staff Committee Co-Chairs, residents **Ashley Dixon, MD**, **Choumika Simonis, MD**, and **Ugochukwu Akpara, MD**, facilitated panels and were joined by resident **Mikiyas Desta, MD**. Faculty and residency program director **Kirana Gudi, MD**, provided encouraging tips as part of the residency program director panel and residency breakout session. Additional faculty and trainees that joined the residency breakout session included **Adrian Majid, MD**, **Benjamin Gordon, MD**, **Elizabeth Sanchez, MD**, and **Eugenia Siegler, MD**.

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## Quality Improvement Academy (QIA)

The **Annual Weill Cornell Medicine Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Poster Symposium** took place virtually on Tuesday, September 21. First held in 2012 within the Weill Department of Medicine, the program is now co-sponsored by the Physician Organization Division of Quality and Patient Safety and NewYork-Presbyterian Department of Nursing, showcasing quality and safety projects from all departments across Weill Cornell, Lower Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn Methodist.

Featuring both a self-directed viewing session and a live program, 33 projects were selected through a peer-review process conducted by Quality Improvement Academy (QIA) alumni, the WDOM QIPS committee, Housestaff Quality Council and the PO QPS division. Twelve were selected for oral presentation. Also included in the viewing session were the projects from the graduating QIA class of 2021.

Three projects for oral presentation were selected within each of the four QPS themes for this year, with one receiving special recognition for outstanding interdisciplinary teamwork, sustainability, impact on future practice, and application of QI methodology.

### Group A: Advancing Patient Safety

*A Quality Improvement Initiative to Establish a Universal Postpartum Depression Screening Program in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit* | Georgina Hartzell, MD, et al. | Department of Psychiatry

### Group B: Promoting Health Care Quality

*Improving Quality Metrics Related to Diabetes and Diabetic Eye Examinations* | Anton Orlin, MD, et al. | Department of Ophthalmology

### Group C: Optimizing Care Delivery

*Improve Transition of Cardiac Care* | Keziah NarayanaJaya, PA, et al. | Weill Department of Medicine

## Group D: Improving Health Equity

*Tele-Navigation: Using Remote Work with Telemedicine to Help Patients Navigate the Healthcare System* | Matthew Laghezza, PA, et al. | Department of Emergency Medicine

A live recording of the event and e-booklet will be available on the [Annual QIPS Symposium website](#).

To learn more about QIA initiatives, please visit the [QIA website!](#)

## Honors & Awards

**Susana Morales, MD**, Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, and **Christopher Gonzalez, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, were honored with the Public Service Leadership Award on September 20, for advancing WHEDco's Vaccine Education Initiative in helping 305 families move into their brand new homes at the Bronx Commons. We thank you both for your tireless passion and commitment to health equity for communities of color. View event gallery [here!](#)



**Justin Kingery, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was awarded the Young Investigators Award of 2021 on *Schistosomiasis and Cardiovascular Disease in 1,000 HIV-Infected and Uninfected Tanzanian Adults: A Prospective Cohort Study*.

## Publications

**Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, MD** [Midcareer Medical School Research Faculty Perspectives on Vitality and Professionalism During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)  
**Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, MD** [The Virtual Hospitalist: a Critical Innovation During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

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**Ezra Gabbay, MD** [Remembering 9/11, Moral Injury, COVID-19 and Measuring Religion, Spirituality and Health](#)

**Ezra Gabbay, MD** [COVID-19, Mental Health and Cancer](#)

**Ezra Gabbay, MD** [COVID-19, Sex, Addictions, Women's Health, Care of the Elderly, and Medical Education](#)

**Ezra Gabbay, MD** [Incidence, Risk Factors, and Recognition of Pseudohyperkalemia in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia](#)

**Arnab Ghosh, MD, Martin Shapiro, MD, Orysa Soroka, MS, et al.** [Trends in Medical and Surgical Admission Length of Stay by Race/Ethnicity and Socioeconomic Status: A Time Series Analysis](#)

**Laura Gingras, MD** [The Cough Cold and Fever Clinic: A Model for the Safe Management of Ambulatory Patients With Suspected COVID-19](#)

**Parag Goyal, MD** [The Dangers of Polypharmacy and the Case for Deprescribing in Older Adults](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [The Role of Immunomodulatory Medications in the Treatment of COVID-19](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [Clinical Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics of Lefamulin](#)

**Matthew McCarthy, MD** [The Great Gatsby and the Challenge of Unreliable Narrators](#)

**Iris Navarro-Millan, MD** [2021 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis](#)

**Monika Safford, MD**, had several publications during this period; click [here](#).

**Orysa Soroka, MS** [Association Between Racial Disparities in Hospital Length of Stay and the Hospital Readmission Reduction Program](#)

**Orysa Soroka, MS, Monika Safford, MD, Laura Pinheiro, PhD, et al.** [Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Utilization of Autologous Transplantation for Lymphoma in the United States](#)

**Lily Yan, MD** [Treatment of Early Hypertension Among Persons Living with HIV In Haiti: Protocol or a Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

## Appointments & Promotions

We are pleased to announce that **Nekee Pandya, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, will serve as the General Faculty Council representative for a 3-year term beginning immediately and ending June 30, 2024. As your representative, she will be in regular communication with you to share topics of interest and concern to faculty and to solicit your opinions to communicate back to the Council and, through them, to the administrative leadership.



## GIM Grand Rounds

GIM Grand Rounds takes place every first Thursday of the month. **Wei Wei Lee, MD**, Associate Professor at the University of Chicago, presented on July 1, 2021, on *Physician Well-being: Beyond Yoga*, and **Eva Tseng, MD**, Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, presented on September 2, 2021, on *Care Management of Prediabetes in Primary Care*. To learn more about upcoming GIM Grand Rounds, click [here](#).

## Spread the Word

**Madeline Sterling, MD**, was invited to serve as an expert panel member and speaker at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's upcoming workshop, "Improving Heart Failure Care for Older Adults: Gaps and Strategies to Optimize Care Transitions," held virtually on September 27-28. She spoke about home health care delivery and readmissions in heart failure.

**Monika Safford, MD**, was invited to present at the New York County Medical Society Grand Rounds on September 23, about *The Pandemic That Keeps On Giving: What We Know About Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID*. Watch video [here](#)!

**Matthew McCarthy, MD**, gave grand rounds on *COVID-19 Update: Immunomodulators* at Weill Cornell Medicine Grand Rounds on Wednesday, September 22,



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and lectured at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Far Rockaway, on *COVID-19 in New York: Lessons for the Next Pandemic*.

On September 8, a new series, "Lower Manhattan Women in Healthcare," was hosted by **Dr. Renuka Gupta**, Chief of Medicine at Lower Manhattan Hospital, along with Dr. Maya Hogg, Site Director of Hospital Medicine, and Dr. Rivka Sachdev, Director of Outpatient Neurology. The series gave guests



the opportunity to meet, greet, and network amongst an array of women from various departments and disciplines across the Lower Manhattan campus. With the guests' consensus of a successful event, Dr. Gupta intends on hosting the series on a quarterly basis.

**Juan Emilio Carrillo, MD**, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, addressed the effectiveness of the vaccines against the Delta variant on an interview with Univision. Watch interview [here](#)! Dr. Carrillo also provides biweekly health commentary for Univision News. These interviews provide factual information on the COVID pandemic to the Latino community.

**Alexis Vien, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and **Joseph Shin, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, were invited to present at Medicine Grand Rounds on August 4, on *Practical Tools for Assisting Patients with Medical-Legal Dilemmas and Substance Use Disorders*. **Peggy Leung, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, also presented at Medicine Grand Rounds on August 18, on *Caregiving Outside of the Clinic: Integral Health Care Workers Who Care for Patients in the Community and at Home*.

**Dr. Juan Emilio Carrillo** was acknowledged and celebrated on July 30, at a national meeting of Latino Medical Students Leaders as Founder (1972) of the Latino Medical Student Organization, which grew and evolved into the national Latino Medical Student Association. Each year the association presents the J. Emilio Carrillo MD Award for Excellence in Research. Dr. Carrillo was Regional PI on the first NIH study targeting smoking in Hispanics. He also conducted groundbreaking studies on Cultural Competence.



The Hospital Medicine Journal Club has been replaced by the **Primary Care Journal Club**! The Primary Care Journal Club takes place on the second Wednesday of each month from 12-1pm via Zoom. Our GIM Research Fellowship fellows are leading the sessions and all GIM faculty, primary care residents, and staff are invited to attend.

Dr. Sterling's former GIM summer intern, **Aleksandra Zarska** (Cornell University class of 2020), published a first-authored paper in the *American Journal of Medical Quality* titled "[Relationship Between Working Conditions, Worker Outcomes, and Patient Care: A Theoretical Model for Frontline Health Care Workers.](#)" She is now applying to medical school!

**Ezra Gabbay, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was appointed to Associate Editor for the *Journal of Religion and Health*.

**Iris Navarro-Millan, MD**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, was interviewed by the Hospital for Special Surgery to share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccine and inflammatory arthritis. The event was held in English and Spanish and was presented by the Department of Social Work Programs, the Inflammatory Arthritis Support and Education Programs, and CreakyJoints Espanol. To watch webinar, click [here](#).

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## Welcome to the Team!

Faculty:

**Sarita Mahtani, MD**, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, Integrative Health & Wellbeing  
**Asia Gobourne, MD**, GIM Research Fellow  
**Ro-Jay Reid, MD**, GIM Research Fellow  
**J.L. Stewart, PhD**, GIM Research Fellow  
**Juveria Abdullah, MD**, Integrative Health & Wellbeing Research Fellow  
**Nachelle Aurelien, MD**, POCUS Fellow  
**Edward Bergin, MD**, POCUS Fellow  
**Tanveer-E-Fatema R. Hassam, MD**, POCUS Fellow  
**Angelina Voronina, DO**, POCUS Fellows

Staff:

**Jungwook Jin, DNP**, Nurse Practitioner at WCIMA  
**Ryan Batik, BS**, Primary Care Clerkship Coordinator  
**Hannah Curtis, BS**, Research Assistant for Dr. Goyal  
**Micayla Wilson, BS**, Research Assistant for Laura Pinheiro, PhD

## Farewell!

**Evgeniya Reshetnyak, PhD**, Senior Research Data Analyst

## Congratulations!

**Dr. Jillian Cohen** had a baby girl, Peyton Helene Foster, on August 10!  
**Tiffany Ruiz** had a baby boy, Phoenix Jay Ruiz, on August 7!