



Department of Public Health Annual Letter December 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are very pleased to share some of the developments and major activities of Weill Cornell's Department of Public Health over the past year. Although this letter does not attempt to include everything, we hope it illustrates the direction and demonstrates the importance of our work. The accomplishments are the results of the dedication of our faculty, staff, and fellows and their innovative and important contributions to the Department, our Institution, and the fields of Medicine and Public Health. We also wish to thank all whose support has been essential to our efforts, including the leadership at the Medical College (Laurie Glimcher, MD; Michael Stewart, MD, MPH; and Stephen Cohen) and the Hospital (Steven Corwin, MD; Robert Kelly, MD; and Laura Forese, MD).

Awards and Distinctions

Department of Public Health faculty, programs, and research findings were widely recognized and awarded over the past year. Faculty members have been elected to many national societies and appointed to numerous positions of national leadership. They have also been recognized with other external or internal appointments, and have received internal and external awards and prizes for research, clinical service, teaching, or career contributions. In addition, faculty members were appointed to editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals.

Prizes and Special Recognition

An article on physician experiences transitioning between an older versus newer electronic health record for electronic prescribing (*Int J Med Inform* 2012 Aug) authored by researchers of the Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy was selected in August 2013 to be included in the International Medical Informatics Association's Yearbook of Medical Informatics. The yearbook honors the best articles from the literature in medical informatics published in the past year. The lead author of the selected article is **Erika Abramson, MD, MS**, and the senior author is **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**.

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group of Weill Cornell Medical College/Qatar, led by **Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD**, was honored with the "Best Research Team of the Year 2013" award by the Qatar National Research Fund, as the most productive research group among those it funds. The award recognizes the team's scientific achievements in studying the role of biological co-factors in HIV epidemiology and examining the impact of biomedical HIV prevention interventions on reducing HIV incidence.

Ann Beeder, MD, was named the Jeanette and Jeffrey Lasdon Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health and Psychiatry, a newly endowed position. Since becoming Chief of the Division of Community and Public Health Programs, Dr. Beeder has led the division in expanding its research, clinical, and outreach programs.

A paper co-authored by **Tara Bishop, MD, MPH**, was one of three seminal articles in medical professionalism published in 2012 that was recognized in 2013 by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation with the Professionalism Article Prize.

Dr. Bishop was selected as a finalist by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for her idea, "MD 360," for their first pioneer pitch day on October 16, 2013. Dr. Bishop's idea was one of eight selected from over 500 submissions.

At the 2013 Annual Symposium of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) in Washington DC, **Thomas Campion, Jr., PhD**, was awarded the Homer R. Warner Award for his paper, “Patient Encounters and Care Transitions in One Community Supported by Automated Query-Based Health Information Exchange.” Co-authors include **Joshua Vest, PhD, MHP**, **Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**. The award honors a paper that best describes approaches to improving computerized information acquisition, knowledge data acquisition and management, and experimental results documenting the value of these approaches.

Oliver Fein, MD, received the David R. Calkins Award in Health Policy Advocacy from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM). Dr. Fein was honored for his “extraordinary commitment in health policy advocacy.”

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, received the Award for Outstanding Service as President from the American Society for Bioethics at the conclusion of his presidential term in October 2013.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, received the Director’s Recognition Award from the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases of the CDC, for his role in the Health Economics Modeling Unit. The unit provided CDC leadership with a comprehensive analysis of H7N9 strategies including airport screening, school closings, vaccination, anti-viral drugs, respiratory protective devices, and mechanical ventilators.

Stavros Memtsoudis, MD, PhD, **Madhu Mazumdar, PhD**, **Rehana Rasul, MPH**, **Xuming Sun, MS**, **Ya-Lin Chiu, MS**, and coauthors received first prize for best abstract for their study, “Sleep Apnea and Total Joint Arthroplasty under Various Types of Anesthesia: A Population-Based Study of Perioperative Outcomes,” at this year’s American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Management meeting in Boston.

Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM, was selected by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to chair its Advisory Panel on Assessment of Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment Options—one of four new advisory panels. PCORI is an independent, non-profit organization authorized by Congress in 2010 help guide healthcare reform as part of the Affordable Care Act.

Victor Sidel, MD, was honored at a symposium titled Health, Peace, & Social Justice in November 2012 at Montefiore Medical Center. The event was sponsored by the Office of the President of Montefiore Medical Center, the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health, and the Department of Family and Social Medicine.

Internal Appointments

Tara Bishop, MD, MPH, was appointed Research Mission Director for the Division of General Internal Medicine/WCIMA.

Ravinder Mamtani, MBBS, MD, MSc, was appointed Associate Dean for Outreach and Admissions at WCMC/Q. Dr. Mamtani is also WCMC/Q’s Associate Dean for Global and Public Health.

Michael Pesko, PhD, was appointed the Walsh McDermott Scholar in Public Health.

Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS, was appointed Assistant Director of Clinical Services at the Weill Cornell Medical College library.

External Appointments and Elections; Editorial Board Appointments

Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD, joined the editorial board of *Medical Decision Making*.

Tara Bishop, MD, MPH, was invited by Commissioner Nirav Shah, MD, MPH, to be a member of the New York State Department of Health Quality and Patient Safety External Advisory Committee. This committee will work across all settings of care on a wide array of quality and patient safety topics.

Dr. Bishop was also invited to participate in a review committee for MCIC Vermont Inc., a specialty insurance company which provides medical professional and general liability insurance coverage and risk management services to its academic medical centers, including Weill Cornell.

Madelon Finkel, PhD, was selected to serve as Editor by Praeger Press for a series in public health. In this role she will produce two books a year. In 2014 she will edit books on the public health aspects of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and on health care policy.

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, was elected a member of the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, a nonprofit organization of more than 300 leading neuroscientists. The Alliance is committed to advancing public awareness about the progress and promise of brain research and to disseminating understandable information on the brain.

Dr. Fins was named Co-Chair of the advisory committee for the Model System site grant for traumatic brain injury at Spaulding Rehabilitation, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School and part of Partners Health Care. The grant allows Spaulding clinicians and researchers to improve both regional and national understanding of traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Fins was appointed an international scientific advisory board member of NeuroDevNet, a Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence dedicated to helping children overcome neurodevelopmental disorders.

Dr. Fins was also appointed Associate Editor of the *Encyclopedia of Bioethics*, 4th Edition (MacMillan Reference), as well as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Clinical Ethics*.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, has been appointed Chief Editor for *Emerging Health Threats Journal*, an international open-access, peer-reviewed journal of research and policy focusing on the detection and management of evolving threats to global health and welfare. The journal is published by Co-Action Publishing, based in Sweden.

The Cornell Institute for Disease and Disaster Preparedness (IDDP), co-directed by **Dr. Hupert** and Professor John A. Muckstadt of Cornell University School of Operations Research and Information Engineering, has become a founding partner of a new international scholarly network on Complexity Science for Health Systems, which will be affiliated with the newly designated World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Complexity Science for Health Systems in the Division of Mathematical Modeling at the University of British Columbia Centre for Disease Control.

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, participated as an invited expert for a panel convened by the Office of the National Coordinator titled “Safety Assurance Factors for EHR Resilience.” The panel met in Rockville, MD, on September 30, 2013.

Madhu Mazumdar, PhD, was chosen by a panel of her peers across the country to be a Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA), for her outstanding contributions to the statistical profession. This Fellowship represents the highest honor in the field of statistics.

Dr. Mazumdar was appointed to the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Alumnae Advisory Group. The group’s purpose is to work with ELAM staff to guide successful program planning, community building and fundraising among the organization’s alumnae. The group serves the organization’s mission to increase the number and impact of women in leadership in academic medicine, dentistry, and public health.

Dr. Mazumdar was appointed to the American College of Epidemiology Finance Committee for a 3-year term (2013-16). The College is an organization of epidemiologists that serves the interests of the profession and its members by advocating for issues pertinent to epidemiology and a credential-based admission and promotion process; sponsoring scientific meetings, publications and educational activities; and recognizing outstanding contributions to the field.

Dr. Mazumdar was invited to become a member of the Young Researcher Award Committee for the International Indian Statistical Association, a non-profit organization that promotes education, research and application of statistics and probability throughout the world, with a special emphasis on the Indian subcontinent.

Dr. Mazumdar was also recently selected for the 2015 Eastern North American Region/International Biometric Society (ENAR) Spring Meeting program committee.

Matthew Press, MD, MSc, has been named “Interactive Editor” for *Health Care: The Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation*, a new journal published by Elsevier. In this role, he oversees multimedia content relevant to the journal’s aim of promoting cutting edge research on innovation in health care delivery, including improvements in systems, processes, management, and applied information technology.

Andrew Ryan, PhD, MA, was appointed to the editorial board of *BMC Health Services Research*.

Honored Talks; Conference Organization and Sponsorship

Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD, spoke during the Institute of Medicine's Health Literacy Roundtable on July 18 at the National Academies of Sciences in Washington, D.C. Her talk, "Issues and Challenges in the Era of Shared Decision Making: Explaining Risk and Uncertainty," was web streamed nationally.

Samprit Banerjee, PhD, MStat, presented an invited talk in September 2013 titled "Meta-Analysis of Survival Curves from Orthopedic Registries" at the Hospital for Special Surgery as part of the Biostatistics & Epidemiology Research in Progress Series.

Dr. Banerjee presented an invited talk in April 2013 titled "A Marginalization Approach to High Dimensional Covariance Matrix Estimation" at the New England Statistics Symposium.

Dr. Banerjee also chaired a session at the 2013 Joint Statistical Meetings on August 5 in Montreal, Canada, on Patient-Reported Outcomes in Mental and Behavioral Health.

A special event titled "Words of War" was held May 8, 2013, in New York City to support the Headstrong Project, an organization founded by Zach Iscol that provides free and confidential mental health services to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The Headstrong Project's clinical services are provided by faculty and staff of the Midtown Center for Treatment and Research. **Ann B. Beeder, MD**, is the medical director and **Gerard Ilaria, LCSW**, is the program director.

Yuhua Bao, PhD, gave a grand rounds presentation at Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca, NY, on May 31, 2013, titled "Integrating Mental Health Care in Medical Settings."

Lawrence P. Casalino, MD, PhD, organized and moderated a meeting in Washington, DC, on January 14, 2013, on reducing the costs of provider-payer interactions. The meeting was attended by Farzad Mostashari, MD, ScM, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (and a former faculty member of the WCMC Department of Public Health); Susan Dentzer, health policy analyst for the *PBS News Hour*, former editor of *Health Affairs*, and senior health policy adviser for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; and leadership from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and major health plans, hospitals, vendors, electronic transactions standards setting organizations, and medical groups. The meeting's purpose was to discuss a draft report written by Dr. Casalino and colleagues on reducing the costs of provider-payer interactions. It was part of an RWJF project led by Dr. Casalino on reducing administrative costs. Other Weill Cornell faculty on the project include **Curtis Cole, MD**, **Lisa Kern, MD, MPH**, and **Adam Cheriff, MD**, who also attended the meeting.

Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS, gave an invited lecture titled "Valuing Science" at the 3rd Conference on Research Integrity in Montreal, Canada, April 5-8, 2013.

Dr. de Melo-Martín also gave an invited talk titled "Valuing our Children: Embryo Selection and Procreative Liberty," as part of the Science & Technology in Society Seminar Series at Virginia Tech on November 8, 2013.

Madelon Finkel, PhD, was involved in several events focusing on the health effects of high volume horizontal hydrofracturing ("fracking") for natural gas drilling. She participated in a live, telephone-based news conference on December 13, 2012, sponsored by Physicians, Scientists, and Engineers for Healthy Energy. The conference coincided with the unveiling of a petition signed by 110 top U.S. medical professionals, scientists, and engineers urging the Obama Administration to halt the rush toward large-scale export of liquefied natural gas until the health impacts can be resolved. She served as an invited expert panelist at the 2013 American College of Epidemiology's annual meeting in Louisville, KY, where she spoke about ethics, epidemiology, and public policy concerning fracking. On November 15, 2013, she participated in an invitation-only conference in London sponsored by the European Centre for Environment and Human Health and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The conference was titled "Fracking and Health: Research Workshop," and focused on the health impact of hydraulic fracturing of shale gas in the United Kingdom and the United States. Dr. Finkel discussed the potential for harm to human health and the need for rigid safeguards to protect the environment.

Dr. Finkel was invited to speak at the Fordham University School of Business, Global Healthcare Innovation Management Center conference on “Determining the Value of Healthcare-A Multi-Stakeholder Perspective” on May 2, 2013. She discussed the overall value of evidence-based healthcare. **Marcus M. Reidenberg, MD, FACP**, chaired the session.

Dr. Finkel was invited to lecture at the annual Association of International Educators (NAFSA) conference held May 26-31, 2013, in St Louis, Missouri. Her talk focused on the importance of global partnerships. Over 9,000 educators attended the conference.

Dr. Finkel also gave an invited lecture on global health on March 25, 2013, at Hacettepe University School of Medicine in Ankara, Turkey.

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, gave the Presidential Address to the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities in Washington, D.C. on October 19, 2012. The Society promotes the exchange of ideas and fosters multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and inter-professional scholarship, research, teaching, policy development, professional development and collegiality among people engaged in clinical and academic bioethics and the medical humanities. The annual meeting, titled “Representing Bioethics,” invited participants to explore the varied ways in which representation and bioethics intersect.

Dr. Fins and other faculty of the Division of Medical Ethics, including **Ellen Meltzer, MD, MSc**, and **Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS**, presented papers at the 15th annual American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, where **Dr. Fins** received the Award for Outstanding Service as President.

In February 2013, **Dr. Fins** received a special invitation to give the inaugural lecture at the Institute Hostosia of Bioethics at the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Fins spoke on the minimally conscious state and its ethical implications. The inaugural event was covered by the university, as well as in newspapers in Puerto Rico including *El Nuevo Día* and *Vocero*.

Dr. Fins gave an invited plenary talk (in Spanish) at the University of Valencia in Spain on November 12, 2012, entitled, “El Derecho a la Consciencia: Un Encuentro entre a la Neurociencia y la Neuroetica” (The Right to Consciousness: An Encounter between Neuroscience and Neuroethics) at the II International Congress of Bioethics.

Dr. Fins gave the 2013 Nancy Weaver Emerson Lecture at Duke University on January 23, 2013, at the Trent Center for Bioethics and the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences. His topic was, “Neuroethics and the Minimally Conscious State Integrating Insights from Neuroimaging into Practice and Policy.”

Dr. Fins was the featured guest on an August 2012 Virtual Town Hall Meeting of the Center for Practical Bioethics on the future of health reform. The Center for Practical Bioethics is a nonprofit, free-standing and independent organization nationally recognized for its work in practical bioethics. Dr. Fins spoke on “The Affordable Care Act and Brain Injuries.”

Dr. Fins was the recipient of the 57th annual Saul A. Schwartz, M.D.’30 AOA Visiting Professor Lectureship at New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY. He presented his talk, “Rights Come to Mind: The Ethics of the Minimally Conscious State,” on April 30, 2013.

Dr. Fins gave the keynote address at the 5th International Brain-Computer Interface Meeting, “Defining the Future,” in Pacific Grove, California, June 3, 2013. His speech was titled “Brain Computer Interfaces and the Cyborg Myth: Does the Man make the Computer or Does the Computer make the Man?”

Dr. Fins was the Kim-Frank Visiting Writer at Wesleyan University on November 2, 2013. [He spoke about medical and science writing and his forthcoming book, *Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and the Struggle for Consciousness*.](#)

Dr. Fins gave the Samuel Cheng Lecture at the University of Louisville School of Medicine on September 17, 2013. His talk was entitled, “Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and the Struggle for Consciousness.” He gave a similar presentation on October 10, 2013, at the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in New Brunswick.

Dr. Fins also gave the 37th Annual John S. Young Lectureship at Craig Hospital in Denver, CO, in November 2013.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, represented Weill Cornell Medical College at an invitational Institute of Medicine meeting on the health system impact of Hurricane Sandy held at the New York Academy of Medicine on November 16, 2012. The meeting was co-hosted by the Institute of Medicine's Preparedness Forum and the New York Academy of Medicine, and included participation from the White House, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and local medical institutions.

Sandra Hurtado Rúa, PhD, presented an invited paper at the 2013 Joint Statistical Meetings on August 5 in Montreal, Canada. The title was "A model for the detection of abnormal regions in quantitative cerebral maps with application to myelin water fraction maps."

Members of "Team Science," the award-winning cross-institutional, interdisciplinary research group led by **Madhu Mazumdar, PhD**, and **Stavros Memtsoudis, MD, PhD**, presented a poster and workshop at a Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program conference held June 3-4, 2013, in Washington, DC, titled "Team Science: Contributions of a Novel Internship Program for Junior Biostatisticians to Clinical Research Management." Among the other authors were **Rehana Rasul, MA, MPH**, (lead author), **Jonathan Eskreis-Winkler, BA**, **Jashvant Poeran, MD, PhD**, **Xuming Sun, MS**, and Peter Fleischut, MD. Dr. Mazumdar was the senior author.

Matthew Press, MD, MSc, gave two invited talks in November 2013. One, titled "Collaboration between clinicians: assessing its quality and impact," was presented at the UCLA Center for Maximizing Outcomes and Research on Effectiveness Comparative Effectiveness Research Seminar Series. The other, "Communication between clinicians: measurement, quality, and outcomes," was given at the Yale School of Medicine Division of General Internal Medicine Research in Progress series.

In September 2012, the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held several major meetings aimed at "Strengthening Our National System for Medical Device Postmarket Surveillance." The Medical Device Epidemiology Network (MDEpiNet) was featured prominently at these meetings. **Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD**, is the Principal Investigator of the science infrastructure center of MDEpiNet, which is funded by the FDA.

Xi Kathy Zhou, PhD, gave an invited presentation entitled "Analysis of 'omics' data from heterogeneous samples: pitfalls and solutions," at the ICSA 2013 Applied Statistics Symposium/ISBS International Symposium on Biopharmaceutical Statistics Joint Meeting in Bethesda, MD, June 9-12, 2013.

Teaching Awards

Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD, received an Excellence in Teaching Award for her role in teaching the Public Health Clerkship.

Ziyad Mahfoud, PhD, received an Excellence in Education award for his role in teaching Medicine, Patients and Society I in Qatar.

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD, was honored with the Senior List Award by the Class of 2013 in Qatar. This award, recognizing commitment and excellence in teaching, is granted by the graduating medical class to the teachers they consider the very best from their years at WCMC-Q.

New Program

Joseph Fins, MD, and Arthur Caplan, PhD, of NYU Langone Medical Center, have founded the East River Bioethics Club to allow for the sharing of new ideas and best practices with bioethicists from their two institutions and others in New York. The group has already expanded to include the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, Hospital for Special Surgery, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and is looking to broaden its circle of friends. The club's inaugural meeting featured a discussion with Dr. Daniel Callahan, President Emeritus of the Hastings Center.

Promotions

It is a great pleasure to recognize those who received promotions this past year:

Primary Appointments

Yuhua Bao, PhD, Associate Professor
Thomas Campion, PhD, Assistant Professor
Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, Professor
Inmaculada de Melo Martín, PhD, MS, Professor
Michael Pesko, PhD, Assistant Professor
Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS, Assistant Professor
Andrew Ryan, PhD, MA, Associate Professor
Bruce Schackman, PhD, Professor
Xi Kathy Zhou, PhD, Associate Professor

Joint/Secondary Appointments

David Artz, MD, Associate Professor
Marshall Glesby, MD, PhD, Professor
C. Ronald MacKenzie, MD, Professor
Franklin Miller, PhD, Professor
Jamie Ostroff, PhD, Professor
Andrew Vickers, PhD, Professor

Staff

Lucas Romero, MPA, Research Coordinator

New Faculty and Staff

During the past year, **Hye-Young (Arian) Jung, PhD**, joined the Department of Public Health as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Quality and Medical Informatics. **Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS**, now has his primary appointment as Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Division of Quality and Medical Informatics. **Matthew Simon, MD, MS**, is now an Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hospital Medicine and Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Division of Health Policy.

Deborah Estrin, PhD, a new Professor of Computer Science at Cornell NYC Tech, also has an appointment as Professor of Public Health. **Giles Hooker, PhD**, who is based at Cornell University in Ithaca, was additionally appointed Associate Professor of Biostatistics in Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College.

The following faculty members received appointments in the Department of Public Health in addition to their primary positions in other departments at WCMC or in other organizations: **Satchit Balsari, MD, MPH**, **Francesca Gany, MD, MS**, **Natalia Ivascu, MD**, **Jessica Jalbert, PhD**, **Kevin Kelly, MD, MA**, **Helen Lee, MD, MPH**, **Maria G. Master, MD, JD**, **Kim Overby, MD, MBE**, **Richard Pasternak, MD**, **Vimla Patel, PhD, DSc, FRSC**, **Subroto Paul, MD, MPH**, **Timothy Peng, PhD**, **William E. Rhodes, III, MS**, **Arleen Salles, PhD**, **Edward H. Shortliffe, MD, PhD, MACP, FACMI**, **Meredith Stark, PhD, MS**, and **Bruce Vladeck, PhD**.

The Department also welcomes new staff members **Abby Isaacs, MS**, a Research Coordinator in the Comparative Effectiveness Program in the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, and **Thomas Lorio, LCSW**, a Counselor in the Employee Assistance Program Consortium.

New Grants (Department faculty and staff in bold type)

Department faculty and staff have attracted significant governmental, foundation, and institutional funding for their research. Following are some of the projects that were awarded or began since July 1, 2012:

Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD, received a 5-year research scientist development award (K01) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The grant, entitled “Improving Healthcare Quality with User-Centered Patient Portals,” funds a program of training and research on the design and effects of

electronic patient portals, which are web-based accounts that give patients access to their own medical data. This grant enables research on the effect of the technologies on patient understanding, engagement, and health outcomes. **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, is serving as mentor.

Ronald Crystal, MD, is the Principal Investigator of a 3-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled “Disrupted Adenovirus Serotype 5-based Anti-cocaine Vaccine (U01).” **Ann Beeder, MD**, is the Clinical Director, and **Mirella Salvatore, MD**, is the Study Physician. The focus of the project is to translate dAd5GNE to a clinical study, manufacture GMP grade vaccine, demonstrate safety in experimental animals, obtain regulatory approval, and carry out phase I clinical studies to evaluate safety and preliminary measures of efficacy.

Tara Bishop, MD, MPH, received a Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award from the National Institute on Aging. The grant is titled “Hospital Employment of Physicians and the Quality of Care for Older Adults.” She is examining physician practices that are owned by hospitals versus those that are owned by physicians, and differences in the quality of care delivered to older adults.

William Borden, MD, MBA, is being funded under an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment Agreement as a Medical Officer in the Center for Outcomes and Evidence in the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This project makes use of Dr. Borden’s cardiovascular clinical expertise in the dissemination and implementation of research findings to clinicians.

Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of a grant from the Commonwealth Fund titled “Assessing Relationships between Integrated Physician Group Structures and Integrated Patient Care,” which runs from May 2013 to December 2015. The goal of this project is to assess the psychometric properties of the Patient Perceptions of Integrated Care 2.0 survey.

Dr. Casalino is the Principal Investigator of another grant from the Commonwealth Fund titled “Large Primary Care Groups.” **Matthew Press, MD, MSc**, is a Co-Investigator. The project team will assess six large primary care physician groups to answer questions including how and why the groups were created, and what their strategies are for succeeding and improving patient care.

Dr. Casalino is also leading a study funded by the Agency for Healthcare and Research Quality titled “Relative Prices, Payer Mix and Regional Variations in Medical Care.” The researchers are testing a theoretical explanation of Medicare’s regional variations by using data from FAIR Health, Thomson Reuters MarketScan, and Medicare Part B to test whether geographic variations in Medicare spending for physicians can be explained by the profitability of Medicare relative to other payers.

Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS, and **C. Ronald MacKenzie, MD**, led a grant from the Hospital for Special Surgery Academy of Rheumatology Medical Educators. The project ran from August 2012 to July 2013 and was titled “Fostering Medical Professionalism: Enhancing Sensitivity and Responsiveness to Disability.” The researchers developed and are teaching a 6-week seminar for residents and fellows in orthopedics and rheumatology, as well as for faculty involved in the mentoring of residents and fellows.

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, is the Principal Investigator of a grant titled “Daniel Patrick Moynihan and the Defense of Academic Medicine,” funded by the NYPH Health Policy Center. This grant is supporting a scholarly exploration of Moynihan’s legislative record, writings and letters in an effort to understand the origins and dimensions of his advocacy.

Dr. Fins is leading the ethical component of an international, eight-center study led by **Nicholas Schiff, MD**, of how to accurately measure the level of awareness of minimally conscious patients by reconciling the images on patients’ brain scans with their actual function. The study is being funded through a \$5 million grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, has been awarded a renewed contract with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preparedness modeling. Dr. Hupert is leading projects on detection and response to special pathogens such as *Bacillus anthracis*; resource modeling for public health and medical response to emergency scenarios; and logistical capability after detection of disease outbreaks.

Stephen Johnson, PhD, was awarded a subcontract for a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to Prometheus Research, Limited, entitled “A Model Integrated Data Management System

for Multi-Disciplinary Autism Research.” The funder is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Dr. Johnson was also awarded a subcontract from Ohio State University for a 4-year NIH-funded study titled “An Information Fusion Approach to Longitudinal Health Records.”

Yan Ma, PhD, received a 3-year R01 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for the development and application of statistical methods for health disparities research, titled “Effects of Missing Data Strategies on Disparities Research Results in HCUP SID.” The goal of this study is to make Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) State Inpatient Databases (SID) a more useful and reliable resource for the study of racial disparity.

Madhu Mazumdar, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of a grant from the Center for Advanced Digestive Care (CADC) at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital Pilot Projects for Interdisciplinary Research titled “Use of the Premier Perspective Database in Gastrointestinal Research Projects.” **Stavros Mementsoudis, MD, PhD**, is the Co-Principal Investigator. **Jashvant Poeran, MD, PhD**, is a Co-Investigator, and **Rehana Rasul, MA, MPH**, is the project Biostatistician.

Michael Pesko, PhD, is leading a subcontract from the University of Illinois at Chicago for a study funded by the National Cancer Institute titled “Monitoring and Assessing the Impact of Tax and Price Policies on US Tobacco Use.” The subcontract is examining the impact of tobacco product prices, price-reducing promotions, and related policies on tobacco product purchasing behaviors.

Matthew Press, MD, MSc, is the Principal Investigator of a Cancer Control Career Development Award for Primary Care Physicians from the American Cancer Society titled “Primary Care-Oncology Collaboration for Patients with Medical Comorbidities. The objective of the project is to assess the extent and quality of care shared between primary care physicians and oncologists for patients with cancer and other medical conditions.

Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS, received seed funding from Technion/Cornell Tech for his study, “Situation-Based Patient Data Privacy Management for Mobile Health Technology.”

Andrew Ryan, PhD, MA, is the Principal Investigator of “The effect of year one of Hospital Value-Based Purchasing on quality of care,” funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. **William Borden, MD, MBA**, and **Michael Pesko, PhD**, are Co-Investigators. This study investigates whether Pay for Performance (P4P) can improve value in health care and the conditions under which P4P can be effective.

Bruce Schackman, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of a 5-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled “Enhanced Access to HIV Care for Drug Users in San Juan, Puerto Rico.” The major goal of this project is to evaluate both the effectiveness and cost of implementation of a community-level structural approach to maximize outcomes along the implementation cascade of testing, linkage, ART initiation, engagement, and retention in care for HIV-positive injection drug users.

Dr. Schackman also received a sub-award for a 5-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled “Intensive Models of HCV Care for Injection Drug Users.” The Principal Investigator is Alain Litwin, MD, MPH, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In this study patients from methadone clinics will be randomized to one of three models of hepatitis C care: directly observed therapy; concurrent group treatment; or standard care. Dr. Schackman and **Jared Leff, MS**, are overseeing cost data collection and analyzing the costs of delivering care in the study.

Bruce Schackman, PhD, is the Subaward PI of a study titled “HPTN 065 HIV Testing Cost Analysis,” funded by the National Institutes of Health. The objective of this work is to conduct a cost analysis of delivering HIV testing in emergency department and inpatient settings at selected HPTN 065 Expanded Testing hospital sites in Bronx, NY, and Washington, DC, including differences in costs as the selected hospitals have changed their HIV testing procedures (e.g., moving from point-of-care testing to multiplex laboratory-based testing).

Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, received a 5-year U01 grant from the FDA to support the creation of a major innovative initiative/program on medical countermeasures within the Medical Device Epidemiology Network (MDEpiNet).

Dr. Sedrakyan also received a 5-year grant from the FDA Investigator titled “Global Consortium of Cardiovascular Registries: Transcatheter Valve initiative.” The goal of this project is to address identified gaps in the current postmarket surveillance system by developing new methodologies for registry data collection on medical devices.

Mark Unruh, PhD, MS, has received funding through the National Institute on Aging’s (R03) Small Research Grant Program to study hospitals’ adoption of electronic health records (EHRs) and re-hospitalization of Medicare beneficiaries. The results of the study will provide evidence of the influence of the nation’s investment in EHRs on re-hospitalization of Medicare beneficiaries.

Joshua Vest, PhD, MPH, received an R03 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ) titled “How do you define regional? The geography of health information exchange.”

New Qatar Grants

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of a 3-year grant for more than \$1 million from the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), titled “Quantitative mapping of HIV incidence among stable couples and evaluation of impact of interventions targeting sero-discordant couples.”

Dr. Abu-Raddad is also the Principal Investigator on a 3-year grant for more than \$1 million from the QNRF titled “Understanding the Sexual Network Determinants of the Epidemiology of Sexually Transmitted Infections: Quantitative Assessment.”

Dr. Abu-Raddad has also received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation titled “The impact of male circumcision as an HIV intervention in select countries in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The Qatar National Research Fund, through the Junior Scientist Research Experience Program (JSREP), is funding the study, “Critical assessment of the drivers of the hepatitis C virus epidemic in Egypt: A quantitative approach.” The key Principal Investigator of this project is **Diego Cuadros, PhD**. **Dr. Abu-Raddad** is the co-Principal Investigator. The 3-year study will inform the control, surveillance and proper case management of HCV transmission, not only in Egypt, but potentially in other countries of the Middle East and North Africa region as well.

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD, is leading a grant from the Qatar National Research Fund’s Undergraduate Research Program Experience (UREP) titled “Finding Alternatives to Obtaining Patient Consent in Qatar.”

Educational Programs

Fellows, Residents, and Postdoctoral Associates

The General Preventive Medicine Residency Program trains physicians to be academic leaders in preventive medicine. **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, is the Program Director, and **Brandon Aden, MD, MPH**, is the Associate Program Director. Residents are paired with a faculty mentor. **Katherine Van Oss, MD**, and **Xi Emily Zheng, MD, PhD**, are the current General Preventive Medicine residents.

The Division of Quality and Medical Informatics runs a Fellowship Program in Health Care Quality and Medical Informatics Research. The current fellows are **Cori Green, MD, MS**, and **Zachary Grinspan, MD**. The program is directed by **Erica Abramson, MD, MS**, **Lisa Kern, MD, MPH**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**. The Division of Quality and Medical Informatics is also sponsoring Visiting Graduate Research Assistant **Patrick Kierkegaard, MSc**.

The Division of Medical Ethics is sponsoring public health fellow **Andrew Shuman, MD**, who is completing a dual fellowship in medical ethics and in head and neck surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. **Flávio Cesar de Sá, MD, PhD**, is a Visiting Fellow in the Division of Medical Ethics, with support from the government of Brazil.

James C. Robinson, PhD, MPH, is a Visiting Fellow from the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health.

Judith Fontana, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Division of Community and Public Health Programs, under the supervision of **Mirella Salvatore, MD**.

Bart Ferket, MD, PhD, Ashley Giambrone, PhD, MS, Sandra Hurtado Rúa, PhD, MS, Umut Ozbek, PhD, MS, and Jashvant Poeran, MD, PhD, are all Postdoctoral Associates in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology.

Neal Emery is a Global Health Fellow, working with **Madelon Finkel, PhD.**

Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, and Michael Wolk, MD, co-chair the Weill Cornell Healthcare Leadership Fellows program, a joint program of Weill Cornell Medical College and the Weill Cornell Physician Organization to identify and foster the development of clinical faculty who will help the medical center develop innovative solutions to achieve efficient, patient-centered and cost-effective health care delivery. Eight new fellows joined the program in 2013, including **Matthew Press, MD, MSc.**

In Qatar, **Diego Cuadros, PhD,** and **Ryuki Omori, PhD,** are Postdoctoral Associates working with **Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD.**

Department Seminars

The Department offers Grand Rounds and Divisional Seminars to the Medical Center community. The Divisions of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, Health Policy, and Quality and Medical Informatics sponsor a Joint Research-in-Progress Seminar Series. The theme of this year's Division of Medical Ethics Seminar Series is "Perspectives in Bioethics and Humanities." The Research-in-Progress Seminars of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior focus on psychological aspects of health and wellness and behavioral factors associated with the management of chronic disease. The Division of Community and Public Health Programs offers Research and Clinical Rounds on diseases of concern to public health. The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology Research Seminar Series features talks by internal faculty members as well as invited external speakers. Please continue to check our website: http://www.weill.cornell.edu/publichealth/about_us/calendar_of_events.html for updates to our seminar schedule.

Teaching Activities and Programs

Department faculty and staff direct and teach Medical College courses in New York City and Qatar, including sections of MPS I (Evidence-Based Medicine, Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics) & II (Introduction to the U.S. Healthcare System, Public Health and Community Medicine, Medical Ethics), MPS III (Medical Ethics), the 4th-year Public Health Clerkship, and other medical topics. They also teach in the pre-medical program in Qatar, and the Master's in Clinical Investigation Program of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. In addition, they direct and teach courses in research methodology and biostatistics and epidemiology to students in the graduate school and physician assistants program, as well as to residents and faculty at WCMC and in various affiliate hospitals. Department faculty also teach in the Perspectives on the Changing Healthcare Systems course for medical residents and conduct Ethics Rounds on several services of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

In the Weill Cornell Clinical & Translational Science Center's Master's in Clinical Investigation degree program, faculty and staff teach a variety of courses. These include the core course, Foundations of Clinical Research, and 9 elective courses, including 3 focusing on comparative effectiveness research.

The Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy (CHiP), led by **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH,** launched its Master of Science in Health Informatics program in January 2013. **Stephen B. Johnson, PhD,** directs the Master's program, and **Jessica S. Ancker, MPH, PhD,** Assistant Professor of Public Health in Pediatrics and Assistant Professor of Public Health, directs the certificate program. Both programs prepare students for careers at the intersection of health and information technology.

The Office of Global Health Education, under the direction of **Madelon Finkel, PhD,** provides opportunities for Weill Cornell medical students to study and do research abroad, and for international students to study at Weill Cornell Medical College. This past year the office expanded its programs to Ankara, Turkey, for student exchanges, collaborative research, and joint seminars and lectures.

James Knickman, PhD, President and CEO of the New York State Health Foundation, was the Department of Public Health's 2013 Lorraine and Ralph Lubin Distinguished Visiting Professor. He

presented his keynote speech, “Ruminations on How New York State Will Achieve an All-Payer System,” at the David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium.

Clinical Programs

In partnership with the Headstrong Project, the department offers a PTSD program for combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Services are provided at the **Midtown Center for Treatment and Research**. **Ann Beeder, MD**, is the Program Director and **Gerard Ilaria, LCSW**, is the Director of Operations and Administration. The Midtown Center also offers a range of services for chemically dependent individuals.

The Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC) offers free, confidential, short-term counseling and referral services to employees and dependents of the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, The Rockefeller University, and Weill Cornell Medical College.

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS, is the faculty advisor of the medical student-run Weill Cornell Community Clinic, which provides medical and psychiatric services to uninsured New Yorkers. Dr. Boutin-Foster, **Ann Beeder, MD**, **J. Emilio Carrillo, MD**, and **Oliver Fein, MD**, are on the clinic’s faculty advisory board.

The department is also involved in many clinical activities through the Weill Cornell Physicians Organization and New York-Presbyterian Hospital. Faculty collaborate on initiatives to improve practice organization, quality of care, patient safety, and clinical resource utilization. Through the **Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy (CHiP)**, faculty work to develop and assess innovative IT methods and applications. Physician faculty also see patients and supervise residents in WCIMA. **The Division of Medical Ethics** provides ethics consultations for patients at NYPH and their families. Department faculty also partner in Weill Cornell Medical College’s public health preparedness initiatives. In addition to their work in department-run clinical programs, faculty of the **Division of Community and Public Health Programs** direct and see patients at the **Vincent P. Dole Institute of Treatment and Research** of the NYP Ambulatory Care Network.

In Memoriam:

David T. Mininberg, MD, MA

The Department of Public Health, the Division of Medical Ethics, The Department of Urology, and the Department of Pediatrics would like to express our deep sadness on the death of Dr. David T. Mininberg on July 22, 2013 in New York.

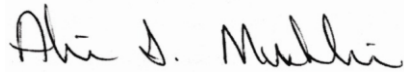
Dr. Mininberg joined Cornell University Medical College in 1977, first in the Department of Surgery, Division of Urology, and then in the Department of Urology. He was the director of pediatric urology from 1985 to 1999. From that point until his death, he was director emeritus of pediatric urology and a faculty member in the Department of Urology and the Department of Public Health, Division of Medical Ethics.

After his clinical career, he pursued his life-long interest in ancient archaeology and Egyptology, earning a Master of Arts from NYU’s Institute of Middle East Studies. In addition to his more than 90 articles and book chapters on medicine, he wrote numerous articles on the health of ancient Egyptians, as seen from the remains of mummies and other artifacts. Since 2004, he taught Weill Cornell medical students about death and dying in other cultures in the MPS III course in clinical ethics and palliative care, bringing the students to the museum on a journey of observation and interpretation through ancient papyri and funereal vessels and mummies. In recognition of the enrichment he brought to the students’ lives and clinical practices, he was selected for an Excellence in Teaching Award in 2013.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to his wife of 56 years, Anne, his brother Elliot, his sons Gustav and Julien, and his five grandchildren Benjamin, Emily, Mark, Lena and Gabriel.

I hope you have found this letter useful and interesting. Please contact me or other Department faculty if you would like to discuss activities in our Department. Attached is a partial list of the publications of our faculty and staff from July 2012 to December 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alvin I. Mushlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM
Chairman
The Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Public Health
Professor of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
Public Health Physician-in-Chief
New-York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center

Selected Publications, Weill Cornell Department of Public Health (July 2012-December 2013)

Journal Articles

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