



**Department of Public Health
Annual Letter November 2011**

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 due to 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 (Antonio Gotto, Jr., MD, DPhil; and David Hajjar, PhD) and the Hospital (Laura Forese, MD; Steve Corwin, MD; and Herb Pardes, MD).

New Programs, Leaders, and Program News

The Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy (**CHIP**) received official designation from Weill Cornell Medical College and Cornell University in June. CHIP's mission is to advance the field of healthcare informatics and related policies through interdisciplinary collaboration and academic excellence in research, education, innovation and service. Interested faculties are invited to apply for membership in the center.

CHIP and the **Division of Quality and Medical Informatics** have moved their base of operations to wonderful new offices on the third floor of 425 E. 61st Street. The Division remains an integral part of the Department of Public Health's research and educational programs.

The **Division of Health Policy** and the **Division of Community and Public Health Programs** have begun a collaborative research, treatment, and training initiative called the Program in Addiction Treatment Evidence and Economics (PATEE). The research component involves **Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, Ann B. Beeder, MD, Brandon Aden, MD, MPH, and Jared A. Leff, MS**. New opportunities for training in Addiction Medicine/Psychiatry will be led by Dr. Beeder and **Christopher Sturiano, PhD**.

Awards and Distinctions

Department members were recognized with numerous honors over the past year. These came from governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and institutions around the world, and Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.

Honors

Dr. Botvin was invited to give the 2011 John Doris Memorial Lecture for Cornell's Family Life Development Center, an interdisciplinary center within the College of Human Ecology. Dr. Botvin presented a one-hour talk entitled "Preventing Adolescent Drug Abuse through Life Skills Training: Empirical Findings and Translational Challenges."

Lawrence P. Casalino, MD, PhD, presented the 2010 John Fry Fellowship Lecture as part of his John Fry Fellowship at the Nuffield Trust in London. His fellowship role was to bring his knowledge of risk-contracting in the U.S. to bear on the centerpiece of the new British government's plan for the National Health Service (NHS), which is to place responsibility for determining how 70-80% of the NHS budget will be spent in the hands of "consortia" of general practitioners. His lecture was titled "What GP

commissioning consortia might learn from the development of physician groups in the US: a synthesis of 20 years' experience to avoid failure" and was followed up with a published monograph.

Dr. Casalino also served as the Harold W. Vaughan Visiting Professor in General Internal Medicine and Primary Care at Harvard Medical School/The Brigham & Women's Hospital May 19-20, 2011. His visit included a lecture titled "Fundamental Transformation of Primary Care: Four Theses."

Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS, was the keynote speaker at the Northeastern University Workshop in Applied Philosophy, in Boston, MA, September 30-October 2, 2011. Her talk was titled "Sex Selection and the Procreative Liberty Framework."

Joseph J. Fins, MD, FACP, was elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies, along with Cornell University President David Skorton, MD. Membership in the IOM is one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine.

Dr. Fins received the Laureate Award from the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). This award, the most prestigious honor bestowed to a chapter member at the state level, honors select Fellows who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research, and service to the community and the ACP.

In recognition of his pioneering work in advancing medical ethics, **Dr. Fins** was named the first E. William Davis, Jr., M.D. Professor of Medical Ethics. Dr. Davis, formerly a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Weill Cornell Medical College and currently Vice President for Medical Affairs Emeritus at NewYork-Presbyterian, was instrumental in the founding of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell's Ethics Committee in 1994, when Dr. Fins was named as its founding chair.

Dr. Fins was also inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society as a faculty member by the Weill Cornell Chapter. AOA is a professional medical organization that recognizes and advocates for excellence in scholarship and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine. He presented the AOA Distinguished Lecture, titled "What if Hippocrates went to Weill Cornell Medical College?"

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, was awarded the honored distinction of an endowed professorship as the Frances and John L. Loeb Professor in Medical Informatics.

Dr. Kaushal was a keynote speaker at the Argentina Pediatric Society centennial meeting.

Yan Ma, PhD, Ya-Lin Chiu, MS, Madhu Mazumdar, PhD, and other co-authors received an award for Best Oral Presentation at the 9th Domestic Meeting of the European Hip Society for their abstract, "In-hospital surgical site infection after primary total hip and knee arthroplasty—incidence and risk factors."

Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM, and **William Borden, MD, MBA**, joined more than 650 other scientists and health care practitioners in Doha, Qatar, last March to present and share the latest research on the causes and treatment of diabetes, obesity and the metabolic syndrome. The XVII Drugs Affecting Lipid Metabolism (DALM) Symposium was co-chaired by Dean Antonio Gotto, Jr., Dean Javid Sheikh, and Dr. Rodolfo Paoletti. Other speakers included Dr. Ronald Crystal and Dr. Louis Aronne. Dr. Mushlin presented on "The Importance of Diabetes as a Risk Factor for Vascular Diseases in Qatar." Co-authors include **Paul J. Christos, DrPH, MS**, and **Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD**. The event and Dr. Mushlin's talk was featured in the *Gulf Times* and was widely publicized in the Middle East and the U.S.

Andrew M. Ryan, PhD, received the 2010 John M. Eisenberg Article-of-the-Year award from *Health Services Research* for his study, "Has Pay-for-Performance Decreased Access for Minority Patients?" He was presented with the award at the AcademyHealth meeting. Also, his abstract, "Has Public Quality Reporting in Medicare Reduced Mortality?" was selected as the best in its category.

Mirella Salvatore, MD, was awarded the Certificate in Travel Health from the International Society of Travel Medicine, in recognition of her excellence in travel medicine.

Appointments

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, was appointed an Advisory Member for the Development of HIV Modelling Guidelines for HIV Prevention Impact Evaluation by the World Bank's Global HIV/AIDS Program.

Brandon Aden, MD, MPH, has been appointed Associate Director of the Department of Public Health's General Preventive Medicine Residency Program.

Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities for 2011-2014.

Joseph J. Fins, MD, FACP, recently began a two-year term as President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH), a position to which he was elected last year in recognition of his major contributions to bioethics and his broad expertise in the field.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, was appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of the MIDAS (Modeling of Infectious Disease Agent Study) Consortium. This group is funded by the National Institutes of Health/National Institute for General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, and **Melissa M. Honour, MPH**, served on Tiger Teams for the Office of National Coordinator (ONC) for Health IT. Tiger teams are teams of invited experts who work on timely policy issues at the request of the ONC over a rapid period of time.

Dr. Kaushal also served on several expert panels including a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) panel for the Development of Hospital Clinical Quality Measures and a Brookings Institute panel on Promoting Value in Healthcare.

Madhu Mazumdar, PhD, was chosen for the 2011–2012 class of fellows by The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women at Drexel University College of Medicine. ELAM is the only national program dedicated to preparing senior women faculty for leadership at academic health centers.

Dr. Mazumdar was also appointed Biostatistics consultant on the Editorial Board of *The Laryngoscope*, a prestigious academic journal that has been the forum for many groundbreaking advances in the specialty of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. **Michael G. Stewart, MD, MPH**, was recently appointed its Editor-in-Chief.

Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM, was invited to serve as one of four Associate Editors for a new journal, *Comparative Effectiveness Research*. This will be the first journal dedicated exclusively to this topic and will provide a forum for high-quality, peer-reviewed research papers, along with informative reviews and discussion articles. It will launch at the end of 2011.

Matthew J. Press, MD, MPH, was appointed an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics of the University of Pennsylvania.

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD, was appointed to the National Committee on Research Ethics and Regulations of the Qatar Ministry of Health/Supreme Council for Health.

Congratulations to **Bruce R. Schackman, PhD**, who was granted tenure as Associate Professor of Public Health. Dr. Schackman has devoted his career to economic evaluation of innovations in health care. He joined the faculty of the Weill Cornell Medical College Department of Public Health in 2001 and has been Chief of the Division of Health Policy since 2006.

Teaching and Student Awards

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, received a Faculty Teaching Award for Fundamentals of Physics II in the second-year pre-med curriculum in Qatar.

Madelon L. Finkel, PhD, received her third Excellence in Teaching Award for the Medical College's required Public Health Clerkship, which she directs.

Ziyad Mahfoud, PhD, received a faculty teaching award in Qatar for Medicine, Patients and Society I.

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD, was selected this year by the senior class at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar to receive the Humanism in Medicine Award. He also received a Faculty Teaching Award for Medicine, Patients and Society II.

Students mentored by **Dr. Rodríguez del Pozo** won first prize (out of 74 projects) in the Third Undergraduate Research Experience Programme (UREP) competition under the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). The students, Abdulhadi al-Saei, Sanah Sadiq and Arnab Chowdhury, were honored for their study, "Down Syndrome in Qatar: A Survey of Public Perception and Educational Resources." The

students also presented their findings at a meeting in Zaragoza, Spain, and were featured in *Diario Médico*.

We are grateful for the significant contributions to our Department from our colleagues at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, particularly Public Health faculty members **David R. Artz, MD, Peter Bach, MD, Ethan M. Basch, MD, Colin Begg, PhD, Elena Elkin, PhD, Mary Schwarz McCabe, RN, MA, Kenneth Offit, MD, Sara Olson, PhD, Jaya Satagopan, PhD, and Andrew Vickers, PhD.**

Promotions

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

Primary Faculty

Samprit Banerjee, PhD, MStat, Assistant Professor
Hassan M. Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor
Ziyad Mahfoud, PhD, Associate Professor/Qatar
Sameer Malhotra, MB,BS, MA, Assistant Professor

Dual Faculty

Peter Bach, MD, MA, Professor
Nicholas D. Schiff, MD, Professor
Phyllis G. Supino, EdD, Research Professor

Staff

Allison Dunning, MS, Research Biostatistician
Ashley A. Eggman, MS, Research Coordinator
Jared A. Leff, MS, Program Supervisor

New Faculty and Staff

During the past year **Stephen B. Johnson, PhD, Melissa M. Honour, MPH, Ellen C. Meltzer, MD, MSc, and Christopher Sturiano, PhD**, joined the Department of Public Health with primary appointments in the Department.

A number of Ithaca faculty members received appointments this year in the Department of Public Health: **James Booth, PhD, Valerie F. Reyna, PhD, Robert Lee Strawderman III, ScD, and Martin T. Wells, PhD.**

Also, **Adam Cheriff, MD, and Karen Scott, MD, MPH**, received faculty appointments in the Department in addition to their primary positions in other departments or organizations.

The Department also welcomes new staff members **Jamie Lo, MA, Jayme Mendelsohn, MPH, Katherine O'Brien, Lucas Romero, Xuming Sun, MS, and Shangaza Walcott.**

New Grants (Department faculty and staff in bold type)

Department faculty and staff have attracted significant governmental and foundation funding for their research. These are some of their new projects:

Gilbert J. Botvin, PhD, was awarded a Diversity Supplement for his grant: "A Collaborative System Approach for the Diffusion of Evidence-Based Prevention." The supplement supports mentoring for Postdoctoral Associate **Bianca P. Acevedo, PhD.**

Lawrence P. Casalino, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of a subward from the University of California at Berkeley (PI: Stephen Shortell, PhD) entitled, "National Study of Physician Organizations III," funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. **Andrew M. Ryan, PhD, MA**, is also an Investigator on this grant.

Dr. Casalino is the PI at Cornell for an AHRQ-funded project involving New York City's Primary Care Information Project entitled "Bringing High Performing Systems to Small Practices."

Dr. Casalino was also awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation entitled “Physician Practice Communities,” on which he is collaborating with **Dr. Andrew Ryan** and with investigators from the University of Michigan and Duke University. The core hypotheses of this project are that physician networks can have a large impact on the quality and cost of medical care, and that high quality and/or low cost networks differ in key characteristics.

Jennifer Epstein, PhD, in conjunction with Dr. Charles Hughes of the University of Central Florida, has been awarded \$500,000 from the National Science Foundation for the study, “Reducing Alcohol Use Among College Students Using Virtual Role Playing.” The project’s main objective is to develop and test the web-based prevention program.

Linda M. Gerber, PhD, and **Matthew J. Press, MD, MSc**, are Co-Principal Investigators, and **Lawrence P. Casalino, MD, PhD**, is a Co-Investigator, on a grant from the Aetna Foundation titled “Hospital Readmission and Communication Between Home Health Nurses and Physicians.” The researchers will examine communication between home health nurses and outpatient physicians and assess its association with hospital readmission. Out colleagues at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, **Penny Feldman, PhD**, and Timothy Peng, PhD, are collaborating on this study.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, was awarded a contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. His task was to design the methodology to assess the U.S. healthcare system’s responsiveness by analyses and modeling of data from U.S. Hospital emergency departments and inpatient hospitalizations.

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, is the Principal Investigator of the “Evaluation of the Healthcare Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers Capital Grant Program (HEAL NY) – Phase 10,” funded by the New York State Department of Health. **Erika Abramson, MD, MS, Jessica S. Ancker, MPH, PhD, Thomas R. Campion, Jr., PhD, Melissa M. Honour, MPH, Lisa M. Kern, MD, MPH**, and **Joshua E. Richardson, PhD, MLIS**, are co-investigators.

Dr. Kaushal is also the Principal Investigator of a project evaluate the impact of HIT at Denver Health in Colorado. The project is funded by Siemens Corporation. **Melissa Honour, Dr. Jessica Ancker** and **Dr. Thomas Campion** are also investigators.

Tarek Mikati, MD, received a research grant from the International Society of Travel Medicine to assess travel risks and patterns among stem cell transplant recipients.

Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM, is the Principal Investigator of a new “Mini-Sentinel” contract from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) entitled “Anonymous Linking of Distributed Database Environments.” The study supports the FDA’s Sentinel Initiative to create and evaluate methods for active surveillance of the safety of marketed medical products via developing and testing new methods for matching data from a device registry with insurance claims information. Additional Investigators include **Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD**, and **Stephen L. Lyman, PhD**.

Matthew J. Press, MD, MSc, is the Principal Investigator of a subaward of a grant to Penn State University (PI: Dennis Scanlon, PhD), funded by The Commonwealth Fund. Titled “Reducing Re-Hospitalizations: A Proposal from the Institute of Healthcare Improvement,” the goal is to reduce avoidable re-hospitalizations by engaging providers across the continuum of care in improving practice and reducing systemic barriers.

Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator for a major federal contract awarded to Weill Cornell Medical College by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish the Medical Device Epidemiology Network (MDEpiNet) Science and Infrastructure Center. The Center will be funded initially for 3 years for over \$1 million to help develop a national roadmap for Unique Device Identification (UDI) implementation and to support the International Consortium of Orthopedic Registries (ICOR). Both initiatives will assist the FDA in advancing the regulatory science and building national and international device registries to improve the safety and effectiveness of medical devices.

Dr. Sedrakyan also received two FDA-funded subawards this past year. The first is evaluating methodologies for innovative evidence synthesis for two implantable medical devices, in order to comprehensively assess their safety and effectiveness. The second is “Automated Medical Device Safety Monitoring,” using orthopedic implant registries to evaluate safety issues.

Bruce R. Schackman, PhD, will participate on “Quality Improvement for NewYork-Presbyterian Select Health, LLC.” The objective of the project is to classify and identify characteristics of Select Health’s members who would be expected to have and then do incur high medical costs in the future.

New CTSC Pilot Grant

Alexandra Suppes, PhD, received a Pilot Award from the Weill Cornell CTSC for her project titled “Surrogates and the Injured Self: How Surrogates Make Decisions for Patients with Disorders of Consciousness.” **Joseph J. Fins, MD**, is serving as a mentor on this project.

New Qatar Grants

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, was awarded \$1.5 million from WCMC-Q/Qatar Foundation to establish and direct WCMC-Q’s Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Biomathematics Research Core. This supports research operations at WCMC-Q, and more broadly in Qatar, with biostatistical and epidemiological needs such as study design, protocol development, and statistical analyses.

Dr. Abu-Raddad is also the Principal Investigator on a new 3-year grant from the Qatar National Research Fund titled “Characterizing the HIV/AIDS epidemics in the Middle East and North Africa: Systematic reviews and quantitative assessment.” This grant is enabling him to continue the research that he started more than 8 years ago while still in the U.S.

Ravinder Mamtani, MD, is the Co-PI on two new 3-year grants from the Qatar Foundation for obesity research. The first is titled “Obesity in the Qatari Population: Public Health and Genomic/Proteomic Perspectives.” The second is “Nanotechnologies and Treatment of Obesity: From Polymeric Nanoparticle-Based Recruitment of Adipose Stem Cells Toward Autologous Cell-Based Therapy.”

Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM, Hassan M. Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH, and Paul J. Christos, DrPH, MS, are investigators on “Genetics of Risk for Retinopathy Among Qataris with Type 2 Diabetes” sponsored by the Qatar National Research Fund and led by Ronald Crystal, MD, MS. **Abdulbari Bener, PhD**, is the Co-Lead PI.

“Genetic Variability and Susceptibility to Type 2 Diabetes in the Qatari Population” is also sponsored by the Qatar National Research Fund. Ronald Crystal, MD, MS, is the Principal Investigator. **Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM, Hassan M. Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH, and Paul J. Christos, DrPH, MS**, are among the co-investigators.

Educational Programs

Fellows, Residents, and Postdoctoral Associates

The General Preventive Medicine Residency Program continues to develop under the leadership of **Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM**, Program Director, and **Brandon Aden, MD, MPH**, the new Associate Program Director. **Tarek Mikati, MD**, and **Matthew Simon, MD**, are the current General Preventive Medicine residents. After completing the program, Dr. Simon will also qualify for certification in Infectious Diseases.

The Division of Quality and Medical Informatics has graduated its first cohort of fellowship students, including **Sameer Malhotra, MB,BS, MA**, and **Snezana Osorio, MD**. The fellowship continues to grow with the addition of two new fellows, **Richelle DeMayo, MD, CM** and **Zachary Grinspan, MD**. The Program is directed by **Stephen B. Johnson, PhD, Lisa M. Kern, MD, MPH**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**.

The Division of Medical Ethics is sponsoring several fellows. **Stephanie Vertrees, MD**, is continuing her Fellowship in Medical Ethics in conjunction with the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS). **Joseph J. Fins, MD**, and **Ronald McKenzie, MD**, co-direct this joint program. **Alexandra Suppes, PhD**, is a Postdoctoral Associate in Medical Ethics, working with Dr. Fins and **Nicholas Schiff, MD**.

Andrew G. Shuman, MD, a Fellow in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, has also begun the Fellowship.

Mirella Salvatore, MD, continues to supervise two Postdoctoral Fellows. **Judith Fontana, PhD**, and **Ekaterina Moroz, MD**, are working with her on research to develop a new vaccine platform and on the immune responses to influenza vaccination in opioid users.

Matthias Kormáksson, PhD, and **Sandra Hurtado Rúa, PhD, MS**, are Postdoctoral Associates in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology.

Bianca P. Acevedo, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior.

Nobuaki (Noble) Nakaya, MD, is a Visiting Fellow in the Division of Community and Public Health Programs.

Department Seminars

The Department offers its Grand Rounds and Divisional Seminars to the entire Medical College community. This year the Divisions of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, Health Policy, and Quality and Medical Informatics are sponsoring a joint research-in-progress seminar series. The theme of this year's Division of Medical Ethics Seminar Series is "Medical Ethics as Seen Through the History of Medicine." The focus of the research-in-progress seminars of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior is 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 is offering research and clinical rounds on diseases of concern to public health. The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology is offering its regular seminar series, as well as—in collaboration with the Weill Cornell Clinical and Translational Science Center—a series of talks focusing on "Epidemiology and Translational Research." Thanks to our research staff, two additional programs have been developed: an interdivisional faculty/staff journal club and an ongoing series of software tutorials. 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

The **Weill Cornell Health IT Certificate Program** of the **Division of Quality and Medical Informatics** recently graduated its first class of 77 participants. The program—one of nine new university-based programs throughout the nation and the only one in the Northeast—is funded by the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT to prepare students to enter professional positions in health information management and exchange. **Jessica S. Ancker, MPH, PhD**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, are the Directors.

Department faculty and staff continue to direct and teach Medical College courses in New York City and Qatar, including MPS III (Medical Ethics), the 4th year Public Health Clerkship, 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), 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 New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

With funding from a supplement to the Weill Cornell Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) grant from the National Institutes of Health received last year by **Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and Julianne Imperato-McGinley, MD, three topics focusing on comparative effectiveness research (CER) are being developed in preparation for new course offerings. **Lawrence P. Casalino, MD, PhD**, **Stephen L. Lyman, PhD**, and **Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD**, will teach "Methods for Comparative

Effectiveness Research.” **Hassan M. Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH**, and **Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH**, will teach “Decision Analysis in Healthcare.” **Stephen B. Johnson, PhD, Jessica S. Ancker, MPH, PhD**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, will teach “Methods for the analysis of electronic medical records, large datasets, and registries for clinical research.” Two KL2 CER scholars who previously completed the degree program, Carl Imhauser, PhD, and Gabriella Wernicke, MD, participated in developing the courses. They are also receiving an additional year of mentored training in Comparative Effectiveness Research.

The Office of Global Health Education, under the direction of **Madelon L. 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 Dr. Finkel renewed the exchange agreement with and was awarded an Honor of Appreciation by Lima, Peru’s San Marcos Medical College. Dr. Finkel and Helen-Ann Brown, MLS, also presented an eight-week course on Evidence-Based Medicine to residents and faculty at the AIMS medical college in Cochin, India. They plan to offer this course to other interested medical colleges around the world.

Marcia Angell, MD, Senior Lecturer in Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a former Editor-in-Chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was the Department of Public Health’s 2011 Lorraine and Ralph Lubin Distinguished Visiting Professor. She presented “Conflicts of Interest in Medicine,” at the David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium.

Clinical Programs

A Suboxone treatment clinic for opiate users, including prescription medication and heroin dependent individuals, has opened at **The Midtown Center for Treatment and Research**. This new treatment option augments the comprehensive care the center already provides for chemically dependent individuals and their families.

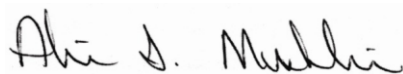
The Midtown Center has also recently converted to the Epic electronic health record to better serve its patients.

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS, Ann B. Beeder, MD, and **William Borden, MD, MBA**, are faculty liaisons for the medical student-run Weill Cornell Community Clinic, which continues to provide medical and psychiatric services to uninsured New Yorkers.

The Phipps House offices of the **Employee Assistance Program Consortium** are currently being renovated. The program is temporarily providing services at the Public Health department’s main 67th Street location until it reopens in its improved space.

I hope you have found this letter useful and interesting. Please contact me if you would like to discuss anything our Department is doing. Attached is a partial list of the publications of our faculty for the fiscal year July 2010 to June 2011.

Sincerely,



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 2010-June 2011)

Journal Articles

Abramson EL, Malhotra S, Fischer K, Edwards A, Pfoh ER, Osorio SN, Cheriff A, Kaushal R. Transitioning between electronic health records: effects on ambulatory prescribing safety. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2011 Aug;26(8):868-74. Epub 2011 Apr 16.

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Ash JS, Sittig DF, Dykstra R, Wright A, McMullen C, **Richardson J,** Middleton B. "Identifying Best Practices for Clinical Decision Support and Knowledge Management in the Field." *Studies in health technology and informatics*, 2010;160(Pt 2):806-10.

Banerjee S, Oldridge, D., Poptsova, M., Hussain, W.H., Chakravarty, D., Demichelis, F. (2011) A Computational Framework Discovers New Copy Number Variants with Functional Importance. *PLoS One*, 6(3):e17539.

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