**Gastro Center Established**

Thanks to $65 million from the Helmsley Charitable Trust, NYP/Weill Cornell has established a Center for Digestive Care offering innovative treatments for numerous conditions from obesity to gastrointestinal reflux to colon cancer. The Center will emphasize integrated care, with nurse coordinators guiding patients from initial diagnosis through treatment and recovery. It will offer programs dedicated to colon and rectal surgery, gastrointestinal health, inflammatory bowel disease, and more, as well as housing a state-of-the-art endoscopy suite.

**Weill Cornell, Columbia to Administer New Sackler Prize**

A major gift from the Mortimer D. Sackler Foundation has established an annual award in memory of its namesake, a pioneer in developmental psychobiology who passed away in March at age ninety-three. To be awarded every two years by the two Sackler Institutes for Developmental Psychobiology—one at Weill Cornell, the other at Columbia—it will recognize researchers who have advanced understanding of how early brain development influences the mind and behavior throughout life. Weill Cornell will present the first $100,000 prize in 2010, with the institutions alternating biennially; winners will give Grand Rounds at both schools and lead workshops at both institutes.

**Building a Biomedical Networking System**

Weill Cornell is one of the partners in a $12.2 million project to create a system to network researchers across the country, allowing biomedical scientists to share information and find collaborators. The project, called VIVOweb, expands on a system created at Cornell’s Ithaca campus in 2003 as a life sciences networking service. (Located at http://vivo.cornell.edu, it directs users to researchers as well as grants, publications, facilities, undergraduate majors, graduate fields, and more.) The VIVOweb effort is led by the University of Florida, with Cornell University and Indiana University, Bloomington, as major partners; Weill Cornell will serve as an implementation site. The project was funded by the NIH’s National Center for Research Resources as part of the Obama Administration’s economic stimulus plan.

---

Rest stop: In late March, the Center for Sleep Medicine marked the opening of its new home, an 1,800-square-foot facility on East 61st Street. It features twelve hotel-quality rooms—with private bathrooms, cable TV, and wireless Internet—where patients stay for overnight sleep studies. A joint effort of the medicine, neurology, and neuroscience departments as well as the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, the Center treats sleep disorders arising from such conditions as apnea, restless-legs syndrome, stress, and more.

**TIP OF THE CAP TO…**

Surgery clinical fellow Elaine Cheng, MD, named an associate scientific adviser to the journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

Ophthalmology chairman Donald D’Amico, MD, elected president of the Club Jules Gonin. Limited to the world’s most distinguished retinal specialists, the society is named for the Swiss pioneer in retinal surgery.

Joseph Fins, MD, chief of the Division of Medical Ethics, and public health professor Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, who served as guest editors for a special issue of the journal *Technology and Society*. They jointly wrote an introduction and each contributed essays.

Pediatrics chairman Gerald Loughlin, MD, named senior associate dean for international clinical program planning. He will work closely with Qatar’s Sidra Medical and Research Center to guide development of WCMC-Q programs at the facility.

Surgery chairman Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, who served as the Oliver H. Beahrs Visiting Professor of Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in February. His duties include leading Surgical Grand Rounds.

Medicine professor and GHESKIO co-founder Jean Pape, MD ‘75, winner of the Carlos Slim Award for Lifetime Achievement in Research for his efforts to combat HIV and other infectious diseases in Haiti.