Department of Public Health

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Weill Cornell Medical Center

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Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College

Public Health: Expanding Our Local and Global Reach

Report 2003-2006
The Department of Public Health's 2003-2005 Biannual Report is dedicated to Dr. George Reader, the Livingston Farrand Professor Emeritus of Public Health and Professor Emeritus of Medicine, who led the Department from 1972 to 1992. Dr. Reader passed away on October 13, 2005, at his home in Rye, New York.

Throughout his career, Dr. Reader focused on socio-economic influences on illness and the delivery of medical care. He was an early champion of comprehensive care, and helped shape public health policy on state and national levels.

From 1961 to 1965, Dr. Reader served as Chairman of the human ecology section of the National Institutes of Health. In 1966, he became an advisor to the Social Security Administration during the Johnson Administration, influencing the formulation and eventual passage of Medicare legislation. Dr. Reader was a consultant for a number of federal agencies, including the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity (1967); the Office of the Secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) (1967-1968); and the Health Services and Mental Health Administration at HEW (1970-1972). In 1971, he was appointed Co-chairman of the technical committee on training of the White House Conference on Aging. From 1974 to 1984, Dr. Reader was a member of the New York State Governor's Health Advisory Council.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, George Reader always knew he wanted to be a doctor. He enrolled at Cornell University in 1936, and graduated with a degree in animal biology. It was there that he also met his future wife of 63 years, Helen.

Soon after college, he enrolled at Cornell University Medical College, graduating in three years. Toward the end of his internship at The New York Hospital in 1944, Dr. Reader, already a Naval Lieutenant Junior Grade, was called to active duty. By the end of World War II, he had been promoted to Lieutenant and became commanding officer of a medical detachment in the South Pacific.

In 1947, Dr. Reader returned to the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center to complete his residency, and stayed at Cornell for the next 45 years. He served with distinction in a number of roles, moving up the academic and clinical tracks to eventually become Chairman and Physician-in-Chief for the Department of Public Health from 1972 to 1992. In 1992, Dr. Reader was named recipient of the Maurice R. Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Medical Center. "If we were to mention all the honors George has received, all his appointments and memberships in distinguished organizations, we'd be here till dawn," said Dr. Bob Michels, past Dean of the Medical College, the night Dr. Reader received his Greenberg Award.

"He was a superb and compassionate clinician, skilled teacher, and dedicated researcher," said Dr. Alvin Mushlin, Chairman of the Department of Public Health. "He was beloved and respected by all."

_Each patient deserves comprehensive care from one or several health professionals—care that is coordinated, continuous, complete and compassionate for every episode of illness._

—Dr. George G. Reader
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I am very pleased to share with you the report of the Department of Public Health, 2003-2006. Since the last report, the Department has continued to grow and has greatly expanded in the number of our faculty and the scope of our projects. While strengthening our local research, clinical, and educational initiatives, we have also formed alliances and been involved in endeavors to improve public health around the world.

The Department’s new Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology was formed in October 2004 in response to the Dean’s Strategic Plan to support and encourage clinical and outcomes research at the Medical College. Led by Chief Madhu Mazumdar, Ph.D., the Division pursues statistical research and provides expert collaboration to researchers throughout the Medical Center, through long-term collaborative plans and through the Biostatistics and Research Methodology Core (formerly known as the Clinical Research Methodology Core) under the direction of Linda M. Gerber, Ph.D.

Faculty members from all six of our divisions are involved in important research focusing on timely public health topics, including healthcare effectiveness and quality, health behavior and health promotion, neuroethics, and disease and drug abuse prevention. Research projects in the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research include improving the effective use of electronic medical records, investigating the benefits of disease screening, analyzing the cost-effectiveness of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C treatment, and developing computerized models to plan for bioterrorism, pandemics, and natural disasters. Current studies in the Division of Health Policy focus on pharmacoeconomics, quality of care measurement and reporting, the improvement of care for the elderly, and the epidemiology of women’s health issues. Medical Ethics faculty are developing a metric evaluation for ethics consultations, elucidating clinical and ethical aspects of the minimally conscious brain state, and studying the role of advance directives. The Division of Prevention and Health Behavior, under the leadership of Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D., is conducting studies to implement adolescent drug abuse prevention programs and to better understand gender, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects of health promotion and disease prevention. The Division of Community and Public Health Programs is researching methods for intercepting Internet sales of prescription narcotics to adolescents, the treatment of hepatitis C in drug abusers, and the reduction of health disparities in immigrant and minority communities. Faculty and staff of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology are conducting epidemiological studies in hypertension and other fields and are helping researchers throughout the medical center by designing new statistical methodology for projects in diverse areas of medicine. I invite you to read all of the Division Reports to learn about these projects in more detail.

The Department has been very successful in obtaining funding for its ground-breaking research. One major new initiative is the Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks (ACTION) contract from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), which is a continuation of the recently completed Integrated Delivery System Research Network contract. Under Principal Investigator Mark A. Callahan, M.D., Chief of the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, ACTION will enable the Weill Cornell Medical College partnership to compete for funding for rapid-cycle research projects over a period of five years. Dr. Callahan and I will be leading another large project funded by the AHRQ that involves Weill...

Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M.
Chairman
The Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Public Health
Public Health Physician-in-Chief of the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center
Professor of Medicine

Dr. Mushlin’s research focuses on the application of decision and cost-effectiveness analysis to the evaluation of clinical policies and medical technologies, with the aim of making medical care and public health more evidence-based and priority setting more rational. Specifically, he conducts studies to quantify the value and accuracy of diagnostic tests and procedures, understand the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of interventions for common clinical problems, and measure the quality of medical care.
Cornell Medical College, The Hospital for Special Surgery, and The Methodist Hospital. Called the Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT), the grant provides $4 million over five years to fund research into the outcomes and cost-effectiveness of medical devices.

Some of the Department’s activities take place far from New York City. Public Health faculty and colleagues in Doha, Qatar, are involved in a large collaborative study of diabetes, under the direction of Dr. Callahan and Lisa M. Kern, M.D., M.P.H. Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D., is exploring cost-effective treatment methods for HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, and syphilis in Haiti; and Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H., is modeling plans to effectively distribute antiretroviral drugs in Africa. Kenneth W. Griffin, Ph.D., has worked to prevent the spread of HIV by training policy makers in Laos, Cambodia, in the biomedical and epidemiologic aspects of the disease and current behavioral intervention strategies. Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D., has made several trips to Cape Town, South Africa to train eighth grade teachers in a culturally specific adaptation of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior’s Life Skills Training Program to prevent smoking in adolescents.

With the establishment in June 2004 of an affiliation between Weill Cornell Medical College, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, and The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, we proposed and helped to found a new Department of Public Health at The Methodist Hospital. The Public Health Department at Weill Cornell in New York City will serve in an oversight and advisory capacity. I am very pleased by the recent appointment of Marc D. Silverstein, M.D., F.A.C.P., as Chair of The Methodist Hospital Department of Public Health and look forward to collaborative projects between faculty in the two departments.

On the educational front, the Department has been involved in a number of exciting initiatives. Department faculty participated in the development of a new Clinical Research Curriculum Award program under a K-30 grant from the National Institutes of Health and are responsible for the coursework and mentored research in its Health Services and Outcomes Research concentration. Several courses developed by the Department, including Foundations of Clinical Research, are part of the core curriculum and are taught by Public Health faculty.

The Department’s educational activities have expanded in the Weill Cornell Medical College branch in Qatar. Currently three faculty members of the Department of Public Health are based in Qatar. These include Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., who directs the Qatar curriculum in Medical Ethics; as well as Biostatistics and Epidemiology faculty members William Greer, Ph.D., and Amy L. Sandridge, M.Sc.
Several new Department seminars have recently been developed and approved for Continuing Medical Education credit. These include the departmental grand rounds, the Medical Ethics seminars, the Biostatistics and Epidemiology conferences, and the Outcomes and Effectiveness Research in Progress seminars.

We are also happy to have recently completed the Faculty Associates Program, which was created and administered by Joseph J. Fins, M.D., Chief of the Division of Medical Ethics. The program provided advanced training in medical ethics to five clinical faculty members in other departments in the medical center. Participants gained expertise in medical ethics to serve them in their clinical and research activities, and also were appointed as faculty members of the Division.

The organization of the Department is now complete with the appointment on July 1, 2006, of Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D., as Chief of the Division of Health Policy, which was previously called the Division of Health Services and Policy Research. Dr. Schackman’s years of experience as an innovative researcher in the fields of cost-effectiveness modeling, quality-of-life measurement, and access to health care by underserved populations make him ideally suited to lead this Division. I look forward to working with him to enhance health policy initiatives that are relevant to the local, national and global delivery of health care. I also wish to thank Hirsch S. Ruchlin, Ph.D., who served as Acting Chief of the Division from 1999 through June 2006. Although he has retired from Weill Cornell Medical College, Dr. Ruchlin will retain a faculty appointment in the Department as Professor Emeritus of Economics in Public Health.

Our community-based clinical programs continue to flourish as well. The adult and adolescent opioid dependency programs of the Division of Community and Public Health Programs, directed by Robert B. Millman, M.D., and Ann B. Beeder, M.D., have expanded and have been recognized with excellent scores from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Division faculty member J. Emilio Carrillo, M.D., M.P.H., is also researching and developing programs to address inadequacies in the healthcare system, reduce disparities, and improve healthcare access for all. His work includes instituting a culturally competent pilot pediatric asthma disease management program and examining methods for helping minority and immigrant patients overcome barriers to appropriate cancer screening and care.

Dean Gotto and President Pardes have provided superb support, encouragement, and guidance for the Department. The College’s ongoing “Advancing the Clinical Mission” capital campaign has partially funded the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholars Program in Public Health, which enables four faculty members to pursue clinical research in specific public health areas. I am especially grateful to Nanette Laitman, who is providing the major portion of the funding for this scholarship program. I also thank Alan Meltzer and Robert Shay, both of whom have pledged funding for research in the Division of Community and Public Health Programs.

On a large scale, the Department of Public Health aims to discover how best to achieve what our former chairman, Dr. George Reader, defined as comprehensive medical care for all of our citizens: “the preservation of health and the prevention as well as the cure of disease.” I hope that after reading this report you will share our enthusiasm for the Department’s efforts, both ongoing and planned, to enhance public health through high quality and meaningful research, education, and clinical programs.
Funding New Programs; Enhancing Existing Ones

The Department of Public Health’s advances in clinical care, research, and education could not be accomplished without the support and partnership of private philanthropy. Gifts and endowments support new and existing research and services programs, visiting professorships, and endowed faculty chairs. These funds are critically necessary to ensure the continued fulfillment of these commitments.

Some recent gifts deserve special mention. First among these is the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholars Program in Public Health, funded by a $3 million gift from the Laitman family and a $1 million matching gift from Weill Cornell Medical College’s “Advancing the Clinical Mission” capital campaign. For this we are deeply grateful to Nanette Laitman, as well as to the College. The Clinical Scholars Program will provide funding for clinicians to engage in research in the areas of prevention (with a focus on women’s health), clinical evaluation, community health, and quality of care research.

Shari Midoneck, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College and Associate Attending Physician in the Department of Medicine at the Iris Cantor Women’s Health Center at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, was selected as the Laitman Scholar in Prevention with a focus on women’s health. She will research women’s health issues and promote their inclusion in both research and policy initiatives, continuing and expanding upon the research efforts already begun by the Women’s Health Research Group, established by the Department of Public Health in 2003. Areas of interest include cancer, cardiovascular disease, obesity, osteoporosis, menopausal transition, and depression. As her first initiative, she is investigating methods to improve the rates of colon cancer screening by targeting patients who are having screening mammography.

Lisa M. Kern, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Assistant Attending Physician, has been named as the Laitman Scholar in Clinical Evaluation. This scholarship will enable her to continue her work in technology assessment. Dr. Kern’s research evaluates screening and diagnostic tests for diseases such as osteoporosis, diabetes, high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Kern is also studying the impact of health information technology on health care quality and other outcomes.

The remaining Laitman scholars will be announced soon.

The Laitman Scholar in Community Health will develop a research agenda that focuses on the development and evaluation of imaginative and viable community health programs to combat chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Additionally, community initiatives may help to promote culturally and ethnically sensitive care, thereby reducing ethnic disparities in health outcomes.
The Laitman Scholar in Quality of Care Research will develop strategies, including the use of information technology, to prevent medical errors and substandard care. Furthermore, this Scholar will examine specific ways to improve the quality of medical care received by underserved populations, focusing on chronic conditions such as asthma, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Nanette Laitman is the daughter of William and Mildred Lasdon, now deceased, who were generous benefactors to Weill Cornell Medical College, and for whom Lasdon House, the Medical College dormitory, is named. Ms. Laitman has followed in her parents’ footsteps as a major philanthropist. She has a special interest in public health. The Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholars Program is the largest endowment for junior faculty in any department within the Medical College. Ms. Laitman previously endowed the position of the Chairman of the Department of Public Health. She is also president of the Board of Governors of the Museum of Arts & Design in New York City. She has two daughters, Bonnie B. Eletz and Cathy Seligman, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Also of note are two major gifts to the Division of Community and Public Health Programs. Alan Meltzer has committed $1 million to endow the Meltzer Clinical Scholar in Addictive Diseases. The clinical scholarship award will benefit work being done by physician-scientists under the direction of Robert B. Millman, M.D., the Saul P. Steinberg Distinguished Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry and Chief of the Division of Community and Public Health Programs. Robert Shay has pledged $500,000 to fund drug and alcohol research to be done by Dr. Millman and Ann B. Beeder, M.D., Associate Professor of Public Health and Psychiatry and Director of the Division’s Methadone Maintenance Programs.

Each of our six divisions is working on a variety of research and clinical programs that need your support. We are seeking start-up funds for new research, as well as donations to the Chairman’s Development Fund, which makes initial investments in faculty and the Department’s infrastructure at Dr. Mushlin’s discretion. Endowments are currently needed for professorships in the Divisions of Medical Ethics, Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, and Health Policy. Professorships are integral to our goal of advancing scholarly research, strengthening medical education and improving healthcare because they enable the Department to attract and retain outstanding senior scientists.

There is a place for even the smallest contribution. We encourage you to contact the Office of the Chairman or the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center Development Office at (212) 821-0500 to discuss philanthropic options. The Chairman and the staff of the Development Office will work with prospective patrons on areas and projects of interest and review available recognition opportunities.

**Endowments**
- Professorships
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Program
- Faculty Development/Research Fund

**Expendable Support**
- Start-up funds for new research
- Clinical programs support
- Chairman’s Development Fund
- Divisional Development Fund
The Department of Public Health and its faculty are involved in numerous educational activities for faculty, house staff, and students. These range from formal training programs to courses, lectures, and seminars.

**Clinical Investigation Program**

A new training program in the fundamental skills of clinical research was initiated in the fall of 2005. Funded by a K-30 Clinical Research Curriculum Award (CRCA) from the NIH, this joint teaching endeavor of the Medical College, the Graduate School, and the Cornell-Ithaca campus was developed to educate and train highly motivated individuals to become successful, independent clinical investigators.

The program has two tracks. Track I leads to a Certificate in Clinical Investigation in one year and focuses on a core curriculum. Track II leads to a Master of Science in Clinical Investigation in two years. Students in the Master’s program can specialize in the following pathways: Patient-Oriented Research & New Technologies, Health Services & Outcomes Research, Epidemiology & Statistics, and Skill Acquisition Workshops.

The new initiative is led by Julianne L. Imperato-McGinley, M.D., the Abbey Rockefeller Mauze Distinguished Professor of Medicine in Endocrinology and Chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. Craig T. Basson, M.D., Professor of Medicine; Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Public Health; and Kendall A. Smith, M.D., Professor of Medicine, serve as Associate Program Directors.

Dr. Mushlin and other faculty of the Department of Public Health were integrally involved in the development of the Clinical Research Curriculum Award program and are responsible for the coursework and mentored research in the Health Services and Outcomes Research concentration. Also, several courses developed by the Department are part of the core curriculum and are taught by Public Health faculty. As Associate Program Director, Dr. Mushlin provides oversight on all aspects of recruitment, including the K-30 web site, materials for recruitment, and publicity efforts.

**Post Graduate Training**

The Department of Public Health offers two residency programs and a fellowship program. These include a two-year ACGME-accredited Residency in General Preventive Medicine, a one-year ACGME-accredited Residency in Addiction Psychiatry, and Research Fellowships in Health Services Research.

The General Preventive Medicine Residency was directed for 18 years by Lewis Drusin, M.D., M.P.H. It is currently under the leadership of Acting Program Director Dr. Mushlin and Associate Program Director Elizabeth G. Nilson, M.D., M.P.H., who is a graduate of the residency program. The program emphasizes epidemiology, biostatistics, clinical and preventive medicine, medical care organization, medical sociology, health economics, and education. Training includes a practicum and a didactic component, and participation in a research project is required.
Residents in the General Preventive Medicine residency program obtain the M.P.H. degree from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and become eligible for certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine.

The Residency Program in Addiction Psychiatry is directed by Ann B. Beeder, M.D. This program consists of didactic teaching, clinical services, supervision, and administrative responsibilities. Residents may elect to work on one of a number of active research projects or focus on administrative or clinical issues. Satisfactory completion of the program contributes to eligibility for certification by the American Board of Psychiatry.

A Fellowship in Health Services Research has been initiated to complement our two residency/fellowship programs. The program consists of Master’s level coursework in health services research combined with mentored research experiences. Faculty come from the Department of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College, from the Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Outcomes research groups at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute, and from the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. The fellowship leads to the M.S. degree in Clinical Investigation.

Medical School Courses
Faculty in all divisions of the Department of Public Health are involved in the teaching of medical students at Weill Cornell Medical College. Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D., directs many of the Public Health courses in the curriculum. Joseph J. Fins, M.D., and Lewis Drusin, M.D., M.P.H., are also course directors. In the past few years, department faculty have continued to be selected by medical students for Excellence in Teaching awards. In 2004, Dr. Fins and Mark A. Callahan, M.D., received this honor; in 2005, Dr. Finkel and Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H., were selected; and in 2006, Dr. Fins and Oliver T. Fein, M.D., were presented with the award.

Dr. Finkel helped to establish the required Public Health courses taught to medical students at the Qatar campus of Weill Cornell Medical College. Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., represents the Division of Medical Ethics in Qatar and in consultation with colleagues in New York, directs the Medical Ethics curriculum. William Greer, Ph.D., and Amy L. Sandridge, M.Sc., both members of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, are based in Qatar and teach at the Medical College.

Faculty/House Staff Education
The Department of Public Health provides training for faculty, residents, and interns through classes, conferences, and grand rounds. All divisions of the Department sponsor seminars in which current or prospective research is discussed. The departmental Grand Rounds, the Medical Ethics seminars, the Biostatistics and Epidemiology conferences, and the Outcomes and Effectiveness Research in Progress seminars have all been approved for Continuing Medical Education credit.

The Medical Ethics division sponsors a required course in Medical Ethics for all Medicine interns, which addresses informed consent and refusal, decisions near the end of life, DNR (do not resuscitate) orders, advance directives, futility and professionalism, and other topics. The Division also conducts intramural educational programs and Ethics Rounds on a number of services at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. These programs often center on a discussion of a case that is under active consultation.
The Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research offers an education program for residents on managed care and healthcare systems. In addition to the essentials of managed care, topics covered include health economics, quality measurement in health care, decision analysis, utilization management, and medical malpractice.

The Division of Community and Public Health Programs in conjunction with the Department of Psychiatry conducts weekly Substance Abuse Rounds for residents and faculty. Presentations focus on specific policy, research, treatment, or other aspects of addiction. Attendance at Substance Abuse Rounds is required of the Addiction Psychiatry residents.

Under the direction of Madhu Mazumdar, Ph.D., the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology teaches Introduction to Biostatistics for Laboratory Researchers for graduate students in biomedical sciences, for post-doctorate fellows, for junior faculty, and as part of the Foundations of Clinical Research course in the K-30 Clinical Investigation training program. In addition, Paul J. Christos, M.P.H., M.S., directs an introductory course in biostatistics for physician assistants.

In recent years, the Department has been expanding its teaching and training to hospitals in the New York Presbyterian Healthcare System. Dr. Finkel is leading this initiative by conducting an eight-week Research Methods course for residents at Lincoln Hospital and The Brooklyn Hospital Center.

**Visiting Professors**
The Lorraine and Ralph Lubin Visiting Professorship in Public Health was established by a gift from Dr. Madelon Finkel, in memory of her parents. Funds from the professorship support an annual lecture by a prominent speaker on significant public health policy issues. On October 27, 2004, Bruce Vladeck, Ph.D., a nationally recognized health and public policy expert who is currently serving as Interim President of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, presented a lecture entitled “Health Care and the American Political System.” On October 26, 2005, Jo Ivey Boufford, M.D., a widely known authority on public health issues such as inclusive health care and policies and reform of local, national, and global health, spoke on “The Health Workforce and Global Health.” Dr. Boufford is currently Professor of Public Service, Health Policy and Management at the Wagner School of New York University and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at NYU School of Medicine.
Expanding Our Reach

Public Health at The Methodist Hospital of Houston and the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

The Department of Public Health is very pleased to be taking part in efforts to expand the work of Weill Cornell Medical College to a newly affiliated hospital: The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. Department faculty are also excited to be involved in initiating educational and research activities at the new branch of the Medical College in Doha, in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar.

The Methodist Hospital, Houston

In June 2004, Weill Cornell Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Hospital entered into an affiliation with The Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas. The Methodist Hospital is one of the country’s largest private non-profit hospitals and supports active programs in basic and clinical research. Under the terms of the affiliation agreement, The Methodist Hospital became a teaching hospital of Weill Cornell Medical College and its physicians became eligible for faculty appointments at the medical college.

The Department of Public Health at The Methodist Hospital was established to help researchers throughout the hospital to design the best studies for more accurate and reliable results; to provide an informatics “engine” to quickly analyze and compare outcomes; to serve as a catalyst, driving research forward to even more questions and innovations; and to encourage sharing of best practices around the world to advance the science of evidence-based medicine. In order to facilitate these goals, the Department will initially develop divisions of Biostatistics and Epidemiology; Outcomes and Quality of Care; Medical Informatics; Medical Ethics and Palliative Care. As the parent academic department, the Public Health department at Weill Cornell Medical College serves in an advisory and oversight capacity. A joint advisory committee ensures alignment of goals and objectives, and the departments collaborate on research, academic searches, and educational programs.

Chairman Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M., led the recruitment that identified Marc D. Silverstein, M.D., F.A.C.P., who was named Chair of The Methodist Hospital Department of Public Health in March 2006. Dr. Silverstein is an expert in health services research and a specialist in critical care and geriatric medicine. He has extensive experience as a physician and a researcher and has held faculty appointments at the University of Chicago; the Mayo Clinic; the Medical University of South Carolina, where he was Director of the Center for Health Care Research; and the Institute for Health Care Research and Improvement for the Baylor Health Care System in Dallas, where he was a Clinical Scholar. His interests include cost effectiveness analysis and technology assessment, evaluation of diagnostic tests, and the clinical epidemiology of respiratory diseases.

An extremely important collaborative grant from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality was recently awarded to Weill Cornell Medical College, The Hospital for Special Surgery, and The Methodist Hospital. Called the Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT), the grant provides $4 million over five years and funds research into the outcomes and cost effectiveness of medical devices. Only four new CERT grants were awarded nationally. Dr. Mushlin is the Principal Investigator (PI) and Dr. Mark Callahan the co-PI for the Weill Cornell CERT grant.

Two symposia have been held since the establishment of the affiliation between Weill Cornell Medical College and The Methodist Hospital to discuss further collaborative research projects. At the most recent symposium held at the New York Academy of Science, Dr. Mushlin chaired an outcomes research session, and Weill Cornell Department of Public
Health Division Chiefs Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D., Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Madhu Mazumdar, Ph.D., presented ideas for collaborative research. Both Weill Cornell Medical College and The Methodist Hospital are encouraging future collaborative research initiatives between faculty at the two institutions with seed funding earmarked for this purpose. The first seed grant for the Department of Public Health was received by Dr. Callahan, Dr. Silverstein, and colleagues at the Hospital for Special Surgery for collaborative research on total joint replacements. Also, the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology of the Department of Public Health in New York City will be collaborating with Dr. Silverstein on various projects for statistical design and analyses. A team led by Linda M. Gerber, Ph.D., Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology in Medicine, and Quanhong Ni, M.S., Research Biostatistician, is designated for this effort.

**Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar**

Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D., Professor of Clinical Public Health, helped establish the required Public Health courses taught to medical students at the Qatar campus of Weill Cornell Medical College. Several other members of the Public Health faculty are also involved in research and teaching at the Qatar branch.

Mark A. Callahan, M.D., Chief of the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, is leading a team of faculty members from the Department of Public Health and from the Hamad Medical Corporation in Doha in conducting a two-year study of the effects of diabetes in Qatar. Co-investigators include Dr. Mushlin, Lisa M. Kern, M.D., M.P.H., William Greer, Ph.D., and Amy L. Sandridge, M.Sc. The researchers are evaluating risk factors, treatment patterns, and outcomes for people affected by the disease. They are also examining the impact of diabetes and other metabolic syndrome risk factors on cardiovascular disease and hospital care, as well as the economic effects of the disease.

Three faculty members of the Department of Public Health – Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Dr. Greer, and Ms. Sandridge – are based in Qatar.

Dr. Rodríguez del Pozo represents the Division of Medical Ethics in Qatar and in consultation with colleagues in New York, directs the Medical Ethics curriculum. In designing the curriculum, he faces the unique challenge of adapting the American version of its Medical Ethics curriculum to a predominantly Middle Eastern, and mostly Islamic, student body. With Dr. Fins, he has already created and implemented a course called Medical Ethics: An Introduction to Medical Humanities for the premedical students at the College. Through discussions and readings of classic and contemporary works, the course exposes students to some of the humanistic issues they will face as doctors and encourages them to develop their own set of values according to their individual cultures and traditions.

Both Dr. Greer and Ms. Sandridge are members of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. In addition to their teaching activities and work on the diabetes initiative, Dr. Greer’s research focuses on the application of proven biostatistics, biocomputing, and bioinformatics techniques to current biological and medical problems. Amy Sandridge’s research includes analyzing risk factors for congenital heart defects in Saudi Arabian infants.
The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology was created in 2004 in part to respond to the Medical College’s Strategic Plan to further develop clinical research at Weill Cornell Medical College. The Division’s role is to support and encourage laboratory, clinical, and outcomes research at the medical college and to serve as an academic home for biostatistics and epidemiology. Led by Madhu Mazumdar, Ph.D., Division Chief, faculty and staff pursue statistical and epidemiological research, offer expert collaboration to researchers from various fields, and train medical students, graduate students, and postdoctoral/clinical fellows through courses under the medical and graduate school curricula.

Division members are involved in innovative statistical research in the fields of “Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials,” “Cutpoint Analysis,” “Prognostic Factor Analysis,” “Questionnaire Development and Validation,” and “Adjustment of Confounding and Bias in Observational Studies.” These queries are guided by and benefiting collaborative research projects. Faculty and staff also develop epidemiologic studies in hypertension, substance abuse prevention and treatment, cancer, chronic kidney disease, and diabetes.

When a department or division needs assistance from the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology for an extended period, a long-term collaboration plan is usually developed. This includes support for identifying research questions, constructing quantitative hypotheses, experimental design planning for research protocols or grants, creating data collection tools and data-management plans, conducting statistical analyses of data, and interpreting the findings. Assistance with manuscript writing and grant proposal writing, journal clubs on relevant methodologies, teaching of short courses in experimental design and analysis methodology specific to the collaborating department’s needs, and K-award mentoring are also made available. For divisions and departments with infrequent quantitative needs, the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology offers consultation on all services listed above through the Biostatistics and Research Methodology Core under the direction of Linda Gerber, Ph.D. The same services are available to researchers not affiliated with Weill Cornell Medical College through Cornell Analytic/Consulting Services. This program is directed by Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D., Professor of Clinical Public Health in the Division of Health Policy.

Faculty and staff in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology have expertise and experience in a broad range of analytic, research, and educational areas:

Dr. Mazumdar is a well-published biostatistician with years of experience in the analysis of medical outcomes data in the field of oncologic research. Her recent projects have included developing group sequential design for comparing diagnostic tests, suggesting ways to compare treatments in non-randomized settings when a randomized clinical trial is
not feasible, and validating quality-of-life questionnaires for kidney cancer patients treated with biologic response modifier therapy. Dr. Mazumdar previously was an Associate Attending Biostatistician at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and collaborated extensively with a variety of researchers from Genitourinary, Gastrointestinal, Surgery, Radiology, and Nuclear Medicine Services.

In addition to her work as Director of the Biostatistics and Research Methodology Core, Dr. Gerber contributes to the Division as a national expert in hypertension research. She was recently the Principal Investigator on the Neighborhood Study, funded by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), which investigated the relationship of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and daytime blood pressure rhythms. She has also investigated the relationship between psychological characteristics and responses to antihypertensive drug therapy, as well as the effect of behavioral and genetic factors on daytime blood pressure patterns. Dr. Gerber has collaborated as an epidemiologist and medical anthropologist in a variety of clinical epidemiological research projects. Currently, she is working with Penny Feldman, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Public Health at Weill Cornell and Vice President for Research and Evaluation at the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, on a major study funded by the NHLBI to improve blood pressure control in an African-American home care population.

Heejung Bang, Ph.D., has been involved in developing statistical methodology in the area of survival and missing data analysis with direct applications to an HIV/AIDS clinical trial in Tanzania. She participated in three large-scale multi-center clinical trials and a large community-based study in cardiovascular diseases, all sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. She has also worked on observational studies, identified statistical issues, and solved important statistical study problems. At Weill Medical College, she is collaborating with clinical researchers in the fields of HIV/AIDS, diabetes, heart disease, and neurological disorders.

Xi Kathy Zhou, Ph.D., has significant experience in analyzing and modeling complex genomic data. At Weill Medical College, she is collaborating with clinical researchers in the field of oncology with classification problems, and with behavioral scientists on modeling moderation effects of competence skills on alcohol use among inner-city adolescents. She has used statistical methods to create decision rules for the classification of renal tumors and to establish the protective effect of competence skills. She also mentors graduate students with the design of their experiments and data analysis and teaches in the biostatistics course for the graduate school.

Paul J. Christos, M.S., M.P.H., has worked with nearly all of the academic departments at Weill Medical College, providing statistical analyses, sample size/power calculations, assistance with the design of studies, and assistance with manuscript preparation and submission. He has had extensive collaborations with the Breast Center and the Division of Hematology and Oncology and has coauthored numerous publications, with a strong focus in cancer research. Mr. Christos also dedicates a significant portion of his time to teaching at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York-Presbyterian Hospital, and a number of our affiliated institutions. His teaching responsibilities include instruction in epidemiological and biostatistical methods to residents, fellows, medical students, and physician assistants.
Yolanda Barrón, M.S., has collaborated with investigators from the Women's Interagency HIV Study, a multi-center study of the natural history of HIV-1 infection in women in the United States. She has recently published on the effect of discontinuing antiretroviral therapy on the survival of HIV-infected women. Ms. Barrón is currently working with Dr. Bang in applications to estimate the effect of antidepressant medication use in the survival of patients with coronary heart disease. She also assisted Dr. Gerber in the design and calculations of a study on chronic care of patients with hypertension, and she is collaborating with Dr. Mazumdar and Dr. Brian Edlin in developing a model to estimate the prevalence of hepatitis C in the United States.

Quanhong Ni, M.S., assists investigators in sample size/power analysis, statistical analysis/modeling, and survival analysis. Due to her strong programming skills, she is also involved in designing databases and generating research data sets from multiple clinical databases. Ms. Ni is currently working on projects that compare the performance of trauma centers and is identifying factors that influence outcome and mortality. Other collaboration activities include evaluating the impact of weight-based heparin dosing, creating databases for observing and tracking the improvement of medical students' clinical skills, and evaluating a patient-centered Electronic Medical Record in a Medicaid Special Needs Program.

Kylie Bryant, M.S., has worked in a variety of research areas including middle school-based drug-abuse prevention, oncology, and obesity in children. Her current projects include studies under the Multi-Ethnic Drug Abuse Prevention Center Grant (PI: Dr. Gilbert Botvin), which assess the effect of intervention on violence and drug use in middle school students, the effect of family smoking and drinking habits on drug habit initiation in children, and the effect of lunchtime practices during sixth grade on delinquent behavior at eighth grade.

John Rutledge, M.A.S., has provided statistical support to laboratory researchers at the Hospital for Special Surgery and the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences through data analysis and study design. He has used the information obtained in these collaborations to help develop an introductory biostatistics course for graduate students and investigators who perform laboratory research. His other projects include managing the data for a trial of HIV treatment in Haiti and assisting clinical investigators in the areas of obstetrics and otorhinolaryngology.
William Greer, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health/Qatar
Dr. Greer currently teaches Biostatistics/Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine to medical students at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. His research orientation is in the application of proven biostatistics, bio-computing and bioinformatics techniques to current biological and medical problems, including low bone mineral density and vitamin D levels, congenital heart disease, and breast and thyroid cancer. He is also a co-investigator in the Department of Public Health’s study of diabetes in Qatar.

Valerie Miké, Ph.D.
Clinical Professor of Biostatistics in Public Health
Dr. Miké is engaged in research on ethical issues pertaining to uncertainty and statistical evidence in biomedical science and technology, focusing on technology diffusion, clinical practice, and the shaping of public policy. Her proposed approach for dealing with uncertainty – the Ethics of Evidence – is widely applicable beyond medicine to decision-making in human affairs. Her work is represented by ten articles in the new Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics (Macmillan Reference USA).

Amy Sandridge, M.Sc.
Lecturer in Public Health/Qatar
Amy Sandridge is involved in several research initiatives into diabetes being developed at the Doha campus. Additionally, she is completing an analysis of a case control study of risk factors, especially consanguinity, for congenital heart defects in Saudi Arabian infants. Her teaching responsibilities include instruction in epidemiological methods and Evidence Based Medicine to the medical students at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar.

Phyllis G. Supino, Ed.D.
Associate Research Professor of Public Health
Associate Research Professor of Public Health in Medicine
Director, Data Management, Epidemiology and Educational Programs, Division of Cardiovascular Pathophysiology
Dr. Supino directs and teaches courses on research methodology. Her research focuses primarily on the epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases. Her current studies include quality of life outcomes after surgery for heart valve diseases, the impact of exercise test performance on outcomes before and after surgery for nonischemic mitral regurgitation, and the relation of temporal patterns in left ventricular function and size to adverse cardiac outcomes in patients with chronic severe aortic regurgitation.

Xi Kathy Zhou, Ph.D.
Instructor in Public Health
Dr. Zhou’s interests include developing and applying statistical methodologies to clinical and biomedical studies. Her research projects concern statistical genetics, Bayesian methodologies, design and sampling issues in observational studies, design and analysis issues in lab research and animal studies.
The Division of Community and Public Health Programs studies gaps and inadequacies in our health care system and attempts to develop systematic and ongoing interventions to reduce the impact of those gaps. Current activities include substance abuse research, a continuum of substance abuse treatment programs, studies that investigate and address health disparities and cross-cultural medicine, a wide range of treatment programs for the uninsured and poor of the community, and programs for employees of the Medical Center consortium as well as a large number of outside institutions and corporate entities.

Clinical Programs

The Division operates several programs for opioid dependency that provide detoxification, methadone maintenance, or buprenorphine treatment in a variety of settings. The two methadone maintenance programs, the Adult Services Clinic and the Adolescent Development Program, were established by Robert B. Millman, M.D., Division Chief, in the early 1970s. Ann B. Beeder, M.D., is currently the Medical Director of both programs and Eugenia Curet, Ph.D., is the Administrative Director. The programs provide comprehensive and individualized methadone maintenance treatment; psychosocial, vocational, medical, and psychiatric services; and ongoing continuing educational programs for staff and patients. In addition, they serve as sites for the study of the prevention and treatment of dependency diseases. The Division also offers the Methadone Medical Maintenance program for patients in methadone treatment who have been stable for a long time. Participants accepted into this program receive prescriptions for 30-day supplies of methadone instead of having to visit a clinic on a daily basis.

The Midtown Center for Treatment and Research is an outpatient program that treats a wide range of patients with chemical dependency problems. The Medical Director is Bruce Phariss, M.D., and the Administrative Director is Martin Sherry, L.C.S.W. The Center offers evaluation and referral services, detoxification, buprenorphine treatment, group and individual counseling, and psychiatric treatment.

The Division runs two employee assistance programs. The Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC), directed by Sonia G. Austrian, D.S.W., serves the approximately 20,000 employees of Weill Cornell Medical College, Rockefeller University, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center, Hospital for Special Surgery, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The Employee Development Center, led by Jeffrey E. Diaz, A.C.S.W., is available to help the approximately 60,000 employees of about 65 organizations that contract for the Center's services. Clients include the Whitney Museum of American Art, Thirteen/WNET New York, St. John's University, The New School, The Boys' Clubs of New York, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Both programs provide free and confidential evaluation, crisis intervention, and referrals for a wide range of problems affecting employees. The EAPC also offers free group sessions on such topics as parenting, caring for elderly parents, and dealing with stress.
With the Department of Psychiatry, The Division operates a Residency Program in Addiction Psychiatry. It also teaches psychiatrists and other physicians how to recognize and help patients with chemical dependency. In addition, the Division collaborates with the Department of Psychiatry in managing inpatient substance abuse treatment programs.

Substance Abuse Research

The Division is involved in a number of research projects that examine how society influences the way people use and abuse drugs and alcohol.

An important concern is the relationship between chronic pain and the development of dependency on narcotic painkillers. Division faculty are studying how best to address this complex problem. The use of buprenorphine is being investigated in the treatment of some patients.

Another growing problem is the illegal purchase, by both adults and children, of narcotic prescription drugs. One of the major sources of these drugs is the Internet. Dr. Millman is collaborating with Drug Strategies, a nonprofit research foundation under the direction of Mathea Falco, J.D., Associate Professor of Public Health – and with faculty from Harvard University Law School, Weill Cornell Medical College, and the University of Pennsylvania – to address this issue. The team has consulted with Internet service providers (ISPs), search engines, banking and credit card companies, drug policy groups, and government agencies in the United States, Canada, and the United Nations and has developed a proposal called A Strategy for Preventing Illegal Internet Sales of Controlled Substances. The plan includes the creation of an independent Internet monitoring group, a variety of legislative measures, the strengthening of law enforcement efforts and international cooperation, and an educational prevention campaign.

The Division is also studying how to treat medical conditions that often coexist with substance abuse, including hepatitis C in intravenous drug abusers and low bone density in methadone-maintained patients. Some of these patients have suffered a loss of bone density either as a direct result of the drugs they have taken or are taking, through malnutrition, or through a combination of these factors.

Cross-Cultural Issues and Underserved Populations

The research, educational, and clinical initiatives directed by J. Emilio Carrillo, M.D., M.P.H., address important cross-cultural medical issues, with the aim of improving the health of children and adults in the community. Dr. Carrillo was responsible for the development of a patient-based cross-cultural train-

Treating Teen Addiction

Over the past few years, Division faculty were involved in a major effort to evaluate adolescent drug programs as well as drug treatment in the juvenile justice system. The studies were performed by Drug Strategies, a nonprofit research and policy institute that promotes more effective approaches to the nation’s drug problems. Mathea Falco is the president of Drug Strategies; Dr. Millman is Chairman of the Board and was Chair of the expert advisory panels for both projects.

Treating Teens: A Guide to Adolescent Drug Programs (2003), funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, assessed and summarized the qualities and services offered by the 144 most highly rated adolescent drug treatment programs in the country. Nine critical elements of a good adolescent program were identified: Teens must be adequately assessed and matched to a treatment program. The treatment should have a comprehensive, integrated approach. The family must be involved. The program should be developmentally appropriate and mindful of the motivational, emotional, and experiential differences between adolescents and adults. An effective program must engage and retain teens in treatment through a therapeutic relationship with the counselor and by providing interesting, relevant material. The staff must be qualified to address the complex issues of adolescent drug abusers and have caring, positive attitudes. Programs must have gender and cultural competence. A system must be in place to ensure continuing care. Finally, programs should have a valid method for measuring treatment outcomes.

Bridging the Gap: A Guide to Drug Treatment in the Juvenile Justice System (2005) was supported in part by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Building on the previous study, it identified two additional critical elements that must be addressed for drug treatment to be effective in the juvenile system: First, juvenile offenders who abuse drugs are even more likely than other drug-abusing adolescents to have multiple problems and disorders that need to be addressed. In addition, it is essential to coordinate the many different agencies and systems that provide treatment to adolescents and to improve collabora-

Division of Community and Public Health Programs
Robert B. Millman, M.D.
Chief, Division of Community and Public Health Programs
Saul P. Steinberg Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health
Attending Physician, Department of Psychiatry
Dr. Millman’s research focuses on addiction psychiatry, psychopharmacology, and drug policy. He is currently studying the Internet as a source of the prescription narcotics subject to abuse, as well as the relationship between chronic pain and drug dependency. In addition, he is investigating the evolution and treatment of hepatitis C in drug abusers, as well as physical conditions associated with drug abuse. Dr. Millman is Chairman of the Board of Drug Strategies, a non-profit drug abuse research and policy institute.

Sonia G. Austrian, D.S.W.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Lecturer of Social Work in Psychiatry
Director, Employee Assistance Program Consortium
Dr. Austrian’s interests include student education, mental health, and prevention. She is also an adjunct Professor at the Columbia University School of Social Work and the educational coordinator and supervisor of second-year social work interns placed at the Employee Assistance Program Consortium.

*Gavin Bart, M.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Assistant Attending Physician
Dr. Bart, as Director of Clinical Research at the Laboratory of the Biology of Addictive Disease at the Rockefeller University, was the on-site supervisor of a hepatitis C study being conducted at the Adult Services Clinic and the Adolescent Development Program as part of a shared protocol with the Laboratory.
*Dr. Bart is currently Director of the Division of Addiction Medicine at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ann B. Beeder, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Associate Professor of Psychiatry
Associate Attending Physician
Director, Addiction Psychiatry Residency
Director, Adolescent Development Program and Adult Services Clinic
Dr. Beeder’s areas of expertise include heroin and other opiate dependency disorders, adolescent substance abuse disorders, dual diagnosis disorders, and pain management. Her clinical and research activities include buprenorphine treatment and outpatient detoxification from alcohol and drug dependency disorders, as well as the evaluation and treatment of hepatitis C in drug abusers.

Samantha Boardman, M.D.
Clinical Instructor of Public Health
Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist
Dr. Boardman provides consultations in the Employee Assistance Program Consortium. She evaluates, treats, and refers employees of the affiliated medical centers.

In 2005 Dr. Carrillo was appointed Vice President of Community Health Development at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, a role in which he is responsible for developing and implementing a strategic hospital program for community health developments. The program addresses health disparities and the special health needs of minority and immigrant communities, and collaborates with local health care providers, community-based organizations, government agencies, foundations, and philanthropic entities. One of his first projects, which was partially funded by the New York State Department of Health, was to develop, pilot, and evaluate a culturally competent pediatric asthma disease management program within two Medicaid managed care plans. He is currently involved in a five-year research grant from the National Cancer Institute called “Redes en Acción: National Latino Cancer Research Network.” This project is being conducted at six sites around the country and is examining methods to help minority and immigrant patients overcome barriers to appropriate cancer screening and care.

Dr. Carrillo was also named as a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care Program. This initiative aims to improve cardiac care for racial and ethnic minorities in the United States.
Ross Brower, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Public Health
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Assistant Attending Physician
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist

Dr. Brower's areas of clinical expertise are adolescent addiction and psychopharmacology. He is a practicing psychiatrist in the Adolescent Development Program of the Division of Community and Public Health Programs, where he provides treatment to patients and supervision to staff.

Pamela Buchbinder, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Public Health
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist

Dr. Buchbinder is a practicing psychiatrist who provides supervision, evaluation, and treatment of patients in the Midtown Center for Treatment and Research.

J. Emilio Carrillo, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Associate Attending Physician
President and Chief Medical Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian Community Health Plan
Vice President of Community Health Development

Dr. Carillo's research concerns race, ethnicity, and barriers to optimizing healthcare. He has developed and directs clinical and educational programs that focus on cross-cultural medicine and community health and address health disparities and the special health needs of minority and immigrant communities.

Eugenia Curet, Ph.D.
Instructor in Public Health
Instructor in Psychiatry
Administrative Director, Adolescent Development Program and Adult Services Clinic

Dr. Curet’s interests include treatment and research that address the importance of culturally and gender sensitive delivery of health care and psychiatric services to substance abusers. Her work focuses especially on women and ethnic minorities, with a particular emphasis on Hispanics and African Americans.

Gregory Dillon, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist

In addition to his work with the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital addiction programs, Dr. Dillon has a private practice in general psychiatry. He also teaches in the Psychiatry Residency training program and supervises Addiction Psychiatry residents. His interests include mood and anxiety disorders as well as dual diagnosis: the combination of psychiatric and addiction issues.

Elizabeth T. Khuri, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

Dr. Khuri was for many years the Director of the Adolescent Development Program of the Division of Community and Public Health Programs. She is a leader in the field of addiction medicine on a national and international basis. Dr. Khuri retired in 2005.

Eugene G. McCarthy, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Professor of Public Health
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist
Director, Health Benefits Research Unit

Dr. McCarthy participates as a site preceptor and teaches medical students about the implementation of drug benefits in the private sector of the economy with reference to the response by the private sector to Medicare’s new Part D Program. These teaching seminars are an onsite activity at the United Federation of Teachers’ Welfare Fund. Dr. McCarthy is also a member of the Preventive Medicine’s Residency Advisory Committee and the Department’s Promotions Committee.

Bruce Phariss, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Assistant Attending Psychiatrist
Medical Director, Midtown Center for Treatment and Research

Dr. Phariss is the Medical Director of the Midtown Center for Treatment and Research. The Center is a comprehensive not-for-profit outpatient program run by the Division of Community and Public Health Programs for the evaluation and treatment of chemically dependent individuals and their significant others. Dr. Phariss is also in private practice.

Leon Scrimmager, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Attending Physician

Dr. Scrimmager is an internist who provides evaluation and treatment for patients in the Adolescent Development Program and the Adult Services Clinic of the Division of Community and Public Health Programs.
The Division of Health Policy, previously called the Division of Health Services and Policy Research, is to conduct research on policy issues relevant to the local, national, and global delivery of health care. These include the allocation of scarce resources, financing and reimbursement, health care technology assessment, program evaluation, and the organization of the health care delivery system.

On July 1, 2006, the Division of Health Services took on its current name and Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D., was appointed Chief. Previously Dr. Schackman was an Assistant Professor in the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, a position he held since 2001. Dr. Schackman has had a longstanding commitment to HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C treatment and care research, including cost-effectiveness analysis, quality-of-life measurement, and access to care by underserved populations. He was recognized by the Treatment Action Group, a non-profit organization dedicated toward finding a cure for AIDS, which awarded him the 2005 Research in Action Award. He also collaborates with Cornell investigators in Haiti, where he is exploring cost-effective methods for diagnosing and treating HIV and syphilis.

The research of Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D., an epidemiologist and Professor of Clinical Public Health, concerns the epidemiology of women’s health issues as well as health care policy. Among the issues she has studied and written about are hormone replacement therapy, breast cancer, and mammography screening. Dr. Finkel is presently collaborating with the Ministry of Health in Panama to design and implement a cervical cancer screening study. She is also conducting research into breast and cervical cancer screening with colleagues at the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore, India. In the area of health care policy, Dr. Finkel, through a grant from the Physician Organization (PO) at Weill Cornell Medical College, has been responsible for administering annual patient satisfaction surveys for the PO.

Dr. Finkel serves as the course director for the required Public Health courses for first-, second-, and fourth-year medical students at Weill Cornell Medical College. She also helped establish the required Public Health courses for medical students at the medical college’s Qatar campus. Among the classes she teaches is the innovative Public Health Fourth-Year Clerkship, which studies health care policy issues. An article describing this clerkship was published in the journal Academic Medicine (February 2004). Dr. Finkel also teaches first-year courses in evidence based medicine and biostatistics and epidemiology, as well as the second-year U.S. health care system course. She twice received the Excellence in Teaching award, most recently in 2005. Dr. Finkel is leading the Department’s initiative to expand teaching and training to hospitals in the New York Presbyterian Healthcare System by conducting an eight-week Research Methods course for residents at Lincoln Hospital and in the Department of Family Medicine at The Brooklyn Hospital Center. This contact has opened opportunities for collaborative research between the Medical College and Network hospitals.

For the first six months of 2004, Dr. Finkel was a visiting professor at the University of Sydney School of Public Health in Australia. During this sabbatical, she studied and taught health care policy issues. Her work included researching breast cancer care as well as the Australian health care system. She successfully established a formal relationship between the University of Sydney and Weill Cornell Medical College to facilitate the expansion of student and faculty exchanges and collaborative research.
Dr. Finkel also directs Cornell Analytic/Consulting Services. The purpose of this unit is to provide expert epidemiologic, biostatistical, and health economic consulting services to health care organizations outside of the Medical College. Cornell Analytic’s clients include pharmaceutical companies, health care organizations, managed care organizations, and public agencies.

In November 2004 Dean Gotto appointed Dr. Finkel Director of the Office of International Medical Education (recently renamed the Office of Global Health Education). In this role she administers all the College’s international programs for student exchanges, which enable Weill students to study abroad and allow visiting international students to take elective classes here. An article describing one of the international programs, “The United States-European Union Medical Education Exchange,” was published in the April 2006 issue of Academic Medicine. Dr. Finkel has worked to obtain endowed fellowships so that any Cornell student who wishes to travel abroad can do so. The program has grown tremendously under her leadership. She has initiated collaborative agreements with the University of Sydney (Australia) and the Universidad Latina de Panama, for example.

Much of the work of Hirsch S. Ruchlin, Ph.D., who served as Acting Chief of the Division from 1999 though June 2006, involved pharmacoeconomics. A large part of his research, funded by Merck Research Laboratories, examines compounds under development to treat diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, and cancer. Dr. Ruchlin, a health economist, is responsible for documenting the cost of particular illnesses, developing economic models of disease progression, and evaluating the cost savings of using the drugs under investigation at Merck. This information is used by formulary authorities in participating countries once a drug is approved for sale to decide whether or not to add it to their formulary.

Dr. Ruchlin also collaborates on projects with the Division of Outcomes Research, focusing on quality of care and information technology issues. For example, an ongoing project sponsored by the Visiting Nurse Service is aimed at finding a better way to automate the translation of information when a patient leaves the hospital and is referred to home care. The goal is to help nurses effectively adjust care in accordance with evidence based literature. Dr. Ruchlin’s projects also include research in gerontology. In collaboration with faculty at Cornell University’s College of Human Ecology, and funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies, a recently completed study addressed a major problem in nursing homes: the high turnover rate of nurses’ aides. The grant provided for some nurses’ aides to be trained as “retention specialists,” whose role was to encourage colleagues to stay on their jobs and to diffuse situations that might lead them to quit.

In 2005, Dr. Finkel’s ninth book, Understanding the Mammography Controversy: Science, Politics, and Breast Cancer Screening, was published. The book was written to help women understand the potential benefits and harms of mammography in order to make informed decisions about their own screening. Presenting the available evidence in non-technical language, the book discusses the controversy surrounding mammography and examines issues such as how breast cancer develops and when and how frequently women should be screened. Dr. Finkel examines the methodology of the major mammography screening studies to explain how screening recommendations are agreed upon (or not). The book compares the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of alternate screening methods, including digital mammography and ultrasound, and presents a time line showing changing public advice on mammography over the years. The psychological effects of breast cancer are also explored, as well as the epidemiology of the disease.
The research and policy activities of Oliver T. Fein, M.D., focus on health delivery system reform at both the national and local levels. His studies have included measuring social class and health inequalities using a variety of methods, and comparing the role of primary care in health system reform in the United States and the United Kingdom. As Associate Dean for Affiliations at Weill Medical College, he works to diversify the clinical educational experience for medical students through affiliations with hospitals and physicians who deliver health care services to vulnerable populations. He also hosts the Medical College’s weekly David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium, at which experts on health policy both from within the medical institution and outside of it present their research and viewpoints on important current topics. Dr. Fein received the Excellence in Teaching Award for Medicine, Patients, & Society I in 2006.

During the next academic year, the Division will begin recruiting new junior faculty members. In addition, the Division will be expanding on existing partnerships and building new alliances within Weill Medical College, with New York Presbyterian Hospital and Healthcare System, with Cornell in Ithaca, and with external partners.

Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D.
Chief, Division of Health Policy
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Dr. Schackman’s expertise is in cost-effectiveness modeling, quality of life measurement, and health services evaluation. His research interests include cost-effectiveness of medical interventions and access to health care by underserved populations, particularly relating to infectious diseases. His current projects include economic evaluations of HIV and hepatitis C care in the United States, and screening and care for HIV and syphilis in Haiti.

Oliver T. Fein, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Professor of Clinical Medicine
Associate Dean (Affiliations)
Attending Physician
Dr. Fein’s research and policy interests include health system reform, national health insurance and medical education. At the international level, he is involved with comparative health systems studies and global health education. At the national level, he is an advocate for single-payer reform and public health. At the local level, he is concerned with access to health care for vulnerable populations and the role of academic health centers in shaping health system reform.

Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Director, Office of International Medical Education
Director, Cornell Analytic Consulting Service
Dr. Finkel’s research focuses on women’s health issues and health care policy. Recent work has focused on policy recommendations for breast cancer screening. She has a significant role in designing the required Public Health courses for medical students, including the innovative 4th Year Clerkship in Health Care Systems. Also, as Director of the Office of International Medical Education, she is examining global health issues as well as expanding collaborative research with medical colleges around the world.

Hirsch S. Ruchlin, Ph.D.
Acting Chief, Division of Health Services and Policy Research (1999-2006)
Professor Emeritus of Economics in Public Health
Professor Emeritus of Economics in Medicine
Dr. Ruchlin’s primary research interests are pharmacoconomics and program evaluation of interventions in both the long-term care and acute care sectors of the health field. He also is involved in cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit studies of drugs and other treatments, as well as in general health services research.
Over the past few years the Division of Medical Ethics has grown dramatically, foremost because of the addition of two new faculty members. Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P., Chief of the Division and Professor of Medicine, Professor of Public Health, and Professor of Medicine in Psychiatry, was pleased to welcome Elizabeth Nilson, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Public Health and Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, Ph.D., M.S., Assistant Professor of Public Health. Both have considerable and varied backgrounds in medical ethics. Their work furthers the Division’s mission to discover how to provide the most ethical care to patients and research subjects, to share this knowledge with current and future physicians and researchers through medical education, and to create standards of ethical care.

One of Dr. Nilson’s major responsibilities is to assist with ethics consultations at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Cornell Medical Center. In this role she works with Dr. Fins, who is Chair of the Ethics Committee.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Fins has been strongly interested in palliative care and ethical issues related to the end of life. He wrote his most recent book, the critically acclaimed *A Palliative Ethic of Care: Clinical Wisdom at Life’s End*, to help clinicians and trainees understand how to make the transition from curative to palliative care, when necessary, and to guide them through the complexities and difficulties involved. It provides a framework, called the Goals of Care Assessment Tool, to identify goals of care and to achieve them in a way that best serves the patient and family. The book grew from his empirical research and his experiences as an internist caring for dying patients, as well as leading ethics consultations.

Taking Biology Seriously: What Biology Can and Cannot Tell Us About Moral and Public Policy Issues, by Dr. de Melo-Martín, examines the often misguided discussions that take place about human biology and the consequences for ethics and public policy, and explores mistaken beliefs about the role of genes in human life held by both proponents and critics of behavioral genetics, reproductive cloning, and genetic testing. “The role of genes in causing certain diseases and human traits is sometimes overestimated or distorted,” says Dr. de Melo-Martín. “This can lead to a false sense of either inevitability or complacency. It can also lead to discrimination. For human beings, genetic factors always exist in a natural, social, and political environment.”

Victor W. Sidel, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Public Health and Distinguished University Professor of Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is world-renowned as a champion of human rights and an expert in the public health consequences of war and militarism. His many books include two published in 2006: *Social Injustice and Public Health*, edited with Barry S. Levy, M.D., M.P.H., and *The Global Gun Epidemic: From Saturday Night Specials to AK-47s*, co-authored with Wendy Cukier, Ph.D.
and Director of Medical Ethics at the Hospital. Since its inception, the Ethics Consultation Service has helped a greatly increasing number of patients to make complex and difficult decisions. In collaboration with the Patient Services Administration, currently it works with about 200 patients a year and is one of the busiest ethics consultation services in the country. Dr. Nilson is developing a widely usable high-quality tool for evaluating ethics consultations, in order to help standardize the process and make it more precise. She is also bringing her experience and knowledge to the medical school classes that she teaches.

Dr. de Melo-Martín, a philosopher with an additional master’s degree in molecular biology, was recruited by the Division to assist with research ethics and teaching. Her main role is to evaluate the ethical components of proposed clinical research trials and to help researchers design coherent, ethical studies. Because of her training, she is especially interested in research involving reproduction, including in vitro fertilization; and genetics, including genetic testing and gene transfer. As a member and recently elected Vice Chair of the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Dr. de Melo-Martín reviews protocols and also reaches out to researchers to explore potential problems in protocols under development. She has been an active teacher in the ethics curriculum at Weill Cornell and will also be a member of a new committee to evaluate proposals for stem cell research at the medical center.

Cathleen A. Acres, B.S.N., M.A., is the Division’s administrator as well as a faculty Lecturer. She is also a Research Subject Advocate in the Medical School’s General Clinical Research Center (GCRC), where she works with investigators and GCRC staff to ensure that their studies are conducted safely and ethically, with protection of human subjects accorded the highest priority. In this role she reports to Antonio M. Gotto, Jr., M.D., D.Phil, Dean of the Medical College. In addition, she lectures medical students in a range of courses and helps coordinate the Division’s education portfolio in clinical and research ethics.

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, M.D., J.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Public Health, represents the Division at the Doha, Qatar, campus of Weill Cornell Medical College. He directs the entire Medical Ethics curriculum at that campus, using videoconferencing to be in close consultation with colleagues in New York. Dr. Rodríguez del Pozo and Dr. Fins co-authored the first publication from the medical college branch, “The Globalization of Education in Medical Ethics and Humanities: Evolving Pedagogy at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar” (Academic Medicine, Vol. 80, No. 2/February 2005), which discussed their experiences in implementing a Medical Ethics and Humanities course for premedical students. Drs. Rodríguez del Pozo and Fins and are also co-editors of a new section of Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics called “Spanish Bioethics.”

Over the past several years, Dr. Joseph Fins has pursued research focused on the neuroethical issues of disorders of consciousness. He is especially interested in the “minimally conscious” brain state, which is neurologically distinct from the vegetative state. In collaboration with Nicholas D. Schiff, M.D., Associate Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and Associate Professor of Public Health, Dr. Fins is working to understand the neuroscience of how

Training Physicians in Medical Ethics

The Faculty Associates Program was created to help faculty clinicians develop additional expertise in medical ethics to allow them to improve patient care and contribute to medical ethics scholarship in their clinical discipline. The program also enabled them to join the Division of Medical Ethics faculty; to contribute to the Division’s academic, clinical, and research activities; and to become independent investigators in medical ethics. This three-year program was funded by the Leslie R. Samuels and Fan Fox Foundation and the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation.

Dr. Fins and Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M., Chairman of the Department of Public Health, are pleased to welcome the first five Faculty Associates into the Division as faculty members with secondary appointments to the Department.

The new Associates are Donna DiMichele, M.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Clinical Public Health, Leonard C. Groopman, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health, Soumitra Eachempatie, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery and Public Health, C. Ronald MacKenzie, M.D., Associate Professor of Rheumatology and Clinical Public Health, and Barrie L. Raik, M.D., Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Clinical Public Health.
people recover consciousness in order to elucidate clinical and ethical aspects of this impairment. His interest in neuroethics grew out of his long-time work in the field of end-of-life ethics and palliative care. Dr. Fins is renowned internationally as a champion of the rights of patients to be treated as whole individuals and receive appropriate and ethical care, and especially of their right to make decisions concerning their treatment. His most recent book, *A Palliative Ethic of Care: Clinical Wisdom at Life’s End* [see sidebar on previous page], both explores why there are so many difficulties surrounding end-of-life care and presents a guide for clinicians to help patients and families set and achieve goals of care.

Dr. Fins received a number of honors in the past few years. In 2004 he was selected for an Excellence in Teaching Award for the ethics segment of the Medicine, Patients & Society II course, and in 2006 he received this award for teaching Advanced Basic Science. In addition, he was recently elected Governor-Elect of the American College of Physicians and to the Board of Directors of the American Society of Bioethics and Humanities. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Wesleyan University, his alma mater. In 2005, he was appointed by Dean Gotto as chair of a committee that revised the Hippocratic Oath administered to graduating Weill Cornell students.

**Joseph J. Fins, M.D., F.A.C.P.**

Chief, Division of Medical Ethics, Departments of Medicine and Public Health  
Professor of Medicine  
Professor of Public Health  
Professor of Medicine in Psychiatry  
Director of Medical Ethics, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center  

Dr. Fins’ scholarly interests in medical ethics are broad but his current work addresses “neuroethics” – ethical issues in neurology and psychiatry. His special focus is on ethical issues confronted in brain injury and disorders of consciousness. His career has encompassed the study, practice, and teaching of ethics in medicine, particularly concerning end-of-life and palliative care, advance directives, medical ethics education of students and faculty, and methods of ethics case consultation.

**Cathleen A. Acres, R.N., M.A.**  
Lecturer in Public Health  
Administrative Director, Division of Medical Ethics  
Research Subject Advocate, General Clinical Research Center  
New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center  

Ms. Acres’ interests include end-of-life decision-making, clinical ethics case consultation, research ethics, medical ethics education, and patient advocacy. She is a member of the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center Ethics Committee and the New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System Bioethics Committee.

**Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, Ph.D., M.S.**  
Assistant Professor of Public Health  
Dr. de Melo-Martín’s research interests include bioethics and the philosophy of science. Much of her work focuses on ethical and epistemological issues related to reproductive technologies and molecular genetics. She also consults with and assists Cornell investigators on ethical issues and collaborates with Medical College leadership to develop programs to intensify the institutional commitment to high ethical standards in research.

**Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.**  
Assistant Professor of Public Health/Qatar  
Dr. Rodríguez del Pozo is working on devising and implementing, in conjunction with the Division of Medical Ethics in New York, a longitudinal curriculum in Medical Ethics that stretches from the pre-medical program throughout the whole medical cycle at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. He is focused on understanding the cultural nuances that shape medical ethics, and is in search of the broader common values and beliefs that may promote a better cross-cultural dialogue towards a transcultural bioethics.

**Elizabeth Nilson, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Assistant Professor of Public Health  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
Assistant Attending Physician  
Associate Director, General Preventive Medicine Residency Program  
Physician Ethicist, Ethics Consultation Service, New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center  

Dr. Nilson’s interests include clinical ethics consultations, their impact on clinical and psychosocial outcomes, and the evaluation of their quality. Her work also seeks to improve the disclosure of medical errors to patients, families, and medical error reporting systems.

**Victor W. Sidel, M.D.**  
Adjunct Professor of Public Health  
Dr. Sidel has developed teaching, research, and community service programs and has studied and written on health care in a dozen countries, with particular emphasis on China. He is Past-President of the American Public Health Association and the Public Health Association of New York City. He is also a co-founder and Past-President of both the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and its U.S. affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility.
The Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research has continued to grow, both in its faculty and staff positions and in the number and scope of its research projects. This expansion of programs and projects, made possible by the Division’s success in obtaining funding for research grants, has furthered its mission: to improve the quality and effectiveness of medical care and to reduce disparities in treatment. During the past two years the Division has also helped to establish the Department’s fellowship program in health services research training, sponsored initially through a grant from Pfizer.

Focus and Collaboration, At Home and Abroad

The Division studies areas of vital importance to current public health concerns, and faculty members often collaborate on projects. Recent divisional research has focused on such topics as the quality and outcome of care, the use of information technology in healthcare, economic modeling and cost-effectiveness, and bioterrorism preparedness planning. Many projects involve a combination of these themes; for example, exploring the effect of information technology advances on quality of care, or analyzing the combined concerns of quality of care and cost-effectiveness.

Faculty from the Division also collaborate with other faculty members of the Department of Public Health, with other departments at Weill Cornell Medical College, and with medical colleges, governmental organizations, and health service organizations in the United States and abroad. This cross-collaboration enriches the complexity and reach of the research findings and their implications for local and global public health issues.

As an example, Rainu Kaushal, M.D., M.P.H., has been working on projects designed to improve patient care by reducing medical errors. She is involved in several projects that investigate the impact of electronic health records on medical safety and quality of care, from the perspective of physicians and patients. Her research focuses on how electronic medical records can be used most effectively to coordinate care across providers and institutions. She is being aided by Division Chief Mark A. Callahan, M.D., Lisa M. Kern, M.D., M.P.H., and Michael Louie, M.D., M.P.H., a recent fellow in Health Services Research, with the evaluation of these projects—as well as by faculty of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, including Madhu Mazumdar, Ph.D., Chief. Also collaborating on these projects are staff at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Medical Center, the Greater New York Hospital Association, and the Taconic IPA—a large association of physicians in the mid-Hudson valley.

Many of the projects headed by Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H., are aimed at developing models to prepare for public health emergencies involving bioterrorism, disease epidemics, or natural disasters. His work has led to plans to establish an Institute for Disease and Disaster Preparedness. On some of his studies he is collaborating with Dr. Kaushal and Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D., now Chief of the Division of Health Policy, as well as with Jack Muckstadt, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Operations Research and Industrial Engineering in the Cornell University College of Engineering in Ithaca. Their research uses computerized algorithms and simulation technology to plan how to best channel medical resources during a public health emergency and to coordinate the transfer of patients to health care facilities. Dr. Hupert is also working with the Clinton Foundation on plans for distributing anti-retroviral drugs in Africa. A major goal of this project is to overcome significant barriers to distributing medications in an underdeveloped
setting, including inadequate governmental infrastructure and difficulty with staffing, transportation logistics, and refrigeration. Dr. Hupert is using computer simulation models to determine how best to help field workers staff and supply clinics, transport and properly refrigerate medications, and distribute them to patients.

Dr. Callahan’s work includes numerous projects to improve the quality and safety of medical care in a variety of settings across specialty areas, including cardiac care, infectious diseases, and diabetes. Among his current projects, he is the principal investigator for a five-year contract awarded by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) called Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks, which will allow the Medical College and its partners to conduct rapid-cycle, applied research. Also, he and Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M., Chairman of the Department of Public Health, are leading a large project funded by AHRQ that involves Weill Cornell Medical College, The Hospital for Special Surgery, and The Methodist Hospital. Called the Centers for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT), the grant provides $4 million over five years to fund research into the outcomes and cost effectiveness of medical devices. Among his other current studies is one sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration, on which he is working with Dr. Schackman, to review the use of information technology in delivering care to patients with HIV. Dr. Callahan is also the lead investigator on a team that is conducting a two-year investigation of the role of diabetes mellitus in the Middle Eastern state of Qatar. Co-investigators include Dr. Mushlin, Dr. Kern, and faculty and staff in Qatar.

The research conducted by Dr. Kern focuses on uncovering opportunities for the early detection and treatment of such common serious illnesses as diabetes, heart disease, breast cancer, and osteoporosis. Much of her work includes investigating how screening can help patients have the information to prevent disease progression and co-morbidity. For instance, she recently was the lead author of a study on the association between screening for osteoporosis and the incidence of hip fracture. As the newly named Laitman Clinical Scholar in Clinical Evaluation, Dr. Kern will conduct research that examines the effectiveness of new technologies for pressing health issues. Her work will also improve methods for assessing technologies of the future.

Diabetes in Qatar

The Qatar diabetes project is an in-depth study of the impact of diabetes on healthcare delivery in the state of Qatar. It evaluates risk factors, treatment patterns, and outcomes for people affected by the disease. The project also examines the impact of diabetes and other metabolic syndrome risk factors on cardiovascular disease and hospital care, as well as the economic effects of the disease on healthcare. The study includes Public Health faculty from Weill Cornell Medical College both in New York and Qatar, colleagues at the Hamad Medical Corporation (the major hospital in Qatar), and staff hired specifically for this project based in Qatar.

Because of the unique characteristics of the Qatari people, this project offers exciting possibilities for discovering useful information about diabetes. The country has changed enormously since the 1980s with the rapid development of the petrochemical industry. The lifestyle of the population has given way to a westernized, less physically active way of life. This unfortunately is associated with higher levels of obesity and an increase in risk factors for cardiovascular disease and stroke, including diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol. Today, the prevalence of diabetes in Qatar is about twice that of the United States.

There may be complicated interactions between lifestyle factors and genetics to explain these disease patterns. It is hoped that by shedding light on the impact of diabetes, this project will pave the way for further studies of diabetes both in Qatar and in other populations with a high prevalence of the disease.
Mark A. Callahan, M.D.
Chief, Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research
Associate Professor of Public Health
Associate Professor of Medicine
Dr. Callahan’s research focuses on improving the quality of medical care, changing physician and hospital behavior, and enhancing the organization of health care delivery systems. Among his current projects, he is the PI for a 5-year contract awarded by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality called Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks, which will allow the Medical College and its partners to conduct rapid-cycle, applied research; and the co-PI and project director for the Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics awarded to Weill Cornell Medical College from AHRQ.

Brian Edlin, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine
Associate Professor of Public Health
Dr. Edlin’s research focuses on the clinical epidemiology of hepatitis C, as well as on the epidemiology and primary and secondary prevention of viral hepatitis, HIV infection, overdose, and other infectious and non-infectious health conditions affecting drug users. He is engaged in studies that explore the effectiveness of harm reduction strategies and evaluate methods to improve their effectiveness.

Heather Gold, Ph.D., has been using her expertise in econometric modeling to explore ways to improve outcomes in breast cancer. Her current projects assess disparities in the screening and treatment for ductal carcinoma in situ and compare treatment options with regard to outcomes (rates of survival and disease recurrence and quality of life) and cost-effectiveness. She has also collaborated with Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D., Chief of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior, on a multi-ethnic drug abuse prevention study among New York youth. Along with Dr. Callahan and Dr. Mushlin, Dr. Gold directs the Foundations of Clinical Research course, a core component of the Clinical Investigation training program.

Members of the Division are involved in the creation and teaching of classes to medical students, residents, and physicians seeking advanced training. In 2004 Dr. Callahan was selected by medical students for an Excellence in Teaching award for the Public Health Clerkship. In 2005 Dr. Hupert received this award.
Heather T. Gold, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Dr. Gold’s research interests include studying socioeconomic, racial/ethnic, and geographic disparities in processes and outcomes of cancer care. Her approach uses econometric and survey-based research to study patterns of care in large populations in order to better understand where disparities exist and how they might be overcome.

Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Attending Physician
Dr. Hupert’s research involves application of operations research techniques to topics ranging from public health emergencies such as bioterrorism and epidemics to other complex health response issues such as scale-up of HIV antiviral treatment in resource-limited environments. His clinical research includes a study of diabetic foot ulcer treatment in New York City as well as a study of the epidemiology of repetitive strain injury among college students.

Rainu Kaushal, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Director of Pediatric Quality and Patient Safety, Komansky Center for Children’s Health, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital
Dr. Kaushal’s research focuses on patient safety and information technology. She is interested in the barriers and facilitators to the adoption of health information technology and health information exchange with a particular focus on economic and public policy issues. She also studies the epidemiology and financial implications of medication and medical errors, particularly in pediatrics. Dr. Kaushal is actively involved in quality improvement efforts at the Komansky Center as well.

Lisa M. Kern, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Attending Physician
Dr. Kern’s research focuses on technology assessment and improving quality of care for chronic disease. She evaluates the use of screening and diagnostic tests for primary care, including screening tests for osteoporosis, diabetes, high cholesterol and cardiovascular disease. She also studies health information technology and its role in improving health care quality. Dr. Kern is the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Clinical Evaluation.

*Kamiar Khajavi, M.D., M.P.H., J.D.
Instructor in Public Health
Instructor in Medicine
Assistant Attending Physician
Pfizer Fellow in Health Services Research
Dr. Khajavi was the Pfizer Fellow in Health Services Research from 2002 to 2004. His interests include healthcare policy and the intersection of law and medicine.
*Dr. Khajavi is currently working at McKinsey & Co. in their healthcare consulting practice.

*Michael J. Louie, M.D., M.P.H.
Instructor in Public Health
Pfizer Fellow in Health Services Research
Dr. Louie’s research interests focus on certain aspects of HIV disease, including exploring the potency of antiretroviral therapy, the effects of treatment during primary infection, and viral dynamics. In early 2006 he completed the Pfizer Fellowship in Health Services Research. He will continue to teach and conduct collaborative research with faculty in the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research.
*Dr. Louie is currently a Senior Manager at Pfizer, Inc. in the Payment Policy Analysis Group of U.S. Outcomes Research.

*Debra A. Quinn, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Assistant Attending Physician
Dr. Quinn’s research interests focus on improving the quality of care for patients with cardiovascular disease.
*Dr. Quinn is currently a postdoctoral clinical fellow in Cardiology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.
The mission of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior is to promote good health and prevent diseases associated with unhealthy behaviors. It conducts research on health behaviors that contribute to major illnesses such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, and diabetes, and develops programs that encourage children and adults to make healthy lifestyle choices. Issues targeted for study and intervention include smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, obesity, and violence. The Division is also involved in initiatives for promoting healthy eating and physical activity and for improving the general health and well-being of people across the lifespan.

As certain behaviors increase the risk of developing specific diseases, personal and environmental factors may increase one’s risk of engaging in those unhealthy behaviors. As an example, cigarette smoking, the number one preventable cause of annual mortality, is an unhealthy behavior that usually begins during the adolescent years. The Division tries to understand not only the relationship of smoking to heart disease and cancer, but also the factors that put people at risk for smoking. At the same time it works to identify and increase personal characteristics and skills that protect individuals from risk factors for smoking and engaging in other damaging behaviors.

Many of the Division’s studies are funded by the National Institutes of Health, including the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Division Chief Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D., is the Principal Investigator on several studies funded by NIDA to build upon and enhance implementation of an award-winning substance abuse prevention program for junior high and middle school students, called Life Skills Training (LST), that he originally developed more than 25 years ago. The program consists of 30 sequential classes conducted over three years, which work to prevent future substance use by increasing psychological well-being, reducing the appeal and positive expectations of the social and emotional benefits of smoking and drug use, and increasing assertiveness skills for resisting social influences to engage in the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs.

Among Dr. Botvin’s ongoing investigations are long-term studies of the effectiveness of the Life Skills Training Program for drug abuse and violence prevention with minority youth in the inner city. These studies extend the scope of the program from a focus on white suburban youth, for whom LST was originally developed, to test its effectiveness among multi-ethnic urban youth. The Division is also collaborating with researchers in Iowa to examine the effectiveness of school and family prevention programs in a largely rural setting.

A problem frequently encountered when implementing school-based prevention programs, such as LST, is a lack of adherence to some of the program components. This can occur for a variety of reasons, including difficulties with classroom management and discipline, lack of teacher training, lack of program materials, low levels of funding, decentralized decision making, or lack of program guidance from school district personnel. To address these issues, Dr. Botvin recently began a study to enhance implementation fidelity for the LST program in a variety of school settings. The project will compare a group of students receiving program enhancements, such as additional support and workshops for teachers, to a control group using the standard LST curriculum. This will help the investigators to determine if these
additional training and support activities improve fidelity as well as the knowledge, attitudes, personal skills, and behaviors of the students. Other divisional faculty involved in this project include Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D., Kenneth W. Griffin, Ph.D., M.P.H., and Madhuvanti Mahadeo, Dr.P.H.

Besides understanding what might hinder the successful implementation of prevention programs already shown to be effective, another important task is to determine why effective programs work and what differentiates them from ineffective programs. For this reason a number of studies have been aimed at identifying the mediating mechanisms, or the factors that affect behavior. Further research will help investigators better understand how mediating mechanisms work in synergy to produce change. Dr. Griffin is currently studying how some personal qualities serve as buffering agents against risk factors for smoking and drug use. The goal is to identify and augment these buffers to help adolescents resist unhealthy substances.

Research has shown that social factors are among the most influential in determining which adolescents are most likely to start smoking, drinking, or using drugs. These combine with the availability of the substances and personal motivating characteristics to increase the risk. Having good skills with self-management, communication, and social relationships has been shown to buffer students from these risk factors. Programs that increase these skills have been shown to help prevent not only smoking and drug use but also violence and aggression, since these behaviors are associated with similar causative factors and are amenable to the same buffers.

In addition to his studies of competence skills as they affect smoking and drug use, Dr. Griffin’s work focuses on the prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS. He recently participated in a UNICEF-sponsored workshop in Laos, Cambodia, where he trained key decision makers and program managers on the biomedical and epidemiologic aspects of HIV/AIDS and current behavioral intervention strategies, including preventing mother-to-child transmission.

Dr. Nichols has had a long-time interest in women’s health and gender differences concerning health issues. Her research encompasses health promotion and disease prevention in adolescent girls as well as in women. As the founder of the Department’s Women’s Health Research Group, she has encouraged and helped faculty throughout the medical center to develop women’s health endeavors that include prevention, treatment, and epidemiological studies. She also collaborates on health promotion programs with faculty at the Ithaca Campus of Cornell University.

Dr. Nichols was overseeing the public health research of Shari Midoneck, M.D., the Laitman Clinical Scholar in Prevention in the area of Women’s Health. Dr. Midoneck is investigating ways to improve the rates of colon cancer screening by targeting women who are having mammography for breast cancer screening and to discover the barriers that currently hinder women from obtaining colonoscopies.
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D.
Chief, Division of Prevention & Health Behavior
Professor of Psychology in Public Health
Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry

Dr. Botvin’s research concerns the behavioral aspects of health promotion and disease prevention. His current studies focus on the prevention of smoking, alcohol and drug use, and violence among young people of all ethnic groups in both urban and rural localities. He is working to further refine his proven Life Skills Training (LST) program to increase personal competencies that mediate an individual’s risk for engaging in unhealthy behaviors, and to improve the implementation fidelity of LST in schools.

Amanda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Assistant Professor of Public Health in Pediatrics

Dr. Birnbaum’s research focuses on physical activity promotion and obesity prevention, especially among women and adolescent girls. A major emphasis of her work includes involving adolescents in the development of programs that encourage healthy lifestyle habits and discourage unhealthy behaviors.

*Dr. Birnbaum is currently an Assistant Professor at Montclair State University in the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences within the College of Education & Human Services.

Dr. Nichols is engaged in several other studies involving health promotion. For a pilot study called Building Relationships Involves Growing Healthy Together (BRIGHT), she is working with the Cornell Cooperative Extension in New York City to study physical activity, eating, and smoking habits of adolescent girls and their mothers in New York City and to develop gender-specific family health promotion activities. This study presents a new angle for mother-daughter studies, in that it examines health outcomes for both the mothers and daughters. Another pilot study called Women’s Ways, Women’s Days also encourages exercise and healthy eating habits by comparing women’s real-time reports of their daily activities and emotions with their previously held perceptions of how they typically spend their time. Dr. Nichols is also involved in a study that investigates risk factors that may particularly influence smoking patterns among adolescent girls, including family smoking habits and anger and other mood states. The study also examines connections between eating practices, dieting, and smoking.

Jennifer Epstein, Ph.D., has been exploring issues of substance use concerning acculturation and gender. She is currently working on an NIAAA-funded study to examine patterns and transitions in alcohol use for urban youth. She is also examining indicators of suicidal behaviors in adolescents.

With Amanda Birnbaum, Ph.D., M.P.H., Dr. Nichols is working on a physical activity promotion program for urban adolescents. The investigators are comparing the differences in how boys and girls perceive physical activity and how adult care workers may promote different activities to boys and girls. Dr. Nichols is also working with Maura D. Frank, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, on a study called Healthy Schools, Healthy Families – East to increase insurance enrollment, immunizations, and screenings for children in elementary schools in East Harlem. In addition, the project aims to promote a healthy lifestyle for students, parents and staff within the school by coordinating local nutrition and physical activity programs, such as Food Change and RoadRunners, Inc., in the school.
Dr. Drusin’s research interests focus on hospital acquired infections and sexually transmitted diseases. In 2004 he stepped down as Program Director of the General Preventive Medicine Residency, a position he held for 17 years, to assume the role of Director of a new student faculty mentoring program under the direction of Dr. Carol Storey-Johnson, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.

Jennifer Epstein, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor of Public Health
Dr. Epstein’s research interests are in the etiology and prevention of alcohol and drug use, smoking, and other risk behaviors, particularly in inner-city adolescents. Her work includes models of substance use that support competence enhancement prevention programs. She is also embarking on a study of suicidal indicators in adolescents, including substance use.

Kenneth W. Griffin, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Dr. Griffin’s research examines risk behaviors among adolescents and young adults, with a primary emphasis on the etiology and prevention of substance use and HIV risk behaviors. His research focuses on risk behaviors among young people from different ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds; the role of social competence as a protective factor; and the design, implementation, and evaluation of preventive intervention programs for youth.

Madhuvanti Mahadeo, Dr. PH.
Instructor in Public Health
Dr. Mahadeo has worked in the field of drug abuse prevention, specifically in the development and implementation of drug prevention programs for adolescents and young adults. She also has examined women’s health issues as they pertain to partner drug use. Her other research interests include the health concerns of Caribbean populations, and the effects of culture on health behaviors.

*Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Dr. Nichols is committed to the promotion of gender-specific research and the meaningful inclusion of women’s concerns in all aspects of health-related research and program development. She seeks to increase the scientific dialogue on the meaning of gender differences and its importance in research, as well as to promote solutions and interventions that encompass a holistic view of wellness and that are salient to the social contexts in which women live.

Barbara L. Reissman, Dr.P.H.
Senior Lecturer in Public Health
Dr. Reissman has a background in environmental health management. Her interests include food and water sanitation. She organizes and teaches the Environment component of the Medicine, Patients, and Society II class for medical students, which deals with environmental and occupational health topics.
Public Health Department – Grants and Lead Investigators

Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology

AIDS Diarrhea and Antiretroviral Drug Absorption
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – Heejung Bang, Ph.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Medicine. P.I.: Daniel W. Fitzgerald, M.D.)
4/15/05-3/31/07

Aspirin for Breast Cancer Prevention
National Cancer Institute – Xi Kathy Zhou, Ph.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Cell and Developmental Biology. P.I.: Louise R. Howe, Ph.D.)
09/01/05-08/31/07

Early Therapeutics Development with Phase II Emphasis
National Cancer Institute – Madhu Mazumdar, Ph.D. (Subcontract with Montefiore Medical Center. P.I.: Joseph Sparano, M.D.)
1/1/2006-12/31/2006

Effect of the Patient Activation Measure on Chronic Care
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Linda M. Gerber, Ph.D.

Haitian Program for Research and Training in HIV/AIDS Comprehensive International Program of Research on AIDS (CIPRA)
National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – Jean W. Pape, M.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Medicine. P.I.: Penny H. Feldman, Ph.D.)

Interventions to Improve Hypertension Control Rates in African-Americans

Pilot Study: Focus Group on Dietary Behavior
Weill Cornell Medical College (Lisa Staiano-Coico: Pilot funding) Linda M. Gerber, Ph.D. (Collaboration with Cornell University in Ithaca. P.I.: Jamie Dollahite, Ph.D.)

Psychosocial Factors and Cardiovascular Disease
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute – Linda M. Gerber, Ph.D. (Subcontract with Mount Sinai School of Medicine. P.I.: Thomas Pickering, M.D.)
9/1/2002-8/31/2003
Project 1, Race, SES, and Diurnal Blood Pressure Rhythms: Research Supplement for Underrepresented Minorities
10/1/2003-8/31/2003

Division of Community and Public Health Programs

Eliminating Disparities: Assessing the Effectiveness of a Culturally Competent Pediatric Asthma Disease Management Program
New York State Department of Health – Emilio Carrillo, M.D. (Subcontract with New York Presbyterian Hospital.)
1/1/2003-12/31/2003

GME Cultural Competency Training Program at New York Presbyterian Hospital
New York Presbyterian Hospital – Emilio Carrillo, M.D.

Redes en Acción: National Latino Cancer Research Network
National Cancer Institute – Emilio Carrillo, M.D. (Subcontract with Baylor College of Medicine. P.I.: Amelie Ramirez, Dr.P.H.)

Division of Health Policy

Early Options Program
Anonymous – Oliver Fein, M.D.
6/1/2003-5/14/2005

Cornell Roybal Center for Translational Research
National Institute on Aging/National Institutes of Health – Hirsch S. Ruchlin, Ph.D. (Subcontract with Cornell University. P.I.: Karl Pillemer, Ph.D.)
9/30/2003-8/31/2008

Diabetes and Osteoarthritis Modeling Programs
Merck Research Laboratories – Hirsch S. Ruchlin, Ph.D.
7/1/2003-6/30/2006

Global Health Curriculum Development Grant
The Louis Feinberg Foundation – Madelon L. Finkel, Ph.D.
1/1/2006-12/30/2006

The Retention Specialist Program: Testing a Model Workplace Innovation
9/30/2003-8/31/2005

Division of Medical Ethics

Advanced Research Institute in Geriatric Psychiatry
National Institute of Mental Health – Joseph J. Fins, M.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry. P.I.: Martha Bruce, Ph.D., M.P.H.)
8/15/2003-7/31/2008

Cornell Advanced Center for Interventions and Services Research
National Institute of Mental Health – Joseph J. Fins, M.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry. P.I.: George Alexopoulos, M.D.)
8/7/2003-7/31/2008
Establishing the Faculty Associates Program in Medical Ethics at Weill Medical College
The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation – Joseph J. Fins, M.D.  
9/1/2001-8/31/2004

Expanding the Faculty Associates Program in Medical Ethics at Weill Medical College
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation – Joseph J. Fins, M.D.  
11/1/2002-12/31/2003

Mending the Brain, Minding Our Ethics I
Charles A. Dana Foundation – Joseph J. Fins, M.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Neurology. P.I.: Nicholas Schiff, M.D.)  
7/1/2003-6/30/2005

Mending the Brain, Minding Our Ethics II
Charles A. Dana Foundation – Joseph J. Fins, M.D. (In collaboration with the Department of Neurology. P.I.: Nicholas Schiff, M.D.)  
11/1/2005-10/31/2008

Neuroethics and Disorder of Consciousness
The Buster Family Foundation – Joseph J. Fins, M.D.  
11/1/2004-10/31/2009

Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research
Accelerating Change and Transformation in Organizations and Networks (ACTION)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.  

Accelerating the Cycle of Research Through a Network of Integrated Delivery System
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M.  
9/1/2000-9/30/2005

A Linear Programming Model of Emergency Patient Allocation to Health Care Facilities
11/1/2005-10/31/2006

An Examination of the Role of Leadership in Enhancing Patient Safety
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.  
12/1/2002-11/31/2003

Are Older Adults Being Overtreated for Osteopenia?
Weill Cornell Medical College Center for Aging Research and Clinical Care – Lisa M. Kern, M.D., M.P.H.  

Center for the Evaluation and Support of Integrated Buprenorphine Treatment and HIV Care
9/1/2004-9/30/2009

Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative
Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.  
7/1/2005-6/30/2006

Determination of Physicians’ Expectation of and Satisfaction with an Electronic Health Record (EHR)
United Hospital Fund – Rainu Kaushal, M.D., M.P.H.  

Developing Tools for Statewide Planning and Response to Bioterrorist Attacks
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.  
10/1/2002-9/30/2003

Development of E-Transition Tools for Home Health Care
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.  

Disparities in Radiotherapy for Early Breast Cancer and Ductal Carcinoma in Situ
American Cancer Society – Heather T. Gold, Ph.D.  
1/1/2004-12/31/2008

eICUs: Impact on Quality and Cost Performance
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.  
9/15/2003-12/15/2004

Evaluation of a Patient-Centered Electronic Medical Record in a Medicaid Special Needs Program
Health Resources and Services Administration – Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D.  
10/1/2002-9/30/2006

HCV Treatment of Cost-Effectiveness in Three Intravenous Drug Using Populations
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health – Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D.  

Health Care System Preparedness and Surge Capacity for Bioterrorism and Public Health Emergencies
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.  
8/1/2004-8/31/2005

Hepatitis C Treatment Barriers and Preferences for Patients Infected by Injection Drug Use
New York City Council Speaker’s Fund – Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D.  
7/1/2002-6/30/2004
Improving Transitions and Outcomes for Heart Failure Patients through Hospital-Home Care Information Exchange
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.

K30: Clinical Research Curriculum Award – Weill Cornell Medical College
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute/National Institutes of Health – Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M. (In collaboration with P.I.: Julianne Imperato-McGinley, M.D.)

Linking Best Reporting and Learning to Improve Safety
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark A. Callahan, M.D. (Subcontract with Columbia University Medical Center. P.I.: Harold S. Kaplan, M.D.)
9/30/2001-8/31/2004

Modeling the Impact of Introducing Rapid Syphilis Tests into Haiti
World Health Organization – Bruce R. Schackman, Ph.D. (Subcontract with Les Centres G.H.E.S.K.I.O. P.I.: Jean W. Pape, M.D.)
11/5/2005-6/30/2005

Modeling U.S. Healthcare Systems' Epidemic Response Capacity
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.
9/30/2003-9/29/2005

Models and Tools for Mass Casualty Surge Requirements
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D. M.P.H. (Subcontract with Abt Associates, Inc.)

New York Methodist Hospital Cardiac Surgical Program: Two Integrated Interventions
New York Methodist Hospital – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.
7/1/2004-6/30/2010

New York State Safety Improvement Demonstration Project
New York State Department of Health – Mark A. Callahan, M.D. (Subcontract with New York Presbyterian Hospital System. P.I.: Eliot Lazar, M.D.)
8/1/2002-7/31/2004

Patient Safety Analysis Training: A DoD/AHRQ Partnership
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Mark Callahan, M.D.

Pfizer Scholars Fellowship
Pfizer, Inc. – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.
7/1/2003-6/30/2006

Predictors of and Interventions to Improve use of Beta-Blockers in Patients with Congestive Heart Failure: a Multi-Center Study
Quality of Care Research Foundation-GlaxoSmithKline Inc. – Mark A. Callahan, M.D.
12/1/2001-11/30/2003

Predictors of Short-Term Adverse Events in Total Joint Replacement
The Methodist Hospital Research Institute and Weill Cornell Medical College – Mark A. Callahan, M.D. (PI); Marc Silverstein, M.D. (co-P.I.)
7/1/06-6/30/07

Programming Anthrax Models
National Institutes of Health – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.
9/30/2004-6/30/2005

Prospective Multi-center Study of the Role of Racial and Ethnic Disparities and Treatment Variation in Diabetic and Non-diabetic Foot Ulcer
New York City Council Speaker’s Fund – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.
7/1/2001-6/30/2004

Racial Disparities in Access to High Quality Cardiac Surgeons Among the Elderly
National Institute on Aging – Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M. (Subcontract with Rochester University. P.I.: Dana Mukamel, Ph.D.)
7/1/2003-6/30/2006

Root Cause Analyses of Precursor Events Using an Electronic Reporting System
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Debra A. Quinn, M.D., M.P.H.
9/30/2004-9/29/2005

Simulation Models for Bioterrorism Preparedness
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Strategic National Stockpile – Nathaniel Hupert, M.D., M.P.H.

Translating Data to Information: Development of Reporting Templates for the AHRQ Quality Indicators
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M.

The Centers for Education and Research Therapeutics (CERT)
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – Alvin I. Mushlin, M.D., Sc.M. (P.I.); Mark Callahan, M.D. (co-P.I.)

The Role of Diabetes Mellitus in Qatar: Evaluating Treatment Patterns, Risk Factors and Outcomes
Weill Cornell Medical College – New York & Qatar – Mark Callahan, M.D.
7/1/2005-6/30/2007
Division of Prevention and Health Behavior

Adolescent Health and Community Service: Building Bridges and Planting Seeds
Cornell University Ithaca – Institute for the Social Sciences – Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D.

Competence Skills and Smoking Among Subgroups of Youth
National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health – Kenneth W. Griffin, Ph.D.
9/1/2002-8/31/2006

Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention with Minority Youth (Merit Award Continuation)
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D.
8/1/2000-7/31/2006

Enhancing Implementation Fidelity in a Multi-Site Trial
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D.
9/21/2004-6/30/09

Ethnic Differences in Competence and Adolescent Drug Use
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Kenneth W. Griffin, Ph.D.
9/30/2001-8/31/2004

Gender Differences in Adolescent Drug Use
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D.
7/15/2003-7/14/2005

Healthy Families: Assessing Health Practices and Relationship Quality
Cornell University Ithaca – Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center –
Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D.

Indicators of Suicidal Behaviors Using National Adolescent Samples
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – Jennifer Epstein, Ph.D.
9/1/2006-8/31/2008

Involving Adolescents in Physical Activity Promotion
National Cancer Institute/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases – Amanda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D.
9/2/2004-8/12/05

Involving Adolescents in Physical Activity Promotion
National Cancer Institute – Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D. Subcontract with Montclair State University. P.I.: Amanda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D.)

Multi-Ethnic Drug Abuse Prevention Among New York Youth (bridge funding)
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D.

Patterns and Transitions in Alcohol Use for Urban Youth
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse & Alcoholism/National Institutes of Health – Jennifer Epstein, Ph.D.

Rural Youth and Family Competencies Building Project (Merit Award Continuation)
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D. (Subcontract with Iowa State University. P.I.: Richard Spoth, Ph.D.)
9/1/2002-6/30/2007

Summer Research with NIDA: Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention with Minority Youth (Summer Internship Program Supplement)
National Institute on Drug Abuse/National Institutes of Health –
Gilbert J. Botvin, Ph.D.

Transitions in Smoking Among Adolescent Minority Girls
National Cancer Institute/National Institutes of Health – Tracy R. Nichols, Ph.D.
Selected Department Publications

This list shows faculty publications that are most illustrative of the work of the Department during the three-year period covered by the report. More complete information will be listed on the Department web site, http://www.med.cornell.edu/publichealth/.

Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Bang H. Medical cost analysis: an application to colorectal cancer data from the SEER Medicare database. *Contemporary Clinical Trials* (Formerly Controlled Clinical Trials) 2005; Vol 26, 586-597.


Division of Community and Public Health Programs


Division of Health Policy


Division of Medical Ethics


Fins JJ. A Palliative Ethic of Care: Clinical Wisdom at Life’s End. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2006.


Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research


Division of Prevention and Health Behavior


Alpi, Kristine, M.P.H., M.L.S.
Lecturer of Public Health
Health Policy

August, Phyllis, M.D.
Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Bang, Heejung, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Bart, Gavin, M.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Begg, Colin, Ph.D.
Professor of Biostatistics in Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Blasstein, Jan, M.D., Ph.D.
Adjunct Associate Professor of Public Health
Health Policy

Botvin, Gilbert, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology in Public Health
Prevention and Health Behavior

Bryt, A. Bartley, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Community and Public Health Programs

Cardwell, John, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology in Public Health - Prevention and Health Behavior

Christos, Paul, M.P.H., M.S.
Lecturer in Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Cole, Curtis, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

DiMichele, Donna, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Medical Ethics

Dunn, Van, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Health Policy

Elkin, Elena, Ph.D.
Instructor in Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Falco, Mathea, J.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Community and Public Health Programs

Ferrando, Stephen, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Medical Ethics

Gerber, Linda, Ph.D.
Professor of Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Gold, Heather, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Arts, David, M.D., M.B.A.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Austrian, Sonia, D.S.W.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Barie, Phillip, M.D.
Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Battelman, David, M.D., M.Sc.
Assistant Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Berliner, Howard, Sc.D., M.P.S.
Adjunct Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Boardman, Samantha, M.D.
Clinical Instructor in Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Brower, Ross, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Buchbinder, Pamela, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Carrillo, Emilio, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Clark, Sunday, Sc.D.
Instructor in Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

De Melo-Martin, Inmaculada, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Drusin, Lewis, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Prevention and Health Behavior

Eachempati, Soumitra, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Epstein, Jennifer, Ph.D.
Research Assistant Professor of Public Health
Prevention and Health Behavior

Fein, Oliver, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Health Policy

Finkel, Madelon, Ph.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Health Policy

Gibofsky, Allan, M.D., J.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Goss, Mary, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Sociology in Public Health
Health Policy

Atkinson, Holly, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Medical Ethics

Bach, Peter, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Barnhill, John, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
Medical Ethics

Beeder, Ann, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Birnbaum, Amanda, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Prevention and Health Behavior

Borg, Lisa, M.D.
Clinical Instructor of Psychiatry in Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Brown, Lawrence, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Associate Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Callahan, Mark, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Cassell, Eric, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Cohen, Jeffrey, Ph.D.
Lecturer in Public Health
Medical Ethics

Dillon, Gregory, M.D.
Clinical Associate Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Duffy, James, Ch.B.
Professor of Psychiatry in Public Health
Medical Ethics

Edlin, Brian, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Euster, Sonia, M.S.S.A.
Lecturer in Public Health
Health Policy

Feldman, Penny, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Fins, Joseph, M.D.
Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Glesby, Marshall, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Greer, William, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Griffin, Kenneth, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
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Harrison, Melanie, M.D.
Assistant Research Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Honkanen, Lisa, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
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Iqbal, Rabiul, M.D.
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Khoury, Elizabeth, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
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Kohn, Nina, M.A.
Assistant Biostatistician in Public Health
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Kreek, Mary Jeanne, M.D.
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Leon, Andrew, Ph.D.
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Lillico, Anna, Ph.D.
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Lyman, Stephen, Ph.D.
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Mandl, Lisa Ann, M.D., M.P.H.
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McCarty, Eugene, M.D., M.P.H.
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Millman, Robert, M.D.
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Kern, Lisa, M.D., M.P.H.
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Kizer, Jorge, M.D.
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Kolodner, Debra, M.D., M.P.H.
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Kuperman, Gilad, M.D., Ph.D.
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Lesser, Martin, Ph.D.
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Liu, Larry, M.D., Ph.D.
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MacKenzie, Charles, M.D.
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Marx, Robert, M.D., M.Sc.
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McCullough, Laurence, Ph.D.
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Miké, Valerie, Ph.D.
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Mills, Stephen, M.P.H.
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Murtough, Christopher, Ph.D.
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Hanna, Michael, Ph.D.
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Hyman, Daniel, M.D.
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Jones, Edward, M.D.
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Khajavi, Kamiar, M.D., J.D.
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Klein, Arthur, M.D.
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Kopman, Alan, M.B.A.
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Levin, Arthur, M.D.
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Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Mahadeo, Madhuvanti, Dr.P.H.
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Mazumdar, Madhu, Ph.D.
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Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Michelen, Wallid, M.D.
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Miller, Franklin, Ph.D.
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Medical Ethics

Mininberg, David, M.D.
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Morris, Gay, Ph.D.
Assistant Sociologist in Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Mushlin, Alvin, M.D., Sc.M.
Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Public Health - Chairman

Nilson, Elizabeth, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Olson, Sara, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Pascarelli, Emil, M.D.
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Powell, Tia, M.D.
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Health Policy

Phariss, Bruce, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
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Pieracci, Frederic, M.D.
Fellow in Public Health
Prevention and Health Behavior

Reader, George, M.D. (dec.)
L. Farrand Professor Emeritus in Public Health
Health Policy

Raik, Barrie, M.D.
Associate Professor of Clinical Public Health
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Rapport, Mark, M.D., M.P.H.
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
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Reisserman, Barbara, Dr.P.H.
Sr. Lecturer in Public Health
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Rai, Susan, J.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Medical Ethics

Phariss, Bruce, M.D.
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Community and Public Health Programs

Rodi, Barrie, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Medical Ethics

Reid, George, M.D.
L. Farrand Professor Emeritus in Public Health
Health Policy

Rogers, Keith, M.D.
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Health Policy

Rodriguez del Pozo, Pablo, M.D., Ph.D., J.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
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Reid, George, M.D.
L. Farrand Professor Emeritus in Public Health
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Rosati, Robert, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Sandberg, Leon, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
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Schiff, Nicholas, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
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Ruchin, Hirsch, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Economics in Public Health
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Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
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Reidenberg, Marcus, M.D.
Professor of Clinical Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
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Rosen, Daniel, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Seif, Rebecca, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Health Policy

Schiell, Nicholas, M.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health
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Shi, Quishu, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Seigel, Maria Cristina, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Stern, Penny, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Schackman, Bruce, Ph.D., M.H.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Shackman, Bruce, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Sison, Maria Cristina, Ph.D.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biostatistics in Public Health
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Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Staiano-Coico, Lisa, Ph.D.
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Stern, Penny, M.D., M.P.H.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Stewart, Michael, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Scheuerle, Lawrence, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Psychology in Public Health (Courtesy)
Prevention and Health Behavior

Streeter, Patricia, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Supino, Phyllis, Ed.D.
Associate Research Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Tai, Julia, M.A.
Assistant Biostatistician in Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Tardif, Kenneth, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Tewari, Ashutosh, M.D., M.Ch.
Associate Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Trachtenberg, Judith, Ph.D.
Lecturer in Public Health
Health Policy

Ullman, Alice, M.S.W.
Clinical Associate Professor Emeritus of Social Work in Public Health
Health Policy

Van Lieu Vorenkamp, Jaclyn, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Vickers, Andrew, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Public Health
Outcomes and Effectiveness Research

Warshauer, Ellen, M.A.
Associate Epidemiologist in Public Health
Health Policy

Weiss, Carol, M.D.
Clinical Assistant Professor of Public Health
Community and Public Health Programs

Wilkinson, Carol, M.D., M.P.H.
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health
Health Policy

Zang, Edith, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Public Health (Courtesy)
Biostatistics and Epidemiology

Zhou, Xi Kathy, Ph.D.
Instructor in Public Health
Biostatistics and Epidemiology
Department of Public Health
Financial Profile
Year ending June 30, 2006

Sources
Clinical/Programmatic: $5,238,604
Gifts/Endowments: $830,939
Institutional funds: $2,540,159
Research grants/contracts: $5,368,356
Total Sources: $13,978,058

Uses
Salary: $8,388,553
Fringe: $2,341,705
Non-personnel: $2,254,538
Indirect: $993,263
Total Uses: $13,978,059

Public Health Operation by Funding Type
8-year trend

Source: WMC and NYPH financial statements
Department of Public Health
Personnel Profile
Snapshot as of June 30, 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty: Primary</th>
<th>Faculty: Secondary Voluntary Courtesy Fellows Emeriti</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department personnel database

Research Statistics
Proposal Submission History: At Bats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proposals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
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<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7-Year Batting Average

- 102 Awards
- Batting Average 41%

Note:
$151,144,919 in proposals submitted over 7-year period
$39,490,086 in awards over 7-year period
Contact Information

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