Chairman’s Message

I am pleased to share with you the 2013 Winter issue, of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue we highlight several events which took place since the printing of the Fall issue:

• The New York ACS Surgical Quality Forum hosted by our Department as part of the ACS national 'Inspiring Quality Community Tour'. The Forum was attended by more than 200 physicians, hospital administrators, public officials and healthcare leaders.

• The 30th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship with guest lecturer Dr. Ajit Sachdeva, who heads the Division of Education at the American College of Surgeons.

• The 8th Annual Department of Surgery Dinner, where we celebrated the accomplishments of the Department and shared plans for future goals with our faculty, friends and supporters.

• Our Department’s presentations at the ACS Clinical Congress and the joyful annual Alumni Reception.

In this issue we are also happy to:

• Report on recent honors received by and grants awarded to our faculty.

• Profile one of our esteemed surgical leaders, Dr. Roger Yurt, Chief of Burns, Critical Care and Trauma, and recognize with gratitude his 30 years of dedicated service to the Department and to his patients.

• Recognize and offer our congratulations to our faculty and staff who celebrated milestones of 10, 20 and 25 years of service.

Unfortunately, the last few months have brought us also sorrow and challenges. We note with great sadness the loss of our esteemed colleague and alumna, Dr. Carolyn E. Reed. On a different note, Hurricane Sandy brought destruction and loss to New York City. I take great pride in the way our faculty and staff rallied together to provide continuous surgical care throughout the storm and the difficult months that followed.

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
The Department of Surgery’s 30th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship was held on Monday, November 26, 2012. The lecture, “Education and Training to Promote Excellence in Surgery,” was presented by the renowned surgeon and educator, Ajit K. Sachdeva, MD, FRCSC, FACS, Director, Division of Education, American College of Surgeons, Adjunct Professor of Surgery, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Professor of Surgery, Drexel University School of Medicine.

Dr. Sachdeva is the founding Director of the Division of Education at the American College of Surgeons, which develops and implements innovative educational programs for surgeons, surgery residents, medical students and members of surgical teams. Prior to joining the ACS, he was the Leon C. Sunstein, Jr., Professor of Medical and Health Sciences Education and Professor & Vice Chair for Educational Affairs, Department of Surgery, at the MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine. The recipient of major educational grants and widely published in peer-reviewed journals, Dr. Sachdeva has received numerous awards for teaching, and has delivered presentations and conducted courses on educational topics in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia and Japan.

The Peter C. Canizaro M.D. Visiting Professor Lectureship was established by the Department of Surgery in 1983 as a reminder of the importance of surgical education.
It is with great sadness that we note the untimely passing of one of our distinguished alumna, Dr. Carolyn E. Reed, Professor of Surgery with Tenure and the Alice Ruth Reeves Folk Endowed Chair of Clinical Affairs at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston. After receiving her undergraduate degree with the highest honors from the University of Maine, Dr. Reed received her MD with honor and distinction in research from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1977. She completed her general surgery internship and general surgery residency training at NYP/Weill Cornell in 1982. She completed a surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and a cardiothoracic surgical residency at NYP/Weill Cornell. A nationally and internationally renowned surgeon, educator and leader in her field, Dr. Reed was the author of over 100 peer-reviewed publications, as well as 20 book chapters. She made over 120 scientific presentations at national and international thoracic surgical meetings and was sought after as a visiting professor at some of the most prestigious medical institutions in the United States. She was the 2011 Hassan Naama Memorial Lecturer at the NYP/Weill Cornell Department of Surgery. Her clinical and research activities focused on thoracic surgical oncology, with specific expertise in lung and esophageal cancer. Dr. Reed held numerous important research grants from the National Institute of Health. She was a co-editor of Shields Textbook of General Thoracic Surgery and served on the Editorial Board of the American Cancer Society. Dr. Reed was a Diplomate of the National Board of Medical Examiners, the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and American College of Chest Physicians. She played a leadership role in many prestigious medical societies, including serving as Past President of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association and as a Governor of the American College of Surgeons.
Many of the Department of Surgery’s faculty and residents played an active leadership role at the American College of Surgeons meeting in Chicago this past October, giving lectures, presentations and videotalks, participating in panel discussions, moderating sessions and teaching postgraduate courses.

**DR. KATHERINE ARTHUR** presented: “Interhospital Transfer: An Independent Risk Factor for Mortality in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit” at ACS Forum Critical Care II: Epidemiology and Management of Trauma.

**DR. JUSTIN BELIN** presented: “GLV1h153, an Oncolytic Vaccinia Virus Carrying the Human Sodium Iodine Symporter, Kills Malignant Pleural Meso-thelioma and Facilitates PET Imaging”.

**DR. SOUMITRA EACHEMPATI** moderated a Trauma/Critical Care Paper Session.

**DR. KELLY GARRETT** was an invited discussant in the Surgical Forum Alimentary Tract I Session; she was a participant in a Laparoscopic Colectomy Course Didactic Session and also participated in several Hands-On Lab sessions.

**DR. DOUGLAS JONES** presented: “Amplification of full-length HMGA2 is oncogenic in liposarcoma”.

**DR. DEIRDRE KELLEHER** gave a videotalk: “Transanal Endoscopic Microsurgery (TEM): Technical Difficulties and Complications in Colon and Rectal Surgery”, she presented a poster: “The Effect of Trauma Team Size on Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Task Completion”.

**DR. DAVID KLEIMAN** presented: “Cytologic Atypia is Equivalent to BRAF(V600E) Status in Predicting Malignancy of Indeterminate Thyroid Nodules”.

**DR. MICHAEL KLUGER** moderated a session on “Residency Options – ACS Medical Student Program”.

**DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI** hosted a “Meet the Expert” luncheon on “Crohns Disease: Bring Your Toughest Cases”, he was a participant in the “Mentoring & Monitoring your Partners” panel with a talk on “The First 90 Cases in the Operating Room”.

**DR. KATRINA MITCHELL** was an invited panelist on: “International Surgical Research for Residents--Lessons from Fellow Travelers”.

**DR. ALFONS POMP** was an invited panelist for two symposia: New Techniques and Technologies and General Surgery II; his paper “Laparoscopic Resection of a Cystadeno-ma of the Cystic Duct” was presented; he was coordinator and chief presiding officer for “Best Videos from the Past” and he presented on “Newest Surgical Therapies for Weight Loss”.

**DR. TOYOOKI SONODA** co-chaired a postgraduate course: “Advanced Colonoscopy Skills Course – Polypectomy and Beyond”, he presented “Combined Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Polypectomy”.

**DR. HARMA TURBENDIAN** presented: “The Transcription Factor Gata5 Directs Efficient Development of Cardiomyocyte Progenitors from Murine Embryonic Stem Cells”.

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98th Annual
American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress Meeting
This October many surgical alumni, faculty and friends of NewYork Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center, The Methodist Hospital-Houston, and for the first time this year, New York Hospital Queens, gathered at the American College of Surgeons host hotel for our Annual Alumni Reception. The Reception was co-hosted by Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. O. Wayne Isom, Terry Allen Kramer Professor and Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Barbara Lee Bass, the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Distinguished Endowed Chair, Department of Surgery, The Methodist Hospital in Houston; and Dr. Pierre F. Saldinger, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, New York Hospital Queens. The reception, held in the elegant Normandie Lounge at the Hilton Chicago, attracted more than 125 alumni and friends.
Department of Surgery hosts
American College of Surgeons
New York Surgical Quality Forum

More than 200 physicians, administrators, public officials and health care leaders attended the ACS New York Surgical Quality Forum—Improving Surgical Quality—A Data-Driven Approach, on November 16, 2012 in Uris Auditorium. The 3-hour forum featured presentations on the significant impact quality improvement has on optimizing positive patient outcomes, while reducing costs. The NYP/Weill Cornell forum, hosted and moderated by Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, was the 10th in a series of national forums held by the ACS as part of its ‘Inspiring Quality Community Tour’. It attracted attendees from more than 40 hospitals, medical schools and other health care organizations across the state—a record attendance since the tour began in 2011.

Presenters included Dean Glimcher, who addressed the critical importance of training future surgeons and physicians in quality improvement; Steven Corwin, CEO, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, who focused on how healthcare reform will continue to impact hospitals and the challenges the State faces with the new health insurance exchanges; and Foster Gesten, MD, Medical Director, NYS Department of Health, who spoke on the inherent value of public reporting, and shared his vision of an ideal synergy in building a system that satisfies both government and payers, but also allows clinicians to measure their performance and see how they can improve. Additional presenters included: David Hoyt, MD, Executive Director, ACS, Clifford Ko, MD, Director, ACS Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care and Alfons Pomp, MD, Chief of Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery and Vice Chairman, NYP/Weill Cornell Department of Surgery. A panel of surgical leaders from hospitals across New York State also presented on their own hospital’s experience with successful quality improvement initiatives. Panelists included: H. Leon Pachter, MD, FACS, George D. Stewart Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, New York University School of Medicine; Jeffrey H. Peters, MD, FACS, The Seymour I. Schwartz Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, University of Rochester Medical Center; Pierre F. Saldinger, MD, FACS, Chairman of the Department of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief, New York Hospital Queens, and Steven C. Stain, MD, FACS, Professor of Surgery, Henry and Sally Schaffer Chair, Department of Surgery, Albany Medical College.

ACS NSQIP is set apart from other quality programs because it uses risk- and procedure mix-adjusted data extracted from the patient’s medical chart, not insurance claims, and is based on 30-day surgical patient outcomes.
Roger W. Yurt, MD

Roger W. Yurt, MD, Chief of Burns, Critical Care and Trauma and Director of the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, has spent the past three decades improving the quality of life for burn victims and pioneering research in trauma, burns and technology related to state-of-the-art treatment of burns. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery and is the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor of Surgery. An alumnus of the NYP/Weill Cornell General Surgery Residency program (class of 1979), Dr. Yurt graduated from Loyola University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. He earned his medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine, and was an intern and a surgical resident at the Parkland Memorial Hospital, University of Texas-Southwestern, in Dallas, TX. He did his postdoctoral fellowship in medicine at the Robert B. Brigham Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. A world-renowned, board-certified expert in the treatment of burns and wound healing, Dr. Yurt is widely published, with over 140 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He has been a frequent invited lecturer and keynote speaker throughout the United States and abroad, and serves on the editorial board and as an ad-hoc reviewer for 6 professional journals. Dr. Yurt served as Acting Chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1991 through 1993 and has been a member of 38 intramural committees including the Executive Committee of the Medical Board and the Executive Faculty Council.

His first scientific publication was based on work done in college with Dr. Hiram Polk and his initial laboratory work was performed under the mentorship of K. Frank Austen at Harvard. It is of interest to note that Dr. Austen enlisted his brother Gerald (then Chairman of Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital) to convince Dr. Yurt to stay in the lab beyond the scheduled two year commitment. That period led to defining the chemical structure of native heparin from the rat mast cell and the purification and characterization of the major enzyme, chymase, in the rat mast cell granule. Dr. Yurt fulfilled his military obligation during 3 years on active duty at The Army Burn Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas under the mentorship of Dr. Basil A. Pruitt.

After becoming the founding Director of the Trauma Center at NYP/Weill Cornell in 1983, Dr. Yurt became Chairman of the Regional Trauma Advisory Committee and served on the New York State Trauma Advisory Committee. His published analysis of the cost of care for the injured patient during that period led to a revision of the DRG coding system for trauma cases in New York State and nationally. More recently, Dr. Yurt has been co-director of federal and city grants for disaster planning and outreach programs that exceed 2 million dollars in funding. Dr. Yurt has served in leadership positions at several prestigious medical and scientific societies, including the American Association of Medical Colleges, where he served as a Delegate on the Council of Academic Societies from 1985-1987, the Surgical Infection Society (member of the Council 1983-1993 and President 1991), Surgical Infection Society-Europe (member of the Council 1987-1990), and the American Burn Association, where he served as second vice president and on the Board of Trustees from 2004-2006. Dr. Yurt is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and served as Governor from 1990-1996. He is an active member of many medical societies including the American Surgical Association, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma, the New York Academy of Science, the New York Surgical Society, and Society of University Surgeons. Dr. Yurt has been repeatedly recognized by Castle Connolly as one of the “Best Doctors in America.” He has been included in New York Magazine’s Best Doctors issue since 1998, and was named one of “America’s Top Doctors” by US News & World Report. He has earned many honors and awards throughout his career, including the Outstanding Service Award from the Weill Cornell Medical Center Alumni Association, the Award for Teaching Excellence from Weill Cornell Medical Center, Honorary Fellowship in the Weill Medical College Cornell University Alumni Association, The Richard T. Hewitt Award, Royal Society of Medicine Foundation and the Physician of the Year Award from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. During his tenure as Director of the Burn Center, two fully endowed Professorships have been assigned to the Center.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, his family moved multiple times throughout the South and finally landed in Miami, Florida. He met his wife Joan on a blind date, and they have been happily married for 41 years and have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Dr. Yurt’s outside interests include project design and construction and included building several go-carts and a hydroplane while in high school, a full-sized sports car with gull-winged doors from a kit (while in the Army) and more recently a go-cart and several computers in collaboration with his son Greg, who is an electrical engineer.
SAVE THE DATE

March 18th, 2013
6:30 pm

Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD
Memorial Alumni Black Tie Dinner

The Harmonie Club
4 East 60th Street
New York City

Dinner honoring
Armando E. Giuliano, MD
Executive Vice Chair of Surgery, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Associate Director, Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute
Clinical Professor of Surgery, University of California, Los Angeles and University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Alumni of the Class of 1983 and Class of 1993

For More Information contact:
Patti Jakubauskas
Email: pas2013@med.cornell.edu

April 25, 2013
5:00 pm

The 2nd Annual
Stanley J. Behrman, DMD Lectureship

Weill Auditorium
1300 York Ave
New York, NY, 10065

Guest Lecturer
Jaime Gateño, DDS, MD
Chairman, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
The Methodist Hospital
Houston, TX

For More Information contact:
Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery & Dentistry, 212-746-5175
Email: jam2069@med.cornell.edu
The 8th Annual Department of Surgery Dinner was held on November 13, 2012 at the Columbus Citizens Foundation. More than 60 members of the Department of Surgery faculty, supporters and friends gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the Department over the past year and to look towards the future successes planned for the year ahead. During the evening the program included remarks from NewYork-Presbyterian Chief Executive Officer Steven J. Corwin, MD, and Weill Cornell Medical College Dean Laurie H. Glimcher, MD. Department Chairman Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, thanked the group for their support, making clear the vital role that philanthropy plays in the Department. The event has become an annual “pre-Thanksgiving” tradition for the Department and supporters, heralding in the holiday season with gratitude for those who join in our mission of clinical care, surgical education and outstanding research.

Left to Right: Sandip Kapur, MD, Chief of Transplantation Surgery, Wanda See, DNP, New York Presbyterian Trustee Michael Tusiani

NYP Group Senior Vice President Laura Forese, MD and Bea Tusiani

Jon Cohen, MD and Karen Kostroff, MD

Weill Cornell Medical College Dean Laurie H. Glimcher, MD, addresses the dinner

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, talked about the future goals of the department

NYP CEO Steven J. Corwin, MD, spoke about the department’s accomplishments

Beverly Guido and Darren Schneider, MD, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery

Jae and John French

Left to Right: Mark Auriana, Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, and Larry Auriana
When Hurricane Sandy hit the New York area on Monday October 29th, 2012, the East River overflowed its banks, flooding streets in large sections of Manhattan. With seven subway tunnels flooded, the MTA declared it the worst disaster in its 108-year history. Many thousands of homes were destroyed, lives lost, businesses were forced to close, mass transit was shut down and millions of homes went without power. These consequences presented a major challenge to the hospital system in New York City. Governor Cuomo called SuperStorm Sandy “more impactful” than Hurricane Katrina and estimated costs to New York at $42 billion.

On Friday, October 26, when a statewide state of emergency was declared in anticipation of the impending storm and NYP leadership made the decision to close the hospital to elective procedures on Monday, October 29th and Tuesday, October 30th, the Department of Surgery’s Disaster Plan was implemented. A Disaster Command Center was set up under the leadership of Department Administrator Tony Trimarchi and Operations Administrator Marie Pirraglia. The operations management team, comprised of managers Vanessa Acevedo, Andrea Jones, Carolyn Jones, Diana Parra, Anita Rodriguez, Donna Ventarola and Michelle Viera worked with seamless coordination and intricate cross coverage around the clock on Saturday and Sunday to notify and reschedule the 450 patients scheduled for elective surgery and clinic appointments. They also alerted all surgery staff, faculty, residents and fellows of the hospital’s state of emergency on Monday and Tuesday, with all activities resuming on Wednesday.

Despite evacuation, power outages, property damage, floods and even, tragically, in two cases, the death of family members, the management team was available to do what needed to be done and successfully contacted all patients by remotely utilizing EPIC and TeleVox. When speaking about the critical role her management team played, Marie Pirraglia noted, “No good plan is effective without the input and expertise of those who execute it. I’m proud of the ingenuity, determination and creative problem-solving my team used to achieve our objective.” Despite transportation problems and power outages that persisted throughout that week, surgery faculty, staff, nurses, fellows and residents all showed up for work, some having to walk miles each way, to ensure continuous patient care would be provided.
Providing Surgical Care During Hurricane Sandy

Before the storm hit, the decision was made to transfer patients from NewYork Downtown to NewYork-Prebyterian/Weill Cornell, and on Friday, the Burn Center had 3 patients transferred to its ICU. When flooding, power loss and failed generators caused NYU and Bellevue to close on Monday, emergency room visits jumped 150 percent at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. The trauma and critical care volume has since doubled since Hurricane Sandy. On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday our department performed 18 emergency surgeries and 130 members of the OR staff stayed at the hospital from Sunday through Tuesday to take care of these emergency cases. The trauma team and the SICU staff functioned exceptionally well, operating around the clock. Dr. James Gallagher and Dr. Palmer Bessey were in the OR performing burn surgery on a critically ill patient on the day of the hurricane. Dr. Nitsana Spigland, Chief of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma and Dr. Oliver Muensterer, a pediatric surgeon, stayed at the hospital 24/7 to care for the pediatric cases transferred from NYU on the day of the hurricane. Dr. Spigland treated 4 very sick infants from the NICU at NYU, one with enterocolitis and intestinal perforation, one with intestinal perforation, and two with pyloric stenosis. Dr. Muensterer treated a 6 year old girl with severe ulcerative colitis transferred from NYU, who required a laparoscopic subtotal colectomy with ileostomy, which was performed through a single incision. Dr. Jason Spector treated a 30-year old woman transferred from Bellevue on Sunday with a near arm amputation, who needed further plastic reconstructive surgery. Transplant surgeon Dr. Jim Kim performed 2 kidney transplants on Sunday and two emergency surgical procedures on Tuesday. Our vascular surgeons, Dr. Peter Connolly and Dr. Andrew Meltzer, performed 4 urgent cases on Monday and Tuesday as well.

To thank and recognize the faculty and staff for their tireless dedication to patient care during SuperStorm Sandy, the Department of Surgery and Dr. Michelassi invited them to a reception in Griffis Faculty Club on November 28th.
Surgical Notes

Palmer Q. Bessey, MD named Aronson Family Foundation Professor in Burn Care

Hospital and Medical College leadership joined faculty and friends at a reception held at Weill Cornell Medical College to celebrate Dr. Palmer Q. Bessey being named the Aronson Family Foundation Professor in Burn Care. Dr. Bessey was given this honor in recognition of his lifelong commitment to the care of burn patients, his dedication to education on burn prevention and his important research in burn pathophysiology and outcomes. Sharing in the celebration are: (from left to right): Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, Chairman of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College Dean Laurie Glimcher, MD, Palmer Q. Bessey, MD, Laura Forsese, MD, Chief Medical Officer, COO and Senior Vice President, NYP/Weill Cornell and Dr. Roger Yurt, Chief, Burns, Critical Care and Trauma.

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi Receives Grand Award of Merit from the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, and Surgeon-in-Chief of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, has received the Grand Award of Merit from the American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit (ASILM), the Society’s highest honor. The award was given in recognition of Dr. Michelassi’s world-renowned excellence in the fields of surgery and medicine and his accomplishments, dedication and leadership to improving the lives of numerous Americans, Italians and Italian Americans.

The award was presented to Dr. Michelassi on December 7th at ASILM’s 47th Annual Gala Dinner Dance and Awards Ceremony at The Pierre Hotel in New York City. This year’s other esteemed honorees included: Antonin Scalia, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; Arnaldo Pomodoro, an Italian artist; and Ronald Spogli, former United States Ambassador to the Italian Republic. Previous recipients of the prestigious Grand Award of Merit include President of the Republic of Italy H.E. Giorgio Napolitano, former President of the United States George W. Bush and U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi.
Dr. Alexander Swistel honored at Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day Fundraiser

Dr. Alexander Swistel, Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Weill Cornell Breast Center, was honored for his pioneering oncoplasty surgery on October 17th, Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day, by the Pink Chose Me Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to uplifting the lives of women who are cancer survivors. The cocktail reception was held at the Martin Lawrence Gallery in Soho, and the event was supported by the breast surgeons and plastic surgeons of Weill Cornell Breast Center.

Surgical Research Grants

The Department of Surgery has a strong commitment to surgical research to improve patient care and strategies for treating organ-based disease. Some recent grants awarded our faculty include:

- **Dr. Shuibing Chen** is co-PI for an NIH-NCATS grant to fund her study “Microphysiological Systems and Low Cost Microfluidic Platform with Analytics.” She was awarded an NIH-NIDDK grant to fund her study “Studying the Progression and Regression of Beta Cell Dysfunction in Type 2 Diabetes.” In addition, she was awarded a grant from the Beta Cell Biology Consortium via NIDDK for her study, “Creating Human Beta Cell Lines Using hESCs Containing Doxycycline Inducible Polyoma Middle T Antigen.”

- **Dr. Todd Evans** was awarded a Starr Cancer Consortium grant to fund his study, “Discovery of AID-dependent Epigenetic Mechanisms in Hematological Malignancies.”

- **Dr. James Gallagher** was awarded a grant from The ELMA Foundation to support his project to establish a pediatric burns center at Sekou Toure Regional Referral Hospital in Mwanza, Tanzania.

- **Dr. Yariv Houvras** is co-PI for a Starr Cancer Consortium award to fund the study: “Define Oncogenic Mechanisms of Protein Methyltransferase SETDB1 in Melanoma.” Dr. Houvras also received a seed grant from the Weill Cornell Department of Medicine to fund his study, “Chemical and Genetic Approaches to Study SPOP Function.”

- **Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi** was awarded a grant from The Lupin Foundation to fund his study, “Development of a Predictive Index for Crohn’s Disease Recurrence.”

- **Dr. Gladys Strain** is co-PI of a grant from NIDDK for her study “Body Composition and REE Response to Bariatric Surgeries.”
Surgery Service Milestones

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff for their many years of dedicated service to Weill Cornell Medical College and to the Department of Surgery. It is through their strong commitment that we are able to deliver the highest quality, most compassionate and patient-focused surgical care.

**10 years**
- Dr. Sang Lee
- Ms. Annette Puig
- Mrs. Flor Montero Suero

**20 years**
- Ms. Joanne Brebnor
- Dr. Thomas J. Fahey, III
- Ms. Thalysia Moore
- Ms. Lenear Phillips

**25 years**
- Dr. Harry Bush
WAYS TO GIVE

The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell is committed to our three-fold mission of education, research, and patient-centered care. Philanthropy plays a vital role in realizing our vision of excellence in these three areas. Whether it be for the ground-breaking research that will treat and cure the scourge of disease, teaching the next generation of top doctors, or providing the most advanced care in a truly compassionate, patient-centered way, philanthropy is critical to our success.

Secure Ways to Give Form
http://www.cornellsurgery.org/patients/give/index.html
We ask that you partner with us in our mission, and consider a tax-deductible gift to the Department of Surgery. You may also make a check payable to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Department of Surgery and mail to:

Mr. Tom Maness
Office of Development, Box 123
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center
525 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

For more information about the Department of Surgery, please visit our website at www.cornellsurgery.org