Chairman’s Message

I am very pleased to send you the 2013 Fall Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue we report on several important events, visits, celebrations and leadership appointments and honors:

• At the recent ACS Annual Clinical Congress, Dr. Carlos Pellegrini, the Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair of Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, was installed as the 94th President of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Pellegrini came to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2005 as the Ben Park visiting professor and lecturer; Dr. Barbara Bass, the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Distinguished Endowed Chair and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital, TX, and a Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, was the recipient of this year’s prestigious American College of Surgeons Distinguished Service Award; Dr. Katrina Mitchell, one of our chief residents, was awarded the 2013 ACS Volunteerism Award for her contributions toward improving surgical care and education in Tanzania; and Dr. David Kleiman, one of our PGY 3 residents, received the 2013 American College of Surgeons Excellence in Research Award for his abstract “Loss of UCHL1 Expression is Associated with Local and Distant Metastases of Gastrointestinal Well-Differentiated Neuroendocrine (Carcinoid) Tumors.”

• Immediately after the Annual Clinical Congress of the ACS, the Department of Surgery hosted a visit for a delegation of members of the French Academy of Surgery. This visit was part of a three-day, three-institution reciprocal visit organized by the American Surgical Association. Dr. Layton (Bing) Rikkers, President of the American Surgical Association and Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery, University of Wisconsin, escorted the French delegation. The visit started with a social dinner and included a symposium featuring presentations by Weill Cornell faculty and by the French colleagues. The symposium was attended by additional visiting surgeons from Japan, Argentina and Switzerland, who had come to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center for a visit after attending the ACS Annual Congress.

• On October 2, 2013, our Institution and Department celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first kidney transplant performed at our Hospital. Headed by Dr. Sandip Kapur, our renowned transplantation program performs more than 4,200 kidney transplants performed since its inception. In addition, we report on the visit of an ACS international guest scholar, Dr. Shinji Itoh, the 2013 Japan Exchange fellow sponsored by the ACS Japan Chapter and the Japan Surgical Society, and note recent honors and awards of our faculty, staff and residents. We announce new faculty appointments and promotions, feature articles about the 2013 Surgery Graduation and welcome our new residents and fellows. We are also pleased to introduce a new column, “Alumni Updates,” highlighting news provided by our alumni.

I hope you find this issue of interest and welcome your feedback.

Sincerely yours,

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD
Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery
Chairman, Department of Surgery
Surgeon-in-Chief
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
Carlos A. Pellegrini, MD

Named ACS President

Carlos Pellegrini, MD, FACS, FRCSI (Hon), the Henry N. Harkins Professor and Chair of Surgery, University of Washington, Seattle, was installed as the 94th President of the American College of Surgeons at the recent ACS Clinical Congress in Washington, D.C. We would like to extend our most heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Pellegrini, the 2005 Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD Visiting Professor and Lecturer in our Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Pellegrini takes the leadership of the American College of Surgeons after more than three decades of service to the organization and many contributions to the surgical profession. Dr. Pellegrini’s service to the ACS goes back to 1980 when he was first appointed a member of the General Surgery Program Committee of the Northern California Chapter of the ACS, a chapter he later presided upon in 1990-1991. In 2002 he was elected to the ACS Board of Regents, where he chaired the Central Judiciary Committee and the Executive Committee. He served as Vice-Chair of the Board of Regents from 2009-2010 and as Chair from 2010-2011.

Among many contributions, Dr. Pellegrini has played a pivotal role in the development of the concept of an ACS-accreditation program to establish a national network of educational facilities, called Educational Institutes, which provide cutting-edge education to practicing surgeons, residents, medical students and other members of the surgical team. As Chair of the Committee for the Accreditation of Education Institutes, Dr. Pellegrini has led this pioneering initiative to accredit 70 domestic and international Education Institutes, forming a Consortium of Institutes.

Dr. Pellegrini’s international background, along with the universal reputation and admiration with which he is held in many Latin, European and Asian countries, has been instrumental in his contributions to the strategic international initiatives and activities under consideration by the ACS in order to better synergize with other surgical organizations beyond the geographical confines of the North America continent.

Dr. Pellegrini is a world-renowned leader in minimally invasive gastrointestinal surgery and a pioneer in the development of video endoscopy for the surgical treatment of gastro-esophageal reflux disease and esophageal motility disorders. A former member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Surgery, he has served in the highest leadership positions in the most prestigious national and international surgical associations.

The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center wishes Dr. Carlos Pellegrini great success in his year as President of the American College of Surgeons.
Barbara Lee Bass, MD

Receives 2013 ACS Distinguished Service Award

Barbara Lee Bass, MD, FACS, the John F. and Carolyn Bookout Distinguished Endowed Chair of the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital, TX, and a Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, was the recipient of this year’s prestigious American College of Surgeons Distinguished Service Award at the recent ACS Clinical Congress in Washington, DC. The faculty of the Department of Surgery would like to express their most heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Bass on receiving this prestigious award.

The Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor given by ACS. An ACS fellow since 1987, Dr. Bass was honored with this Award in recognition of her steadfast commitment to the initiatives and principles of the American College of Surgeons and for her more than 20 years in leadership roles within the ACS. Dr. Bass has served on the ACS Board of Governors, as a member and Chair of the Governors Executive Committee, and on the Board of Regents. She is past Chair of both the ACS Committee on Education and the Clinical Congress Program Committee, and currently serves on the Women in Surgery Committee, as well as a surgeon champion of the ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program.

Dr. Bass has held the position of Chair of the Department of Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital, TX, and Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College since 2005. She is widely published with more than 130 manuscripts and has delivered more than 70 named lectureships and invited talks. Dr. Bass was the 2005 Peter C. Canizaro Visiting Professor in our Department of Surgery. Dr. Bass graduated summa cum laude from Tufts University, MA, and earned her MD from the University of Virginia. She completed her internship and general surgery residency at George Washington University and a gastrointestinal surgical research fellowship at Walter Reed, during which time she served as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps.
Katrina Mitchell, MD
Awarded ACS Surgical Volunteerism Award

Katrina Mitchell, MD, a current chief resident of the Department of Surgery’s general surgery residency program, was awarded the prestigious 2013 ACS Surgical Volunteerism Award for her global outreach during residency and her contributions toward improving surgical care and education in Tanzania. She received the award from the ACS Board of Governors during the ACS Clinical Congress meeting this past October in Washington, DC.

Dr. Mitchell’s commitment to international surgical outreach dates back to her medical school years, when she volunteered with indigenous populations and emergency medical care in Costa Rica and Panama. This experience spurred additional interest in global surgery and led her to elect to spend two years (2009-2011) during her general surgery residency as a Weill Cornell Global Health Fellow at the Weill Medical College of Weill Bugando Medical Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania. Weill Bugando Medical Centre is one of several affiliations of Weill Cornell’s Global Medicine Program throughout the world.

While in Mwanza, Dr. Mitchell served as a teaching assistant in the Department of Surgery, and helped create a surgical curriculum for medical students. This included identifying the most common surgical conditions presenting to the hospital and creating a lecture series based on these conditions. She also organized ward teaching rounds, patient presentations, and secured free access to multiple online teaching databases for students. Most importantly, she helped raise funds for and coordinated the implementation of a quarterly surgical skills workshop in which each medical student currently participates before graduation.

Recognizing that exposure to global health and the care of underserved patients early on in residency is essential to develop the next generation of culturally sensitive surgeons who act as teachers and patient advocates throughout the world, Dr. Mitchell worked to incorporate global health opportunities into our surgical residency training to foster life-long involvement with volunteerism. To this end, she assessed ways in which current Weill Cornell surgery residents who pursue an elective rotation at Weill Bugando can best serve medical students at Weill Bugando’s Department of Surgery. As a product of this involvement, she has written a rotation guidebook with suggestions for guest lectures and opportunities for hands-on teaching at the bedside and inside the operating theatre.

During her time in Tanzania, Dr. Mitchell collaborated with the Director of Operation Giving Back at the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Kathleen Casey, to assess the potential for creating a nationwide database of international electives for surgical residents, which ultimately would foster more widespread access to global health opportunities during surgical residency. Dr. Mitchell also volunteered with the African Medical Education and Research Foundation (AMREF) Flying Doctors, traveling to remote villages with a Weill Bugando surgeon to provide surgical care to local patients. In addition, she served as a volunteer flight physician for AMREF’s continent-wide emergency air evacuation service. Outside of surgery, Dr. Mitchell collected data for a study on female urogenital schistosomiasis in the Lake Zone region, and worked with the Lutheran World Federation to advocate for increased government funding to address nodding syndrome in northern Uganda.
This October, many surgical alumni, faculty and friends of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, New York Hospital Queens and for the first time this year, New York Methodist Hospital, 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 Chair and Professor, Department of Surgery, Houston Methodist Hospital; Dr. Pierre F. Saldinger, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, New York Hospital Queens and Dr. Anthony J. Tortolani, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery and Cardiothoracic Surgery, New York Methodist Hospital. The reception, held in the Wilson B Reception Room at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, attracted more than 125 alumni and friends.
On October 11-12, 2013, the Department of Surgery hosted a visit for three distinguished members of the French Academy of Surgery: Professor Laurence Chiche, MD, Professor of Surgery and Co-Director of the Department of Surgery at the University of Bordeaux; Professor Jean-Yves Mabrut, MD, Professor of Surgery at Hopital La Croix Rousse, Lyon; and Professor Francois Pattou, MD, Professor of General Surgery at Lille University and Head of General and Endocrine Surgery at University Hospital, Lille. Our Department of Surgery at NYP/Weill Cornell was one of three surgery departments selected by the American Surgical Association for a reciprocal visit by the French Academy of Surgeons, along with the University of Pennsylvania and Johns Hopkins.

Layton (Bing) Rikkers, MD, President of the American Surgical Association and Professor Emeritus, Department of Surgery, University of Wisconsin, escorted the French delegation. Also in attendance at the symposium were additional distinguished international guests: Professor Alberto R. Ferreres, MD, PhD, Professor and Chairman of Surgery at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina and President-elect of the International Society of Digestive Surgery; Professor Toru Kono, MD, PhD, Director of the Advanced Surgery Center of Sapporo Higashi Tokushukai Hospital, Sapporo, Japan; Visiting ACS International Guest Scholar Shinji Itoh, MD, PhD, Staff Surgeon at Tagawa Municipal Hospital, Japan; and Professor Jean-Claude Givel, MD, Professor of Surgery, Lausanne University and Secretary General of the International Society of Surgery.

The NYP/Weill Cornell visit included a faculty dinner on Friday, October 11, and a scientific symposium on Saturday, October 12, followed by a visit to the Department's research laboratories and NYP's facilities. The symposium was held in the Department's newly opened simulation Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL). Twelve presentations were made by surgery faculty and by our French colleagues, covering a wide range of surgical expertise and topics.

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chair of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell opened the symposium with an overview of the Department of Surgery which was followed by a presentation by Dr. Alfons Pomp, Leon C. Hirsch Professor of Surgery, Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery and Chief of the Section of GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, on “Update on Bariatric Surgery.” Professor Francois Pattou presented “Update on Metabolic Surgery,” followed by Dr. Darren Schneider, Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, presenting “Ambulatory Aneurysm Repair: The Evolution and Future of Aortic Aneurysm Surgery.” Professor Jean-Yves Mabrut presented “Surgical Management of Congenital Intrahepatic Bile Duct Dilatation: Long Term Results of the French Association of Surgery Multicenter Study;” Dr. Sandip Kapur, G. Tom Shires, M.D. Faculty Scholar in Surgery and Chief of Transplantation Surgery talked about “Maximizing Opportunities for Kidney Transplantation at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center;” Professor Laurence Chiche presented “Special Features of Liver Metastases from Rectal Carcinoma;” Dr. Roger Yurt, Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor of Surgery, Vice Chair of the Department of Surgery and Chief of the Division of Burns, Critical Care and Trauma, presented an overview of “The William Randolph Hearst Burn Center;” and Dr. Palmer Bessey, Aronson Family Foundation Professor in Burn Surgery, discussed “Smoke Inhalation: Still Morbid after all these Years?” Dr. Todd Evans, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology in Surgery, Vice Chair of Research and Chief of Surgical Research presented “Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine in Surgery;” Dr. Thomas J. Fahy, III, Professor of Surgery and Chief of Endocrine Surgery, presented “Identification of UCHL1 as associated with Metastasis in Gastrointestinal Neuroendocrine Tumors.” Finally, Drs. Peter Henderson and Alyssa Reiffel, a resident in plastic surgery and one of our current chief residents in general surgery, respectively, presented “Fabrication of Vasculared Tissue Engineered Constructs: The Final Frontier.”
There have been a multitude of firsts, celebrated successes, groundbreaking research findings, and more than 4,000 lives saved – and that was just the first 50 years. This year NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and the Department of Surgery celebrated the 50th anniversary of its world-renowned transplant program. To commemorate this important milestone, an anniversary celebration, “50 Years of Transplant Excellence,” was held October 2, 2013, attended by nearly 200 members of the leadership and staff of NewYork-Presbyterian, Weill Cornell Medical College, The Rogosin Institute, transplant recipients and donors, and partners from the community.

As the first transplant program in the New York metropolitan area, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center transplanted its first patient in 1963 and has performed over 4,200 transplants to date as one of the highest volume and highest quality kidney transplant centers in the nation. Since its inception, the program has maximized transplant opportunities for patients through cutting-edge research in our world-renowned laboratory, advanced surgical techniques, national kidney exchanges, personalized medical management and a unique multidisciplinary treatment approach to ensure the best possible outcomes.

“We have a very simple strategy when it comes to transplantation – we consistently strive to offer the maximum number of opportunities for patients,” says Dr. Sandip Kapur, Chief of Transplantation Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Associate Professor of Surgery and the G. Tom Shires, M.D. Faculty Scholar in Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. “We’ve treated patients of all ages – we have an excellent pediatric program and have transplanted people over the age of 80. Every available tool exists in this program. It's a detail that distinguishes us from 90 percent of the programs in the country and helps position us as a national leader in what we do.”

The Transplant Program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell is a leader in kidney and pancreas transplantation, and is ranked #3 in the nation for treatment of kidney disorders by U.S. News & World Report. Set within an academic medical center environment, our surgeons work in close cooperation with The Rogosin Institute, a leading research and treatment center for kidney disease.

Transplants patients celebrated along with the transplant team and hospital leadership
Among its many clinical accomplishments, the program and its faculty performed the first living-donor kidney transplant in the New York metropolitan area in 1963, followed by its first pediatric transplant the next year. In 1968, the program became one of the first in the country to use a new tool, the Belzer kidney perfusion machine, to improve the viability of donated kidneys. In 1970, one of the program’s kidney recipients became the first woman in the New York metropolitan area and fourth woman in the world to give birth to a child after a transplant. She would go on to become only the second transplant recipient on record to have three children. Since 2000, the program has evolved to use laparoscopic techniques for living kidney donor surgery, minimizing scarring; established a steroid-avoidance program, enabling 80% of kidney transplant patients to live steroid-free; and began successfully utilizing donors with different blood types from the recipient for transplant, as well as using expanded criteria for deceased donor kidneys.

Dr. Kapur says one of the moments in the program’s history he is most proud is the transplants that occurred on Valentine’s Day 2008, when the transplant team performed the National Kidney Registry’s first paired kidney donor chain, resulting in five transplants. This innovative approach vastly maximizes the potential for transplants by enlisting an altruistic donor to facilitate a domino kidney chain. Later that same year, the program initiated the first cross-country living donor chain in the United States and, in 2011 the team transplanted two donor-recipient pairs in a 60-person donor chain profiled in The New York Times.

“We were a founding member of a transplant exchange system that now has 65 centers nationally and we have performed the largest number of exchange transplants using that venue of all the participating centers,” Dr. Kapur says. “We’ve been a major contributor to developing the processes that many other centers are now using. It’s highly rewarding to be able to help many more patients receive kidneys than ever before.”

The transplant program’s achievements are numerous and there have been a variety of firsts along the way. Among them, the program was first to perform a successful pancreas islet transplant in the New York tri-state area on patients with Type 1 diabetes, freeing them from insulin dependence. Our researchers also developed the first non-invasive molecular test that predicts and prevents kidney transplant rejection, long before the onset of symptoms. As a result, our program has a 1-year acute rejection rate of only 7 percent – nearly 10% better than the national average.

Dr. William Stubenbord, an alumnus of the NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell surgery residency program and former Chief of Transplantation Surgery, was one of the transplant pioneers honored at the 50th anniversary event. Among the many grateful patients in attendance was a two-time kidney transplant recipient, AnnMarie Gaglione from Manchester, New Jersey and her sister, who had donated her kidney to Ms. Gaglione 38 years ago in a surgery by Dr. Stubenbord. In March, 2012, that kidney failed and Dr. Sandip Kapur performed a second successful transplant. Ms. Gaglione noted how advanced the science has come since her first transplant in 1973, and considers herself “twice-blessed.”

For more information about the 50th anniversary of the kidney transplant program, visit our website at [http://www.WeillCornellTransplant.org/50years](http://www.WeillCornellTransplant.org/50years)
Faculty Appointments and Promotions

Steven G. Friedman, MD, MBA

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Steven G. Friedman, MD, MBA, has joined the Department of Surgery as the Chief of the division of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital, Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital.

An experienced, board-certified vascular surgeon, Dr. Friedman is the author of more than 70 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals, numerous book chapters, and the book, “A History of Vascular Surgery.” His work has also been featured in The New York Times, Midstream Magazine, and Downtown Magazine. Dr. Friedman is a past president of the New York Society of Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Friedman received a BA degree from Queens College of the City University of New York, in 1976, and he received the rarely conferred degree MD with Distinction in Research from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1980. Dr. Friedman received an MBA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 2011. He completed a general surgical residency at Harvard’s Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston, and a vascular surgery fellowship at NYU Medical Center.

In 1996, Dr. Friedman founded and directed the North Shore University vascular surgery fellowship program in Manhasset, NY, and in 2001 he founded and directed the vascular surgery fellowship program for the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. Dr. Friedman is an active member of many major national and international vascular surgery societies and a distinguished member of the Society of Vascular Surgeons. Dr. Friedman was recently an invited lecturer at the Second Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation International Conference on Philanthropy in Athens, Greece and at The Heberdon Society, Weill Cornell Medical Center Lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine.
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Benjamin J. Golas, MD, has joined the Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Golas is an experienced, board-certified surgeon specializing in surgical oncology, including minimally-invasive procedures for liver cancer, liver metastases, pancreatic cancer, and other gastrointestinal malignancies. He offers unique expertise in novel treatments for liver tumors, including radiofrequency ablation.

Dr. Golas received his MD from the Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC, where he graduated magna cum laude and was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He did his residency in general surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, serving as one of two administrative chief surgical residents. He completed a fellowship in surgical oncology with a focus in liver and pancreatic surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Golas also completed a research fellowship in the Laboratory of Epithelial Cancer Biology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Before joining NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell faculty, Dr. Golas was a Clinical Instructor in Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He is a member of several prestigious medical societies, including the Society of Surgical Oncology and the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. He has received several honors, including the Distinguished Housestaff Award from the Weill Cornell Alumni Council and is also a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Dr. Golas has published in multiple scientific journals, was a contributing editor for General Surgery Review, and authored a chapter entitled “Laparoscopic Liver Resection In The treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Colorectal Cancer Liver Metastases.” He has presented at many national scientific conferences across the country on minimally invasive surgery for hepatobiliary cancer and advanced surgical treatment for colorectal cancer liver metastases.
Demetri J. Merianos, MD, has joined the division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma in the Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Merianos specializes in pediatric minimally invasive surgery, including advanced laparoscopic and thoracoscopic procedures. He enjoys a wide range of clinical interests and expertise, including neonatal and congenital anomalies, pediatric general and thoracic surgery, pediatric gastrointestinal surgery, and pediatric surgical oncology. His practice is located both on the Upper East Side of Manhattan at NewYorkPresbyterian/Weill Cornell and in Park Slope, Brooklyn at New York Methodist Hospital.

Dr. Merianos received his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 2000. He earned his medical degree from UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School in 2004, where he was elected to the AOA Honor Medical Society, and graduated at the top of his class. He completed his internship and residency in general surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 2011, where he received both the Penn Pearl and Leonard D. Miller Teaching Awards. During his residency, he completed a two year research fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the laboratory of Alan Flake. He performed research on the immune barriers to in utero stem cell transplantation, and was the recipient of the Jonathan Rhoads Research Award. Dr. Merianos then went on to complete a two year clinical fellowship in pediatric surgery at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, under the guidance of our distinguished alumnus, Dr. Henri Ford.

Dr. Merianos is board-certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery and board-eligible in pediatric surgery. He is an active member of many prestigious medical and surgical societies, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Pediatric Surgical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the AOA Honor Medical Society, and the Gold Humanism Honor Society. He has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts, and book chapters. He has also been invited to present his research findings at a number of national and international scientific conferences.
Tracy-Ann Moo, MD

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Tracy-Ann Moo, MD, has joined the section of Breast Surgery in the Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. An experienced board-certified surgeon, Dr. Moo specializes in the most advanced, minimally invasive treatment of breast cancer and melanoma and she joins the multidisciplinary team of breast cancer experts at Weill Cornell Breast Center and the Weill Cornell Cancer Center. In addition, she will contribute to the educational programs of the Department of Surgery as an Assistant Program Director.

Dr. Moo graduated magna cum laude from Binghamton University and completed her medical degree at Stony Brook University School of Medicine, where she was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society. She completed her general surgery residency at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, where she was chosen as one of two administrative chief residents, and a breast surgical oncology fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. After her fellowship training, she spent time at the Melanoma Institute in Sydney, Australia and Emory University Hospital, becoming skilled in the latest videoscopic techniques in melanoma surgery.

Dr. Moo is interested in breast cancer and melanoma translational and clinical outcomes research. She has authored and coauthored many articles, including several in leading publications such as the Annals of Surgery and the Annals of Surgical Oncology. In 2007, she received the prestigious NIH T32 Training Award in support of her research. In 2013 she was awarded the American Association of Breast Surgeons Scientific Presentation Award for her research in the area of post-mastectomy radiation for breast cancer. She is an active member of the American College of Surgeons.
Shaun A. Steigman, MD

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Shaun A. Steigman, MD, has joined the division of Pediatric Surgery and Pediatric Trauma in the Department of Surgery as Assistant Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He enjoys a wide range of clinical interests and expertise, including neonatal surgery, gastrointestinal pediatric surgery, inflammatory bowel disease, thoracic surgery, pediatric surgical oncology, pediatric trauma, prenatal counseling of congenital surgical disorders, repairs of tracheoesophageal fistula and/or esophageal atresia, and complex anorectal malformations. Dr. Steigman specializes in the advanced minimally invasive techniques so valuable for pediatric patients. His practice is located both on the Upper East Side of Manhattan at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and in Park Slope, Brooklyn at New York Methodist Hospital.

Dr. Steigman received his undergraduate degree at Harvard University in 2000, graduating magna cum laude. He earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine in 2004. His general surgery internship and residency training were completed at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School in 2011. He served there for two years as administrative resident, and he was also recognized with the Isaac O. Mehrez Award for Surgical Excellence.

During residency in Boston, he spent an additional two years completing a research fellowship in pediatric surgery at Boston Children’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School. His investigative focus was on fetal surgery and tissue engineering, for which he received multiple accolades, most notably the Jens G. Rosenkranz Resident Research Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Surgery. Dr. Steigman went on to complete a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Brown University, in 2013. He is board-certified in general surgery and board-eligible in pediatric surgery.

Well-published in his field, Dr. Steigman has authored numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and two book chapters. He has presented at numerous surgical scientific conferences throughout the United States. Dr. Steigman is an active member of many prestigious medical and surgical societies, including the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Association for Academic Surgery, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Pediatric Surgical Association.
Herrick Wun, MD

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Herrick Wun, MD, has joined the division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery as Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Attending Physician at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital. He serves as Site Chief of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital. Dr. Wun, who is board-certified in both vascular surgery and surgery, has extensive training and expertise in treating vascular disease, utilizing the most advanced minimally invasive techniques. He specializes in endovascular procedures treating conditions in arteries and veins.

Dr. Wun received his MD from NYU Medical School, and completed his internship, residency and fellowship at NYU as well. He received his BS from Yale University. Prior to joining NewYork-Presbyterian/Lower Manhattan Hospital, Dr. Wun was an Assistant Professor of Surgery at NYU Medical Center.

Dr. Wun has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, authored a book chapter and is a member of the Society for Vascular Surgery, the New York Vascular Society, the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical Association.
Sang Lee, MD

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Sang Lee, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College and Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, has been named Vice Chief of the section of Colon and Rectal Surgery in the Department of Surgery. Board-certified in both surgery and colon and rectal surgery, Dr. Lee is one of the nation's leading experts in laparoscopic colon and rectal surgery. He has performed more than 1,000 laparoscopic colon and rectal surgeries, and is a pioneer in performing single-incision laparoscopic colon surgeries.

Dr. Lee’s clinical expertise includes minimally invasive treatment of a wide variety of colon and rectal diseases, such as colon and rectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease), diverticular disease and rectal prolapse. He also treats benign conditions of the anus and rectum. Dr. Lee, along with other faculty members in the colorectal section at Weill Cornell, developed a non-invasive surgical technique that removes large colon and rectal polyps not amenable for endoscopic removal, while avoiding bowel resection. Our center is one of only two institutions in the U.S. that routinely performs this technique.

Dr. Lee has been invited to serve as a faculty member for laparoscopic colon surgery courses at numerous national and international meetings, and currently serves as the director of laparoscopic colon surgery courses at Weill Cornell Medical College. Widely published in his field, Dr. Lee has been a frequent invited lecturer at institutions throughout the United States and abroad, and is an active member of many prestigious medical and surgical societies.

Dr. Lee received his BS from Johns Hopkins University, and his MD from NYU School of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA, and completed a laparoscopic fellowship at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia.
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Rasa Zarnegar, MD, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College in the section of Endocrine Surgery in the Department of Surgery and Associate Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

An experienced, board-certified surgeon, Dr. Zarnegar's primary clinical interests include thyroid/parathyroid/adrenal and GI neuroendocrine disease as well as benign and malignant foregut disease. He has focused on minimally invasive approaches for the management of these disorders and has been involved in the development of techniques to minimize scars through single incision surgery.

Dr. Zarnegar is also an active researcher in both basic science and clinical research in the field of academic endocrine surgery. The focus of his research has been to develop novel therapies for the management of thyroid and neuroendocrine cancers with nanoparticle technology. Widely published in his field, Dr. Zarnegar has authored 55 publications and eight book chapters. He is active in the American College of Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology, the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons and the Society of the Alimentary Tract. He is on the Editorial Board for the World Journal of Surgical Procedures and International Journal of Hypertension. He is a frequent invited lecturer, presenting his work regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Dr. Zarnegar received his BS from San Jose State University, San Jose, California, and his MD from the Chicago Medical School, Chicago, Illinois. He completed his internship and three years of general surgery clinical training at the Mount Sinai Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois and completed his general surgery residency training at the Case Western Reserve University Hospitals. He completed an endocrine surgery clinical fellowship and a laparoscopic surgery clinical fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco hospitals.
The Department of Surgery recently hosted a visiting international guest scholar, Shinji Itoh, MD, PhD, staff surgeon at Tagawa Municipal Hospital. Dr. Itoh was selected the 2013 Japan Exchange Fellow by the Japan Surgical Society and the ACS Japan Chapter. Following the ACS Clinical Congress, he spent a few days at NYP/Weill Cornell meeting with key leadership, observing surgeries, attending an international symposium, a departmental M&M and grand rounds.

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chairman of Surgery at NYP/Weill Cornell was named Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council for General Surgery. He was also named President-elect for the Society for the Surgery of the Alimentary Tract.

Dr. Alyssa Reiffel Golas, a current chief resident of the Department of Surgery’s general surgery residency program, has been awarded the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center Alumni Council’s 2013 Distinguished Housestaff Award. This prestigious award recognizes Alyssa’s dedication to the highest quality patient care.

Dr. David Kleiman (PGY 3) received the 2013 American College of Surgeons’ Excellence in Research Award for his abstract “Loss of UCHL1 Expression is Associated with Local and Distant Metastases of Gastrointestinal Well-Differentiated Neuroendocrine (Carcinoid) Tumors” presented at the ACS Clinical Congress meeting this past October.

Dr. Anthony Watkins, a transplant surgeon in the Department of Surgery, traveled to Haiti to perform surgery recently as part of a humanitarian medical mission organized by the New York Chapter of the National Organization for Advancement of Haitians (NOAH). Dr. Watkins and his colleagues performed over 120 pediatric and adult surgeries in the week they spent in the Fort Liberte area of Haiti, an impoverished area suffering from a severe shortage of primary basic healthcare where the majority of residents are unable to pay for medical and surgical care.

Dr. Barrie Rich, one of the two current administrative chief residents of the Department of Surgery’s general surgery residency program, was selected as the Hospital’s “Employee of the Month” for October 2013, in recognition of her commitment to outstanding patient care. The award is given to one employee each month who best exemplifies the Hospital’s values of respect, teamwork, excellence, empathy, innovation, and responsibility.

Weill Cornell Medical College launched the Shared Values Awards this year to reward employees who go above and beyond their job duties. Anush Gauthier, CPC, leading coding administrator, who has worked in the Department of Surgery since 2011, was selected to receive this prestigious award in recognition of her deep commitment to excellence and quality patient care. Anush was nominated by her co-worker Serina Gonzalez, who cited Anush’s generosity and consistent acts of kindness, including buying gifts for patients hospitalized during the holiday season and mentoring fellow employees.
The 12th Annual Golf Tournament to support surgical education and research was held on October 17, 2013 at Pelham Country Club in Pelham, New York. Monies raised help benefit our Skills Acquisition & Innovation Laboratory, named lectures and resident presentations at medical conferences. We extend our deepest appreciation to our sponsors for their support: Dr. John Savarese and the Department of Anesthesiology; Dr. O. Wayne Isom and the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery; Dr. Gavin Duke and East River Imaging, Inc.; Dr. Laura Forese and Mark Larmore, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; Dr. Thomas Sculco and the HSS Orthopedic Surgeons; Image Stream Medical; Peter Crean and Martin, Clearwater & Bell, LLP; Dr. Michael Stewart and the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery; Dr. Daniel Knowles and the Department of Pathology; Dr. Zev Rosenwaks and the Ronald O. Perelman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine; Dr. Peter Schlegel and the Department of Urology; Dr. Robert Min and Weill Cornell Imaging at NewYork-Presbyterian and an anonymous sponsor. Thanks to our patrons as well: Drs. Jon Cohen and Karen Kostroff, Covidien, Dr. Robert Grant and Dr. Kevin Morrissey.

(From left) Dr. Michelassi with the best foursome trophy winners for the Cardiothoracic Surgery team; Paige Sealey, Dr. Bill Debois, Rob Kelly and Gerard Patron

Dr. Michelassi awards Closest to Pin trophy to Rob Kelly

Dr. Michelassi congratulates Dr. Debois for winning Straightest Drive trophy

Dr. Michelassi awards Longest Drive trophy to Dr. Marc Schiffman
Surgery Graduation

On Friday, June 14, 2013, our surgical residents, faculty, friends and family gathered at the Water Club in New York City to celebrate the commencement and recognize the many achievements of our eight graduating chief residents: Drs. Vinod P. Balachandran, Peter W. Henderson, Xavier M. Keutgen, David Liska, William C. Nugent, III, Stacy K. Ugras and administrative chiefs, Drs. Elliot L. Servais and Matthew J. Bott. The annual Department of Surgery award presentations included the 12th Annual Hassan Naama, MB, BCh Memorial Resident Award presented to Dr. Elliot L. Servais; the 7th Annual Fabrizio Michelassi, MD Chief Surgical Resident Award presented with Mrs. Charles Tanenbaum to Dr. David Liska; the 8th Annual William T. Stubenbord, MD Resident Award presented by Dr. William T. Stubenbord to Dr. Jennifer A. Minneman and the 5th Annual Resident Student Teacher Award presented to Dr. Yusuke Terasaki. This year, there were two Golden Apple Awards presented to Mary Ann Garcia from the Surgical Education Office of the Department of Surgery, as well as Wanda Cennerazzo-See, DNP, ANP-BC for their exceptional commitment and service to the Department of Surgery. The graduating chief residents presented the 7th Annual Chief Residents Outstanding Intern Award to Dr. Neel P. Chudgar and the Annual Faculty of the Year Teaching Award to Dr. Philip S. Barie. Program Director Dr. Thomas J. Fahey, III also welcomed David Fehling as the new Surgical Education Programs manager. Congratulations to the Class of 2013!
Surgery Graduation

12th Annual Hassan A. Naama, MB, BCh Memorial Resident Award: Elliot L. Servais MD

(From left) Dr. Elliot L. Servais and Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

8th Annual William T. Stubenbord, MD Resident Award: Jennifer A. Minneman, MD

(From left) Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Dr. Jennifer A. Minneman, Dr. William T. Stubenbord

7th Annual Fabrizio Michelassi, MD Chief Surgical Resident Award: David Liska, MD

(From left) Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Dr. David Liska, Mrs. Charles Tanenbaum

Career Paths of Chief Residents: 2013

The majority of the program's general surgery graduates continue their training in a specialized area of surgery. They routinely secure prestigious fellowship positions in academic programs across the country. Here's an update on the career paths of the 2013 alumni of our general surgery residency program:

2013 Graduates

Vinod P. Balachandran, MD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Surgical Oncology Fellowship

Matthew J. Bott, MD
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship

Peter W. Henderson, MD, MBA
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
Plastic Surgery Residency

Xavier M. Keutgen, MD
University Hospital of Zurich, Switzerland
Hepatopancreaticobiliary Fellowship

David Liska, MD
Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
Colorectal Surgery Fellowship

William C. Nugent, III, MD
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
Critical Care Fellowship

Elliot L. Servais, MD
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA
Thoracic Fellowship

Stacy K. Ugras, MD
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Breast Fellowship
Surgery Graduation

5th Annual Resident Student Teacher Award: Yusuke Terasaki, MD

Dr. Yusuke Terasaki and Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

7th Annual Chief Residents Outstanding Intern Award: Neel Chudgar, MD

Dr. Neel Chudgar with chief residents

Mary Ann Garcia receives a Golden Apple Award from Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

Annual Faculty of the Year Teaching Award: Dr. Philip S. Barie

Dr. Philip Barie receives the Annual Faculty of the Year Teaching Award from the Class of 2013 chief residents

Wanda Cennerazzo-See, DNP, ANP-BC receives a Golden Apple Award from Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi

(From left) Program Director Dr. Thomas Fahey, his wife Stacey Fahey, Chair of Surgery Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi and his wife Dr. Caren Heller
Welcome Our New Residents and Fellows 2013-2014

General Surgery Residents -
Categoricals

Meera Cheerharan, MD
George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Katherine Gray, MD
Duke University School of Medicine

William Hammond, MD
Boston University School of Medicine

Maurice Zaffanello, MD
Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar

Matthew Symer, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine

Maureen Moore, MD
Temple University School of Medicine

Oriana Petruolo, MD
George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences

Matthew Smith, MD
University of Utah School of Medicine

Abhyudaya Joshi, MD
Weill Cornell Medical College, Qatar

John Stratigis, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine

Matthew Symer, MD
The School of Medicine at Stony Brook University Medical Center

Yoann Millet, MD
Weill Cornell Medical College

Philipp Franck, MD
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet Munchen

Grafe Lyons, MD
Duke University School of Medicine

Yuri Rabotnikov, MD
Russian State Medical University
General Practice Dentistry Residents

Danielle Currier, DMD
Tufts University

Maryam Farag, DMD
Tufts University

James Iovino, DDS
Howard University

Emery Nicholas, DMD
Tufts University

Min-Hee Sur, DMD
University of Pennsylvania

Concetta Perretta, DDS
NYU College of Dentistry

Jennifer Rubin, DMD
Boston University

Adam Semanoff, DMD
Temple University

Marc Virtue, DDS
NYU College of Dentistry

Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Residents

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residents

Jerry Chao, MD

Leslie Cohen, MD

Briar Dent, MD

Ryan Engdahl, MD

Natalia Fullerton, MD
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Residents

Peter Henderson, MD
Thomas Imahiyerobo, MD
James Lee, MD
Stephanie Malliaris, MD
Olushola Olorunnipa, MD
Robin Sackeyfo, MD
Kevin Small, MD
Andrew Weinstein, MD

Burn Surgery Fellows

Zishan Asi, MD
Ryan Millea, MD
Carrie Peterson, MD
Tushar Samdani, MD
William Nugent, III, MD

Colon and Rectal Surgery Fellows

Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Fellows

Heather Gill, MD
Zhen Shao Huang, MD
In-Kyon Kim, MD
Jeffery Siracuse, MD
Research Fellows

Christopher J. Agrusa, MD
Anna Aronova, MD
Andreas de Biasi, MD
Brendan Finnerty, MD
Daniel Fish, MD

Sandy Heck, MD
Jamie Green, MD
Jennifer Minneman, MD
Michael Morton, MD
Jennifer Murphy, MD

Paul O’Mahoney, MD
Kristin Pokorney, MD
Peter W. Blumencranz, MD, FACS, (class of 1970) has been living with his wife Ann in Clearwater, Florida, since leaving New York in 1977. They have five children and three grandsons. One of his daughters is entering her third year in the cancer biology PhD program at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Blumencranz has an active practice and serves as medical director of The Comprehensive Breast Care Center of Tampa Bay at Morton Plant Hospital. He was invited recently to give a lecture on current management of occult sentinel node metastasis in Taipei.

Xavier Keutgen, MD (class of 2013) married Lindsay Westphal in Cascais, Portugal on June 29, 2013. Dr. Keutgen is currently doing his fellowship in hepatopancreaticobiliary at the University Hospital of Zurich, Switzerland, and according to him, the honeymoon will have to wait until he completes his fellowship.

Kenneth Swan, MD (class of 1968) was a resident when the first open heart surgery was done at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Benjamin Park, a resident who was killed in Korea in 1969, and in whose memory the Benjamin S. Park, Jr., MD Visiting Professor Lectureship was established, was Dr. Swan’s intern. A professor of surgery at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Dr. Swan received the 2013 Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching, an award which is voted on by the medical students. This is Dr. Swan’s 16th time winning this prestigious award. Dr. Swan, his wife, two daughters and his son published together as a family an article, “Tourniquets Revisted” in the Journal of Trauma Injury, Infection and Critical Care.
WAYS TO GIVE

The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center 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:

Ms. Michele Berko-Field
Office of Development
NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center
525 East 68th Street, Box 123, New York, NY 10065

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