Message from the Chairman

I am very pleased to share with you the 2017 Winter Issue of the Department of Surgery News. In this issue we report on several important events, which took place since the printing of the fall issue:

- We were fortunate to host many nationally and internationally renowned speakers over the past few months to exchange ideas and benefit from their expertise. Dr. Karl Y. Bilimoria, MD, MS, FACS, Director, Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center (SOQIC), John B. Murphy Endowed Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for Quality, Department of Surgery, Division of Surgical Oncology, Department of Surgery, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, visited as the 34th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship; Professor Dr. Andre Jan Louis D’Hoore, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Head, Department of Abdominal Surgery and Colorectal Surgeon, University Clinics Gasthuisberg, President of Collegium Chirurgicum Belgicum; and Dr. Henri R. Ford, MD, MHA, FACS, FAAP, Vice President and Chief of Surgery, Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Vice Dean, Medical Education, Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, Department of Surgery, University of Southern California, Keck School of Medicine, was the 2nd Annual Diversity Lectureship guest lecturer.

- Weill Cornell Medicine named Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell University’s provost for medical affairs.

- 102nd Annual American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress meeting, where the departments faculty and residents played an important and active role.

- 12th Annual Department of Surgery Friends and Donors Dinner, where we celebrated the accomplishments of the Department and shared plans for future goals with our faculty, friends and supporters.

- 36th Annual American Italian Cancer Foundation Gala, a New-York based nonprofit organization that supports cancer research, education, and control, emphasizing the outstanding resources of Italy and the United States, recognizing world-class scientific excellence in medicine, and serving economically disadvantaged, medically underserved New York City women through breast cancer screening, outreach, and education.

In this issue we also report on honors and awards earned by our surgery faculty and feature a faculty profile on Dr. Thomas J. Fahey III, our Chief of Endocrine Surgery, Vice Chair of Education and Johnson & Johnson Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine and the newly formed Academy of Educators.

I hope you find this issue of interest and welcome your feedback about our newsletter. Please be sure to follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Youtube for the latest updates and information in the Department of Surgery.

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 34th Annual Peter C. Canizaro, MD Visiting Professor Lectureship was held on November 14, 2016. The lecture, "Generating Evidence to Inform Policy: The FIRST Resident Duty Hour Trial" was presented by Dr. Karl Y. Bilimoria, the John B. Murphy Endowed Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, where he also acts as the Director of the Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center (SOQIC) and Vice Chair for Quality in the Department of Surgery.

Dr. Bilimoria is a surgical oncologist with expertise in melanoma and sarcoma. He received his B.A. in 1998 from Northwestern University and his M.D. from Indiana University School of Medicine in 2003. He then went back to Northwestern University where he completed his general surgery residency in 2010, having taken two years of clinical training to obtain an M.S. in Clinical Investigation (2006-08). He complemented his general surgical training with a surgical oncology fellowship at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (2010-2011).

Dr. Bilimoria joined the faculty of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in 2011 as Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery, the Department of Medical Social Sciences and the Center for Healthcare Studies at Northwestern. With his interest, focus and expertise in clinical outcome and quality research, in the next three years Dr. Bilimoria became a Faculty Scholar in the Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care at the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the Director of the ACS Clinical Scholars in Residence Program, the Director of Northwestern’s Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center (SOQIC), the Co-Director of Northwestern’s Institute for Comparative Effectiveness Research in Oncology (NICER-Onc), the Medical Director of Surgical Quality at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Vice Chair for Quality in the Department of Surgery and the Director of the Illinois Surgical Quality Improvement Collaborative (ISQIC). In 2015, Dr. Bilimoria was promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure and the John B. Murphy Endowed Professor of Surgery at Northwestern University.

Dr. Bilimoria’s research agenda focuses on improving healthcare quality measurement and delivery. He has a particular interest in large, pragmatic cluster-randomized trials examining hospital quality initiatives and healthcare policies. As part of his research, he has engaged and mentored many postdoctoral fellows. He was the Principal Investigator of the FIRST Trial.

Dr. Bilimoria is a member many prestigious surgical organizations including the American College of Surgeons, the Association for Academic Surgery, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract, Society of Surgical Oncology. He is the book editor of Advances in Surgical Oncology: Key Comparative Effectiveness Questions and How to Answer Them. He has published more than 250 scientific articles with multiple recent studies in JAMA and NEJM. Additionally, the NIH, AHRQ, ACS, NCCN, ACS, ABS, ACGME, and HCSC fund his research. He was also recently listed as one of Becker’s “50 Experts Leading the Field of Patient Safety”.

The Peter C. Canizaro, MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship was established by the Department of Surgery in 1983 as a reminder of the importance of surgical education.
The 9th Annual International Lectureship was held on November 21, 2016. The lecture, “Anal Crohn's Disease: Medical and Surgical Challenges” was presented by Professor Dr. Andre Jan Louis D’Hoore, an internationally renowned abdominal and colorectal surgeon specializing in the latest surgical techniques for IBD and colorectal cancer. His main research interest is the role of minimally invasive approaches to IBD and colorectal cancer.

Dr. D’Hoore received his MD, magna cum laude, from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium in 1988. After his residency, he joined the staff of the Abdominal Surgery at the University Clinic Leuven. He pursued additional international postgraduate training in colorectal surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, St. Mark’s Hospital in London and the Hôpital Cantonal in Geneva. In 2000, Dr. D’Hoore became a European Board Qualified Surgeon in ColoProctology. In 2007, he received his PhD.

In 2008, Professor Dr. D’Hoore became an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Catholic University of Leuven and continues to contribute to graduate and postgraduate teaching of students and trainees in abdominal surgery. He is the Chair of the Department of Abdominal Surgery at the University Hospitals Leuven and is the President of the Collegium Chirurgicum Belgium.

Professor Dr. D’Hoore has authored and co-authored over 170 papers in peer-reviewed journals for his scientific work. He also serves on the editorial board for two international surgical journals. Dr. D’Hoore has been an invited lecturer nationally and internationally. He is an active member of several surgical societies including the Royal Belgian Society of Surgery, the European Association of Endoscopic Surgery, the International College of Surgeons and has recently received honorary membership in the American Society of Colorectal Surgery. He is a founding member of the European Section of ColoProctology (ESCP) and is the founder of the surgical branch of the European Crohn’s and Colitis Organisation (S-ECCO).

The Department of Surgery International Lecture was established in 2008 as a reminder of the importance of international collaborations in medical education and surgery.
The Department of Surgery’s 2nd Annual Diversity Lecture given by Dr. Henri R. Ford, MD, MHA, FACS, FAAP on February 13th, 2017 titled “Leadership in American Surgery: An African-American Perspective”.

Dr. Henri R. Ford is Vice President and Chief of Surgery at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and Vice Dean, Medical Education; Professor of Surgery and Vice Chair for Clinical Affairs, Department of Surgery, University of Southern California / Keck School of Medicine, Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Ford is the author of more than 450 publications, book chapters, invited manuscripts, abstracts and presentations. He has demonstrated exceptional leadership in pediatric surgery and has conducted definitive studies on pediatric trauma in the U.S. and his investigative studies have generated new insights into the pathogenesis of necrotizing enterocolitis, the most common and lethal disorder affecting the gastrointestinal tract of newborn infants. His research has been funded by the NIH, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, the National Trauma Registry for Children and the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Ford has been an invited lecturer both nationally and internationally. He serves as a reviewer for several surgical journals and is currently an Associate Editor of the Journal of Pediatric Surgery as well as the Journal of Trauma.

Dr. Ford has received numerous honors and awards including the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Ford is an important role model for medical students, residents, fellows and colleagues.

This Diversity Lecture was established last year by the Department of Surgery as a reminder of the importance of a culture of inclusiveness, diversity and equality in our academic department. Although this mission is well carried out by the Weill Cornell Medicine Office of Faculty Diversity in Medicine and Science at the Institutional level, by instituting this lectureship, the Department of Surgery wants to stress the importance of a culture of inclusiveness through recruitment, mentoring, promotion, retention and selection for leadership roles to develop and sustain diversity among residents, staff and faculty in surgery.
Weill Cornell Medicine named Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, a physician and scientist specializing in lung diseases, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell University’s provost for medical affairs. Choi has served as interim dean of Weill Cornell Medicine since June 1, 2016.

Dr. Choi was recruited in 2013 as the Sanford I. Weill Chairman and Professor of Medicine in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and as physician-in-chief of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Previously, he was the Parker B. Francis Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston.

Choi leads a rapidly growing institution, which includes a physician organization that is expanding throughout New York City, thriving programs in biomedical discovery and clinical and translational research, and top-ranked medical and graduate schools. Based on his experience as a clinician, researcher, entrepreneur and mentor, he plans to advance diverse initiatives across Weill Cornell Medicine’s mission of improving human health.

Among his main priorities as dean will be expanding clinical services into Lower Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn with hospital partner NewYork-Presbyterian. In the context of a shifting and complex health care environment, Weill Cornell Medicine will take a proactive approach to reach new patients and increase its cohort of clinical faculty, which currently numbers more than 1,200 physicians.

Another key area of focus will be joint research, academic collaborations and entrepreneurial partnerships across all of Cornell’s campuses that will pool intellectual resources across faculty with complementary interests and bolster efforts to recruit and retain the best scholars, trainees and students.

In addition, Choi will strengthen Weill Cornell Medicine’s research enterprise through faculty development, enhanced research support and ongoing recruitment. An increased emphasis on entrepreneurship will help speed the translation of research projects from bench to bedside and contribute to New York’s burgeoning biotech industry.
Many of the Department of Surgery’s faculty and residents played an active role at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons’s meeting in Washington, D.C. this past October, giving lectures, presentation and video talks, participating in panel discussions, moderating sessions and teaching post-graduate courses.

DR. HEATHER YEO (FACULTY) ETHICON FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE (2014) PRESENTED at AWS Meeting - Scientific Session 1 "Clinical Trial on the Efficacy of Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) with Interstim for Fecal Incontinence following Surgery for Low Rectal Cancers with Sphincter Preservation*"

DR. MAUREEN MOORE (PGY-2 RESEARCH RESIDENT) PRESENTED FOR DR. MOO, YEO, ABELSON, CHARTRAND "The Climb to Break the Glass Ceiling in Surgery: Trends in Women Progressing from Medical School to Surgical Training and Academic Leadership from 1994-2015"


DR. TOYOOKI SONODA (FACULTY) DISCUSSED “Clinical Pathways and Enhanced Recovery” Rehabilitation and Enhanced Recovery at Session DEC 14

DR. SOUMITRA EACHEMPATI DISCUSSED “Risk of Death for Unstable Trauma Patients” at Trauma I Paper Session

DR. JASON GARDENIER (PGY-3 RESIDENT) PRESENTED “A novel, transgenic, inducible murine model of scrotal lymphedema” at the Plastic & Maxillofacial Surgery I Forum Session

DR. HEATHER YEO (FACULTY) DISCUSSED in the Colorectal Surgery Forum Session “Understanding Palliative Interventions in Patients with End-Stage Colorectal Cancer”

DR. JAMES LEE (PGY-4 PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENT) PRESENTED at Neurological Surgery Session for DR. DAVID OTTERBURN, DR. JASON SPECTOR: “Myofascial Flap Closures Decrease Cerebrospinal Fluid Leaks in Tethered Cord Patients” – 6th Presentation in Neurological Surgery Session

DR. JONATHAN ABELSON (PGY-3 RESEARCH RESIDENT) PRESENTED for DR. HEATHER YEO: “Higher surgical morbidity and mortality for ulcerative colitis patients in the era of biologics”

DR. JASON SPECTOR PRESENTED: “Facilitated Self Assembly of Pre-Vascularized Tissue Engineered Constructs

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI was elected to the Board of Regents at the ACS Clinical Congress meeting. Previously, he was the Chair of the Board of Governors for two years. An ACS Fellow since 1987, Dr. Michelassi has served on the Board of Governors since 2010.

DR. JASON SPECTOR PRESENTED POSTER: “A Three-Dimensional Tissue Engineered Platform to Simulate Various Microvascular Shear Stress Conditions*”

DR. BRENDAN FINNERTY (CHIEF RESIDENT) PRESENTED at Endocrine Surgery Forum: “Surgical Approach Does Not Affect Overall Survival in Adrenocortical carcinoma: An outcomes analysis of the National Cancer Database.”

DR. ELINORE KAUFMAN (PGY-4 RESIDENT) PRESENTED at Quality, Safety & Outcomes IV Session: “Patient Experiences of Trauma Resuscitation”

DR. FABRIZIO MICHELASSI CO-MODERATED & WAS A PANEL PARTICIPANT: “Global Engagement” Session SLO3 - Co-Moderated and was a panel participant “ACS International Outreach”

DR. JONATHAN ABELSON (PGY-3 RESEARCH RESIDENT) PRESENTED for Dr. Anthony Watkins: "African Americans and Hispanics Remain Dramatically Underrepresented Among Surgical Trainees and Academic Surgeons"
On Tuesday, October 18th, surgical alumni, faculty and friends of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens and NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, gathered at the 102nd Annual American College of Surgeons for the 2016 Annual Alumni Cocktail 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. Leonard N. Girardi, O. Wayne Isom, MD Professor and Chairman, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens; Dr. Pierre F. Saldinger, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens; Dr. Michael E. Zenilman, Professor and Chair, Department of Surgery, New York Methodist Hospital and our new co-host, Dr. Robert F. Tranbaugh, Professor and Chair, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, New York Methodist Hospital. Our reception this year attracted one of the largest amount of guests, over 130 alumni and friends, and was held in the Shaw Room at the new Marriott Marquis Washington DC Hotel.
On October 25, 2016, the 12th Annual Department of Surgery Friends and Donors Dinner was held at the Columbus Citizens Foundation in New York City. 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 hear about exciting new plans for the Department’s future growth.

The program included remarks from Laura L. Forese, MD, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, NewYork-Presbyterian, Augustine Choi, MD, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and Cornell University's provost for medical affairs, Jason Spector, MD, Professor of Surgery and Usman Nabi, charitable donor to the Department of Surgery.

Fabrizio Michelassi, MD, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, ended the event by thanking the group for their continued support and recognized the vital role that philanthropy plays in the Department’s ability to achieve its mission of providing the highest quality clinical care, education and pioneering surgical research.
Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, chairman of the Department of Surgery, the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery and a professor of surgery, received the 2016 Association of Women Surgeons Past Presidents’ Honorary Member Award for his outstanding contributions to women in surgery. The award is given to individuals who are supportive of the goals and mission of the Association of Women Surgeons, which is dedicated to enhancing the interaction and exchange of information between women surgeons. Dr. Michelassi was presented with the award at the Association of Women Surgeons awards dinner October 17, 2016 in Washington, D.C.

"Thank you very much for the kind introduction and thanks to the AWS Foundation for the Award. My personal gratitude goes to Dr. Nancy Gantt, who nominated me, and to the other AWS members who wrote supporting letters. It is an honor which I will treasure forever.

I am humbled by receiving this award. I can assure you that it will be a constant reminder to persist in my efforts to minimize and eventually nullify the differences between genders when it comes to academic opportunity, advancement and compensation. Mindful of these disparities, The Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center has started a Diversity lecture this year. I was very pleased that Dr. Hilary Sanfi accepted to be the inaugural Lecturer.

I consider myself privileged that female faculty comprise 30% of the full time faculty in our Department. Some of them have graciously accepted my invitation to be here tonight and to share this meaningful occasion with me.

Again, I want to thank the AWS Foundation for the great honor of receiving the 2016 Past Presidents’ Honorary Member Award."
On November 2, 2016, **Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi**, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery and a professor of surgery, was given the honor of introducing **Armando E. Giuliano, MD**, Executive Vice Chair of Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, Associate Director of the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute and Professor of Surgery in the Department of Surgery at the University of California-Los Angeles and University of Southern California at the **36th Annual American Italian Cancer Foundation Gala**.

Dr. Giuliano was one of three awardees recognized as a winner of the Alexander Bodini Foundation 2016 Prize for Scientific Excellence In Medicine. Specifically, Dr. Giuliano was acknowledged for his groundbreaking work on sentinel lymph node mapping in the management of primary breast cancer and leading large-scale trials demonstrating its utility.

In the words of Dr. Larry Norton, “the fact that sentinel lymph node mapping works demonstrates that both the “Halsteadian view” of the anatomic flow and the “fertile field view” of site-specific metastases are important and, indeed, interrelated. Recent evidence, again originated by studies by Dr. Giuliano and collaborators, that in certain circumstances cancer-involved lymph nodes can be left in the axilla and yet not adversely affect disease-recurrence or survival, has challenged our traditional view of the biology of cancer and metastases.”

Dr. Giuliano is the author of more than 400 scientific articles and book chapters, and is a member of 20 prestigious national and international surgical societies. He is past President of the International Sentinel Node Society, has served as Chairman of the American College of Surgeons Oncology Group Breast Organ Site Research Committee and he is the current President-elect of the Society of Surgical Oncology.

The American-Italian Cancer Foundation is a New York-based nonprofit organization that supports cancer research, education, and control, emphasizing the outstanding resources of Italy and the United States, recognizing world-class scientific excellence in medicine, and serving economically disadvantaged, medically under-served New York City women through breast cancer screening, outreach, and education.
While most faculty members want to improve as teachers, they neither know where their educational strengths and weaknesses lie nor where or how to begin to effect a change in their teaching abilities. The lack of actionable, directed and specific feedback, sensible and sensitive metrics to assess performance and improvement complicates the attainment of educational excellence.

Thomas J. Fahey, III, MD is the Chief of Endocrine Surgery, Johnson & Johnson Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Fahey provides oversight and guidance to the Department of Surgery’s four residency and seven fellowship programs, the Skills Acquisition and Innovation Laboratory (SAIL), the Medical Student Clerkship and our newly formed Academy of Educators (AOE).

Dr. Fahey has been an outstanding mentor and leader of our General Surgery program serving as Program Director since 1998. The goals of the AOE is to create within our institution a mission, which advances and supports educators, establishes a membership composed of distinguished educators, creates a formal organizational structure with designated leadership, dedicates resources that fund mission-related initiatives and research, and establish a plan for promoting teachers as well as enhancing and advancing educational scholarships.

The promise behind this is to ultimately develop a pilot academy of medical educators representing one of the high-priority goals of those institutions that wish to elevate and enrich their teaching through a structured, proven approach. As Vice Chair for Education, Dr. Fahey will continue to advise the General Surgery residency program, participate in Program Evaluation Committee meetings, and help take the Academy of Educators initiative to the next level!
It sounds like the stuff of science fiction: Instead of having a surgical lumpectomy to remove a breast cancer tumor, a thin needle-like device is inserted into the mass and a blast of extreme coldness destroys the cancerous cells. There's no hospitalization, no sedation, no pain and no scarring involved. It may seem like sheer fantasy but it is becoming a reality. This non-surgical, non-invasive deep-freezing technique, called cryoablation, was found to be a viable alternative to traditional surgery for many early-stage breast cancers, according to a recent clinical trial involving 86 patients at 19 medical centers across the country.

“It is a huge advance for women – I think this could be the wave of the future,” says study lead author Dr. Rache Simmons, chief of breast surgery at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. “The beauty of it is it takes less than half an hour, then the patient goes home with a Band-Aid on the tiny incision. There’s no recovery time.” The procedure, which has been used for many years to treat benign breast tumors called fibroadenomas, as well as cancers of the liver and kidney, can be performed in an outpatient setting with only a topical anesthetic applied to the skin.

Within the next several years, experts say, this may become an option for more women with breast cancer. Only time and further research will tell, but right now the potential looks promising.
Congratulations to Drs. Cheguevara Afaneh, Peter Connolly, Karim Halazun, Melanie Ongchin, Shaun Steigman, Heather Yeo on being initiated as fellows at the ACS Convocation Ceremony at Walter E. Washington Convention Center. As fellows of the American College of Surgeons, these physicians commit themselves and the College of the ideals of professionalism.

Dr. Benjamin Samstein, Associate Professor of Surgery and Chief of Liver Transplantation and Hepatobiliary Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center presented on “Living Donor Liver Transplantation” at the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD) Liver Meeting on November 12, 2016 at the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center in the heart of downtown Boston. This event gathers hepatologists from around the world to exchange the latest research, discuss new developments in treatment outcomes, and network with other experts in the field.

Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi, Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chair of Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, was the recipient of the Commemorative Award by the American College of Surgeons Governors Circle and Fellows Leadership Society at the 2016 ACS Foundation Donor Recognition Luncheon. In addition, the Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association honored Dr. Michelassi with the Honorary Fellowship Award.
Dr. Soumitra Eachempati was elected as a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons. The American College of Surgeons Board of Governors is integral to our administration as an organization. Governors represent the Fellows of the ACS and are the official communication link between them and the Board of Regents.

Happy to announce that Dr. Jonathan Abelson, Dr. Heather Yeo, Dr. Alfons Pomp, Dr. Fabrizio Michelassi and David Fehling recently published their article entitled “Using the ACS NSQIP Surgical Risk Calculator for surgical education and quality improvement” as a featured article in the Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons. They reported on their experience using the ACS NSQIP Surgical Risk Calculator during weekly M&M conference as a tool for educating surgery residents on risk assessment and quality improvement. Their findings confirm that it is feasible to have surgery residents incorporate the risk calculator in M&M presentations and that the ACS NSQIP Surgical Risk Calculator may serve as an important tool for educating surgery residents about the importance of risk assessment and quality improvement. This innovative approach to M&M arguably touches on all six of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) core competencies of resident education: patient care and technical skills, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism, and systems-based practice. An important next step of this study is to measure the effect on resident education of using the risk calculator during M&M presentation.
Dr. Heather Yeo, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Professor of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College and Assistant Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center was awarded the James IV Traveling Fellowship Award on behalf of the James IV Association of Surgeons, Inc. The James IV Traveling fellowship is designed to promote communication and collaboration in the surgical community. The important function of the Association is to sponsor visiting fellowship opportunities for outstanding young surgeons from and to member countries. Travelers are both ambassadors representing their home countries and conduits for the dissemination of knowledge. It is expected that travelers will promote collegiality and collaboration amongst our community of surgeons. These travelling fellowships not only promote the exchange of surgical knowledge but also foster the kind of friendships that have meant so much to those who founded the Association and those who have since joined them. Dr. Yeo will be traveling to the UK, Australia, Hong Kong and possibly Japan to study the treatment controversies of rectal cancer.

Bidding farewell to Mary-Ann Garcia as she takes the next step in her career! Mary-Ann held the position of Education Program Specialist and was a dedicated staff member for over 10 years to the Department of Surgery. She was an exemplary employee and a pleasure to work with. Wishing you all the best, Mary-Ann!
It is with deep sadness that we note the passing of our distinguished colleague, Dr. John Whitsell II, Clinical Professor Emeritus of Surgery and Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical Center for more than 40 years before retiring in 1998. Dr. Whitsell is a nationally and internationally renowned surgeon. After receiving his medical degree from Washington University in 1954, he completed his residency in General Surgery at the New York Hospital in 1961. Immediately following his residency he was appointed Instructor in Surgery at Cornell University Medical Center.

Dr. Whitsell was most renowned in the area of kidney transplantation having held the positions of Surgical Director of the Transplantation-Dialysis-Biochemistry Unit, Surgical director and later Surgery Consultant at the Rogosin Kidney Center.
48th Annual Benjamin Park, Jr., MD, Visiting Professor Lectureship and Banquet
Lecturer | Ronald J. Weigel, MD

April | 2017

44th Annual Preston A. Wade Visiting Professor Lectureship
Lecturer | Demetrios Demetriades, MD, PhD

April | 2017

Inaugural Corinne and Maurice Greenberg International Visiting Professorship in Honor of Peter Guida, MD
Lecturer | Akira Sugita, MD

April | 2017

6th Annual Stanley J. Behrman, DMD Lectureship
Lecturer | Michael Miloro, DMD, MD, FACS

June | 2017

NYPH-WCMC Department of Surgery Annual Resident Graduation
(invitation and RSVP card to follow)