



**Department of Public Health**  
**Annual Letter December 2010** (FY 2009-2010)

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are delighted to share with you some of the activities and accomplishments of Weill Cornell's Department of Public Health during 2009-2010. Although this letter does not attempt to include everything, we hope it illustrates the direction and demonstrates the importance of our work. This is all due to the dedication of our faculty, staff, and fellows and their innovative and important contributions to the Department, our Institution, and the fields of Medicine and Public Health. We also wish to thank all whose support has been essential to our efforts, including the leadership at the Hospital (Laura Forese, MD; Steve Corwin, MD; and Herb Pardes, MD) and the Medical College (Antonio Gotto, Jr., MD, DPhil; and David Hajjar, PhD).

**New Programs and Leaders**

The Department of Public Health is pleased to announce the **Division of Quality and Medical Informatics** as the Department's seventh division. **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Public Health, and Medicine, is the Division Chief. This is now a joint division in the Departments of Pediatrics and Public Health. Its mission is to improve clinical quality and patient safety, particularly through the use of health information technology (HIT). Recognizing the importance of HIT as a cornerstone of health care reform, Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital supported the creation of this unique division.

**Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD**, joined the Department as the leader of a new collaborative program in comparative effectiveness research (CER). The initial focus will be on the management of orthopedic conditions and cardiovascular diseases, with the intent of using this to build a comprehensive program in comparative effectiveness research for the entire medical center. Initial partners are the Hospital for Special Surgery, the Weill Cornell Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and the Weill Cornell Dean's Office. Dr. Sedrakyan previously was at the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health and was senior service officer at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Center for Outcomes and Evidence, where he helped to initiate efforts in CER.

We also welcome our new Department Administrator, **Gerard Ilaria, MSW, LCSW-R**. Mr. Ilaria was previously Administrative Director of the Center for Special Studies (CSS) at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical College. In that position, he was responsible for the operations and financial management of a two-site, large continuity of care program serving 2,400 people with HIV/AIDS. He also worked as a partner with the Executive Medical Director at Weill Cornell on strategic planning and policy development and was the liaison for NYP financial matters and New York State quality reviews.

**New Faculty and Staff**

In addition to **Dr. Sedrakyan**, new faculty members are: **Brandon Aden, MD, MPH; Tara Bishop, MD, MPH; Thomas Campion, PhD, MS; Matthew Press, MD, MS; and Andrew Ryan, PhD, MS**. **Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD**, and **Ziyad Mahfoud, PhD**, also joined the Department's faculty in Qatar.

The Department also welcomes new faculty with secondary, voluntary, courtesy, or adjunct appointments: **Erika Abramson, MD, MS; Sheikh Mohammad Al-Thani, MBChB (Qatar); Jessica**

**Ancker, MPH, PhD; Susan Clark Ball, MD, MPH; David Calfee, MD, MS; Heather Cereste, MD, MPH; Melinda Chen, MD, MS; Bruce Jennings, MA; Juhdi Kumar, MB,BS, MPH; Sheila Palevsky, MD, MPH; Beth Preminger, MD, MPH; Aran Ron, MD, MPH, MBA; Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS, MS; William Trochim, PhD; and Stephen Wilson, MD, MPH.**

Finally, in addition to **Gerard Ilaria**, new staff members **Allison Dunning, MS, Ashley Eggman, MS, Joshua Henninger, Liudmila Liubcina, MPH, Kimberly Pitrelli, MA, and Xuming Sun, MS**, joined the Department.

### **New Grants and Projects (Department faculty and staff in bold type)**

Department faculty and staff have won significant governmental and foundation funding for their research. These are some of their new projects.

**Heejung Bang, PhD**, is the Principal Investigator of a grant funded by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) titled “A Unified Approach of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.” The main goal of this project is to develop a comprehensive approach for cost-effectiveness analysis and the associated computing software in a unified framework.

**Yuhua Bao, PhD**, received a Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award (K01) from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), titled "Designing Payment and Performance Evaluation for Depression Care Management." **Huibo Shao, MS, MA**, is a Co-Investigator on this grant. **Dr. Bao** is also the Principal Investigator of a study titled “Cost of an Evidence-Based Depression Care Management Intervention in Home Health,” funded by NIMH. She recently completed a Pfizer Scholars Grant in Health Policy to study comparative effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of drug coverage expansion in the treatment of depression in older patients.

**Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS**, was awarded \$8M in funding for a five year period from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) to support a Comprehensive Center of Excellence in Disparities Research and Community Engagement (CEDREC). The CEDREC is a consortium between Weill Cornell Medical College, Hunter College School of Nursing, City University of New York, Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, and New York University School of Medicine. Dr. Boutin-Foster is the Director of CEDREC and Mary Charlson, MD, is co-Director. **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, co-leads the Research Core of the Center. **Linda Gerber, PhD and Heejung Bang, PhD**, are also Investigators.

The Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research recently received three grants to work with New York City's Primary Care Information Project (PCIP), which provides technical and financial assistance to aid small primary care practices in disadvantaged areas of the City to obtain electronic medical records and to use them to improve the quality of care: **Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD**, and **Andrew Ryan, PhD, MA**, are Co-Principal Investigators, and **Tara Bishop, MD, MPH**, is a Co-Investigator, on a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation titled “Using EHRs and technical assistance to improve quality in small practices caring for disadvantaged populations.” **Dr. Bishop** is the Principal Investigator, and **Drs. Casalino and Ryan** are Co-Investigators, on a grant from the Commonwealth Fund to study the effectiveness of a panel management program for patients with chronic illnesses in the PCIP. **Dr. Casalino** is the PI, and **Drs. Ryan and Bishop** are Co-Investigators, on a subaward for an AHRQ-funded study of pay for performance within the PCIP program.

**Dr. Casalino** is the Principal Investigator for the National Survey of Small and Medium-Sized Physician Practices, funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). This study and related initiatives to improve the U.S. healthcare system have resulted in publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Health Affairs*.

**Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS**, is a Co-Investigator on a clinical therapeutic study using a gene transfer vector to help children with late infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (LINCL). The Principal Investigator for this study is Ronald Crystal, MD. It is being funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

**Brian Edlin, MD**, is the Principal Investigator of an R01 grant funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse called “Integrated versus Separate Care for Hepatitis C, Substance Abuse, and HIV Prevention.” **Ann Beeder, MD, Bruce Schackman, PhD, and Jared Leff, MS**, are Investigators on a subaward of this study. **Dr. Edlin** is also the PI of another NIH-funded R01 study titled “Treatment of Hepatitis C in Underserved Populations.” Co-investigators include Andrew Talal, MD, MPH, Ira Jacobson, MD, Michael Carden, MPH, Marla Shu, MPH, **Brandon Aden, MD, MPH**, Stephen Ferrando, MD, **Dr. Beeder, and Mirella Salvatore, MD**.

In addition to writing chapters for and editing a three volume book to be published in 2010 (*Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*), **Madelon Finkel, PhD**, has initiated two international studies in conjunction with her role in the Office of Global Health Education: cervical cancer screening in Vellore, India; and the effects of purple corn supplements on blood pressure reduction in Lima, Peru.

**Joseph J. Fins, MD**, continues his research on patients with severe brain injury and disorders of consciousness, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and renewed funding from the Buster Family Foundation. The studies include efforts to improve clinician-family communication, to address misdiagnosis and neglect.

**Dr. Fins** is the Director of the Ethics Unit of the Cornell Advanced Center for Interventions and Services Research (CACISR) (PI: George Alexopoulos, MD), funded by the National Institute of Mental Health. The mission of the CACISR is to produce and disseminate knowledge and practices aimed at reducing the burden of depression and disability in older persons. **Drs. Bruce Schackman and Yuhua Bao** are Co-Investigators of the CACISR as well.

**Drs. Fins and Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS**, organized a year-long lecture series (2008-2009) exploring the legacy of C.P. Snow on the 50th anniversary of his landmark book, *Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*. With funding from the Richard Lounsbery Foundation, they followed this by co-editing and contributing to a special anthology issue of *Technology in Society* (January 2010).

**Linda Gerber, PhD**, continues her work on evaluating the impact of guidelines for the management of severe traumatic brain injury, with support from the Brain Trauma Foundation. **Ya-Lin Chiu, MS**, is assisting on these projects.

**Dr. Gerber** is also the Principal Investigator of a grant from the QNRF called “Study of Women’s Health in Qatar: Examining the physical, biological, psychological and social changes in women in their middle years.” **Madhuvanti Murphy, DrPH**, is a co-Investigator.

**Hassan Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH**, received a K99/R00 career development award from the NIH titled “Impact of Discordant Patient-Surgeon Expectations on Joint Arthroplasty Outcomes.” The study will use data from the joint replacement registry of the Weill Cornell Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT). Dr. Ghomrawi’s primary mentor for his K99 grant is **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, Principal Investigator of the Weill Cornell CERT.

**Heather Taffet Gold, PhD**, received a grant from the American Cancer Society titled “New Breast Cancer Radiotherapy Technology: Impact on Disparities in Access,” to study the diffusion of the use of accelerated partial breast radiotherapy technology across the United States in the Medicare population. **Madhuvanti Murphy, DrPH, and Kimberly Pitrelli, MA**, are Co-Investigators.

**Kenneth W. Griffin, PhD, MPH**, received a Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The award provided funding for him to spend April 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia, to continue collaborative research with colleagues there. The goal of the research is to prevent substance abuse and HIV among Russian adolescents and young adults.

**Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH**, who was on sabbatical from Weill Cornell Medical College from August 2009 through July 2010, is continuing his position (funded as an IPA) as Director of the CDC’s Preparedness Modeling Unit.

**Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, is the Principal Investigator on several new grants with other faculty of the Division of Quality and Medical Informatics. Two of the studies, “The value of medical homes and interoperable EHRs” and “The value of meaningful use of EHRs in NYS,” were recently funded by the New York State Department of Health. Dr. Kaushal is leading a study with co-Investigators **Lisa M.**

**Kern, MD, MPH, and Thomas Campion, PhD**, titled “Evaluation of a Beacon Community,” funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). **Dr. Kaushal** and **Dr. Kern** will also establish a Prevention/Care Management Technical Assistance Center, with support from HHS’s Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

**April Kimmel, PhD**, was funded by an ARRA supplement to an NIH/Fogarty International Center to build a policy model to project HIV treatment needs in Haiti. She is working under the direction of **Bruce Schackman, PhD**, with Daniel Fitzgerald, MD, **Warren Johnson, MD**, and Jean W. Pape, MD.

**Stephen Lyman, PhD**, received an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Challenge Grant in comparative effectiveness research from NIH/NIAMS, titled “Referral Patterns and Risk of Early Revision after Primary Total Joint Arthroplasty.”

**Madhu Mazumdar, PhD**, has received increased support for the Research Design and Biostatistics Core (RDBC) of the CTSC, and several faculty and staff members of the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology participate in the Core. RDBC supports a large number of trans-institutional projects encompassing a broad spectrum of disciplines.

**Stefano Monni, PhD**, was the Principal Investigator of a pilot grant of the AHRQ-funded Weill Cornell Center for Education and Research on Therapeutics (CERT), titled “Bayesian design and analysis of clinical trial with multiple outcomes and small sample size.”

**Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and Julianne Imperato-McGinley, MD, received a supplement to the Weill Cornell Center Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) grant from the National Institutes of Health. The supplement will fund mentored research projects in comparative effectiveness research (CER) for two new fellows to be drawn from the K30 Masters Program in Clinical Investigation. It will also fund the development and implementation of three new courses for the Clinical Investigation program which will focus on CER.

**Andrew Ryan, PhD, MA**, received a K01 Mentored Research Scientist Research Career Development Award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for his work titled “Estimating Hospital Outcome Quality: Applications to Pay-for-Performance.”

**Mirella Salvatore, MD**, has been awarded an R21 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) for her study titled “Integrase-defective lentiviral based influenza vaccines.” The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of new vaccine formulations.

**Bruce Schackman, PhD**, is the Principal Investigator of an R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) called “Economic Analysis of Rapid HIV and HCV Testing in Drug Abuse Treatment Programs.” **Jared Leff, MS**, and **Huibo Shao, MS, MA**, are assisting on the project. This study will compare three strategies for screening clients for HIV and also for hepatitis C once a rapid test for this disease becomes available in the US. **Dr. Schackman** is also the Principal Investigator of the cost-effectiveness analysis subaward of a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), titled “HIV Testing and Counseling in STD Clinics.” **Ashley Eggman, MS**, is a Co-Investigator. The study will determine whether receiving a rapid HIV test and counseling offers healthier outcomes than rapid testing alone. **Dr. Schackman** is also the PI on subcontracts of two additional NIH-funded studies: an R37 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases titled “Cost-Effectiveness of Preventing AIDS Complications,” and an R01 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health titled “Modeling the Impact of HIV Prevention Interventions.”

**Xi Kathy Zhou, PhD**, is the Principal Investigator of “Comprehensive Prognostic Modeling for Esophageal Cancer: A Bayesian Approach,” funded by the National Cancer Institute. Co-investigators include Nasser Altorki, MD, **Heather Gold, PhD**, **Madhu Mazumdar, PhD**, and Andrew Gelman, PhD.

### ***CTSC Pilot Grants***

Department faculty were recipients of several pilot grants awarded by the Weill Cornell Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) in 2010.

**Elena B. Elkin, PhD**, received a CTSC Pilot Award titled “Development and Evaluation of a Web-Based Decision Aid for Screening Mammography.” Margaret Polaneczky, MD, is the study’s Co-Principal Investigator. **Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM**, is a Co-Investigator. The grant will support the development and pilot evaluation of a web-based decision support tool to facilitate informed, shared decision-making for women in their 40s.

**Hassan Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH**, and **Stephen Lyman, PhD**, are Co-Investigators on a project titled “New Method to Assess Multi-Directional Knee Stability after ACL Reconstruction.” The Principal Investigator is Carl Imhauser, PhD. The objective is to develop a device to test for stability of the knee.

**Rituparna Pati, MD, MPH**, received an award for “Physicians’ Screening of Adolescent Anal Intercourse.” Dr. Pati’s mentors for this project include **Bruce R. Schackman, PhD**, and **Kenneth W. Griffin, PhD, MPH**.

**Mirella Salvatore, MD**, received an award for “Immune Responses to Influenza Vaccination in Opioid Users.”

**Bruce R. Schackman, PhD**, and **Heather Taffet Gold, PhD**, received funding for “Chronic Pain Management Costs in a Multi-Institutional Patient Registry.” **Ashley Eggman, MS**, is a Co-Investigator. The pilot study builds on a currently funded project to establish a multi-institutional registry of patients of pain clinics, with the objective of enabling comparative effectiveness research. The pilot study will develop and implement methods to collect cost data for the registry.

### ***Qatar Grants***

**Laith Abu Raddad, PhD**, was the principal investigator of a seven-year study of HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The project, conducted through partnership with the World Bank/WHO/UNAIDS, was the largest and most comprehensive scientific study on HIV/AIDS in the history of the Middle East and North Africa.

**Dr. Abu Raddad** recently also completed a study investigating the extremely high rate of new hepatitis C infection in Egypt. He also investigated the epidemiological benefits of more effective vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. Both studies appeared in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*.

Department faculty are leading and participating in important new grants sponsored by the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF).

The QNRF National Priorities Research Fund (NPRP) awarded 15 grants in 2010. Several involve investigators from the Department of Public Health, based both in New York City and in Qatar.

“Genetic Variability and Susceptibility to Type 2 Diabetes in the Qatari Population” led by Ronald Crystal, MD, compares the functionality of genes associated with diabetes in Europeans and Qataris. **Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD**, is the Co-Lead PI. **Abdulbari Bener, PhD**, is one of the Co-PIs, along with Marcus Butler, MD.

**Dr. Abu-Raddad** is also a Co-PI on the study titled “Human Papillomavirus in Arab Women: Molecular, Clinico-pathological, Serological, and Vaccine Impact Studies in Select Arab Countries.” Ali Sultan, MD, PhD, (WCMC-Q) is the Lead PI.

“Genetics of Risk for Retinopathy Among Qataris with Type 2 Diabetes” is led by Dr. Ronald Crystal. **Dr. Bener** is the Co-Lead PI. **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, **Hassan Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH**, **Maha El Shafei, MD**, **Szilard Kiss, MD**, and **Donald D’Amico, MD**, are the Co-PIs.

**Linda Gerber, PhD**, along with Mohamud Verjee, MBChB, are leading a QNRF grant titled “Study of Women’s Health in Qatar: Examining the physical, biological, psychological and social changes in women in their middle years.” Co- Investigators include **Madhuvanti Mahadeo Murphy, DrPH**, and **Heejung Bang, PhD**. The major goals of this study are to develop and perform a national, cross-sectional, 2-phase investigation into the health of midlife women in the state of Qatar.

WCMC-Q researchers and students also received grants for 12 projects in 2010 through Qatar National Research Fund's Undergraduate Research Experience Project (UREP). Three are guided by faculty of the Department of Public Health.

**Abdulbari Bener, PhD**, oversees two student teams working on UREP projects. One of the studies is called "Consanguinity, Short Inter-Pregnancy Interval and Risk of Low Birth Weight in the State of Qatar," and the other is titled "Maternal Complications During Third Trimester of Pregnancy: Outcomes Among Arab Women in Qatar."

**Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD**, is the Faculty Tutor for a project titled "Doctors' Attitudes on Disclosing Information to Cancer Patients in Qatar." The student Co-Investigators are Deena Wafadari, Rim Elchaki, and Tarek Elshazly..

**Dr. Rodríguez del Pozo** was also the Faculty Tutor for a UREP project titled "Down Syndrome in Qatar- a Survey on Public and Family Perception."

### **Awards and Distinctions**

Department members were recognized with a wide variety of honors over the past year. These came from governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities and institutions around the world, and Weill Cornell Medical College and New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

#### ***Extramural Honors***

**Gilbert J. Botvin, PhD**, received the Presidential Award from the Society for Prevention Research at its annual conference on June 3, 2010, in Denver. The award is given to a senior scientist who has made a major lifetime contribution to prevention science research. The Life Skills Training (LST) program was also honored as a Top Tier program by the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy, which works closely with the US Congress.

**Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS**, has been appointed to the Minority Health Council of the NYS Department of Health as well as the Public Health Council.

**J. Emilio Carrillo, MD, MPH**, was a member of the Expert Panel for the National Quality Forum's Cultural Competency Implementation Strategies and Measures project.

**Lawrence P. Casalino, MD, PhD, MPH**, is serving as this year's John Fry Fellow at the Nuffield Trust in London to write and lecture on a subject in the field of general practice and primary health care. The Nuffield Trust's mission is to promote independent analysis and informed debate on UK healthcare policy. Dr. Casalino has been studying the new Government's plan to give 75 percent of the NHS budget to GP commissioning consortia. His work for the Trust has helped to alter the Government's plan.

**Dr. Casalino** was the chair of the 2010 Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, which was held June 27-28 in Boston. The national meeting was attended by more than 2,400 people.

**Dr. Casalino** was a guest editor for an entire issue of *Health Affairs* on "Reinventing Primary Care" and he participated on a related forum sponsored by the journal. He also served on several panels on Accountable Care Organizations (including a *NEJM* video roundtable).

Two papers by **Dr. Casalino** received special honors: "Frequency of Failure to Inform Patients of Clinically Significant Outpatient Test Results" (*Archives of Internal Medicine* June 2009) was named paper of the month by the Swiss Patient Safety Foundation. "What Does It Cost Physician Practices To Interact With Health Insurance Plans?" (*Health Affairs* July-August 2009) was one of the journal's 20 most read articles for 2009 and was cited by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in a fact sheet on health insurance reform.

**Joseph J. Fins, MD, FACP**, was elected to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academies in October 2010, along with Cornell University President David Skorton, MD. Membership in the IOM is one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine. **Dr. Fins** was also elected President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities. He was also named Vice-Chair of

the Fellows Council at the Hastings Center. In addition, he was named to the editorial board of *Neuromodulation*.

**Dr. Fins** gave the 2010 *John P. McGovern Award Lecture in the Medical Humanities*, on "The Minimally Conscious State: Gray Matters in Medicine, the Law and Ethics," at the Moot Court National Court Competition at the University of Houston Law Center.

**Heather Taffet Gold, PhD**, was this year's recipient of the award for Outstanding Paper by a Young Investigator from the Society for Medical Decision Making for her article "Correlates and effect of suboptimal radiotherapy in women with ductal carcinoma in situ or early invasive breast cancer" (*Cancer*, December 2008). Dr. Gold was also appointed a Permanent Member of the American Cancer Society (ACS) Peer Review Committee for Cancer Control and Prevention: Health Policy and Health Services Research (CPHPS) for the years 2011-14.

**Kenneth Griffin, PhD, MPH**, was a Visiting Professor in June 2010 in the Department of Health Psychology, Miguel Hernandez University, in Elche, Spain.

**Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH**, was appointed to the Editorial Board of *Emerging Health Threats*.

**Yan Ma, PhD**, received the Statistics in Epidemiology Young Investigator Award by the American Statistical Association. Dr. Ma's paper focuses on inference for Kappa statistic in a longitudinal data setting.

**Ravinder Mamtani, MB,BS, MD, MSc**, was appointed Honorary Consultant to Supreme Council of Health (Qatar).

**Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and **Joseph J. Fins, MD, FACP**, were elected to membership in the American Clinical and Climatological Association.

**Dr. Mushlin** and **Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD**, were invited to serve on the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC), which makes recommendations on national coverage of devices and interventions for all Medicare beneficiaries.

The July 2010 National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States, released by the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, includes four citations of articles by **Bruce Schackman, PhD**.

#### *Intramural Honors*

**Cathleen Acres, MA**, was appointed Associate Clinical Ethicist at Weill Cornell Medical College.

**William B. Borden, MD, MBA**, **Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS**, and **Madelon Finkel, PhD**, were appointed by Dean Antonio Gotto to serve on the new Education Unit at Weill Cornell Medical College, under the direction of Senior Associate Dean Carol Storey-Johnson, MD. The Education Unit is composed of faculty who have demonstrated expertise in medical education to generate ideas for curriculum reform at WCMC.

**Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS**, was appointed Director of Diversity in Medicine and Science of Weill Cornell Medical College's Office of Faculty Diversity in Medicine and Science.

**Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD**, was appointed the Livingston Farrand Associate Professor of Public Health by the Board of Overseers of Weill Cornell Medical College and Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences.

**Joseph J. Fins, MD**, was awarded Tenure in the Department of Medicine.

**Joseph J. Fins, MD**, and **Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD**, were both awarded the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award for their respective roles in teaching the Medical Ethics component of Medicine, Patients and Society (MPS) II in New York and in Qatar.

**Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, was appointed Director of the new Weill Cornell Medical College Institute for Informatics and Health Systems Improvement. The Institute will facilitate partnering among the Division of Quality and Medical Informatics, Information Services, and multiple WCMC departments (e.g., Medicine, Pediatrics, Public Health, Library and Radiology) as well as potentially New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH).

The Department of Public Health is grateful to Nanette Laitman and the Medical College for continued sponsorship of The Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholars Program in Public Health. **Tara Bishop, MD, MPH**, has been appointed the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Public Health/Clinical Evaluation. Dr. Bishop is studying factors that influence physician decisions and how policy reform can improve the practice of primary care and realign payment incentives with primary care workloads. **William B. Borden, MD, MBA**, has been appointed the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Public Health/Prevention and Women's Health. Dr. Borden is developing health policy projects evaluating aspects of cardiovascular primary and secondary prevention related to the delivery of care. **Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS**, has received an extension of her Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholarship in Public Health/Community Health. The extension will allow her to further develop and implement the programs she has initiated in community-based research, especially to reduce cardiovascular disease, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and mental health problems in underserved communities in New York City. **Matthew Press, MD, MS**, has been appointed the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Public Health/Quality of Care Research. The scholarship will help support studies focusing on hospital readmissions and other aspects of health care quality that relate to coordination of care, both on the system and individual level.

**Ravinder Mamtani, MB,BS, MD, MSc**, was appointed Associate Dean for Global and Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College/Qatar. In his new position, he will develop and direct education and training programs in global and public health for undergraduates, medical students, postgraduates, and fellows; and collaborative research programs on public health issues in Qatar.

**Madhu Mazumdar, PhD**, and **Heejung Bang, PhD**, were appointed to inter-campus joint positions in the Department of Statistical Science in the Faculty of Computing and Informational Science at Cornell Ithaca.

**Andrew Ryan, PhD, MS**, was appointed the Walsh McDermott Scholar in Public Health.

#### **Promotions**

It is a great pleasure to recognize those who received academic promotions this past year:

#### *Faculty*

**Kenneth Griffin, PhD, MPH**, Professor  
**Lisa Kern, MD, MPH**, Associate Professor  
**Stephen Lyman, PhD**, Associate Professor  
**Yan Ma, PhD**, Assistant Professor  
**Wei Xiong, PhD**, Assistant Professor

#### *Joint or Secondary Faculty*

**John Barnhill, MD**, Professor  
**Soumitra Eachempati, MD**, Professor  
**Robert Marx, MD, MSc**, Professor  
**Phyllis Supino, EdD**, **Adjunct Research Professor of Public Health**

#### *Staff*

**Anna Araiza, MPH**, Research Coordinator  
**Jared Leff, MS**, Research Coordinator  
**Alina Mirokhanov**, Administrative Secretary  
**Esther Romero**, Research Coordinator



## **Educational Programs**

### ***Fellows, Residents, and Postdoctoral Associates***

The General Preventive Medicine Residency Program continues to thrive under the direction of **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and **Sandy Saintonge, MD, MS**. Current residents are **Rituparna Pati, MD, MPH**, and **Tarek Mikati, MD**. **Alisa Koval, MD, MHSA, MPH**, completed the residency program in June 2010 and is now a Fellow in Occupational & Environmental Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

The Division of Quality and Medical Informatics is also continuing its Fellowship Program in Health Care Quality and Medical Informatics Research, directed by **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH** and **Lisa Kern, MD, MPH**. The current fellows are **Sameer Malhotra, MB,BS, MA**; and **Snezana Nena Osorio, MD**.

The Division of Medical Ethics, in conjunction with the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS), is currently sponsoring a Fellow in Medical Ethics (**Stephanie Vertrees, MD**). **Joseph Fins, MD**, and **Ronald McKenzie, MD**, co-direct this program. **Alexandra Suppes, PhD**, is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Medical Ethics, working with Dr. Fins and **Nicholas Schiff, MD**.

**Mirella Salvatore, MD**, is currently supervising two Postdoctoral Fellows, **Judy Fontana, PhD**, and **Ekaterina Moroz, MD**, who are working with her on her grant projects.

**April D. Kimmel, PhD, MSc**, is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Health Policy. She is working under the direction of **Bruce Schackman, PhD**, Daniel Fitzgerald, MD, **Warren Johnson, MD**, and Jean W. Pape, MD.

**Matthías Kormáksson, PhD**, is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology.

**Diane Gray, MB,BS, MSc, MA**, is a 2010-2011 Harkness Fellow, funded by the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Gray, who is Director of Strategy and Planning and Deputy Director of Public Health in the British National Health Service in Milton Keynes, UK, is working on her Harkness project under the mentorship of **Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD**.

### ***Department Seminars***

The Department continues to expand its seminars, which are open to the entire medical college community. The Public Health Grand Rounds, the Medical Ethics Seminar Series, and the Outcomes and Effectiveness Research/Health Policy Research-in-Progress Seminars offer Continuing Medical Education credit. The Department also sponsors Prevention & Health Behavior Research-in-Progress Seminars, Biostatistics & Epidemiology Research Seminars, and Community & Public Health Research & Clinical Rounds.

### ***Teaching Activities and Programs***

The Division of Quality and Medical Informatics has initiated a new Certificate Program in Health Information Technology, to begin January 2011. The Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences is offering the program in conjunction with Cornell University School of Continuing Education in Ithaca and Columbia University's Department of Biomedical Informatics (DBMI). The Program Directors are **Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**. Students will receive graduate-level training to support nationwide deployment of certified EHR technology to achieve meaningful use.

**Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and Gerard Marciano, RPA-C, MS, are Course Co-Directors of a new course in the Master of Science in Health Sciences for Physician Assistants Program, titled "Research Methodology and Application."

Department faculty and staff continue to direct and teach Medical College courses in New York City and Qatar (MPS III, Public Health Clerkship, sections of MPS I & II), the pre-medical program in Qatar, and the Master's in Clinical Investigation Program of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. The Office of Global Health Education, under the direction of **Madelon Finkel, PhD**,

provides opportunities for Weill Cornell Medical Students to study and do research abroad, and for international students to study at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Department faculty and staff also direct and teach biostatistics and epidemiology courses to students and residents at WCMC, and in various affiliate hospitals. In addition, Department faculty teach in the Perspectives on the Changing Healthcare Systems course for medical residents and conduct Intramural Educational Programs and Ethics Rounds on several services of New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

This year's Lorraine and Ralph Lubin Visiting Professor in Public Health was David Blumenthal, MD, MPP, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The entire day was very well received, especially his keynote speech at the David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium.

### *Clinical Programs*

**The Midtown Center for Treatment and Research** received renewed endorsement and increased funding from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (NYS OASAS).

Staff and patients of the **Vincent P. Dole Institute for Treatment and Research of Opiate Dependency Disorders** have been merged into the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Ambulatory Care Network.

The Weill Cornell Community Clinic, a medical student-run program that provides health services to uninsured New Yorkers, now also provides community programs and psychiatric services. **Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS, Ann Beeder, MD, and William Borden, MD, MBA,** are faculty liaisons for the clinic.

### **In Memoriam:**

#### **Dr. Mary Goss**

The Department of Public Health is sad to announce the death of **Mary E. Weber Goss, PhD,** Professor Emerita of Public Health, who died on June 23, 2010. Dr. Goss was a primary member of the Department from 1972 to 1992. Her influential work analyzing the organizational roles of physicians (published as *Physicians in Bureaucracy*) helped shape the emerging specialty of medical sociology. It was complemented by her contribution to the 1957 book *The Student Physician* that described innovative changes to the Comprehensive Care and Teaching Program for fourth-year medical students at Weill Cornell, such as introducing a public health and epidemiologic focus on diseases important to clinicians. As a medical sociologist, often in collaboration with Professor and former Department of Public Health Chairman George G. Reader, MD, she contributed to a wide range of studies on the delivery and effectiveness of medical care. For these and other contributions, she was honored in 2000 with the prestigious Leo G. Reeder Award from the Section of Medical Sociology of the American Sociological Association. Dr. Goss was a warm and intelligent woman who served as an excellent mentor to the younger faculty, especially to the women in the Department. She is also remembered fondly for her insight and wit, as well as for her exceptional editing abilities.

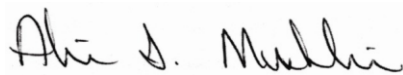
#### **Dr. Eugene McCarthy**

The Department of Public Health is further saddened to announce the death of **Eugene McCarthy, MD, MPH,** Clinical Professor Emeritus of Public Health, who died November 16, 2010. Dr. McCarthy, a Department faculty member since 1970, was a highly respected clinician, teacher and researcher and was a leading expert in the field of second opinion surgery and clinical cost containment. From 1982 through 2006, he was Director of Cornell University Medical College's Health Benefits Research Unit, the first national Second Opinion Panel, which included 28,000 Board Certified Surgeons. His work led to worldwide acknowledgement of the importance of second opinions for elective surgery and major clinical events.

Dr. McCarthy held other important positions as well, including Chief Health Advisor to the Government of Paraguay and Director of Paraguay's Health Services in the Alliance for Progress (a program created by President John F. Kennedy), and medical advisor to Senator Robert Kennedy of New York. He was also appointed by President Johnson as a member of the committee that formulated the regulations and policies of Medicare Part B—Physician Reimbursement. Among the honors he received were the Award of Merit from the Public Health Association of New York City and the Medallion de Ora from the Universidad Nacional de Asunción in Paraguay.

I hope you have found this letter useful. Please contact me if you would like to discuss anything we are doing. Attached is a partial list of the publications of our faculty from July 2009 to the present.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alvin I. Mushlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM  
Chairman  
The Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Public Health  
Professor of Medicine  
Weill Cornell Medical College  
Public Health Physician-in-Chief  
New-York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center



## Selected Publications, Weill Cornell Department of Public Health (July 2009-December 2010)

### *Books and Chapters*

**Laith J. Abu-Raddad**, Francisca Ayodeji Akala, Iris Semini, Gabriele Riedner, David Wilson, Ousama Tawil. *Characterizing the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in the Middle East and North Africa: Time for Strategic Action* (World Bank, 2010)

**Heejung Bang, Xi Kathy Zhou**, Heather L. Van Epps, and **Madhu Mazumdar**, editors. *Statistical Methods in Molecular Biology* (2010). Chapter authors include Dr. Bang, Dr. Mazumdar, **Samprit Banerjee**, and Jennifer Sousa Brennan.

**Heejung Bang, PhD**, “Introduction to Observational Studies.” **Hassan Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH**, and R. Scott Leslie, MPH, “Instrumental Variable Method for Addressing Selection Bias.” In *Analysis of Observational Healthcare Data Using SAS* (2010). **Andrew C. Leon, PhD**, Douglas E. Faries, PhD, Josep Maria Haro, MD, PhD, and Robert L. Obenchain, PhD., editors. SAS Institute, Inc.

Blinder V, **Mazumdar M**: “Public Policy Issues in Cancer Rehabilitation.” (Series Title: *Cancer Rehabilitation: Principles and Practice*; Publisher: demosMEDICAL, Editor: Stubblefield, MD and O’Dell M: Chapter 82;P 1055-56, 2009.

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**S. Monni**, H. Li. “Bayesian Methods for Network-Structured Genomics Data.” In *Frontiers of Statistical Decision Making and Bayesian Analysis, In Honor of James O. Berger*, Editors: M-H Chen, Peter Muller, Dongchu Sun, Keying Ye, Dipak K. Dey, 2010.

Curet, E., Joseph, H., **Beeder, A.**, “Inmates and prisoners with Co-occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorders.” In *Reentry Planning for Offenders with Mental Disorders*, Dlugacz, H.A., editor, Civic Research Institute, 2010.

**Madelon Finkel**, editor. *Public Health in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (3 volumes). (2010: Westport, CT: Praeger Press.) Preface by Dr. Skorton, contributions by many members of the Department, including **Marcus Reidenberg, Nathaniel Hupert, Wei Xiong, Madelon Finkel, Gilbert Botvin, Kenneth Griffin, Madhuvanti Murphy, Victor Sidel, William Borden, Abraham Bornstein, Stephen Lyman, Elena Elkin, Victoria Blinder, Madhu Mazumdar, Branden Aden, Eliot Lazar, Joseph Cook, Jessica Ancker, Lisa Dern, Vaishali Patel, Erika Abramson, Rainu Kaushal, Carla Boutin-Foster, Holly Atkinson, Inmaculada de Melo-Martin, and Heejung Bang.**

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**Fins JJ**. “Deep Brain Stimulation: Ethical Issues in Clinical Practice and Neurosurgical Research.” In *Neuromodulation*. Krames E, Peckham PH and Rezai A, editors. London: Elsevier, 2009. pp. 81-91.

**Fins JJ** and Nilson EG. “Ethical Issues: Withholding and Withdrawing Life-sustaining Care.” In *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine*. Hanks G, Cherny NI, Christakis NA, Fallon M, Kassa S, Portenoy RK, editors. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010. Section 5.6 pp. 320-329.

Jost, Timothy S. and **Lawrence P. Casalino**. 2010. “Value-based Purchasing Opportunities in Traditional Medicare: A Proposal and Legal Evaluation.” In *The Fragmentation of U.S. Health Care: Causes and Solutions*, pp. 201-220, ed. Einer R. Elhauge. New York: Oxford University Press.

Shortell, Stephen M, **Lawrence P Casalino**, and Elliott S Fisher. 2010. "Achieving the Vision: Structural Change." In *Partners in Health: How Physicians and Hospitals Can Be Accountable Together*, pp. 46-71, eds. Francis J. Crosson and Laura A. Tollen. San Francisco: Josey Bass.

**Botvin, G.J. & Griffin, K.W.** (In press). "Models of prevention: School-based programs." In P. Ruiz & E. Strain (Eds.) *Lowinson & Ruiz's Substance Abuse: A Comprehensive Textbook*, Fifth Edition. Baltimore: Lippincott, Williams, & Wilkins.

**Griffin, K.W.** "The epidemiology of substance use among adolescents and young adults: A developmental perspective." **Griffin, K.W. & Botvin, G.J.** "Advances in the science and practice of prevention: Targeting individual-level etiologic factors and the challenge of going to scale." In **L. M. Scheier**, editor. *Handbook of Drug Use Etiology: Theory, Methods, and Empirical Findings*. (Washington DC: American Psychological Association.)

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