



Department of Public Health Annual Letter October 2012

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are very pleased to share some of the developments and major activities of Weill Cornell's Department of Public Health over the past year. Although this letter does not attempt to include everything, we hope it illustrates the direction and demonstrates the importance of our work. The accomplishments are the results of 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 Medical College (Laurie Glimcher, MD; Michael Stewart, MD, MPH; and Stephen Cohen) and the Hospital (Steven Corwin, MD; Robert Kelly, MD; and Laura Forese, MD).

Awards and Distinctions

Department of Public Health faculty, programs, and research findings and products were widely recognized and awarded over the past year. Faculty members have been elected to many national societies and appointed to numerous positions of national leadership. They have also been recognized with other external or internal appointments, and have received internal and external awards and prizes for research, clinical service, teaching, or career contributions. In addition, faculty members were appointed to editorial boards of peer-reviewed journals.

Prizes and Special Recognition

Bianca Acevedo, PhD, was one of this year's 10 recipients of the Women in Science Award: Nurturing Nobels. The award ceremony took place March 8, 2012, International Women's Day, at the University College of London's Dana Centre in London, England.

Brandon Aden, MD, MPH, was nominated for the Ambulatory Care Network's 2011 Patient Centered Care Physician Champion Award for the excellent standard of care he provides to patients at the Vincent P. Dole Treatment and Research Institute.

A paper first-authored by **Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS**, and published in *Hypatia*, received the 2012 Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) Women's Caucus Prize for the best work in feminist philosophy of science in the previous five years. This prize will be awarded at the November meeting of the PSA in San Diego.

The American Diabetes Association (ADA) has chosen to replace its previous diabetes screening guideline with an algorithm that was developed and published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* by **Heejung Bang, PhD, Lisa Kern, MD, MPH, Alison Edwards, MStat, Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and colleagues. The research team had demonstrated that their model for selecting people for diabetes screening was more accurate in identifying those at high risk than the guidelines of the ADA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. The ADA officially changed its guideline in March 2012, and in the first two days it was live, 70,000 people took the new Risk Test. To take it yourself, go to www.diabetes.org and click on "Take the Risk Test."

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, received the Laureate Award from the New York Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP). He was recognized by Wesleyan University with a 2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award and was named Trustee Emeritus for Life. He was also selected for the

2012 edition of *Who's Who in America*, the 11th edition (2011-12) of *Who's Who in Science and Engineering*, and the 2011-12 edition of *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*.

The Global Health Education Program, directed by **Madelon Finkel, PhD**, was singled out as one of three exemplary programs by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) during their site visit to Weill Cornell Medical College last year.

A grant held by a group of investigators led by **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, titled "Developing and Testing Quality Measures for Interoperable Electronic Health Records," was featured as an "exemplary story" in a video made by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The story features the four-part process began in 2007 to generate and test the reliability of quality measures to be included in the "meaningful use" criteria.

Yan Ma, PhD, received an award for top abstract in the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine in September 2011.

A coalition of interdisciplinary researchers led by **Madhu Mazumdar, PhD**, and **Stavros Mentsoudis, MD, PhD**, was selected for the 2012 Team Science Award, in recognition of their success in translation of research discoveries pertaining to perioperative outcomes in orthopedic surgery into clinical practice. **Yan Ma, PhD**, **Ya-Lin Chiu, MS**, **Alison Edwards, MStat**, and **Xuming Sun, MS**, are also members of the team. The award is sponsored jointly by the American Federation of Medical Research (AFMR), the Association for Clinical Research Training (ACRT), the Association for Patient Oriented Research (APOR), and the Society for Clinical and Translational Science (SCTS). Among those in attendance at the award ceremony was Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, who applauded the team and announced enthusiasm for similar team developments at other institutions.

Dr. Mazumdar also completed her fellowship with the renowned Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program for Women (ELAM). The fellowship concluded in April with the 2012 Leaders Forum. This event brought together the fellows and their deans and featured a poster symposium highlighting the fellows' Institutional Action Projects. Dr. Mazumdar's project is titled "Taking Stock of Weill Cornell Graduates' Practice Patterns and Diversity Efforts." The purpose of her study was to examine the extent to which Weill Cornell Medical College graduates are meeting the nation's health care needs and the mission of the medical college.

Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS, MS, and **M. Carrington Reid, MD, PhD**, were nominated for a mHealth Award at the Medicine 2.0 2012 Conference based on their abstract, "Can Mobile Devices Improve Communication and Care Coordination for Older Patients with Chronic Pain? A Needs Assessment." The award is sponsored by Medicine 2.0 as well as iMedicalApps.com, an online publication that focuses on mHealth technologies for health professionals.

Matthew Simon, MD, was nominated as a finalist for the Lee B. Lusted student research prize at the Society of Medical Decision Making annual meeting for his project, "Cost-Effectiveness of Blood Donor Screening for Babesiosis in Endemic Regions."

Internal Appointments

Tara F. Bishop, MD, MPH, was appointed Director of Quality Improvement Operations for the Department of Medicine. In this role, she will mentor Department of Medicine quality improvement project leaders.

Gilbert Botvin, PhD, became Professor Emeritus of Psychology in Public Health. A member of the Cornell Medical College faculty since 1980, he was Chief of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior until June 30, 2012. Dr. Botvin is an internationally known behavioral scientist specializing in health behavior and its relationship to health promotion and disease prevention, and is widely acknowledged to be one of the leading experts in the world on tobacco, alcohol, and drug abuse prevention.

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS, has been appointed by Dean Laurie Glimcher to the newly created position of Assistant Dean for Faculty Diversity. **Rache M. Simmons, MD**, has also been appointed to this role. In their new positions, Dr. Boutin-Foster and Dr. Simmons will direct diversity

activities and initiatives throughout the Medical College, working closely with Dean Glimcher and Dr. Barbara L. Hempstead, Associate Dean for Faculty Development and Diversity.

Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, is co-chairing the new Weill Cornell Healthcare Leadership Fellows program with Michael J. Wolk, MD. Dean Laurie H. Glimcher established this joint program of Weill Cornell Medical College and the Weill Cornell Physician Organization to identify and foster the development of Weill Cornell's "leaders of tomorrow." The first five fellows—Tessa Cigler, MD, MPH, Peter Fleischut, MD, Fran Ganz-Lord, MD, Keith Hentel, MD, MS, and Robert Kim, MD—have begun the program.

Madelon Finkel, PhD, was named by Dean Glimcher to the Cornell University Internationalization Task Force as the representative for Weill Cornell Medical College. This university-wide faculty committee was formed in response to a white paper by Cornell President David Skorton titled "Bringing Cornell to the World and the World to Cornell." The task force was charged with articulating the future of international studies and engagement at Cornell. It released its report on October 11, 2012.

Kenneth Griffin, PhD, MPH, has been appointed Acting Chief of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior. Dr. Griffin is assuming leadership of the division from **Gilbert Botvin, PhD**, who is remaining active in the division as Professor Emeritus of Public Health.

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, has been appointed by Dean Glimcher to chair the Weill Cornell Medical College Committee for the CornellNYC Tech Campus, to be built on Roosevelt Island. The CornellNYC Tech Campus has already established seed funding and has issued a call for joint research proposals to promote research collaborations between Cornell and Technion faculty. The fund will also sponsor three joint research workshops in New York City during 2012.

Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, received a secondary appointment as Associate Professor of Public Health in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Mary Simmerling, PhD, has been appointed Assistant Dean for Research Integrity. In her new role, she will advise and assist with the Medical College's activities related to the Institutional Review Board (IRB), Conflicts Management, and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and will continue in the important role as Research Integrity Officer.

External Appointments and Elections; Editorial Board Appointments

William Borden, MD, was appointed as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, where he is working on health policy topics related to comparative clinical effectiveness research and to value-based purchasing.

Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, has been named a member of the Board of Trustees of the Health Research and Educational Trust (HRET) of the American Hospital Association (AHA). HRET's principal focus is on key strategic health care issues affecting innovative health care delivery systems, educating the field about the implications of changing health policies and developing strategies for community health improvement. Dr. Casalino has also been named a member of the AHA Committee on Research.

Inmaculada de Melo-Martín, PhD, MS, was elected in October 2011 to the Board of Directors of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities for 2011-2014. She has also been appointed to the Ethics Committee of the Empire State Stem Cell Board.

Jennifer Epstein, PhD, was appointed to the editorial board of *ISRN Public Health*, a new peer-reviewed, open-access journal that publishes original research articles, review articles, and clinical studies in all areas of public health.

Madelon Finkel, PhD, has been reappointed to the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Evaluation. This committee reviews the latest scientific evidence on the efficacy, safety, and cost effectiveness of medicines for the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines for adults and children.

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and as a Master of the American College of Physicians (MACP). He began serving a two-year term as President of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH), a position he was elected to in recognition of his major contributions to bioethics. In addition, he was elected Chair of the Fellows' Council of the Hastings Center's Board of Trustees.

Linda Gerber, PhD, served as an NIH Study Section Reviewer for a Special Emphasis Panel of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) review of "Reducing the Impact of Hypertension in Low and Middle Income Countries," which met on December 7, 2011.

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, was elected to the New York Academy of Medicine.

Stephen Lyman, PhD, Yan Ma, PhD, and Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM, were invited to serve as grant reviewers for the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

Ravinder Mamtani, MBBS, MD, MSc, and other researchers from the medical college and Qatar Foundation have teamed up with colleagues from the U.S., Germany, Uganda and India to launch the *Journal of Local and Global Health Perspectives*, a new peer-reviewed journal. This open-access resource will publish research on the effect and relationship between global health and local health issues.

Dr. Mamtani was also appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Global Education in Medicine Exchange (GEMx) program of the U.S. Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduate (ECFMG). GEMx aims to facilitate and promote international exchange in medical education in order to improve health care around the world.

In addition, **Dr. Mamtani** is serving a reappointment as a member of the New York State Board for Professional Medical Conduct of the New York State Department of Health.

Madhu Mazumdar, PhD, was elected Program Chair-Elect of the Section on Statistics in Epidemiology for the American Statistical Association.

Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM, and Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, were reappointed in May 2012 to serve additional terms on the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MEDCAC). Dr. Sedrakyan was also appointed a Vice Chair of MEDCAC.

Bruce Schackman, PhD, was elected Secretary-Treasurer Elect of the Society for Medical Decision Making. He was also on the advisory committee for the International Association of Physicians in AIDS Care (IAPAC) Consensus Statement entitled "Controlling the HIV Epidemic with Antiretrovirals: Treatment as Prevention and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis."

Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, was appointed Co-Chair of the Medical Devices Special Interest Group of the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE). The ISPE provides a forum for such areas as pharmacovigilance, drug utilization research, comparative effectiveness research, and therapeutic risk management.

Honored Talks; Conference Organization and Sponsorship

Madelon Finkel, PhD, co-hosted a conference on cervical cancer screening in Chennai, India, on August 18, 2012. Leaders in the field of cancer screening in India discussed logistics and economics of widespread implementation of low-tech cervical cancer screening in rural and urban India.

Dr. Finkel and Adam Law, MD, Attending Physician at Cayuga Medical Center and Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at WCMC, co-sponsored, with Physicians Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) and The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE), a conference on the "Epidemiologic and Public Health Considerations of Shale Gas Production." Dr. Finkel gave an invited lecture to the Eisenhower Institute in Gettysburg, PA, in April 2012 on the same topic.

Joseph Fins, MD, MACP, presented the Herbert Cohen Memorial Lecture at Columbia University Center for Bioethics on April 3, 2012, on "Rights Come to Mind: Brain Injury, Ethics and the Struggle for Consciousness." He spoke on the same topic at a special public lecture at the National Core for Neuroethics (Canada) at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver on March 16, 2012.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, co-directed (with Dr. Babak Pourbohloul, Head of Mathematical Modeling at the British Columbia Centers for Disease Control) a masters' class titled "From Data to

Decision: How to Integrate Modeling Methodologies to Inform Public Health Policy ” from May 30 to June 1, 2012, in Vancouver, British Columbia. This special meeting discussed strategies for applying quantitative modeling to critical public health operations. Dr. Hupert was also invited by the American Association of Chest Physicians (ACCP) to participate on its Task Force on Mass Critical Care for development of the 2012 ACCP Mass Critical Care Consensus Statement, to be published in the ACCP journal *Chest*. Dr. Hupert led several subgroups focused on Operational Systems.

Stephen Lyman, PhD, gave the keynote address to the 4th Annual Japanese Orthopaedic Society of Knee, Arthroscopy, & Sports Medicine meeting in Okinawa, Japan, on July 19, 2012.

Yan Ma, PhD, presented an invited talk titled “Recent developments in multivariate meta-analysis and a robust approach based on the theory of U-statistic” at the Applied Statistical Symposium in Boston, MA, in June 2012.

Ravinder Mamtani, MBBS, MD, MSc, organized a symposium held by Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar and co-hosted by Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Supreme Council of Health in November 2011 to discuss priorities to improve health care services in Qatar and the Middle East. One of the guest speakers was **Mohammed Al-Thani, MBBChB**, who spoke about the lessons learned in injury prevention in Qatar.

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD, was invited to participate in the Second Cambridge Consortium for Bioethics Education organized by Cambridge University Press and the *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*. Dr. Rodríguez del Pozo’s talk was titled “Breaking Ground Across Continents and Cultures.” He discussed experiences in bringing Cornell’s ethics curriculum to Qatar.

Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, was one of the keynote speakers at the 2012 China Outcomes Research & Evidence Based Medicine (CORE) Summit, held March 30-31, 2012, in Shanghai, China. Dr. Sedrakyan spoke on “CER, Registries and the Lifecycle of Product Evaluation.”

Teaching Awards

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, was selected as one of the two best overall teachers in the 1st year Pre-Medical curriculum in Qatar.

Cathleen Acres, RN, MA, received an Excellence in Teaching Award for her role in teaching MPS III: Clerkship in Clinical Ethics and Palliative Care.

Madelon Finkel, PhD, received her fourth Excellence in Teaching Award for her role in the Medicine, Patients and Society I (MPS I) curriculum. She is course director for the Biostatistics/Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine modules of MPS I.

Dr. Finkel was also selected by the WCMC Office of Faculty Diversity in Science and Medicine to receive the 2012 Bruce Laine Ballard, M.D. Award for Excellence in Mentorship. Dr. Ballard, now retired, was the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Equal Opportunity Programs.

Ziyad Mahfoud, PhD, received an Excellence in Teaching Award for his role in Medicine, Patients and Society I in Qatar.

Ronald Riner, MD, received an Excellence in Teaching Award for his role as a lecturer in the Public Health Clerkship in Health Care Systems.

Promotions

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

Primary Appointments

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, Associate Professor/Qatar

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, Professor/Frances & John L. Loeb Professor of Medical Informatics

Dual Faculty

Ethan Basch, MD, MSc, Associate Professor

Larry Liu, MD, PhD, Associate Professor

Stavros Memtsoudis, MD, PhD, FCCP, Professor

Staff

Jayne Mendelsohn, MPH, Research Coordinator
Shangaza Walcott, Grants Administrator

New Faculty and Staff

During the past year, **William Borden, MD, MPH, Todd Loftus, MD, Ankur Pandya, PhD, MPH, Michael Pesko, PhD, Daniel Stein, MD, PhD, Mark Unruh, PhD, MS, and Joshua Vest, PhD, MPH**, joined the Department of Public Health with primary faculty appointments in the Department.

A number of Ithaca faculty members received appointments in the Department of Public Health: **Patricia Cassano, PhD, John Eckenrode, PhD, John Paul Meade, PhD, and Valerie Reyna, PhD. Deborah Estrin, PhD**, will join the department on January 1, 2013.

The following faculty members received appointments in the Department of Public Health in addition to their primary positions in other departments at WCMC or in other organizations: **Abraham Aragonés, MD, MS, Lisa Diamond, MD, MHS, MPH, Peter Goldstein, MD, Julia Landa, PhD, MS, Richard Lee, MD, Jennifer Leng, MD, Roger Longman, MA, Andrew Meltzer, MD, Stavros Memtsoudis, MD, PhD, FCCP, Ronald Rinier, MD, and Mohammad Waseem, MD, MS, FAAP.**

The Department also welcomes new staff members **Zhengming Chen, PhD, MPH, MS, Reyna Kahane, MSW, Charles Li, MA, and Barbara Pohl, MA.**

New Grants (Department faculty and staff in bold type)

Department faculty and staff have attracted significant governmental, foundation, and institutional funding for their research. Following are some of the projects that were awarded or began since July 1, 2011:

Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD, completed a subcontract to the Institute for Family Health, a multi-site community health center in New York State, for the project titled “MEDLINEplus Connect Usage Analysis.” The grant was funded by the University of Pittsburgh.

Ann Beeder, MD, and the **Midtown Center for Treatment and Research** were awarded a new 3-year contract from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to provide drug treatment services to vulnerable populations.

Tara Bishop, MD, MPH, received a Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award from the National Institute on Aging. The grant is titled “Hospital Employment of Physicians and the Quality of Care for Older Adults.” She will examine physician practices that are owned by hospitals versus those that are owned by physicians, and differences in the quality of care delivered to older adults.

Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of “Transforming the Primary Care Team Workday,” sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund. This project includes Co-Investigators **Matthew Press, MD, MSc**, and **Tara Bishop, MD, MPH**. He is also leading “Exploring How Small Physician Practices Can Achieve Higher-Quality, Lower-Cost Care,” also from the Commonwealth Fund. Both of these studies run from 2011 to 2013.

Dr. Casalino is also the Principal Investigator of “Examining Processes Implemented to Reduce Administrative Costs of Interactions between Health Care Providers and Insurance Plans,” sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). This project will suggest processes that could be used to reduce the very high administrative costs of interactions between health care providers and insurance plans. Department Co-Investigators include **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, Curtis Cole, MD, and Lisa Kern, MD, MPH**. Dr. Casalino is also the PI of RWJF-funded “Identifying Physician Practice Communities and Their Impact on the Quality and Cost of Care.” The goals of this project are to identify physician referral networks and to analyze their associations with the cost and quality of care.

Jennifer Epstein, PhD, in conjunction with Dr. Charles Hughes of the University of Central Florida, has been awarded \$500,000 from the National Science Foundation for a 3-year study, “Reducing Alcohol Use among College Students Using Virtual Role Playing,” via a web-based prevention program.

Joseph Fins, MD, is the Principal Investigator and mentor for a pilot award from the Weill Cornell CTSC for **Alexandra Suppes, PhD**, for a project titled “Surrogates and the Injured Self: How Surrogates Make Decisions for Patients with Disorders of Consciousness.”

Judith Fontana, PhD, was awarded a fellowship from the Stony Wold-Herbert Foundation for the fiscal year 2012-2013. Dr. Fontana works in the lab of **Mirella Salvatore, MD**, who is the sponsor and mentor for Dr. Fontana’s fellowship.

Linda Gerber, PhD, and **Matthew Press, MD, MSc**, are Co-Principal Investigators, and **Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD**, is a Co-Investigator, on a grant from the Aetna Foundation titled “Hospital Readmission and Communication between Home Health Nurses and Physicians.” They are examining communication between home health nurses and outpatient physicians and its association with hospital readmission. Visiting Nurse Service of New York colleagues **Penny Feldman, PhD**, and Timothy Peng, PhD, are collaborating on this study.

Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH, has been awarded a renewed contract with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for preparedness modeling. Dr. Hupert is leading projects on detection and response to special pathogens such as Bacillus anthracis; resource modeling for public health and medical response to emergency scenarios; and logistical capability after detection of disease outbreaks.

Dr. Hupert has also been awarded a contract with the Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) to create a computer model to reduce postoperative infection for spinal surgery. The goal is to identify promising targets for infection-reduction interventions for patients undergoing spinal surgeries.

Stephen Johnson, PhD, was awarded a subcontract from Ohio State University for a 4-year NIH-funded study titled “An Information Fusion Approach to Longitudinal Health Records.”

Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH, is the Principal Investigator of the “Evaluation of the Healthcare Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers Capital Grant Program (HEAL NY)–Phase 17,” funded by the New York State Department of Health to expand and evaluate health information technology and information exchange. **Lisa Kern, MD, MPH, Mark Unruh, PhD, MS, and Joshua Vest, PhD, MPH**, are Co-Investigators. Work on this 2-year project began in January 2012.

Dr. Kaushal is also the Principal Investigator of a project to evaluate the impact of HIT at Denver Health in Colorado. The project is funded by Siemens Corporation. **Drs. Jessica Ancker and Thomas Champion** are also Investigators.

Dr. Kaushal is also the PI of a subcontract from the Bronx Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) for a project titled “Bronx Self-Evaluation and Performance Assessment Plan,” funded by the U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). She and other members of the Division of Quality and Medical Informatics were also awarded a 2-year service agreement titled “HITEC Plan for State-Level Program Evaluation,” funded by New York eHealth Collaborative. She also led a training agreement with Excellus Health Plan, Inc.

Joshua Richardson, PhD, MLIS, received seed funding from the Weill Cornell CTSC for his study, “A Needs Assessment of Older Adults to Develop a Wearable Chronic Pain Monitor.” He also received seed funding from Technion/Cornell Tech for his study, “Situation-Based Patient Data Privacy Management for Mobile Health Technology.”

Mirella Salvatore, MD, was awarded a grant from the Feldstein Medical Foundation for her project titled “Targeted Vector Delivery for Rapid Protection from Infectious Diseases.” The study will develop and test novel immunotherapy approaches for influenza.

Bruce Schackman, PhD, was awarded a 3-year R01 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled “Quality of Life Outcomes in Prescription and Injection Opioid Dependence.” Results will provide quality of life estimates and guidance for cost-effectiveness and comparative effectiveness studies of opioid dependence treatment.

Dr. Schackman received a new sub-award for a 5-year grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse titled “Intensive Models of HCV Care for Injection Drug Users.” The Principal Investigator is Alain Litwin, MD, MPH, of Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In this study patients from methadone clinics will be randomized to one of three models of hepatitis C care: directly observed therapy;

concurrent group treatment; or standard care. Dr. Schackman and **Jared Leff, MS**, will oversee cost data collection and analyze the costs of delivering care in the study.

Dr. Schackman is also the Principal Investigator for a sub-award of a 4-year grant to Benjamin Linas, PhD, at Boston Medical Center titled “Simulation Modeling to Improve HIV/HCV Screening, Treatment and Care.” This project is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Schackman will guide the development of cost estimates for the model, and work on analyses of the impact of improved health services delivery on outcomes for HCV and HIV/HCV co-infected individuals.

Art Sedrakyan, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator for a major federal contract awarded to Weill Cornell Medical College by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to establish the Medical Device Epidemiology Network (MDEpiNet) Science and Infrastructure Center. The Center will help develop a national roadmap for Unique Device Identification (UDI) implementation and to support the International Consortium of Orthopedic Registries (ICOR). Both initiatives will assist the FDA in advancing the regulatory science to improve the safety and effectiveness of medical devices.

Dr. Sedrakyan also recently received a 5-year U01 grant from the FDA to support the creation of a major innovative initiative/program on medical countermeasures within the Medical Device Epidemiology Network (MDEpiNet).

New Qatar Grants

Pablo Rodríguez del Pozo, MD, PhD, JD, and **Ziyad Mahfoud, PhD**, are Principal Investigators for “Finding Alternatives to Obtaining Patient Informed Consent in Qatar: A Pilot Study.” The project, funded by WCMC/Q, is exploring culturally appropriate ways to obtain valid, fully informed consent from patients and research subjects in Qatar.

Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD, is the Principal Investigator on a 3-year grant from the Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) titled “Characterizing the HIV/AIDS Epidemics in the Middle East and North Africa: Systematic Reviews and Quantitative Assessment.”

Dr. Abu-Raddad is also the Principal Investigator on a 3-year grant from the QNRF titled “Understanding the Sexual Network Determinants of the Epidemiology of Sexually Transmitted Infections: Quantitative Assessment.” This grant starts November 1, 2012.

Ravinder Mamtani, MBBS, MD, MSc, is the Co-PI on grants from the QNRF for obesity research. The first is titled “Obesity in the Qatari Population: Public Health and Genomic/Proteomic Perspectives.” The second is “Nanotechnologies and Treatment of Obesity: From Polymeric Nanoparticle-Based Recruitment of Adipose Stem Cells Toward Autologous Cell-Based Therapy.”

Educational Programs

Fellows, Residents, and Postdoctoral Associates

The General Preventive Medicine Residency Program trains physicians to be preventive medicine researchers. **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, is the Program Director, and **Brandon Aden, MD, MPH**, is the Associate Program Director. Residents typically enter the program with a specific research interest and are paired with a faculty mentor. The program now also has a new clinical component. **Matthew Simon, MD**, and **Katherine Van Oss, MD**, are the current General Preventive Medicine residents.

The Division of Quality and Medical Informatics has continued its Fellowship Program in Health Care Quality and Medical Informatics Research. The current fellows are **Samantha Brenner, MD, MPH**, **Cori Green, MD, MS**, and **Zachary Grinspan, MD**. The program is directed by **Erica Abramson, MD, MS**, **Lisa Kern, MD, MPH**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**.

The Division of Medical Ethics is sponsoring public health fellow **Andrew Shuman, MD**, who is completing a dual fellowship in medical ethics and in head and neck surgical oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. The division also continues to sponsor **Alexandra Suppes, PhD**, Postdoctoral Associate in Medical Ethics, who is working with **Joseph Fins, MD**, and **Nicholas Schiff, MD**.

Nobuaki (Noble) Nakaya, MD, is a Visiting Fellow in the Division of Community and Public Health Programs. Also in the Division of Community and Public Health Programs, **Mirella Salvatore, MD**, continues to supervise Postdoctoral Fellow **Judith Fontana, PhD**.

Sandra Hurtado Rúa, PhD, MS, is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology.

Bianca Acevedo, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior.

Douglas Noble, MD, is a new Visiting Fellow in Public Health/Harkness Fellow, funded by the Commonwealth Fund. Dr. Noble is working in the Division of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research.

In Qatar, Biologist/Epidemiologist **Diego Cuadros, PhD**, is a Postdoctoral Associate working with **Laith Abu-Raddad, PhD**.

Department Seminars

The Department offers Grand Rounds and Divisional Seminars to the Medical College community. The Divisions of Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, Health Policy, and Quality and Medical Informatics sponsor a Joint Research-in-Progress Seminar Series. The theme of this year's Division of Medical Ethics Seminar Series is "Perspectives in Bioethics and Humanities." The focus of the Research-in-Progress Seminars of the Division of Prevention and Health Behavior is on psychological aspects of health and wellness, and behavioral factors associated with the management of chronic disease. The Division of Community and Public Health Programs offers Research and Clinical Rounds on diseases of concern to public health. The Division of Biostatistics and Epidemiology Research Seminar Series features talks by internal faculty members as well as invited external speakers. Our research staff lead an ongoing series of software tutorials, including instruction in Microsoft Excel and Access. Please continue to check our website:

http://www.weill.cornell.edu/publichealth/about_us/calendar_of_events.html for updates to our seminar schedule.

Teaching Activities and Programs

Department faculty and staff direct and teach Medical College courses in New York City and Qatar, including sections of MPS I (Evidence-Based Medicine, Introduction to Epidemiology and Biostatistics) & II (Introduction to the U.S. Healthcare System, Public Health and Community Medicine, Medical Ethics), MPS III (Medical Ethics), the 4th-year Public Health Clerkship, and other medical topics. They also teach in the pre-medical program in Qatar, and the Master's in Clinical Investigation Program of the Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. In addition, they direct and teach courses in research methodology and biostatistics and epidemiology to students in the graduate school and physician assistants program, as well as to residents and faculty at WCMC and in various affiliate hospitals. Department faculty also teach in the Perspectives on the Changing Healthcare Systems course for medical residents and conduct Ethics Rounds on several services of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

With funding from a supplement to the Weill Cornell Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC) grant from the National Institutes of Health received by **Alvin Mushlin, MD, ScM**, and Julianne Imperato-McGinley, MD, the department now offers three new elective courses in the Master's in Clinical Investigation degree focusing on comparative effectiveness research (CER): **Lawrence Casalino, MD, PhD**, and **Andrew Ryan, PhD, MA**, direct and teach "Study Design & Methods for CER." **Hassan Ghomrawi, PhD, MPH**, and **Nathaniel Hupert, MD, MPH**, direct and teach "Decision Analysis in Health Care." **Ashley Eggman, MS**, also teaches in this course. **Stephen Johnson, PhD**, and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH**, direct and teach "Analysis of Patient Care Data for CER."

The Weill Cornell Health IT Certificate Program of the Division of Quality and Medical Informatics prepares students to enter professional positions in health information management and exchange. It is funded by the federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT. The division, through the Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy (CHiP), is now accepting applications for a new

Master of Science in Health Informatics program, to begin January 2013, which will prepare students for careers at the intersection of health and information technology. **Jessica Ancker, MPH, PhD, Stephen Johnson, PhD,** and **Rainu Kaushal, MD, MPH,** direct the educational programs of the Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy (CHiP).

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. This past year the program was honored as one of three exemplary programs by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) during its site visit.

Dr. Finkel and Helen-Ann Brown Epstein, MLS, presented courses on Evidence-Based Medicine to residents and faculty at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Center in Cochin, India, as well as to medical school faculty at UNESP, the State University of São Paulo, Brazil.

In addition, **Bruce Schackman, PhD,** and **April Kimmel, PhD,** co-taught the MPH short course “Health Outcomes and Cost-Effectiveness” with Sergot Jacob, PhD, at Université Quisqueya in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in February 2012 as part of a GHESKIO-Weill Cornell research training collaboration. This course, taught periodically, introduces basic research methods used to evaluate health outcomes and conduct cost-effectiveness analyses.

Peter Bach, MD, MAPP, Director of the Center for Health Policy and Outcomes at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Professor of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College, was the Department of Public Health’s 2012 Lorraine and Ralph Lubin Distinguished Visiting Professor. He presented his keynote speech, “Intrinsically Incompatible: Comparative Effectiveness Research and Cost Containment,” at the David Rogers Health Policy Colloquium.

Clinical Programs

In partnership with the Headstrong Project, the department now offers a PTSD program for combat veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Services are provided at the **Midtown Center for Treatment and Research.** **Ann Beeder, MD,** is the Program Director and **Gerard Ilaria, LCSW-R,** is the Director of Operations and Administration.

The Midtown Center also offers services for chemically dependent individuals, including its Suboxone Program for patients with prescription pain killer and/or opiate addiction.

The Employee Assistance Program Consortium (EAPC) offers free, confidential, short-term counseling and referral services to employees and dependents of the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, The Rockefeller University, and Weill Cornell Medical College.

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MS, is the Interim Medical Director of the medical student-run Weill Cornell Community Clinic, which provides medical and psychiatric services to uninsured New Yorkers. Dr. Boutin-Foster, **Ann Beeder, MD, J. Emilio Carrillo, MD,** and **Oliver Fein, MD,** are on the clinic’s Faculty Advisory Board.

The department is also involved in many clinical activities through the Weill Cornell Physicians Organization and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Faculty collaborate on initiatives to improve practice organization, quality of care, patient safety, and clinical resource utilization. Through the **Center for Healthcare Informatics and Policy (CHiP),** faculty work to develop and assess innovative IT methods and applications. Physician faculty see patients and supervise residents in WCIMA. **The Division of Medical Ethics** provides ethics consultations for patients at NYPH and their families. Department faculty also partner in Weill Cornell Medical College’s public health preparedness initiatives. In addition to their work in department-run clinical programs, faculty of the **Division of Community and Public Health Programs** direct and see patients at the **Vincent P. Dole Institute of Treatment and Research** of the NYP Ambulatory Care Network.

In Memoriam:

Andrew Leon, PhD

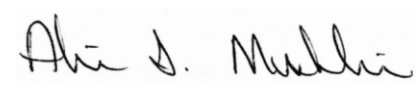
The Department of Public Health is saddened by the death of Andrew Leon, PhD, who died February 18, 2012, at his home near the Poconos in Pennsylvania. Dr. Leon was a Professor of Biostatistics in Psychiatry and Professor of Public Health at Weill Cornell Medical College. A member of the Weill Cornell faculty for nearly 25 years, Dr. Leon was a unique leader in the field of psychiatry with international recognition for his expertise in novel and advanced clinical trial design and analysis for psychiatric treatments. He used his expertise in applied biostatistics to translate research findings into clinical meaningful information invaluable to clinicians, researchers, and policy makers. He contributed to the field through his many publications and presentations and served as a consultant to the pharmaceutical industry and governmental agencies including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Leon's intelligence and truly gracious spirit made him respected and beloved by his many friends and colleagues across the nation and abroad. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Dr. Leon's wife Yuki Okuma and daughter Angelica.

Michael Carden, MPH

The Department of Public Health will also miss Michael Carden, MPH, who died April 9, 2012. Mr. Carden was a strong advocate for harm reduction and the health needs of people who inject drugs. He worked with Dr. Brian Edlin for eight years, first at the Center for the Study of Hepatitis C at Weill Cornell Medical College and then at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. Mr. Carden directed CHOICES (the Collaborative Hepatitis Outreach and Integrated Care Evaluation Study), an NIH-funded project evaluating the effectiveness of a pioneering intensive case management program that he developed to deliver integrated multidisciplinary hepatitis C care, including antiviral treatment, to active drug users. He chaired of the Board of Directors of New York Harm Reduction Educators (NYHRE) and served as Past President of the National Hepatitis C Advocacy Council. He was on the Board of Trustees of the Washington Heights CORNER Project (WHCP) and served on the Steering Committee for the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable, the Hepatitis C Fair Pricing Coalition, and the Hepatitis C Community Advisory Board, where he provided input to pharmaceutical companies regarding their antiviral drug development programs and their impact on the poor and the underserved. The department offers heartfelt condolences to Mr. Carden's family, friends, and clients.

I hope you have found this letter useful and interesting. Please contact me if you would like to discuss anything our Department is doing. Attached is a partial list of the publications of our faculty and staff from July 2011 to October 2012.

Sincerely,



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 2011-October 2012)

Journal Articles

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