Weill Cornell Community Service Program

Report

2009 - 2010

WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

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2009 – 2010

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Community Service Advisory Board

The Weill Cornell Community Service Program (WCCSP) Advisory Board (“Board”) is comprised of members of the New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH)–Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) Community who are committed to the practice of community service as an integral part of medical students’ education. Throughout the year, the Board members make themselves available to support students’ service efforts. The WCCSP holds two Advisory Board meetings annually where approximately twenty medical students, faculty, and staff members meet to discuss community service at Weill Cornell.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, the Board discussed how the successful Activities Fair was held on September 21st and had over 30 service- and non-service based programs in attendance. On October 20th, participants at the Project Medical Education were shown the difference aspects of life at the medical college including community service. A brief history and overview of the program was given and the coordinators from HPREP, Camp Phoenix, and the Weill Cornell Community Clinic discussed their programs. It was noted that the participants particularly enjoyed hearing from the students discussing their programs directly.

The virtual food drive was once again established and a broadcast email was sent to the entire student body and staff at the medical college. Over $900.00 was raised. Discussions of the need and feasibility on redesigning the community service’s website began and was determined further discussions are needed.

Other topics discussed were how to access additional sources to apply for grants for Camp Phoenix, a new program called Movement Against Childhood Obesity (MACHO) was introduced, and updates were given on the Grand Central Clinic, HPREP, Weill Cornell Community Clinic, and the Weill Cornell Youth Scholars Program.

Under the direction of Dr. Miller, the designation of M.D. with Honors in Service is printed on the diploma of students who have demonstrated an exceptional dedication to community service and submitted a scholarly paper judged worthy of being awarded the distinction. The first recipients were in the class of 2005 and a list of the 2010 recipients is presented below.
Congratulations to the 2010 M.D. with Honors in Service Recipients

Amy Downing
Denise Fernandez
Raquel Ferrer
Allison Shulman
Gunisha Singh
“We need to reclaim what we have for too long ignored and neglected: the opportunity for active and meaningful engagement in our own communities...” – Bill Shore

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception in 1989, the Weill Cornell Community Service Program (WCCSP) has been a resource for many of the medical students to become active and stay involved in servicing their community. The hard work and commitment of our medical students does not end at graduation. Many of the newly appointed MDs continue to donate their time and services to the greater community of New York City and beyond. It is very common for alumni to continue contributing to our service programs in many ways. This type of involvement is a longstanding tradition here at the Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC).

The WCCSP initiatives continue to expand and new projects emerge as students tap into their creativity to find new and innovative ways to teach and serve New York City. They work in partnership with their peers, the New York Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), and local city agencies to address many of the pressing medical and social concerns of today’s world, among which are: teen pregnancy, homelessness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, illiteracy, mentorship for our youth, healthcare for uninsured adults, and the pervasive lack of basic health information.

Students also learn and grow from their volunteer experiences. When exposed to the needs of their community, they are more likely to become compassionate and aware physicians sensitized to the special needs of the underserved. They increase their ability to communicate with others, witness the real-life effects of disease, integrate application with their theoretical studies, and gain a greater appreciation of how cross-cultural differences impact their delivery of service. They gain much by generously giving of themselves.

The WCCSP facilitates the operation of volunteer projects by channeling the talents, energy, and creativity of the medical student community into existing agency programs and Weill
Cornell-developed programs. It also provides administrative support to the volunteer projects in which students participate.

**PARTICIPATION**

The Office of Community Service aims to provide support to our medical students and the wide range of service opportunities in which they’re involved in and make their volunteer experiences as rich and meaningful as possible. An old Chinese proverb states: “Teach me, and I will forget. Show me, and I will remember. Involve me, and I will understand.” This is the profound feeling that we have for our medical students and their dedication to community service. Being involved during their medical school careers will only build on their strength and knowledge, and in turn make them superior physicians.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, about 255 students dedicated their time and energy to at least one community service initiative. A majority of the participants were first- and second-year medical students, but a dedicated group of third- and fourth-year medical and M.D./Ph.D. students also took time out of their intense clinical rotations and research studies, respectively, to assist in various initiatives. Weill Cornell Medical College faculty, staff members, and alumni have also taken the time to give lectures, train and supervise medical students, and support student service efforts in many other capacities.

The accompanying chart represents how many medical students were reported to have volunteers in the various community service programs at Weill Cornell Medical College. In recent years, the average amount of volunteers has been estimated to be 200. However, there was a 50% increase in the number of volunteers between 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, approximately. A possible reason for this increase may be due to more names of volunteers being reported.

No data of how many medical students who participated in the community service programs were recorded during 1991-1993 and 2000-2004.
RECRUITMENT

The Community Service Representatives (CSRs) play a pivotal role in gauging their classmates’ interests in volunteering and the endeavors they wish to support. The CSRs have organized food, clothing and toy drives at different times throughout the year. Each spring, first year students either volunteer or are elected to coordinate the major community service projects for the following year. These project coordinators, along with the Coordinator for the Office of Community Service, Community Service Chairs of various student organizations, and CSRs, are responsible for the recruitment of participants throughout the year.

Recruitment of the incoming class begins at the Community Service Fair, held annually in September. The Fair gives the new class of medical, physician assistant, and graduate students their first comprehensive introduction to the Office of Community Service and the entire student organizations represented on campus. Representatives of the many student-run volunteer projects are available to explain each project and to collect names of interested students. The Fair was held on September 21, 2009.
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS

The community service programs encompass a variety of programs that are child-oriented (i.e. Camp Phoenix and HPREP), interest group-oriented (i.e. Pediatric Interest Group and Geriatric Interest Group), one-day events (i.e. food and disaster relief drives), and organizations’ activities (i.e. SNMA, LMSA, and SEOM).

The accompanying diagram depicts the number of community service groups that were active, non-active, and new per academic year. In recent years, medical students have coordinated and participated in approximately 26 programs per academic year, 1 new program have started, and 6 programs have become inactive. The main reasons that students have given for the inactivity of programs is due to lack of medical students participating in the program and one-day events not being replicated in subsequent years.

No data regarding the activities of the active community service programs and if there were any non-active programs were recorded during 2000-2004.
Project Summaries

Child and Adolescent Outreach & Education Projects

Big Buddies
2009-2010 Coordinators: Lindsay Fourman, ‘12 Megan Riddle, ‘12
Jeffrey Johnson, ‘12 Stephanie Samuels, ‘12

The primary purpose of this program is for volunteers to be caring friends and consistent role models for younger children. Modeled after the Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, this organization seeks to pair students with children from the Pediatric Outpatient Clinic in the Helmsley Tower at the NYPH and/or their siblings. Eight-year-olds to late teenagers are recruited about twice a year and paired with the volunteers with similar interests and in same-sex pairs. Each pair meets individually once a month for activities within the New York City area, which ranges from museum trips to sporting events. Through these interactions, the Big Buddy will provide individual attention to the child, assist with boosting self-esteem, and serving as a positive role model. The Big Buddies will become acquainted with children of different backgrounds and lifestyles, some very different from their own, and introduces these future physicians to their role as child advocates. The mentorship is set up for one year, but it could be extended to encompass the volunteers’ time at Weill Cornell. The program hosts an annual gathering to introduce new buddy pairs and celebrate old ones.

Over this past academic year, the Big Buddies was largely inactive due this past academic year due to the lack of volunteers in the program. However, Big Buddies had a recruitment ice cream social in April 2010 in order to recruit first-year medical students as mentors.

Camp Phoenix

There has been collaboration on many fronts to make Camp Phoenix vision a reality. The mission was to create fun activities for pediatric burn survivors in a camp environment in order to facilitate the healing of emotional scars, which often persist well after the child has left the confines of the hospital. The activities are designed to build self-confidence, emphasize teamwork, initiate friendships, and to have fun. It is important to give each child the opportunity to normalize their outlook on life without any physical or social limitations.
Positive interactions between children with similar experiences can help replace a child’s feelings of isolation and resentment with encouragement, understanding, and comfort.

During this past year, Camp Phoenix sponsored three one-day events held in November, February, and March and one weekend-long trip in June. The one-day events begin in mid-morning with volunteers leading icebreaker games. The activities they take part in range from pick-up basketball games and painting to more elaborate projects such as making ice cream and balloon animals and campers are rotated through the various activities. While the campers are enjoying the various activities, parents are encouraged to stay and interact with other parents and participate in workshops offered by the staff at the New York Presbyterian Hospital and other community organizations or certified individuals. On December 6th, a holiday theme party was held at Olin Hall for the campers. A music theme day event was also held at Olin Hall on April 3rd where the campers made musical instruments during arts and crafts. On May 27th, Camp Phoenix held a benefit at Phoenix Park Bar to raise funds. The benefit had live music, outdoor beer garden, door prizes, and a silent auction of jewelry from Tiffany’s and a round-trip plane ticket on American Airlines. Between the donations received and the silent auction, $3070.00 was raised.

This past year’s overnight weekend event took place on the weekend of June 11th-13th, 2010 at Camp Taconic in Hinsdale, Massachusetts with about 45 campers and 28 volunteers. Campers had a great time participating in arts and crafts, soccer, swimming, baseball, basketball, canoeing, and the rope course challenges. Throughout the weekend, cheers are utilized to motivate campers and build team spirit, eventually culminating in the Camp Phoenix Messy Olympics.

**Cornell Kids**

2009-2010 Coordinators:  
*Ansara Vaz ‘12  Chad Ishmael, ‘12*

Cornell Kids is an interactive science learning and mentoring project in which the members of the Student National Medical Association (see Student Organizations) teach a group of 30-45 sixth to seventh grade students from the East Harlem School in Manhattan about the basic functioning of the body. Teaching sessions are held once a month on Friday afternoons, from January through May. The initial session introduces the students to their tutors/mentors and to the medical center.
For a couple of hours, the Cornell Kids come to the Medical College and are taught basic physiology, pathology, and anatomy of the various organ systems with the use of a booklet that students can use to follow along during the lesson and study from it in between lessons. Topics include the circulatory, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. They also participated in an Anatomy lab where they can apply what they learned in class and hear about the needs and value of medical research. After each topic, the Kids are given a quiz to assess their knowledge. At the end of the program, each participant is awarded with a certificate of achievement. Every year the new group of students arrive excited and eager to learn because of the fun and innovative teaching methods designed by the medical students.

This past year, Cornell Kids continued to provide the students from East Harlem School with an early exposure to the basic sciences of medicine and knowledge that can be applied to everyday living. The program also aimed to help stimulate the students into pursuing a career related to medicine and biomedical sciences and provide them with examples of physicians and scientists they could relate to.

**Go For Health**

*2009-2010 Coordinators: Yumi Ando, ’12 Hal Kronsberg, ’12 Stephanie Samuels, ’12*

Go For Health endeavors to educate fifth grade students from the East Harlem School about nutrition, exercise, and health to help combat childhood obesity. It utilizes a curriculum that stresses the importance of health while being interactive once a week for three weeks. This past year, volunteers acted as mentors for low-income, obese children who were involved in an exercise/nutrition program in Health 4 Life by attending meetings with them and providing encouragement via phone calls. One of the lectures for the High School Health Profession Recruitment/Exposure Program (HPREP) was a Go For Health workshop on healthy eating habits, exercise, and preventable diseases related to minority populations. The group plans to continue to work with elementary schools, work with the Big Buddies program as mentors, and continue to mentor with the Health 4 Life program at the Department of Pediatrics in New York Presbyterian Hospital.
High School Health Profession Recruitment/Exposure Program (HPREP)

High School Health Profession Recruitment/Exposure Program was created by the Student National Medical Association (see Student Organizations) to address the issue of the declining enrollment rates of underrepresented groups in medical school. It is a ten-week program held on Friday afternoons beginning in January. Minority high school students will hear minority physicians speak on a wide range of medical issues and work in small groups with medical students on gross pathology of the heart, blood pressure techniques, and disease processes in organs. In addition, students participate in practical workshops discussing the college application process, how to write a research paper, applying for financial aid, and writing a personal statement. At the end of the program, each student participant is required to submit a six-to-eight page paper on a pre-approved subject. The student with the best paper is awarded a $500 book scholarship for college. The 2010 book scholarship recipient attends the Cathedral High School in Bronx, New York. Each participant who completes the program receives a letter of recommendation and a certificate of completion.

The program assigns a medical student to be a small group leader (SGL) to two or more participants. The leaders work with their mentees to offer guidance as they write their research papers, essays for college, and the college application itself. Small group leaders run the group workshops and work with students to realize their academic and career goals. Many program participants continue to seek advice from their group leaders after the program has ended. In 2010, there were 71 participants and 67 students successfully completed the program.

Kids in Cancer Support Program (KICS)
2009-2010 Coordinators: Alison Lenet, ’12 Mariel Smith, ’12

The KICS is a student-run program designed to provide children and adolescents in the hematology-oncology service an opportunity to form a close, consistent relationship with someone outside of their treatment team. The pediatric oncology team interviews medical students and personally matches them with patients interested in having a buddy. Once a patient is matched, the student will make the initial contact with the patient during a clinic visit. The student will primarily keep the patient company during their clinic visits and
inpatient stays by, but not limited to, hanging out, chatting, playing games, and watching movies. The family and patient can determine the student’s level of involvement. In addition, the KICS program also organizes occasional parties during clinic hours for all patients to enjoy. During the 2009-2010 academic year, KICS hosted a pizza party in January 2010 for the children as well as engaging them with arts and crafts.

**Pediatric Interest Group (PedIG)**


Pediatric Interest Group is an organization that focuses on recognizing both the medical and psychosocial needs of children. First- and second-year medical students help staff the playroom at the New York Presbyterian Hosp by involving and assisting children with various games and activities. Working with the Burn Unit, medical students read to the pediatric inpatients that are unable to leave their rooms. Volunteers also celebrated Christmas with the patients by organizing and hosting a party. PedIG also invites guest lecturers from various pediatric organizations to speak on relevant subjects to enhance the education of medical students. Medical specialties and/or social and public health issues involving children are topics usually discussed.

This past year, PedIG sponsored Pediatric Research Day, the Christmas Party, and a conversation with the Chairman of the Pediatrics Department at NYPH, Dr. Gerald Loughlin, and a Valentine’s Day Workshop for the pediatric patients. Future plans include additional Pediatric Research Days and pediatric lecture series, which will include interviews with physicians and researchers in pediatric medicine.

**Weill Cornell Youth Scholars Program (WCYSP)**


The WCYSP is a three-week summer enrichment program targeting underprivileged and underrepresented high school juniors and seniors who have an interest in science and medicine and use the vast educational resources available at WCMC and NYPH. The WCYSP embodies the idea that early intervention is critical to shaping a student’s future, and therefore seeks to endow students with the skills and experience necessary to fulfill their vast
potential. It is important to expose students early to the rigors of a medical training since it can help develop the necessary attitudes to an education, interpersonal skills, and self-confidence that a student would need to be successful academically. It is also important to inspire students to set academic and professional goals and encourage them to work cooperatively and think critically.

The curriculum consists of basic science lectures (primarily given by medical students, residents, and physicians), faculty spotlight sessions, Problem Based Learning sessions, mentor/mentee sessions, and visit to the anatomy lab. The topics discussing during the lectures included medial ethics, organ systems biology, nutrition, infectious disease, embryology, disease pathogenesis, immunology, and chronic conditions.

The WCYSP starts on the first Monday of July and runs Mondays to Fridays, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Twenty-one students were accepted into the program and nineteen matriculated into the program. To successfully complete the program, students are tested weekly on the lecture series, give a 10-minute presentation and discussion on a medical topic of their choice, and write a book review and a series of writing exercises. The writing exercises consisted of an essay on a medical topic of their choice, a mock college admissions essay, a journal logging their experiences in the program, and short essays on current medical ethics issues. All of the participants successfully completed the program. Three students completed the program with noteworthy recognition (best grades, most improved grades, and best participation). In April 2010, the WCYSP was awarded a $1000.00 grant by the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.
Homeless Shelter Project

Grand Central Neighborhood Clinic
(also known as Primary Care and Preventive Medicine for the Grand Central Neighborhood)

2009-2010 Coordinators:  Juveria Abdullah, ’13       Pooja Gala, ‘13
                         Martiza Harper, ’13       Jason Lee, ’13
                         Julie Leviter, ’13        Leslie Lee, ’13
                         Alyssa Marchman, ’13      Marissa Wise, ‘13

The Grand Central Neighborhood Shelter is part of the Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corporation (GSNSSC) and primarily serves the transient population. Weill Cornell medical students visit the shelter Mondays from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. First-year medical students conduct routine health screenings including medical interviews and pulse and blood measurements. A fourth-year medical student is consulted on each patient to determine whether he/she requires follow-up care. Together, the medical students make recommendation to the patients regarding lifestyle changes that would help improve their health. Referrals are often given to eye, foot, and dental clinics that accepts Medicare or will see uninsured patients. The GCC dispenses certain items if the patients need them (i.e. foot powder, socks, and vitamins). In recent years, annual clothing and supply drives for the shelter have been organized. A Cornell Flu and Pneumovax Camp have been instituted at the shelter. Future plans include conducting health seminars, winter and spring clothing drives, and health fairs.
One-Day Events

Food Drive
The first and second year Community Service Representatives organized a food drive to raise funds for the Food Bank of New York City in November and December 2008. The food drive was promoted via emails and word of mouth. Instead of donating non-perishable foods, the food drive was held on the Internet. Out of every $1.00 that was donated, $0.96 was given to the Food Bank. Over $900.00 was raised.

Regional Pre-Medical Conference
2009-2010 Coordinators: SEOM, BLHO, and SNMA Coordinators
Members of the SEOM, BLHO, and SNMA sponsor the Annual Regional Pre-Medical Conference at the medical college. The conference targets underrepresented minority high school and undergraduate college students interested in the health and medical professions. Parents are also welcome. The goals of the conference are to educate the students about health care issues affecting the Black and Latino communities and facilitate exposure to those interested in the vast opportunities for careers in medicine. The full day event includes various workshops and seminars for the students, their parents, teachers, and administrators. This annual event attracts several hundred registrants and participants. In 2009, 272 people registered for the conference and on December 5th, 135 high school, college, post-baccalaureate students, guidance counselors, and parents attended and participated in the day’s activities. The keynote address was given by an alum, Dr. Michael Cooper and two new segments were introduced at the conference. Assistant Dean Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey conducted a successful workshop for advisors and parents and the medical students conducted a tour of the medical college for the participants.

The 2010 Annual Regional Pre-Medical Conference will be held on Saturday, December 11th.

Settlement Health Fair
2009-2010 Coordinators: Nii Koney, ‘11
Participating in health fairs is an integral aspect of SNMA’s outreach initiatives that focuses on minority health care issues. Medical students organized tables providing information on
women’s, men’s, children’s health, heart disease, sexual health and STD’s, nutrition and fitness, stress reduction, diabetes, cholesterol, and cancer. In addition, free vision, dental, and blood pressure screenings were provided. The fair was designed to be a festive and fun event. The Fair was held on June 26th.

Weill Cornell Haitian Earthquake Relief Drive  
2009-2010 Coordinators:  
Paul-Michel Dossous, ‘11

In response to the earthquake that occurred in Haiti, a relief drive was held during January 21st – 29th between the Student National Medical Association, Latino Medical Student Association, Medical Student Executive Council, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Haiti. During the drive, 300 instant meal items, 20 infant meal items, several 100s first aid items, 100 hygiene products, and various orthopaedic equipment (i.e. crutches) were donated and sent to those in need in Haiti.
Other Voluntary Projects & Interest Groups

Geriatrics Interest Group (GIG)
2009-2010 Coordinators: Sarah Haseltine, ’12 Stephanie Inhow, ’12
Geriatric Interest Group aims to stimulate interest in geriatrics and coordinate community service projects related to the elderly. The organization has a threefold vision: lecture series, community service initiatives, and clinical exposure program. Activities in the past have included panel discussions, visits to the Center for the Aging, and discussions on relevant topics such as elder care, elder abuse and hospice care. In collaboration with the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), GIG helps to recruit medical students for the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program where students meet every 6-8 weeks to discuss topics related to aging. Geriatrics Interest Group is known for their programming and every year manage to top its previous year. This past academic year, the group held a “Young @ Heart” documentary screening, panel discussion on HIV/AIDS in older adults, a seminar on Careers in Primary Care, shadowing opportunities, and a presentations and discussion on palliative care at New York Presbyterian Hospital and on summer research opportunities. Future plans include more movie/documentary screenings, shadowing opportunities, and discussions on palliative care, careers in primary care, and summer research opportunities.

Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG)
Internal Medicine Interest Group is focused on supporting students interested in going into the Internal Medicine profession through active communication, volunteer opportunities, and mentoring between internal medicine faculty and WCMC students. To this end, IMIG holds a talk in the fall on the various specialties and practice options stemming from Internal Medicine and a discussion in the spring on how to match into the field. It also sponsors discussions relating to current issues in Internal Medicine that are of special interest. In addition, IMIG provides mentoring programs and shadowing opportunities for students. This past year, IMIG held discussions on careers in internal medicine, sleep medicine, and women in medicine.
Medical Students for Choice/Reproductive Health Initiative (MSFC/RHI)

2009-2010 Coordinators: Mollie Biewald, ’12 Stephanie Inhow, ’12
Alison Lenet, ’12 Monica Payne, ’12
Stephanie Purisch, ’12 Nora Ward, ’12

Medical Students for Choice/Reproductive Health Initiative is a student-led organization dedicated to increasing medical students’ education and awareness regarding current issues in reproductive health through shadowing opportunities, movie screenings, hands-on workshops, and educational lectures on all areas of reproductive health (i.e. pregnancy, perinatology, abortion medicine, and IVF). As future practitioners, they are committed to ensuring that they and their peers are prepared to provide patients with the full range of reproductive health care choices.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, MSFC/RHI organized an introduction to labor and delivery, shadowing opportunities in IVF and labor and delivery, a movie screening of “My Sister’s Keeper”, an Ob/Gyn meet and greet, a career panel of women in medicine, a book club, a papaya workshop, and discussions in reproductive health ethics cases.

Ophthalmology Interest Group (OIG)
(formerly known as the Unite For Sight)

Kira Segal, ’12

Ophthalmology Interest Group is a community service group run by students where they administer vision screenings at local soup kitchens, senior centers and health fairs. They also take patient histories and perform basic eye exams, and organize ophthalmoscope-training sessions. This past year, OIG hosted an introduction to Ophthalmology lecture, vision screening booths at health fairs and soup kitchens, glaucoma screenings with ophthalmology residents, operating room and clinic shadowing experiences, ophthalmoscope training sessions, cow’s eye suturing workshops, and eyeglass drives.

Sports Medicine Interest Group (SMIG)

2009-2010 Coordinators: Gregory Bonci, ’12

Sports Medicine Interest Group’s current goals are three fold: to provide health information to the student body about sports injuries, prevention, treatment and care through various
lectures and events; to provide information to students about physician opportunities in sports medicine from different specialty areas; and to facilitate research and clinical shadowing experiences for interested students by matching them with mentors in associated areas. In the future, it would like to work with the clinical curriculum department to set up a formal sports medicine rotation as an elective for third- and fourth-year students.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, SMIG organized a discussion on hip arthroscopy. This past year, SMIG was hindered by scheduling conflict with the orthopaedic surgeons and could not organize additional discussions. Future events include an introduction to a career in sports medicine by Dr. Anil Ranawat, a discussion on upper and lower extremity injuries which will coincide with the first year anatomy curriculum, and a discussion on current topics in research which will coincide with the first year cell biology and biochemistry curriculum.

Weill Cornell Community Clinic (WCCC)
(also known as Cornell free Health Clinic)

2009-2010 Steering Committee
Executive Arm
Executive Co-Directors: Jonathan Moreno and Suchit Patel
Financial Chair: Michael Mooney
Billing Chair: Shawn Sarkaria
Quality Assurance Chair: Nicholas Berry
Information Technology: Jason Willis
Pharmacy Chair: Alex Port
Fundraising and Grants Chair: Yoann Millet
Insurance Screening: Joshua Salvi
New Initiatives: Alessandra Calvo-Friedman and Neal Parikh
Research Management: Ariel Halper-Stromber

Clinical Arm
Clinical Co-Directors: Jennifer Reifsnyder and Eric Goodman
Referrals Chair: Crystal Castaneda, Rula Green-Gladden, and Miyuki Tanino
Physician Recruitment: Sarah Yagerman
Patient Scheduling Chair: Erik Fisher
Student Scheduling Chair: Abraham Korn
Patient Education Chair: Ariel Halper-Stromber
Social Work Chair: Ali Mendelson

The Weill Cornell Community Clinic (WCCC) is a student-run clinic on the Upper East Side that offers primary medical care to uninsured patients at no cost. Its mission is to provide high-quality, accessible health care to uninsured adults through consultation, treatment,
preventative care, and referral services. Services include but are not limited to: consultation with a physician and medical team, laboratory tests, specialty referrals, discount prescription drugs and enrollment in Pharmacy Assistance Programs, assistance with enrolling in government-sponsored health insurance, social work consultation, and preventive health education. The aim of the clinic is to extend health care access to underprivileged populations of New York City, while encouraging the spirit of volunteerism and humanitarianism among medical students and physicians.

The clinic is open every Monday from 5pm–8pm and is located at 505 East 70th Street and is staffed by numerous student volunteers and a volunteer attending physician each week. Students coordinate every aspect of the clinic administration including patient care under the supervision of an attending physician, patient and physician recruitment, clinic finances, grant writing, fundraising, referrals to specialty services, pharmacy services, quality assurance, and maintenance of the clinic’s website (http://wccc.med.cornell.edu/).

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the WCCC began to provide patients with social work and mental health service where it is determined appropriate, increased participation from medical students and physicians, increased its patient load, and launched a community outreach program to screen for cardiovascular disease and diabetes in underserved neighborhoods. With the help of the medical college, WCCC now has a dedicated medical director, Dr. Anne Kastor, who will oversee the clinic’s operation and patient care but will maintain the spirit of a student-led organization.
Most student organizations at Weill Cornell have a community service component in addition to their social activities.

**Cornell LGBT People in Medicine/ Q!**
[formerly Cornell Gay & Lesbian Association of Medical Students (GLAMS)]
[formerly the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Organization (LGBTQ)]

*2009-2010 Coordinators: Kevin Johnson, ’13 Neal Parikh, ’13*

Over the past several years there has been significant change in this group, particularly with the name of the organization. Formerly known as LGBTQ and then Cornell GLAMS, this group is now known as the Cornell LGBT People in Medicine/Q! and is devoted to exploring LGBT issues in medicine. This includes creating and fostering an open and accepting environment for LGBT students at WCMC, as well as holding events that provide forums for discussion of sexual orientation and identity in the medical context. The group organizes social events (i.e. movie nights, lectures, and physician panels) and has also worked with the WCMC administration both to increase LGBT visibility, and to incorporate lectures on LGBT health issues in the curriculum. It is open to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, and encourages all interested students to be involved in its events.

In the 2009-2010 academic year, Q! organized transgender health discussions, held a screening of Transamerica, hosted lectures on “Gender Identity and Transgender 101”, and “Medical Approaches to Transgender Health Care”, held a Trans-Identified Panel and a talk on working with LBGTQ youth, and hosted mixers with other medical schools (Columbia University, New York University, Albert Einstein, SUNY Downstate, and Mount Sinai).

**Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS)**

*2009-2010 Coordinator: Nii Koney, ’11*

The MAPS organization is nationally implemented by SNMA. Through the MAPS protocol, SNMA members act as mentors to undergraduates during their four years of college in efforts to increase the medical school matriculation rates of underrepresented minorities. Over the past two years, the Cornell chapter of MAPS has been working with the Hunter College
chapter by co-sponsoring events. It hosted a mixer to introduce the mentees to their mentors, volunteered at the Settlement Health Fair, and one-on-one events between mentor and mentee.

**Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)**  
[formerly known as Boricua-Latino Health Organization (BLHO)]  
*2009-2010 Coordinators: Richard Cruz, ’12 Natalia Jimenez, ‘12*

Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) is devoted to community service and improving the health of the Latino community. Some of the short-term goals of the organization include: increasing recruitment and admission of Latinos into the health professions; educating LMSA members in areas of concern to Latino communities, which may not be included in the traditional medical curriculum; and involving the community for the purpose of strengthening working relationships as a means of mutual education. Its efforts to promote the recruitment of Latinos into the medical field and to support those already in the field are varied.

In conjunction with the Students for Equal Opportunities in Medicine and Student National Medical Association, members of LMSA assist in organizing the Annual Regional Pre-medical Conference and the Students Revisit Weekend. Students also give tours, help with presentations, and discuss projects for the Minority Visiting Professor Program. Along with the aforementioned events, this past academic year LMSA hosted cultural dinners, participated in the Diabetes Walk, and held a screening of “Latino in America”.

**Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine (SEOM)**  
*2008-2010 Coordinators: Rachel Moquete, ’12 Andres Abreu, ‘12*

Students for Equal Opportunity in Medicine is the umbrella organization for historically underrepresented minority student groups at Weill Cornell. It currently recognizes local chapters of SNMA and BLHO. The organization primarily functions to support minority students at WCMC, coordinates the Annual Regional Pre-medical Conference along with BLHO and SNMA, host underrepresented minorities when they are interviewing at Weill Cornell and during the Revisit Weekend, and coordinate events during the Revisit Weekend.
Student National Medical Association (SNMA)
2009-2010 Coordinators: Ugonna Ihekweazu, '12 Cristina Toledo-Cornell, '12

The members of SNMA, the nation’s oldest and largest organization focusing on the needs and concerns of medical students of color, are particularly active in community service. Many of the service initiatives are designed to: increase awareness of the medical profession in the minority community; encourage minority student interest in pursuing careers in medicine; provide social contacts with medical students; and provide exposure to science research. These outreach initiatives were discussed in the following community service projects: Cornell Kids; HPREP; MAPS; Annual Regional Pre-Medical Conference; and a health fair.

This past year, SNMA helped a discussion on healthcare for the underinsured patients, hosted festivities during Cinco de Mayo and Valentine’s Day, and coordinate events during Revisit Weekend.
New and Upcoming Project

Movement Against Childhood Obesity (MACChO)

2009-2010 Coordinator: Jermaine Myers, ‘13

The Movement Against Childhood Obesity (MACChO) is a grassroots obesity prevention program targeting young adolescents, ages 10 to 14, in disadvantaged communities. A confluence of stressors at this critical stage of development makes it an ideal time to teach life skills. The program aims tackle the epidemic one kid at a time through behavioral modification, by equipping participants with tools to take personal leadership in their lives. The program is anchored around three tenets – nutrition, exercise and education – bound together by a central theme of personal leadership. The multi-dimensional, grassroots approach of MACChO, along with its flexible design, incorporating the specific strengths and needs of a given participant in a given community allows for maximal engagement and behavioral modification. The program was designed by the Weill Cornell chapter of the SNMA in collaboration with Settlement Health, a federally qualified community health center aimed at providing primary healthcare services to the underserved.

In its pilot year, eleven children participated in the program for ten Saturday sessions on Saturdays beginning in November. Each session is designed to interactively teach the children about nutrition and exercise. Metrics were used as a tool for improvement and to quantify the long-term effect of the program (i.e. change in BMI and blood pressure). Parental surveys will also be used as a tool for improvement.
Non-active Organizations and Projects in 2009-2010

**AIDS Teaching Program (ATP)**
The AIDS Teaching Program consists of a group of volunteers dedicated to educating high school students about sexually transmitted diseases. The curriculum incorporates the most recent facts about the AIDS epidemic and information about hepatitis. The ATP increased the number of teaching sites and adopted new strategies for conducting classroom workshops. Tutors engage high school students in role-playing games, discussion groups, and film-screenings.

Past events and initiatives included the following: collaborating with the Neighborhood Shelter for Homeless People; distributing information at the Healthy People Fair; organizing a team of Weill Cornell medical students to raise funds for the Gay Men’s Health Crisis organization; participating in the Annual AIDS Walk; speaking at a session for the Health Recruitment and Exposure Program (HPREP); holding a panel discussion with AIDS patients as part of AIDS week for the High School students; and arranging to have a psychiatrist, Dr. Joseph Murray, speak about psychiatric issues of patients with AIDS.

The program became inactive in 2008-2009 due to time constraints from the medical students previously involved in ATP.

**Alive Hospice**
Alive Hospice is an organization that facilitates the volunteering of Weill Cornell medical students with the Continuum Hospice Care. Joining Alive Hospice will require a two-hour commitment every other week, which allows students a longitudinal volunteering experience. Students can volunteer and interact with hospice patients in an inpatient, outpatient, or home care setting. The hope is that benefits will be reciprocal, so that patients receive care and attention they would normally not get, while volunteers face issues of death and dying before they reach their clinical rounds and eventually their residency. Volunteer tasks include assistance with bathing and feeding, changing bedding, and talking to patients and family members, and in general offering emotional support to patients and their visitors. Aside from
the aforementioned activities, Alive Hospice plans to host a seminar with doctors who have experience in the end of life care of patients. The seminars will help future doctors develop better communication skills in the area. During the 2009-2010 academic year, Alive Hospice became non-active due to not having enough volunteers.

**American Medical Student Association (AMSA)**
American Medical Student Association is the largest independent national student-run organization of approximately 30,000 students in training at over 100 medical schools. The nineteen issues-oriented task forces, ranging from women's health to international medicine, are the cornerstone and focus of actual programming of the organization. It sponsors a number of community service activities throughout the year including administering immunizations, and working with the Lenox Hill PPD/Immunization Clinics. During the 2008-2009 academic year, AMSA was not active due to time constraints from the medical students.

**American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)**
American Medical Women’s Association is a national organization devoted to the concerns of women in medicine. It helps to address issues facing these women, both by providing a support group for them and by addressing social and political issues. As a student chapter, their goal is to serve this function for the community as well as to increase awareness of all Weill Cornell students concerning women’s health issues on a city level. Members attend regional and national meetings where they would hear different speakers and participate in discussion and workshops. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, AMWA was not active during the 2007-2008 academic year.

**AneuRhythms A Capella**
(Previously known as Arrhythmics)
The AneuRhythms A Capella ensemble is available to any student in need of an outlet for musical expression. They meet weekly to rehearse in Olin Hall’s Alumni Lounge and in addition to running the “Coffee House” and Open Mic Nights, they also perform at school functions, deliver singing telegrams on Valentine’s Day, and sing for patients in the hospital. This past year, the AneuRythms has been dissolved due to not being able to generate enough
interest of the group and participants becoming increasingly busy with the school and hospital responsibilities.

**Blood Drives**
Weill Cornell students have now partnered with the NYPH in helping the New York Blood Center obtain more donations since its last student-run blood drive in 2005. Through this partnership, they are able to have more volunteers donate.

**Bone Marrow Drive**
The Bone Marrow Drive helped the National Donor Program’s (NDMP) objectives that are to educate, recruit, and register the general public to the collegiate ranks as volunteer donors and to provide ethnic diversification to the data pool of the national registry, thereby increasing the chances for all patients to receive an equal opportunity in finding a matching donor. The last bone marrow drive was held in April 2009.

**Coat Drive**
Every year the first and second year Community Service Representatives works with other various community service groups, student organizations, and dormitory residents to collect coats.

**Cornell Health Advocates for Southern Sudan (CHASS)**
Cornell Health Advocates for Southern Sudan is a student group that is committed to working with American Care for the Sudan Foundation (ACSF) to ensure the success of the Duke County Lost Boys Clinic. Its members have experience in many fields that are relevant to the Clinic and its operations. Faculty advisors have expertise in the areas of public health, infectious disease, tropical medicine, and beyond. Faculty members also have experience in establishing successful medical programs in developing nations. No events took place this past academic year and CHASS has since been disbanded.

**Cornell Science Challenge (CSC)**
The Cornell Science Challenge is a program run by the Outreach Office at the Weill Graduate School of Medical Science. It is primarily a mentorship program focused on science and the development of a middle school science fair. It runs from January through
March and is for seventh grade students at the East Side Middle School. With about 100 students involved, each volunteer is in charge of a group of four or five students, in which they mentor through a three-month science project of their own design.

The group of mentors consists of students from the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences, the Weill Cornell Medical College, post-doctoral students from the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Institute, and research technicians from Rockefeller University. This dedicated group of volunteers assists the students with the design of a science fair project based on the scientific method of hypothesis development, experimentation, data analysis and interpretation. Over the course of three months, the mentors make nine visits to the East Side Middle School to work with the students in their classroom and many mentors meet with their groups outside of class to give extra assistance.

At the end of the three months, the Graduate School hosts the Annual Science Challenge in the Olin Hall Gymnasium. Awards and certificate topics include, but are not limited to, Best Scientific Project; Most Creative; Best Presentation; and People’s Choice Award. The judges are comprised of a group of Graduate students as well as middle school participants from the previous year. During this past academic year, the Cornell Science Challenge was not held.

**Epiphany Health Screening**

In 2003, the Weill Cornell chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) started a health screening project for the homeless and the elderly of the Upper East Side neighborhood. The project began as a monthly event at the Church of the Epiphany on 74th Street and York Avenue. Volunteering first-year medical students provided basic health screening for the homeless once a month on Wednesday evenings with a physician supervising the student volunteers, and a few enthusiastic physicians have volunteered their time to make the project possible. Within each session, students see approximately ten community residents. During this past year, the program became nonfunctional and is currently searching for a new supervising physician.
Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG)
(formerly known as the Family Practice Interest Group)
Family Medicine Interest Group provides a forum for learning and discussion for students interested in Family Medicine. In coordination with the Family Medicine Department coordinators, FMIG organizes lunch and dinner seminars. These quarterly grand rounds lecture series were established to bring leaders in the field of family medicine to the Weill Cornell campus to promote the academic merits of family practice. Some of these seminars endeavor to raise awareness of Family Medicine career options, particularly at Weill Cornell, while others are on topics related to primary care, such as domestic violence and eating disorders. Over the past years, FMIG has had great success with their Grand Rounds Lecture Series and have been privileged to attract esteemed lecturers from various family medicine programs in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.

This past year, FMIG became inactive due to the time constraints of the medical student involved in the group and lack of funding.

Funny Bones (Clowning Club)
Funny Bones is a clowning club that visits different departments of the hospital every other week as clowns and with special emphasis on bed-ridden patients or patients without much family members around. Their style of clowning is meant to engage and empower each person they meet. They are not performers, but rather create an atmosphere within each room where they can all (volunteers and patients) feel comfortable and get silly together. Giving power to the patient about their care is paramount; hospitals today all too often leave a patient feeling completely powerless. The thought behind this program is that laughter has extraordinary health benefits to patients and can also help prevent burnout in health professionals.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, Funny Bones was inactive due to the lack of available time from medical students from medical students.
Holiday Toy Drive
The AMSA adopted this project as part of its community service component. Toys, donated for the winter holiday season, is wrapped and distributed to the patients at Helmsley Tower when they come in for their appointments. No Holiday Toy Drive was held during this past academic year.

International Medicine Interest Group
The International Medicine Interest Group seeks to promote the awareness of global health issues in medicine and opportunities. It is committed to fostering awareness of the issues surrounding global medicine and public health. In the past, it has organized trips to attend conferences at medical schools in the New York City region as well as others throughout the country. It periodically arranges guest speakers to discuss their careers, personal motivations, and research contributions to global medicine.

During this past academic year, this group was inactive due to lack of available time from the group members.

Patient Advocacy Group (PAG)
Patients Advocacy Group seeks to alleviate the healthcare needs of under-privileged patients, patients from immigrant populations, and those in need of complex care by working alongside hospital administrators to aid in their coordination of care. After having had various discussions with hospital administrators at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) over preliminary data that was collected regarding the admissions process and the average wait time for treatment, coordination of care was defined as the primary goal. As a result, the Advisory Board for the Coordination of Care was created to improve patient advocacy in the head and neck service, and to implement these improvements throughout the hospital system. The Board consists of physicians, nurses, social workers, and patients of the MSKCC system and it meets periodically to discuss methods to improve the admissions process and to expedite treatment.
During this past academic year, PAG was dissolved because the administrators at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) did not want to partner with the group any longer. Due to the time constraints of the medical students, PAG did not have the necessary time to partner with another hospital.

**Pregnancy Partners Program**
Fifteen medical students from the first and second year classes act as labor coaches, bedside assistants, mentors, and advocates for single pregnant teens in the foster care system who do not have support (i.e., family, boyfriend, etc.) at Inwood House (located on 82nd Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues). The medical student attends all prenatal care visits with his/her partner, acts as the teen’s liaison with her doctors, answers questions, and provides emotional support. The roster allows for a student to be on call every night of the week. If called, the volunteer is expected to be there for the teen from 6 pm to midnight. This past year, the Pregnancy Partners Program has become inactive due to difficulties in coordinating with Inwood House.
Recognitions and Awards

Students usually find the volunteer experience, with its unique and powerful blend of giving and receiving, to be a reward in itself. This is not to say that those who share themselves with the community do not deserve recognition. Student efforts have been noted in publications of the medical college, television coverage, and by city agencies. Most importantly, recognition has come from the people who have benefited from the programs. All of the students who devoted their valuable time and boundless energy to community service have earned our praise. Their efforts demonstrate the responsibility we have to our collective futures, in both medicine and our community.

Grant Awards
As students have been ambitious in their programming goals they have had to be aggressive in their fundraising. Their hard work and dedication has been awarded. The money they have received goes completely back into strengthening the programs that they help to create and foster. Below are one of the grants awarded over the 2009-2010 academic year.

**Weill Cornell Community Clinic**

2006 – Association of American Medical Colleges Caring for Community Grant (2006-2010)

**Weill Cornell Youth Scholars Program**

2010 – AOA Honor Medical Society
Acknowledgments

Donors to the Community Service Program

Camp Phoenix 2009-2010

Amada Adams
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Mary & James Gallagher
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Sun Park
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Frank Riccoboni
Riccoboni Farms
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Ellen & Robert Salant
James & Eileen Sawyer
David & Wendy Segal
Annabelle Thompson Living Trust
Joanne Thompson
Marilyn & Robert Varrenti
Weill Cornell Medical College, Class of 2010
Shawniqua Williams
Noah Wohlert
Krystal Young
Cooperating Organizations

The Weill Cornell Community Service Programs work in conjunction with various departments and many outside agencies. Below is a list of some of the agencies students have collaborated with over the last few years.

American College of Physicians, New York Chapter
American Museum of Natural History
American Red Cross
Beth Israel Medical Center Hospice
Bowery Mission
Camp Kinder Ring
Camp Taconic
Car 24 Transportation, Inc
Chelsea Piers
Church of the Epiphany
City Harvest
Cornell University Medical Bookstore
Department of Pediatrics and Child Development (NYPH)
Department of Public Affairs (NYPH)
East Harlem School
East Side Middle School
Famiglia Pizzeria
Food Bank of New York City
Grand Central Neighborhood Shelter
Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corp
Hayden Platerium at the Rose Center for Earth and Science
Hetrick-Martin Institute
Hospital of Special Surgery
Inwood House
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New Song Church in Harlem
New York Academy of Medicine - Urban Health Initiative Program
New York Blood Center
New York Cares
New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation
New York Presbyterian Hospital
New York Presbyterian Hospital Internal Medicine Department
New York Presbyterian Hospital Pediatric Burn Unit
Public School 75 - The Emily Dickenson School
Public School 102
Riverbank State Park
Rockefeller University
Salvation Army
Saint Agnes Homeless Shelter
Settlement Health
Weill Cornell Children’s Hospital of New York, Child Life Services
Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Weill Cornell Medical College, Office of Student Affairs & Equal Opportunity Programs