Weill Cornell Medical College
Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences

Commencement

Thursday, May Twenty-Eighth
Two Thousand and Twenty
Noon
Program

Presentation of the Academic Assembly
David P. Hajjar, PhD
Mace-bearer

Invocation
The Reverend Dr. Beth Faulk Glover
Corporate Director of Pastoral Care and Education
New York-Presbyterian

Dean’s Address to the Graduating Class
Augustine M.K. Choi, MD
Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

President’s Address to the Graduating Class
Martha E. Pollack, PhD
President, Cornell University

Graduate School of Medical Sciences
Dean’s Address to the Graduating Class
Barbara L. Hempstead, MD, PhD
Dean, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences

Introduction of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences Student Speaker
Dean Hempstead

Address by the Student Speaker
Pradeep Ambrose
Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences

Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Master of Science
Dean Hempstead

Conferment of the Degree of Master of Science
President Pollack

Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
Dean Hempstead

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
President Pollack

Presentation of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences Alumni Award of Distinction to Kornelia Polyak, MD, PhD ’95
Dean Hempstead

Introduction of the Medical College Student Speaker
Yoon Kang, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
Weill Cornell Medical College

Address by the Student Speaker
Jason Silberman, MD ’20
Weill Cornell Medical College

Administration of the Hippocratic Oath
Dean Choi

Presentation of the Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine
Dean Kang

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Medicine
President Pollack

Presentation of the Medical College Alumni Association Award of Distinction to Henry Masur, MD ’72
Natasha I. Leibel, MD ’98
President, Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association

Special Message
Anthony S. Fauci, MD ’66
Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Farewell to the Graduates
Dean Choi

Alma Mater | Music & Medicine
Artistic Director: Richard Kogan, MD
Piano: Stacy Joo ’20; Violin: Jenny Xia ’20;
Vocalists: Brittany Abel ’20, Jonathan Galati ’20,
Mitali Kini ’20, Nicole Luche ’20, Jae Seong No ’21

Benediction
Reverend Glover

Adjournment of Commencement Ceremonies
David P. Hajjar, PhD

Musical Intro/Outro | Music & Medicine
Drums: Anurag Goel ’21; Guitar: Kevin Oh ’20;
Guitar and Vocals: Jae Seong No ’21; Keyboard:
Stacy Yujin Joo ’20; Vocalists: Brittany Abel ’20,
Maria Passarelli (MD/PhD entering 2015)
Recipients of Degrees 2020

Weill Cornell Medical College

Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences
**Masters of Science**

**August 19, 2019**


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**December 31, 2019**


Masters of Science

December 31, 2019 (continued)


Xuewei Quan, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Oleksandr Savenkov. Thesis: Elevated Blood Pressure and Mortality for HIV-Infected Adults (Meta-Analysis of Individual Patient Data from 3 Different Clinical Trials in Haiti, Tanzania, and India).


Botao Zhou, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Arindam RoyChoudhury. Thesis: Does Body Composition Mediate the Relationship Between Physical Performance and Strength as Older Adults Develop Frailty?

May 28, 2020


Ruth Antoine, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Chukwuemeka Anyamele, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Masters of Science
May 28, 2020 (continued)


Adrienne Benn, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Steven I. Berk, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Alan Lindsay Butler, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Shannon Campbell, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: Keith LaScalea. Thesis: The Use of Metformin as Primary Prevention of Major Adverse Cardiac Events in Euglycemic Patients.

Ashley Cardarelli, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Aafia Chaudhry, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Eliane Dabbah, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: Thanakorn Jirasevijinda. Thesis: Efficacy of the Specific Carbohydrate Diet for the Treatment of Patients with Active, Severe, Biologic-Refractory Inflammatory Bowel Disease.


Jesse Lee Davis, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Monique Maria De Four Jones, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Shahzad Dhanani, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Mary Nicole Lillian Diemert, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: Sam Senturia. Thesis: Timeliness of Diagnosis and Treatment of Closed Upper Extremity Fractures in Adults in Emergency Department Versus Orthopedic Urgent Care Centers.


Masters of Science

May 28, 2020 (continued)


Colleen Allison Fay, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: Joseph Murray. Thesis: The Role of Psychological Care in Early Palliative Care Interventions.


Gabrielle Gaspard, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Mario Gaudino, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Chhavi Katyal, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Chhavi Katyal, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Niloufer Khan, MS, Clinical Epidemiology and Health Service Research. Advisor: Steven Horowitz. Thesis: Optimizing Outcomes for Patients with High Risk Hematologic Malignancies.
Masters of Science
May 28, 2020 (continued)


Atul Kukar, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Noah Lincoff, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Tiffany Wai-Yun Liu, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: Randi Silver. Thesis: Early Time Restricted Feeding on the Reversal of Insulin Resistance in Type 2 Diabetics on Metformin.


Douglas Mansell, MS, Clinical Epidemiology and Health Service Research. Advisor: Robert Foronjy. Thesis: Time to Degree: The Effects of Vitamin D and Airway Inflammation in Pediatric Asthmatics.


Arlene Martinez-Rivera, MS, Clinical Epidemiology and Health Service Research. Advisor: Anjali Rajadhyaksha. Thesis: Can L-Type Calcium Channel Blockers Be Re-Purposed to Treat Cocaine Addiction?


Rajeev Narayanan, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Jamie Nieto, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.
Masters of Science

May 28, 2020 (continued)

Andrew Carl Nitz, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: David Hajjar. Thesis: Waon Therapy as a Tool for Long Term Management of Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction.


Katherine Peterson, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Margarita Rozenshteyn, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Juan Carlos Serrano, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Masters of Science

May 28, 2020 (continued)

Rache Simmons, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Melissa Ashley Skolnik, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Jeffrey Sommer, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Nicholas Steven Tamaccio, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Lauren Thomas, MS, Physician Assistant. Advisor: Devorah Segal. Thesis: The Effect of the Ketogenic Diet as Adjunctive Therapy on Development in Infants with West Syndrome.

Seanna Antonia Thompson, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Muhammad Rizwan Toor, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.

Michelle Mary Ulrich, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.


Charles Wallace, MS, Clinical Epidemiology and Health Service Research. Advisor: Maria Figueiredo Pereira. Thesis: Expanding the Understanding of Inflammation Through Translational Research: An Evaluation of Psychosocial Variables Among Stroke Patients in the Jackson Heart Study and Alzheimer’s Disease in a Transgenic Rat Model.


Jared Yoder, Executive MBA, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Bruce Schackman.
Masters of Science

May 28, 2020 (continued)


Thesis: Enhancing Understanding of Risks and Benefits of Cardiac Monitoring During Targeted HER2 Therapy.


Zixuan Li, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Jing Li. Thesis: Association of the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program with Mortality for Patients with Heart Failure and Acute Myocardial Infarction.


Matthew Mandeli, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Arindam RoyChoudhury. Thesis: Does Body Composition Mediate the Relationship Between Physical Performance and Strength as Older Adults Develop Frailty?


Masters of Science
August 17, 2020 (continued)


Tianran Zhang, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Arindam RoyChoudhury. Thesis: Does Body Composition Mediate the Relationship Between Physical Performance and Strength as Older Adults Develop Frailty?


Wenyu Zhu, MS, Healthcare Policy and Research. Advisor: Arindam RoyChoudhury. Thesis: Does Body Composition Mediate the Relationship Between Physical Performance and Strength as Older Adults Develop Frailty?

Doctors of Philosophy

August 19, 2019


**Mytrang Hoang Do**, PhD, Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis. Advisor: Ming Li. **Thesis**: mTORC1 Control of Innate and Adaptive Immune Responses in Health and Cancer.


December 31, 2019


**Maria Elizabeth Bustillo**, PhD, Cell and Developmental Biology. Advisor: Jennifer Zallen. **Thesis**: Tension-Sensitive Regulation of Adhesion During Epithelial Remodeling.


**Doctors of Philosophy**

*December 31, 2019 (continued)*


**Maria Elizabeth Falzone**, PhD, Biochemistry and Structural Biology. Advisor: Alessio Accardi. **Thesis:** Structural Basis of Calcium-Dependent Lipid Scrambling and Ion Transport by TMEM16 Scramblases.


**Ming Jiang**, PhD, Pharmacology. Advisor: Minkui Luo. **Thesis:** Profiling Protein Methylation Events and Characterizing Their Roles in Hematopoiesis and Cancer.


**Lauren Tate Marek**, PhD, Pharmacology. Advisor: Alex Kentsis. **Thesis:** Functional Proteomics and Pharmacologic Disassembly of Oncogenic Enhanceosomes in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

**Alexa McIntyre**, PhD, Tri-Institutional Computational Biology and Medicine Program. Advisor: Christopher Mason. **Thesis:** N6-Methyladenine in Microbes and Host Immune Response.

**André Pineda**, PhD, Neuroscience. Advisor: Jacqueline Burre. **Thesis:** Synaptic Snare Chaperones in Neuronal Function and Disease.


**Zoe Zijun Zhao**, PhD, Physiology, Biophysics and Systems Biology. Advisor: Jason Mezey. **Thesis:** Predictive Modeling of Human Disease: Comparison of Genome-Wide Phenotype Prediction Methods, a Method for Novel Genetic Feature Coding, and Development of Biomarkers for Friedreich Ataxia.

*May 28, 2020*


Doctors of Philosophy

May 28, 2020 (continued)


Ashley Chui, PhD, Tri-Institutional Chemical Biology Program. Advisor: Daniel Bachovchin. Thesis: N-Terminal Degradation is the Activation Mechanism of the NLRP1B and CARD8 Inflammasomes.

Melissa Deborah Docampo, PhD, Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis. Advisor: Marcel van den Brink. Thesis: The Role of Short Chain Fatty Acid Signaling in Graft Versus Host Disease.


Nicole Lustgarten Guahmich, PhD, Physiology, Biophysics and Systems Biology. Advisor: Carl Blobel. Thesis: Endothelial Deletion of ADAM10, a Key Regulator of Notch Signaling, Leads to Reduced Fertility in Female Mice.


Germán Alberto Sabio, PhD, Physiology, Biophysics and Systems Biology. Advisor: Jennifer Zallen. Thesis: Regulation of Epithelial Polarity in the Drosophila Embryo.


Dr. Kornelia Polyak (PhD '95) is a professor of medicine at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School. She received her medical degree summa cum laude from the Albert Szent-Györgyi Medical University in Szeged, Hungary and a doctorate from Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences. Dr. Polyak is an internationally recognized leader in the field of breast cancer research. She performed her thesis work under the guidance of Dr. Joan Massagué at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. For her thesis work, she was selected as the North American finalist of the Pharmacia Biotech & Science Prize for Young Scientists. Dr. Polyak completed her postdoctoral training with Drs. Bert Vogelstein and Kenneth W. Kinzler at The Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center in Baltimore, and then joined the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Dr. Polyak’s laboratory is dedicated to the molecular analysis of breast cancer with the goal of improving the clinical management of breast cancer patients. Her lab has devoted much effort to developing new ways to study tumors and to apply interdisciplinary approaches. They have applied mathematical and ecological models for a better understanding of breast tumor evolution.

Dr. Polyak has also achieved success with the clinical translation of her findings including the testing of efficacy of JAK2 and BET bromodomain inhibitors for the treatment of triple-negative breast cancer in clinical trials. She has received numerous awards including the Paul Marks Prize for Cancer Research, the AACR Outstanding Investigator Award for Breast Cancer Research, and the Rosalind Franklin Award. She is also a recipient of the National Cancer Institute Outstanding Investigator Award.
Doctors of Medicine
Weill Cornell Medical College
Class of 2020

Brittany Tamar Abel *§
Kevin Saile Ackerman *§
Julio Andres Alvarez
Lillye Patti Anderson
Lorenzo David Bean
Orrin Shea Belden
Aaron Michael Bloch *
Patrick O’Connor Bolan *
John Butterworth III
Anna Chaojun Cai §
Jim Gonzalez Castellanos †
Gustav Young-Min Cederquist *†
Amanda Hayley Ceravolo §
Kevin Chan
Angel Marie Charles *
Rebecca Mengxin Chen
Michael Zhao Cheng
Michael Anthony Chiok
Molly Irene Chodakewitz *§
Caroline Debra Chung
Mary Kathryn Bingham Cox
Francesca Rose Coxe *
Eliza Cricco-Lizza *
Isabel Arellano Cuervo
Alexa Gildea David
Andzelika Dechnik *§
Laura Jeanne Deering
Patrick DeGregorio
Timothy Ryan Donahoe
Krista Alexandra Dubin †
Xiyiying Fan †
Jonathan Stephen Galati
Christopher Michael Gamboa
Joanna Gao
Alejandro Garcia
Ron Shlomo Gejman †
Shokhi Goel
Catherine Gong
Rahul Grover *
Arpit Gupta
Iliana Gutierrez
Matthew Bruce Harrell
Diana He
Jeremy S. Ho
Tiffany Sing Huang
Yun-Han Huang †§
Ruben Jauregui *
Lu Jin
Yujin Joo
Mitali Kini *
Lisa Ruth Koenig
Daniel Oswaldo Lara
Dennis D. Lee
Anfei Li †
Andrea Yu-Ling Liu *
Nathan Jon Liu
Cristina Londono §
Alejandro Ivan Lopez *†
Tasher Losenegger
Nicole Marie Luche
Evgenia Makovkina
Teagan Elizabeth Marshall *
Isaac Mayefsky
Andrew Robert Milewski *†§
Andrew Jacob Miller
Kevin Byunghoon Oh
Hanley Ong
Paul Hyunsuk Paik
Srikanth Palanisamy *
Latha Revathi Panchap *
Hyun Sung Park
Hudson Macoun Pierce
Ryan Eugene Radwanski §
Kimberly Anne Rickman †
Christopher Louis Robinson †
Daniel Benjamin Rosen †
Edwin Rosendo
Karina Nicole Ruiz-Esteves §
Barbara Elena Sahagún
Arash Samadi *
Elizabeth Selvaggio
William Dewey Shipman III †
Michael Philip Sideris
Jason Silberman *
Mohamed Ahmed Soliman *
Laura Perez Soriano
Amy Yuan Sun
Herie Sun * *
Umberto Tosi *
Stephanie Y. Tsai *
Manik Dutt Uppal *
Francesca Alexandra Voza
Sven Joshua Walderich * *
Daniel R. Wang *
Diana Grace Wang †
Wendy Meidan Wang †
Donovan Reese White
Sophia White *
Katharine Hermansen Wilcox
James Patrick Winebrake
Graham Miller Winston *
Richmond Lee Manning Woodward
Qianjing Xia *
Iyan Younus *
Michelle Youngju Yun *
Christina Marie Zecca
David Tianbai Zhang
Eric Yee-se Zhang
Lisa Tian-Tian Zhang

Approval contingent on their successful completion of the academic program

* Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society/with Academic Distinction
† with Honors in Research
§ with Honors in Service
†† Weill Cornell/Rockefeller/Sloan Kettering Tri-Institutional MD-PhD Program Graduate
Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association Award of Distinction
Henry Masur, MD ’72

Dr. Henry Masur (MD ’72) is chief of critical care medicine at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a focus on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the infectious complications of critical illness. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and received a medical degree from Weill Cornell Medical College in 1972. Dr. Masur completed his residency in internal medicine at The New York Hospital and The Johns Hopkins Hospital, followed by a fellowship in infectious diseases at Weill Cornell Medical College. He launched his research career at Weill Cornell Medical College in the laboratory of Dr. Thomas Jones, professor emeritus of medicine.

While in his first year as an assistant professor at Weill Cornell Medical College, Dr. Masur treated a patient with a unique presentation of pneumocystis pneumonia. The experience led him to author one of three peer-reviewed articles in the New England Journal of Medicine that first described the syndrome now known as AIDS. In 1981, he was recruited by Dr. Anthony Fauci (MD ’66) to join the NIH to launch a research program investigating this new syndrome. He joined as the assistant chief of a new department of critical care medicine that Dr. Fauci had created, led by Dr. Joseph Parrillo (MD ’72).

Dr. Masur did much of the early work defining the management of AIDS-related opportunistic infections, with a particular focus on pneumocystis pneumonia. He has been the chief of critical care medicine at the NIH Clinical Center since 1989. He is the founder and current co-editor of the NIH-CDC-Infectious Disease Society of America Guidelines on Management of HIV-Related Opportunistic Infections. His NIH group spearheaded the initial U.S. trials of direct-acting antiviral treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV), which have dramatically improved the success of HCV management. Dr. Masur is a past president of the Infectious Diseases Society of America. He is the co-chair of the NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel with Dr. Roy Gulick, chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Weill Cornell Medicine. In 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded him the Hubert H. Humphrey Award for Service to America.
Hippocratic Oath

I do solemnly vow, to that which I value and hold most dear:

That I will honor the Profession of Medicine, be just and generous to its members, and help sustain them in their service to humanity;

That just as I have learned from those who preceded me, so will I instruct those who follow me in the science and the art of medicine;

That I will recognize the limits of my knowledge and pursue lifelong learning to better care for the sick and to prevent illness;

That I will seek the counsel of others when they are more expert so as to fulfill my obligation to those who are entrusted to my care;

That I will not withdraw from my patients in their time of need;

That I will lead my life and practice my art with integrity and honor, using my power wisely;

That whatsoever I shall see or hear of the lives of my patients that is not fitting to be spoken, I will keep in confidence;

That into whatever house I shall enter, it shall be for the good of the sick;

That I will maintain this sacred trust, holding myself far aloof from wrong, from corrupting, from the tempting of others to vice;

That above all else I will serve the highest interests of my patients through the practice of my science and my art;

That I will be an advocate for patients in need and strive for justice in the care of the sick.

I now turn to my calling, promising to preserve its finest traditions, with the reward of a long experience in the joy of healing.

I make this vow freely and upon my honor.

Augustine M.K. Choi, MD
Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean,
Weill Cornell Medical College
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

May 28, 2020
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Cornell University Alma Mater

Far above Cayuga’s waters,
   With its waves of blue,
Stands our noble Alma Mater,
   Glorious to view.

Far above the busy humming
   of the bustling town,
Reared against the arch of heaven,
   Looks she proudly down.

Chorus
   Lift the chorus, speed it onward,
   Loud her praises tell;
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater,
   Hail, all hail, Cornell.