



milestones



Dr. Yusuf Hamied Establishes Surgery Professorship **Emphasizing Importance of Global Medical Education**

Dr. Yusuf Hamied

When Dr. Yusuf Hamied was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2016, he contacted a talented specialist in New York who was at the forefront of colon and rectal surgery techniques – Dr. Parul Shukla, vice chief of colon and rectal surgery at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Dr. Hamied had met Dr. Shukla five years earlier, when he underwent spinal surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Within days of his cancer diagnosis in May 2016, Dr. Hamied flew from London to New York for a consultation with Dr. Shukla.

“Dr. Shukla and his team successfully operated on me and gave me a new lease on life. I owe my life to him,” says Dr. Hamied, who has been declared cancer-free.

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Dr. Yusuf Hamied

“He has an innovative approach to surgery that impressed me and I felt comfortable to be attended to by him and his team. They were superb, caring and attentive around the clock. I continue to be ever grateful to all of them.”

Continued on p. 2

Dr. Yusuf Hamied Establishes Surgery Professorship Emphasizing Importance of Global Medical Education

continued from cover

Now, with a gift from the Yusuf and Farida Hamied Foundation, Dr. Hamied has established the Yusuf Hamied Professorship of Surgery, with Dr. Shukla as the inaugural holder. The professorship will support surgical research and clinical care, and promote professional exchanges among surgeons and doctors in the United States and globally.

“The professorship bestowed upon me is a great honor,” says Dr. Shukla, an expert in gastrointestinal surgical oncology who has practiced medicine in four countries: Australia, India, the United Kingdom and the United States. “This opportunity will help us to move forward in our mission to provide the best in care and education at Weill Cornell Medicine and in many parts of the world.”

The endowed professorship allows Dr. Shukla to continue his pioneering work, utilizing cutting-edge laparoscopic, endoscopic and robotic techniques to perform minimally invasive surgery. It also provides support to him and future holders, encouraging much needed surgical training to doctors worldwide.

“Through its international programs, Weill Cornell Medicine has shown its leadership in global healthcare education, and I hope to encourage ongoing collaborations through this professorship,” says Dr. Shukla.

“I believe the sharing of ideas and knowledge between leaders in medicine and education in countries around the world, and specifically India, is important,” says Dr. Hamied, who comes from Mumbai, and received an undergraduate degree with honors and a doctorate from the University of Cambridge. One of the longest established chemistry chairs at the University of Cambridge is now known as the Yusuf Hamied 1702 Chair of Chemistry, in his honor. In 2005, the Indian

government awarded Dr. Hamied one of its top civilian honors, the Padma Bhushan, and in 2019 he was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society, the UK’s national academy of sciences, for his substantial contributions to the improvement of science and humanity.

Dr. Hamied has been a philanthropist, focusing his attention on education and healthcare for much of his life. He is the non-executive chairman of Cipla, a global pharmaceutical company started by his late father, Dr. K A Hamied in Mumbai. Among Dr. Yusuf Hamied’s major achievements was the pioneering effort to



Dr. Parul Shukla

provide medicines to combat HIV/AIDS to developing countries at a low cost, saving countless lives. This endeavor was portrayed in the 2013 documentary “Fire in the Blood.”

Currently, to help patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, Cipla is again providing medicines to healthcare organizations at affordable prices, making treatment more accessible.

“One of our missions at Cipla is to combine business with a humanitarian approach: caring for life,” says Dr. Hamied. “This philosophy, when translated to the medical profession, can lead to the making of a great doctor – one with a human touch like Dr. Shukla. I would sum up Dr. Shukla and his work in one word: empathy. He has a deep ongoing concern for his patients, which endears him to them for life.”

“Dr. Hamied is relentless in his pursuit to help people,” says Dr. Shukla. “We are incredibly grateful for his visionary gift that will enhance our ability to care for people and share our expertise with doctors around the world.”

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Dr. Parul Shukla

From Our Dean



During the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Weill Cornell Medicine community faced an extraordinary challenge, as we tackled a virus unlike any we had ever seen before. I am endlessly proud of our front-line healthcare workers, faculty and staff for their tireless dedication and commitment during this time. This devotion is what fuels so much of our work at Weill Cornell Medicine. We are stronger when we work together to save lives.

While our clinical staff has diligently treated patients, our physician-scientists have been active in their laboratories. Researchers from every discipline have come together to combat this health crisis – to accelerate discoveries, develop new therapeutics and, potentially, a vaccine. As an academic medical center, we greatly value translational research, and always strive to link the lab bench with the patient’s bedside. This has never been more true than today, when up-to-the-minute patient data is immediately shared with our researchers, and groundbreaking findings are sped directly to the front lines, worldwide.

And our students – those who graduated early to help care for patients, those who quickly acclimated to remote learning, and those who altered their clinical experiences – have modeled grace and poise in the face of unforeseen hurdles. Their pledge to become the healthcare leaders of tomorrow has never waned and, for many, their commitment is even stronger.

During this difficult time, I have been so moved by the camaraderie and strength of the human spirit at Weill Cornell Medicine. And at the heart of these incredible efforts in each area of our three-part mission is you, our friends, alumni and donors, an essential part of our Weill Cornell Medicine family. Your outpouring of support during these challenging times has allowed us to reach further, to solve some of the most difficult questions, and to persist in the face of adversity. It is because of your inspired generosity that we have already accomplished so much, been able to move forward safely, and are well prepared for the future.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Augustine M.K. Choi, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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

McDonnell Foundation Gift Aids Recovery of COVID-19 Patients

Some COVID-19 patients who are on ventilators for extended periods remain in a coma for days, weeks or even longer – an unfortunate side effect of prolonged mechanical ventilation, sedation and other potential factors that have yet to be characterized. But a new research project supported by a \$1.5 million grant from the James S. McDonnell Foundation (JSMF) has promising implications for the recovery of these patients.

The project is being led by Dr. Nicholas Schiff (MD '92), the Jerold B. Katz Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Institute, and co-director of the Consortium for the Advanced Study of Brain Injury (CASBI) at Weill Cornell Medicine. The project is a collaboration among investigators at Weill Cornell Medicine, Columbia University Irving Medical Center and Massachusetts General Hospital and expands upon neurological research that is already underway by the group. These three centers are part of an international consortium established in 2008 with a \$10 million grant from the JSMF to study the recovery of consciousness after brain injuries.

“This unique infrastructure positioned three U.S. medical centers hit so hard this spring by COVID-19 – Weill Cornell Medicine, Columbia and Mass General – to apply our thinking and approach to patients we were all encountering with slow recovery of consciousness following intensive-care unit treatment for COVID-19,” says Dr. Schiff.



Dr. Nicholas Schiff

Researchers currently speculate that COVID-19 patients without any identifiable structural brain lesions may be lingering in extended comas due to inadequate oxygenation during mechanical ventilation, combined with the after-effects of prolonged anesthesia.

The James S. McDonnell Foundation supported the project for multiple reasons, says its president, Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick. “Dr. Schiff is an experienced leader, and he and the research team are addressing the critical needs of an emerging COVID-19 patient population suffering from

dire consequences,” she says. “We knew that the collaborative team could be mobilized quickly, in part, because the investigators were already networked and previously supported by JSMF.”

Dr. Schiff, who is also a professor of neuroscience, of neurology and of medical ethics in medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, says

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Dr. Susan Fitzpatrick

that he is enormously grateful for the gift from the JSMF – a group that has “taken the lead in supporting broad collaborative research on recovery of consciousness in humans for more than a decade.”

The hope is that the new research will bring a greater understanding of the mechanisms underlying prolonged recovery of consciousness of patients with COVID-19 – and ultimately help those with other disorders of consciousness as well, says Dr. Schiff.

Ways to Give: Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society

Ways to Give explores the many ways our donors help Weill Cornell Medicine advance breakthroughs in research, provide compassionate care to patients and educate the next generation of medical leaders. Every donor is able to make a powerful impact. To learn more, please visit give.weill.cornell.edu

Pioneering surgeon Dr. Lewis Atterbury Stimson helped found Weill Cornell Medical College in 1898 with a noble goal – to create a center of learning for generations of healthcare leaders. Right from the start, Dr. Stimson understood the importance of adhering to the highest standards while planning for the future.

Members of Weill Cornell Medicine’s Lewis Atterbury Stimson Society share Dr. Stimson’s passion for excellence. Their generosity ensures that the institution’s innovative programs receive the steady, reliable source of funding required to transform medicine – critical support that is needed more than ever to fight COVID-19 and other important health challenges.

The Stimson Society honors donors who have established planned gifts or named Weill Cornell Medicine as a beneficiary in their wills or trusts. There are many tax-wise giving strategies from which to choose, including:

- **Gifts of Marketable Securities:** Gifts of long-term appreciated securities are a low-cost and popular way to make a gift.
- **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution:** New legislation provides a tax-free opportunity for donors to make current gifts to charity. Those who are age 70½ or older and have an individual retirement account (IRA) may make a gift by directly transferring funds from their IRA to Weill Cornell Medicine.
- **Gifts in Your Will or Trust:** A bequest in your will or trust, or beneficiary designation of your financial account(s), offers an easy way to make a gift to Weill Cornell Medicine while providing you with the financial flexibility to retain full use of your assets during your lifetime.
- **Gifts that Provide Payments for Life:** In exchange for your gift to Weill Cornell Medicine, you and a loved one can receive supplemental income payments for your lifetimes, and tax savings. Examples include Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts. Charitable Lead Trusts can provide gift and transfer tax savings for your family while providing current payments to Weill Cornell Medicine.

Barbara Gallay, a Stimson Society member, chose to establish a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) in 2019 to endow the Barbara A. Gallay Scholarship. Her generous gift will make a significant impact on the lives of future physicians and their patients.

“Establishing a scholarship enables me to help young people focus on medicine without having to worry about how they’ll repay their loans,” says Ms. Gallay. “Also, the CGA provides tax advantages and fixed quarterly payments for life, which is terrific.”



Barbara Gallay

Stimson Society members are invited to attend special events that highlight research, innovations in patient care and educational initiatives. They also receive a newsletter and valuable planning information from our gift planning professionals.

To learn more about the benefits of strategic financial planning and Stimson Society membership, please contact Lisa Lager, director of planned giving, at plannedgiving@med.cornell.edu or (646) 962-9567.

Please note that this information is provided for our friends and supporters. Its purpose is to describe current developments that may be helpful in your tax, legal and financial planning. Please consult with your own attorney or other advisors as to the applicability of any option to your personal situation.

WCM Insights Webinar Series: Leading the Conversation on Healthcare

As one of the nation's most prestigious academic medical centers, Weill Cornell Medicine is home to distinguished biomedical researchers, clinicians and other health professionals who are transforming the world of medicine. Their expertise has been showcased in an online informational program. Each hour-long webinar features a live discussion among faculty on pressing health issues, ranging from COVID-19 research to racial health disparities and mental health concerns. Viewers are able to submit questions to the panelists, and all webinars are archived for later viewing on the Insights website: weill.cornell.edu/insights

The series continues with two upcoming webinars:

→ Thursday, October 8

Healthy at Home: Building Strength, Nutrition and Resilience will review essential tips to maintaining your health in the comfort of home. Panelists will include:

- **Janet Lau**, a nutritionist in the Integrative Health and Wellbeing Program
- **Dr. Jaspal "Ricky" Singh**, Vice Chairman and Director of Interventional Spine in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and co-director, Weill Cornell Center for Comprehensive Spine Care
- **Dr. Joel Stein**, Chairman, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine

[Register Here](#)

→ Thursday, October 15

The Perfect Score: COVID Testing and a Flattened Curve will highlight how Weill Cornell Medicine physicians and scientists continue to use cutting-edge techniques to keep New Yorkers safe, even after the city lowered the infection rate using science-based strategies. Panelists will include:

- **Dr. Melissa Cushing**, Director of Clinical Laboratories and Vice Chair, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
- **Dr. Nathaniel Hupert**, Co-Director, Institute for Disease and Disaster Preparedness at Weill Cornell Medicine and Associate Professor of Population Health Sciences and of Medicine
- **Dr. Rainu Kaushal**, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Research, Chairman, Department of Population Health Sciences, and the Nanette Laitman Distinguished Professor of Healthcare Policy and Research
- **Dr. Massimo Loda**, Chairman, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and the David T. Thompson Professor of Pathology

[Register Here](#)

The first five webinars, held from July through September, looked at current healthcare topics from a variety of perspectives:

Health Equities and Racial Disparities: The Pandemic within a Pandemic examined the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Latino people. Panelists included:

- **Dr. Joy Howell**, Assistant Dean of Diversity and Student Life
- **Dr. Said Ibrahim**, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, and Chief of the Division of Healthcare Delivery Science and Innovation in the Department of Population Health Sciences
- **Dr. Vanessa Rouzier**, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in Medicine, and Chief of Pediatrics, GHESKIO Center, Haiti
- **Dr. Monika Safford**, Director, Cornell Center for Health Equity, and Chief, General Internal Medicine in the Weill Department of Medicine

Peas in a Pod: Mental Wellness for the Entire Family shared strategies to bolster mind-body health and improve well-being during these challenging times. Panelists included:

- **Dr. Shannon Bennett**, Assistant Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry
- **Dr. Susan Evans**, Professor of Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry
- **Dr. Francis Lee**, Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, and Professor of Neuroscience, Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute

COVID Clinical Trials: Antibodies, Immunity and Vaccine Development presented the latest information on COVID-related clinical trials aimed at discovering new treatments and developing successful vaccines. Panelists included:

- **Dr. Marshall Glesby**, Associate Chief of Infectious Diseases in the Weill Department of Medicine
- **Dr. Roy Gulick**, Chief of Infectious Diseases in the Weill Department of Medicine, and the Rochelle Belfer Professor in Medicine
- **Dr. Kristen Marks**, Associate Professor of Medicine
- **Dr. Carl Nathan**, Chairman of Microbiology and Immunology, and the Rees Pritchett Professor of Microbiology

Renewal at the Epicenter: COVID and the Road Ahead surveyed the strides that Weill Cornell Medicine is making to combat COVID and to ensuring continued quality care for all patients. Speakers were:

- **Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi**, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine
- **Dr. Joseph Cooke**, Vice Chairman, Weill Department of Medicine

The New Frontline: Innovations in Emergency Medicine and Telehealth

reviewed the rapidly evolving and expanding world of digital healthcare and new trends in emergency medicine and telemedicine. Panelists included:

- **Dr. Peter Greenwald**, Director of Telemedicine, Department of Emergency Medicine
- **Dr. Rahul Sharma**, Chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Executive Director, Center for Virtual Care
- **Dr. Heather Yeo**, the Frank Glenn Faculty Scholar in Surgery and the Nanette Laitman Clinical Scholar in Healthcare Policy and Research/Clinical Evaluation



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