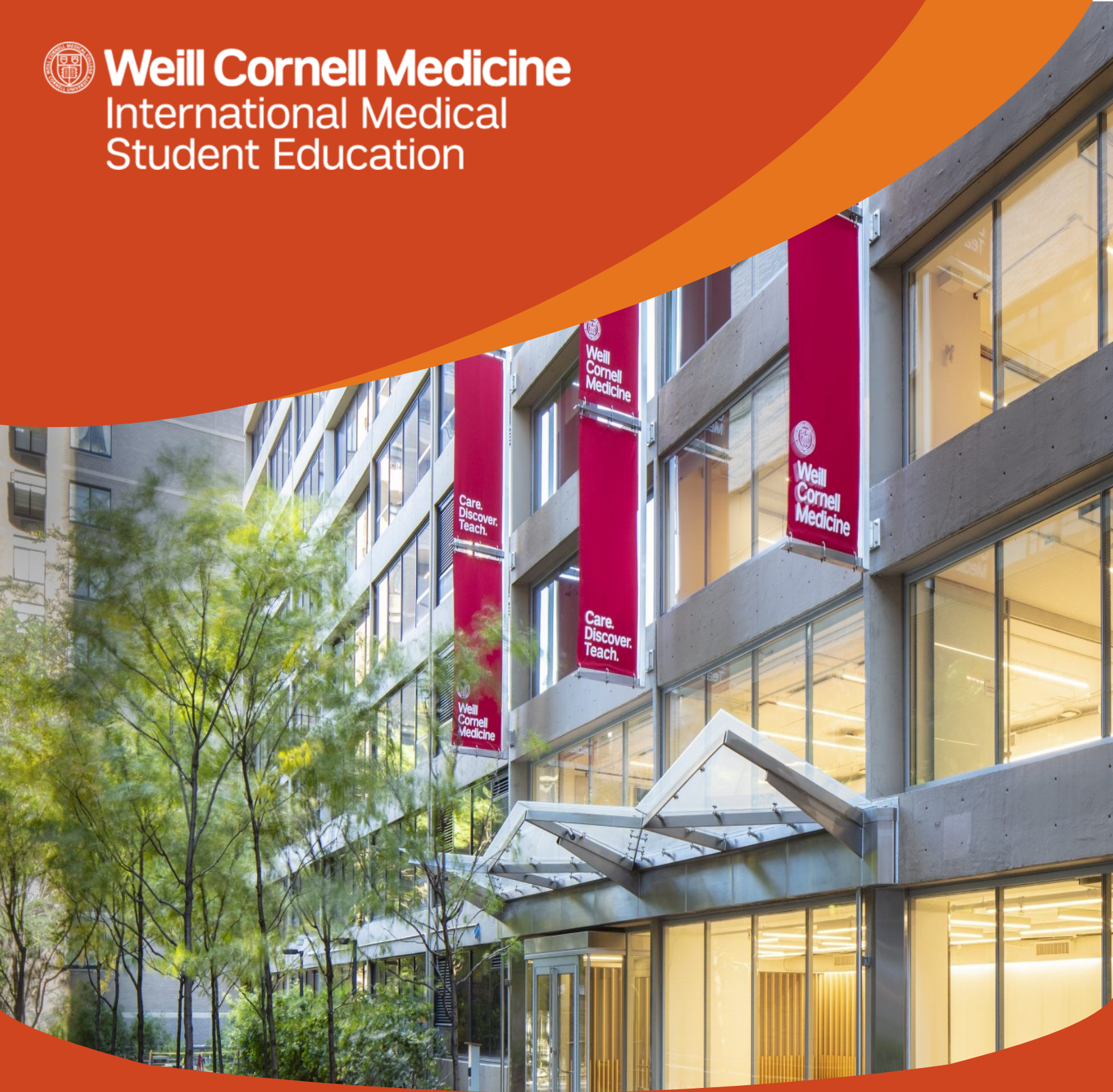




Weill Cornell Medicine
International Medical
Student Education



NEWSLETTER
Winter 2024



NOTES FROM THE DIRECTORS

Happy Holidays from the Office of International Medical Student Education!

As 2025 quickly approaches, we are excited to reflect upon the incredible accomplishments of our Weill Cornell students and the dedicated engagement of our wider Weill Cornell Global Health Community including faculty members, partner institutions – and of course our esteemed donors. The Class of 2028 has shown exceptional involvement throughout the Introduction to Global Health Seminar Series this Fall and we look forward to their participation in the Introduction to Global/Local Health Equity curricular offering this Spring Semester!

In October, IMSE hosted the Fall International Reception where we celebrated the incredible work of the four Weill Cornell medical students who participated in mentored international summer projects in Pakistan and Thailand (Summer 2024). This reception was also an opportunity for students to learn more about additional opportunities from a diversity of summer opportunities at partner sites including Tanzania, India, and Uganda. Dr. Mickey Stewart, the Senior Dean of the Office of International Affairs and Affiliations and Interim Associate Dean of Medical Education and Dr. Joseph Safdieh, the Gertrude Feil Associate Dean of Curricular Affairs and Vice Chair of Education and Professor of Neurology provided opening remarks at the reception. Dr. TJ Jirasevijinda, Director of Pediatric Undergraduate Medical Education and Professor of Pediatrics, reflected on his rewarding experience as a faculty mentor connecting our Weill Cornell students with projects and local faculty mentors at our long-standing partner institution, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. This vibrant gathering brought together Global Health faculty in a diversity of specialties and dozens of Weill Cornell students spanning all classes to allow for meaningful community building across the global health space. We already have a record number of MS1 students interested in pursuing a funded summer international project for 2025!

In 2024, we had a record number of students apply for the funded fourth-year international clinical elective opportunities. Their interest underscores the value of this unique opportunity to learn about and experience health care delivery in another country. We are delighted to share that twenty students will travel abroad to participate in a clinical elective in Spring 2025 with rotations at WCM partner Universities in: Australia, Austria, Brazil, France, Singapore, Spain, Tanzania, Taiwan, Thailand and WCM-Qatar. We are also proud to help support four of our senior medical students carry out global health research in their Area of Concentration (AOC) projects this academic year. Stay tuned for our Spring International Fellows Reception in May 2025, where returning students will report back on their experiences!

Innovative collaboration with our international partners and bidirectional student exchange has remained a cornerstone of the IMSE Office mission. This academic year we have had wonderful meetings with the leadership teams from American Hospital in Paris and Kings College London. We continue to welcome medical students from our partner Universidade Estadual Paulista (UNESP) in Botacatu, Brazil for our WCM Global Health Grand Rounds (held over Zoom). We are also delighted to announce a WCM student-led initiative to develop a Medical Mandarin language club in partnership with students at National Taiwan University College of Medicine!

Special and continued thanks to our donors for their generosity. Your support allows our Weill Cornell Students to participate in these world class global health opportunities to help them become the next generation of globally minded physician leaders. The first half of the academic year has been wonderful thanks to our international partners, our amazing staff, and students. Wishing you all a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season! We are looking forward to connecting in 2024!

Warm regards and wishing everyone health and happiness in the new year!

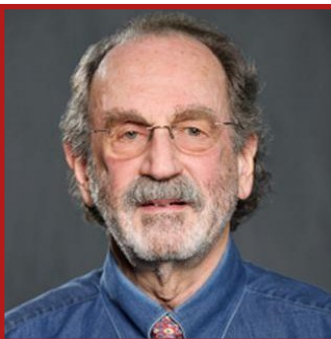
Laura & Radhika

GLOBAL HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS



Gaurab Basu, MD, MPH

The first lecture for the 2024 – 2025 iteration of the Global Health Grand Rounds was led by Dr. Gaurab Basu, Assistant Professor and Director of Education & Policy for the Center for Climate, Health, & the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. His talk was titled, “The Public Health Challenge of Our Time: A Call for Climate Action”. This lecture reminded us that climate change impacts everything we care about, particularly in its effect on health and medicine. He reinforced the need for bringing climate change to the center of healthcare. He noted that environmental issues impact health equity through extreme weather, food insecurity, forced migration, and deleterious effects on mental health. These issues disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, increasing health inequity. Dr. Basu stated that “climate change is a health inequity turbocharger” and stressed that we need to embrace transformative actions to alleviate these impacts to possibly prevent the next pandemic or spillover event. He also emphasized that institutional choices such as integrating climate change into medical education curricula and plans to reduce carbon emissions can drive profound change. Dr. Basu’s talk definitely reminded us that by bringing climate change to the forefront, we are one step closer to safeguarding global health and advancing health equity.



Eric Caine, MD

In December 2024, Dr. Eric Caine, Professor of Psychiatry, Emeritus from the University of Rochester Medical Center, delivered a talk on global mental health and suicide prevention. Dr. Caine gave an overview on global mental health issues over the years, highlighting challenges in mental health and emphasized that before we “think about prevention or intervention, we should ask where we would have the most leverage or where can we change fatal outcomes” so that we can make a difference in people’s lives. Dr. Caine stressed that we need to empower families and communities using collaborative multidisciplinary approaches. These local strategies have the potential to prevent premature deaths and be sustainable in low resource settings.

IMSE’s Global Health Grand Rounds are held via ZOOM and are offered for 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Please visit the events page on our website at <https://international.weill.cornell.edu> for upcoming lectures and the link to permitted recorded lectures.

SUMMER 2024 INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

Students from the class of 2027 participated in an international mentored research project during summer of 2023. These projects took place in Pakistan and Thailand under the mentorship of Drs. Thanakorn Jirasevijinda, Junaid Razzak, Huba Atiq, Pon Trairatvorakul, Nond Rojvachiranonda, Mirza Noor Ali Baig. In October 2024, these students presented their findings at IMSE's Fall International Summer Fellows Reception. Many thanks to our international faculty mentors for helping to facilitate the placement of these students and for providing supervision of their projects. Students from this past summer were funded by the Barbara Slifka International Fellows and the Dr. Robert C. and Veronica Atkins Foundation Curriculum. Thank you to our donors for their continued support!



Mehrose Ahmad

Mentor(s)

Junaid Razzak, MD, PhD FACEP

Professor of Emergency Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Huba Atiq

Assistant Director of The Centre of Excellence for
Trauma & Emergencies
The Aga Khan University

Project Title

From Obstetrics to CPR: Mobilizing Pakistani Lady Health Workers (LHW) for Cardiac Emergency Response through CPR Integration



Adrienne Biskaduros

Mentor(s)

Thanakorn Jirasevijinda, MD

Professor of Teaching in Pediatrics
Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Nond Rojvachiranonda

Professor of Plastic Surgery
Chulalongkorn University

Project Title

Long-term cognitive outcomes in pediatric patients evaluated for frontoethmoidal encephalomeningocele at a tertiary specialty clinic



Noor Nassar

Mentor(s)

Thanakorn Jirasevijinda, MD

Professor of Teaching in Pediatrics
Weill Cornell Medicine

Dr. Pon Trairatvorakul

Department of Pediatrics
King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital

Project Title

Exploring the Role of Virtual Support Groups in Parental Self-Efficacy Among Caregivers of Children with Developmental Concerns



Serena Zampino

Mentor(s)

Junaid Razzak, MD, PhD FACEP

Professor of Emergency Medicine
Weill Cornell Medicine

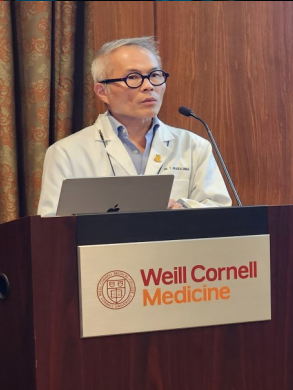
Mirza Noor Ali Baig, MD

Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine
The Aga Khan University

Project Title

Efficacy and Gender Equity of A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training Program in Pakistan Assessed Through the Eyes of Participants

SNAPS FROM THE FALL GLOBAL HEALTH RECEPTION & SUMMER FELLOWS



GLOBAL HEALTH SEMINAR SERIES



The Global Health Seminar Series continues to be a popular series among our first-year class!

Topics for the fall 2024 iteration of this 9-week series included: Non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries, settler colonialism as a social determinant of health, Hansen's disease, global healthcare systems and medical pluralism, colonization/decolonization in Global Health, burn injury and care in a low-resource setting, the right to sight, women's health in LMICs, global infectious diseases, and global issues facing children.

We continue to present this lecture series in an interactive format where students were asked to work in groups on specific case-based questions related to the topic presented. The case-based learning approach gives students an opportunity to see theory in practice while keeping them engaged to develop analytic and collaborative skills. It is a chance to connect students with real-life data allowing them to articulate issues while acquiring deep knowledge in the process. Dr. Thanakorn Jirasevijinda, Professor of Pediatrics, used the "Jeopardy" format to get the students even more engaged.

This series is planned based on feedback from students. Students enjoyed discussing real-world cases which presented an opportunity to think about how global health interventions and programs can be done differently. It was a joy to see the impressive level of in-person engagement as students worked together in small groups to discuss interactive cases introduced by a diverse selection of renowned global health faculty educators.

Many thanks to our lecturers this year: Drs. Dupnik, Gallagher, Jirasevijinda, Mathad, Peck, Sadigh, Scales, Sun, and Sundararajan. We appreciate them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to once again making this year's Introduction to Global Health Seminar Series a success.



VISITING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM



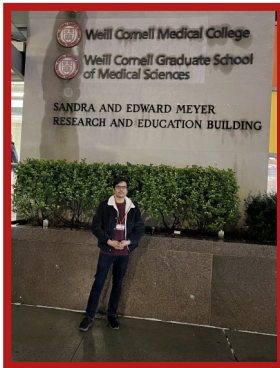
The Visiting International Student Program at Weill Cornell allows international medical students to rotate in clinical electives during their penultimate year. These students are exposed to world-class medical care provided at Weill Cornell-NY Presbyterian and affiliate hospitals. We are delighted to host students from our long-standing partners, as well as independent international students from around the world. During the fall 2024 semester, forty-four students rotated in Anesthesia, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Otorhinolaryngology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery at NYPH, NYP Queens and Brooklyn Methodist.

We are sincerely thankful for the support of clinical departments, coordinators, and the Registrar's Office who assist from the placement to processing and registering of the international students. In survey feedback, one student wrote "this was truly a mesmerizing experience". Another was ecstatic that he was able to perform resident level tasks as it gave him insights into the intern year. Overall, students were thrilled to work on teams with dedicated faculty members who provided superb medical education in their given fields. We continue to work closely with the Office of International Affairs and Affiliations in building new international partnerships to expand WCMC's tradition of sustainable and equitable bidirectional student exchange.

We continue to work closely with the Office of International Affairs and Affiliations in building new international partnerships, in efforts to expand WCMC's tradition of sustainable and equitable bilateral student exchange.



VISITING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



Ishaan Singh

My name is Ishaan Singh, a final-year medical student at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences in India. It is my firm belief that Medicine is a unison of two facets – problem solving and compassion. During my last 4 years of medical school, I have participated in various research projects and clinical rotations that have honed my problem-solving skills and deepened my passion for medicine.

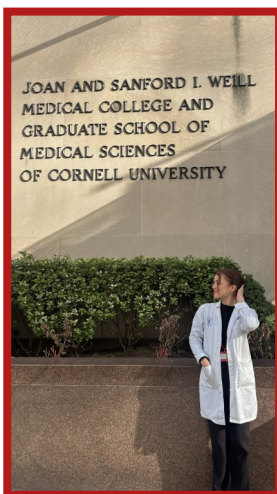
Weill Cornell Medicine's global reputation for outstanding clinical exposure, mentorship, cutting-edge facilities, and exceptional research opportunities made it my top choice for furthering my experience in medicine. I took a chance and applied for clinical electives at Weill Cornell and was accepted for Advanced Clinical Elective: Pediatric Critical Care. This was truly an amazing experience of a lifetime for me. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside such talented physicians and to contribute to the exceptional care provided to patients at WCMC. This clerkship was not only an opportunity to hone my clinical skills but also a chance to gain invaluable insights into various other aspects of medicine. From the collaborative team environment to the exposure to complex cases. The chance to work within one of the largest hospital systems in such a dynamic and diverse city is truly a privilege. The opportunity at WCMC helped me gain a comprehensive clinical experience while caring for a diverse set of patients.



Dr. Muthukumar Thangamani
and Ishaan Singh

Every moment deepened my understanding and solidified my commitment to becoming a compassionate and skilled physician. Every member of the team, be it the Attending physician, fellow, resident, PA, RN, EMT provided me with an enriching environment helping me expand my breadth of knowledge. This experience will serve as a strong foundation for my future career as a physician in the US. The lessons I've learned during this time will have a profound and lasting impact on my career.

Thank you to the Office of International Medical Student Education and to everyone at WCMC who made this experience so impactful. I'm excited for the future and the continued journey ahead!



Luca Boglárka Fazekas

My name is Luca Boglárka Fazekas and I am a final-year medical student at University of Pécs Medical School in Hungary. I am particularly interested in Dermatology, so I was very excited to rotate in Dermatology at Weill Cornell.

The rotation exceeded all my expectations, I was made to feel very welcomed and felt like a member of the team. I had the opportunity to learn a lot from the Attendings as well as from the Residents. The General Dermatology rotation offered me the chance to work with a number of different doctors, attend lectures, present patients to the Attendings and deepen my understanding of different fields of Dermatology, such as Pediatrics Dermatology and Cosmetic Dermatology. The experience and knowledge I have gained will certainly serve me later in my profession as not only did I broaden my knowledge of Dermatology, but I also had the chance to get an insight into the U.S. healthcare system.

It was an honor to rotate at WCM and I am very thankful for the opportunity.



Happy Holidays!

From the Office of
International Medical Student Education



Weill Cornell Medicine

Office of International Medical
Student Education

1300 York Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Laura Greisman, MD, DTM&H
Radhika Sundararajan, MD, PhD
Savita Birbal, MA



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