



Weill Cornell Medicine

International Medical Student Education

Summer 2022 Newsletter



Weill Cornell Medical College



Weill Cornell Graduate School
of Medical Sciences

SANDRA AND EDWARD MEYER
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION BUILDING



Notes from the Directors

We are delighted to be sharing our first 'Notes from the Directors' and cannot believe that it has already been six months since we began in our new role as Co-Directors of the Office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE), formerly known as the Office of Global Health Education. These past few months have brought many changes; however, our office's dedication to delivering high quality, safe and sustainable international experiences and global health curricular offerings to our Weill Cornell students and visiting international students has not wavered.

Two years in, COVID-19 continued to impose its challenges with travel restrictions limiting student travel this past spring; however, IMSE pursued innovative and fruitful collaborations which resulted in several new curricular offerings. In April 2022, IMSE collaborated with the Department of Emergency Medicine to offer Telemedicine as the first virtual elective course open to international medical students. This offering received rave reviews from our international student participants from Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. IMSE also initiated a new Student/Faculty Global Health Journal Club which has rekindled important discussions within our WCM global health community, as well as our partners from Universidade Estadual Paulista in Botucatu, Brazil, who attended virtually. Furthermore, IMSE started a new monthly Newsletter to keep students and faculty up-to-date with new IMSE initiatives, global health related events and opportunities, a selection of recent notable publications, while featuring a member of our Student Global Health Collective.

Looking ahead, IMSE is thrilled to have received the 'green light' from the Dean's Office to resume international electives, both for our Weill Cornell Students to go abroad, and for Visiting International Students who are interested in enrolling in a clinical elective at WCM, for the first time in over two years! We recently completed a pre-departure workshop with WCMC students who will be carrying out mentored international projects in Tanzania, India and Germany this summer.

This Summer Newsletter highlights IMSE's activities for the second half of the 2022 academic year - from our Global Health Seminar Series, Career Seminars, to our Global Health Reception – honoring Dr. Madelon L. Finkel, in addition to the Global Health Certificate recipients from the class of 2022. The 2022 awardee of the Barbara Slifka Global Health Award will also be highlighted. This award honors a graduating student who has shown consistent leadership and participation in global health activities during medical school.

We thank those of you who attended our meet and greet in March and those of you who sent well wishes our way. This event provided a wonderful opportunity for WCM global health students and faculty to gather, network and meet the IMSE Office team in person for the first time in several years. It has been a wonderful start as the new Co-Directors of the Office of International Medical Education.



Wishing you a safe and healthy summer!

Laura & Radhika

Co-Directors, Office of International Medical Student Education

Laura Greisman, MD, DTM&H

Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Dept. of Medicine, Section of Hospital Medicine

Radhika Sundararajan, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Medicine
Dept. of Emergency Medicine & Center for Global Health

Honoring Dr. Madelon L. Finkel

This past May the Office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE) had the privilege of honoring Dr. Madelon L. Finkel, the Inaugural Director of The Office of Global Health Education (OGHE). Dr. Finkel served as the Director of OGHE for seventeen years and made the decision to step down as of January 2022.

As Director, Dr. Finkel significantly expanded the scope and breadth of global health education at Weill Cornell both for Weill Cornell students as well as for international visiting medical students pursuing clinical electives at WCM and its affiliates.

Over the years, she was instrumental in establishing numerous partnerships and initiating numerous collaborative research projects with faculty at partner institutions, including Australia, India, Peru, Spain, Tanzania, and Thailand. These partnerships helped foster clinical and research opportunities for WCM students seeking an international experience while the collaborative research enabled WCM students to participate in research studies at partnering sites.

IMSE will build on her already established educational programs such as Global Health Grand Rounds and Global Health Career Seminars for WCM students and faculty.

Dr. Finkel's efforts were remarkable on many counts and, as such, IMSE couldn't just let her go without giving our thanks.



Global Health Seminar Series

Four Global Health Seminar Series lectures were held in Spring 2022. The office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE) continues to offer these lectures virtually so that partners near and far are able to join in. Dr. Adam Sobel, Professor of Applied Physics & Mathematics and of Earth & Environmental Science at Columbia University, kicked off the lecture series in January for Spring 2022 by speaking on extreme weather and climate change. In February, Nina Finley, Research Manager from Health In Harmony, spoke about preservation of rainforest communities. Ms. Finley's talk was followed by one from Sachit Balsari, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine from Harvard Medical School and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, entitled "Where Do We Go From Here? Climate Change, Migration and Civil Strife." Dr. Balsari's talk focused on the reasons behind migration and its challenges. In April, the final lecture for the 2022 academic year was presented by Dr. Natalie Mahowald, Irving Porter Professor in Engineering at Cornell University. Dr. Mahowald's talk, "How to Reach Low Climate Targets," focused on global greenhouse emissions pathways and its response to climate change threat and sustainable development.



Adam Sobel, PhD



Nina Finley, MA



Sachit Balsari, MD, MPH



Natalie Mahowald, PhD

Global Health Career Seminars

The Career Seminars are one way in which the Office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE) supports students who are interested in global health work. This series allows students to meet informally with faculty members who are engaged in global health activities. The first Global Health Career Seminar for Spring 2022 was led by Dr. Caitlin Hoffman ('07), Pediatric Neurosurgeon, with a focus on epilepsy, craniofacial surgery and global neurosurgery. She spoke about the importance of local education and collaboration to ensure sustainability of surgical programs in low- and middle-income countries. In February, Dr. Grace Sun ('05), Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology, also spoke of her strong interest in global health and her contribution to eliminate blindness in low resource settings. Both Drs. Hoffman and Sun are graduates of WCMC. Finally, in March, Dr. Laura Greisman, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Co-Director of the IMSE spoke about her experience in global health and medical education studying tropical medicine and venom research.



Caitlin Hoffman, MD



Grace Sun, MD



Laura Greisman, MD

Global Health Curriculum at WCM

Weill Cornell's pause on international travel due to COVID-19 has finally been lifted and resulted in the Office of Medical Student Education receiving permission from the Deans to once again open its doors after two years to Weill Cornell Medical Students who are interested in participating in research and clinical electives abroad.

IMSE received and approved seven applications from first-year medical students who are interested in and will be doing research abroad during Summer 2022. These students will be working under the guidance of their WCM mentor(s) as well as their assigned mentor(s) from the WCM partnering site. Students will be traveling to the following partner sites to complete fully funded international electives: Tanzania, Germany, and India.

As we prepare for the upcoming academic year, to date IMSE received eighteen applications from rising fourth-year WCM medical students who are interested in completing an international clinical elective during spring 2023. Students are very enthusiastic and look forward to traveling abroad to learn about comparative health systems and health care delivery in another country. Currently, students have applied for an elective in at least nine countries in several different specialty areas. Additional applications for international clinical electives in Spring 2023 are still streaming in.



Global Health Journal Club

Being forced to close the doors to international partners during COVID allowed the Office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE) to channel new platforms while meeting our students' needs. During Spring of 2022, IMSE began to restructure the Global Health Curriculum to include students from partner sites to attend our virtual lectures - creating a more diverse audience. The newly reformed hybrid Student/Faculty Global Health Journal Club began in March of 2022. The first hybrid model Journal Club on 'Snake Envenomation' was co-led by Nick Roberts (Class of 2024) and Dr. Laura Greisman, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Co-Director of the IMSE. Both students and faculty joined in person, while students from our partner site at Universidade Estadual Paulista in Botucatu, Brazil joined over ZOOM. The second and final session of the GH Journal Club for Spring 2022, "From Evaluation to Intervention: A Conversation on Global Family Planning," was co-led by Kristen Riley (class 2022) and Dr. Jennifer Downs, Associate Professor of Medicine. Both journal club sessions were a success in the hybrid model as the discussions were mutually beneficial.

Global Health Certificates



Adrienne Clermont



William Ford



Yendé Grell



Julia Klein



Jessica Lu



Andrew Duong



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GLOBAL HEALTH STUDENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2022!!

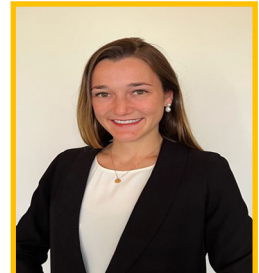
Congratulations to Adrienne Clermont, Andrew Duong, Margaret Fabiszak, William Ford, Yendé Grell, Julia Klein, Jessica Lu, Paige McMahon and Cheyenne Smith, members of the Class of 2022 who received a Certificate in Global Health based on their active participation in global health activities throughout their time at Weill Cornell. Student support of our global health program is very important, and the Office of International Medical Student Education recognizes this. These students demonstrated initiative, leadership, and commitment to global health work.



Paige McMahon



Margaret Fabiszak



Cheyenne Smith

The Barbara Slifka Global Health Award

The Office of Global Health Education established The Barbara Slifka Global Health Award to honor Barbara Slifka, a generous supporter of our global health education program. The recipient of this award is Adrienne Clermont, member of the Class of 2022. The award, which carries a cash prize, recognizes an individual who showed exceptional leadership in the area of global health throughout medical school. Congratulations to Adrienne and many thanks to Ms. Slifka for her generosity and support throughout the years.



Adrienne Clermont

International Visiting Student Program

The Visiting Student International Clinical Electives Program is an excellent way for foreign medical students to obtain exposure to the world-class medical care provided at Weill Cornell-NY Presbyterian Hospital. In April 2022, the Office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE) reopened its door to international medical students. The COVID lockdown had forced the closing of the clinical electives program for the past two years. Nevertheless, we've kept in contact with prospective students, as well as students who completed clinical electives at WCM in the past.

This year we heard from three students (from Austria, Egypt and from Italy) who participated in the International Visiting Students Clinical electives program and successfully matched at a US Residency program! One matched in Orthopedics at Emory University School of Medicine, another matched in Internal Medicine at Rochester Unity Hospital, and one matched in Internal Medicine at Stanford Medical University. These students considered their time at WCM to be an advantage and a significant contributor to their competitiveness in the annual Match.



Mahmoud Amreia, MD — Egypt

WCM: June & July 2019

Electives: Emergency Medicine and Oncology

Resident Match: Internal Medicine, Rochester Unity Hospital



Maria Moscvin, MD — Italy

WCM: October 2017 & May 2018

Elective: Hematology

Resident Match: Internal Medicine, Stanford Medical University



Jesse Seilern, MD — Austria

WCM: February & March 2020

Elective: Foot and Ankle Services

Resident Match: Orthopedics, Emory University School of Medicine

Weill Cornell Medicine
Office of International Medical
Student Education

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**To make a donation, please
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Under the leadership of Weill
Cornell Medical Education, The
Office of International Medical
Student Education (IMSE)
oversees global health education
for WCM students and visiting
International medical students at
WCM.

[Click here to visit us in the web](#)

Snapshots from Spring 2022



*From the Office of International Medical
Student Education, have a great summer!!!*

