

International Medical Student Education



Winter 2022 Newsletter



**Weill Cornell
Medicine**

Notes from the Directors



Happy Holidays from the Office of International Medical Student Education (IMSE)! We have had a busy and exciting start of the 2022 Academic year as we have resumed all the Office's programmatic and educational offerings, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our incredible staff and the support of the central medical education team at the medical college. The Weill Cornell Global Health Community has been invigorated by the past 6 months by the welcome return of our Visiting International Students back to campus for clinical electives, and by the enthusiasm and engagement of our Weill Cornell students. This Winter Newsletter highlights IMSE's

activities for the first half of the 2022/23 academic year.

In October, IMSE hosted the Fall International Fellows Reception to celebrate and share the scholarly work of our seven Weill Cornell medical students who participated in mentored international summer projects in Tanzania, India, and Germany. Dr. Mickey Stewart, the Senior Dean of the Office of International Affairs and Affiliations and Dr. Estomih Mtui, Professor and Chief of the Division of Anatomy and member of the International Elective Committee kicked off the event. Their opening remarks highlighted Weill Cornell Medical College's proven track record and ongoing commitment to providing students with high quality international educational programming, experiential learning, and faculty mentorship. Even with a rainy evening, the turnout was remarkable with over seventy medical students attending in addition to Global Health faculty members. This event redemonstrated the strength of the Weill Cornell Medical School Global Health community and our student interest in global health!

This year also marked the first time that a Global Health lecture was formally integrated into the required Weill Cornell Medical School MS1 foundational curriculum. We were delighted to give an interactive Introduction to Global Health lecture as part of the Social Justice, Policy, Advocacy, Community Engagement (SPACE) curriculum.

IMSE was thrilled to host a pre-departure workshop for the fourth-year medical students who will be participating in an international clinical elective in Spring 2023. We eagerly anticipate the Spring International Fellows Reception in May 2023 where we will hear about their experiences and award certificates of distinction in Global Health to the graduating Class of 2023. We are also looking forward to launching the Global/Local Health Equity Clinical Preceptorship this spring as part of the Global Health longitudinal curriculum for interested 1st year medical students.

It has been a remarkable year as this Winter Newsletter marks one-year as Co-Directors of the Office of International Medical Education. We extend heartfelt thanks to our incredible Office staff, Global Health faculty, students, our international partners, and of course our generous donors.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!

Laura Greisman, MD, DTM&H

Co-Director, Office of International Medical Student Education
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Dept. of Medicine, Section of Hospital Medicine

Radhika Sundararajan, MD, PhD

Co-Director, Office of International Medical Student Education
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Dept. of Emergency Medicine & Center for Global Health

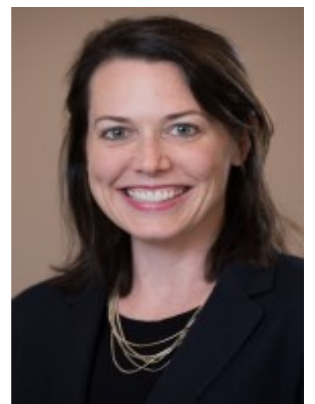
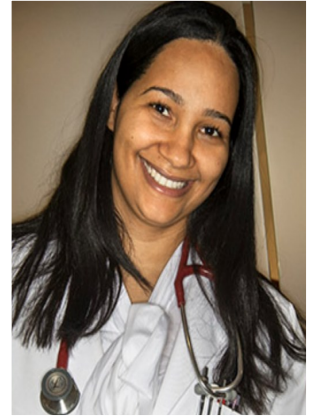


The Office of International Medical Student Education continues to offer the Global Health Grand Round virtually. This virtual platform allows attendees, near and far, to connect in real-time to discuss modern-day global health issues.

This fall, we kicked off with a lecture on COVID-19 . In September, Dr. Cristina Toledo-Cornell, former Director of Public Health for the Lummi Nation, Instructor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, and WCM alumni (Class of 2013), spoke on *Health Disparities and Resilience* surrounding COVID-19 in the Native American community of the Lummi tribe in Washington state. In October, Dr. Jay Varma, WCM Professor of Population Health Sciences, presented on *Prevention in the Age of Pandemics*. He discussed the difficulty of accurately predicting when and where the next pandemic will emerge due to evolving pathogens that spread across animals. However, he stated that "evidence suggests it is possible to reduce frequency of spillovers and slow emergence of new diseases." In November, Dr. Kathleen Walsh, WCM Assistant Professor of Medicine, presented on *Eliminating MDR-TB: Elusive but not impossible*. Her talk reviewed difficulties in detecting and effectively treating multi-drug resistant TB in low-resource settings. Dr. Walsh stated that "it is possible to eliminate MDR-TB, however continued research on better, shorter, less toxic regimens are required to accommodate growing drug resistance." This month, Dr. Margaret McNairy, WCM Associate Professor of Medicine, presented on *Cardiovascular Diseases in Low-Income Countries: A case study in Haiti*. Her talk entailed an overview of the burden of cardiovascular diseases in Haitian slums of Port-au-Prince. She presented findings from the largest population-based study of cardiovascular disease in a low-resource country, describing the exceptional work done by the research team on the ground to implement research of this nature.

All Global Health Grand Rounds lectures are offered for 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™.

For more information and to be added to IMSE's listserv, please email Savita Birbal at sab2025@med.cornell.edu. Scheduled Global Health Lectures are listed on the event page of our website.



GLOBAL HEALTH CURRICULUM AT WCM

Seven students from the class of 2025 participated in international mentored research projects during this past summer. These projects took place in Tanzania, India and Germany. This was the first time that Weill Cornell students traveled abroad since the travel pause caused by COVID-19 in 2020. In October 2022, these students presented their findings at IMSE's Fall International Summer Fellows Reception. Many thanks to the faculty mentors, both local and international, for helping to facilitate the placement of these students and for providing supervision and mentorship of their projects.

SUMMER 2022 INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

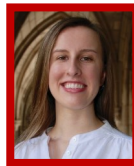
Lisa Gebien

Country: Weill Bugando, Tanzania

Mentor(s):

Robert Peck, MD, PhD

Research Title: The Effect of Antiretroviral Therapy on QTc Interval



Samuel McGowen

Country: Weill Bugando, Tanzania

Mentor(s):

Robert Peck, MD, PhD

Research Title: CD4 Recovery in HIV-Infected Tanzanian Adults in the Modern ART era



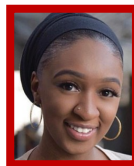
Hajirah Gumanneh

Country: Weill Bugando, Tanzania

Mentor(s):

Jennifer Downs, MD, MSc, PhD
Robert Peck, MD, PhD

Research Title: Evaluation of a Family Planning Seminar to Increase Family Planning Uptake in Muslim Communities in Tanzania



Mia Pattillo

Country: Berlin, Germany

Mentor(s):

Inmaculada de Melo-Martin, PhD, MSc
Theda Borde, MPH, PhD

Research Title: The experience of and exposure to racism in healthcare for migrants in Europe: a scoping review



Makayla Kochheiser

Country: Weill Bugando, Tanzania

Mentor(s):

James Gallagher, MD
Francis Tegete, MD
Robert Peck, MD, PhD

Research Title: Burn, Plastic, and Reconstructive Surgical Capacity in Tanzania's Lake Zone: Evaluation of a Referral Hospital



Kristen Riley

Country: Weill Bugando, Tanzania

Mentor(s):

Jennifer Downs, MD, MSc, PhD
Robert Peck, MD, PhD

Research Title: Evaluating the Performance of HSV-2 Rapid Tests in Women in Rural Tanzania



Rachel Lorenc

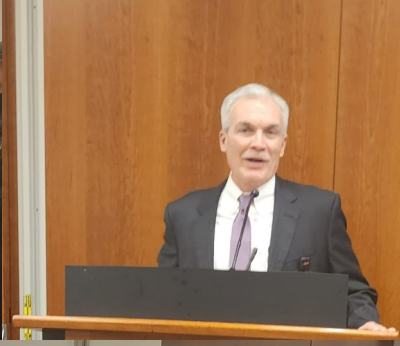
Country: Pune, India

Mentor(s):

Jyoti Mathad, MD, MS
Mallika Alexander, MBBS, DGO
Radhika Sundararajan, MD, PhD

Research Title: A qualitative evaluation of community health worker-based screening for gestational diabetes among slum populations in Pune, India using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research





FALL INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS RECEPTION

Global Health Seminar Series

The Class of 2026 has shown unparalleled enthusiasm and participation in the IMSE Global Health curriculum with approximately half of the class attending each of the 10-sessions of the Introduction to Global Health Seminar Series during the Fall semester! This year we introduced the theme of 'decolonizing global health' which was incorporated into each lecture. Lecture topics included: Introduction to 'Decolonizing' Global Health, the Global Burden of Disease, Non-communicable diseases in low- and middle-income countries, Controlling COVID-19 on the African Continent, Global Issues Facing Children, The Right to Sight, How to Global Health: An Example from Orthopedic Anesthesia, Women's Health Issues in LMICs, and Medical Pluralism.

Lectures were presented in an interactive format where students were asked to work in groups on specific case-based questions related to the topic presented. IMSE chose the case-based learning approach not only to keep the students engaged, but also to teach students to gauge their ability to evaluate and apply concepts to Global Health questions.

While all the lecturers were rated excellent by the students, one highlight was the session was delivered by the returning lecturer, Dr. Thanakorn Jirasevijinda, Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Jirasevijinda's lecture used the "Jeopardy" format. 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. Brouillette, Finkel, Hau, Jirasevijinda, Mathad, Peck, Sayegh, Sun, Varma, 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.



After two and a half years, we were delighted to welcome visiting international medical students back to Weill Cornell to participate in clinical electives. This Visiting International Student Program is a great way for international medical students to obtain exposure to world-class medical care practice provided at Weill Cornell-NY Presbyterian Hospital. We are delighted to host students each month from around the globe – both from our long-standing partner schools as well as independent students. Based on feedback from these students, they have been enjoying the diverse range of clinical rotations across the Weill Cornell/NYP hospital enterprise. We continue to work closely with the Office of International Affairs and Affiliations towards building new and exciting international partnerships, to continue to expand WCMC's tradition of sustainable and equitable bilateral student exchange.

SPOTLIGHT



Márton Turcsán
HUNGARY

Advanced Emergency Medicine (EMER 8304) November 2022

I am thankful to have had the opportunity to rotate in Emergency Medicine at NYP, especially under the leadership of Dr. Sheetal Sheth and her team. The close involvement with patients allowed me to see where my skills need to be improved. Despite the high patient volumes in the ED, time for teaching was always made. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to improve on skills such as forming differential diagnoses and treatment plans. This experience was wonderful and will definitely make a huge impact on my plans for the future. It changed my perspective both on medicine and patient care and motivated me to deepen my knowledge, and continue to challenge myself. The time spent here will help me to become a better doctor and I am convinced that my

future patients will benefit from the experience and the skills I have gained at WCM/NYP during this elective.

Glickman Fellowship (OBGY 8111) November 2022

My experience at Weill Cornell was like a candy machine, filled with different surprises every day! I have met some of the best people who provided exceptional guidance and teaching. Learning about the most recent advancements in gynecological oncology and teaming up with residents and fellows was the best part of this elective. I was taught that you can be passionate about something and sleepless at the same time (who knew?). I learned the fundamentals of healthcare in the USA through this elective, from Electronic Medical Records to patient communication. This experience cleared up many questions I had in pursuing residency in the US. Being an international student and visiting the US for the first time, this experience allowed me to identify the gaps in my overall applicant profile. Thank you for providing such a wonderful experience!



Himali Vyas
INDIA

Snaps From Our Students

Weill Cornell Medicine
Office of International Medical
Student Education

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Savita Birbal, MA
Dianne Young, MPH



Twitter: Follow us
@WeillCornellIGH

**To make a donation, please
contact:**

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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.

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From the Office of
International Medical Student Education,
have the most joyous holiday season
and a
happy & healthy new year!

