

NewYork Weill Cornell Medical Center **Alumni Council News**

Vinod Malhotra, M.D. Receives Center Alumni Council's 2013 Outstanding Service Award

On November 12, 2013, the NewYork Weill Cornell Medical Center Alumni Council (CAC) enjoyed an evening of celebration and camaraderie at the annual Awards Dinner. During the event, the CAC honored Vinod Malhotra, M.B.B.S, M.D., F.A.C.A., with the 2013 Outstanding Service Award for his work in anesthesiology and dedication to the CAC.

Dr. Malhotra is an internationally recognized anesthesiologist, known for anesthesia in urological surgery, regional anesthesia, education in anesthesiology, and operating room management. He began his career at New York Hospital in 1976 as a first-year resident and since his first appointment in 1979, has served NewYork-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medical College in many leadership roles. Currently, he is the Clinical Director of Operating Rooms and an Attending Anesthesiologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs in Anesthesiology, Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology, and Professor of Anesthesiology in Clinical Urology at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Dr. Malhotra holds leadership positions in many professional societies and has served as President of NewYork Weill Cornell Medical



Left: Eugene Nowak, M.D., and Vinod Malhotra, M.D. Right, above: Eugene Nowak, M.D., Barry Shaktman, M.D., Jolyn Sharpe Taylor, M.D., Vinod Malhotra, M.D. Right, below: New members of the Medical Center Circle, from left to right: Henry Spinelli, M.D., Sona Degann, M.D., Brian Landzberg, M.D., Mary Moran, Ph.D., Jerry Nagler, M.D.

Center Alumni Council. He continues to be a driving force for the Center Alumni Council in his current role as Chair of the Awards and Nominations Committee. Dr. Malhotra's wife of 38 years, Vidya Malhotra, M.D., and their daughter, Anjali, and her husband Neil Southward, were present at the Awards Dinner.

Another highlight of the event was the presentation of 24 Distinguished Housestaff

Awards to a member of the housestaff from each department and the Chair of the Housestaff Quality Council. Additionally, the CAC honored six new Medical Center Circle members for their philanthropic commitment of \$25,000 or more to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Weill Cornell Medical College. Since its creation in 2004, the Medical Center Circle has brought in over \$1 million in support of the Institution. •

'The Art of Perception: Rethinking How We See' featuring Amy E. Herman, J.D.



Amy E. Herman, J.D.

"There's more than meets the eye": members and guests of the CAC applied this motto on September 26, 2013. Amy Herman led the group through a session on "The Art of Perception," an analysis of works of art to improve perception and communication skills. Ms. Herman originally designed "The Art of Perception" to help medical students improve their observation and communication skills with patients. The program

was subsequently adapted for law enforcement professionals and leaders in industry, education, and finance. Ms. Herman's humor, storytelling and vivid imagery engaged the audience, leaving them with a refreshingly different perspective of the world. Following her presentation, which took place in Uris Auditorium, Ms. Herman socialized with members and guests at the cocktail reception in Harkness Courtyard. •

Members' News

Tracy-Ann Moo, M.D., was presented with the American Association of Breast Surgeons Scientific Presentation Award for her research in the area of post-mastectomy radiation for breast cancer. Dr. Moo is an Assistant Attending Surgeon, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Assistant Professor of Surgery and Assistant Program Director of Surgical Education, Weill Cornell Medical College.

Palmer Q. Bessey, M.D., was named President of the American Burn Association in April 2013. Under the leadership of Dr. Roger Yurt, the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center became the first and only Burn Center in New York State to receive verification by the American Burn Association and the American College of Surgeons. This prestigious designation distinguishes the Burn Center as a center of excellence, providing the highest quality care for burn patients and meeting the demanding and high standards set by the ABA. Dr. Bessey is Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Owen K. Davis, M.D., was elected Vice President of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine for 2013-2014 and will become President in 2015. Dr. Davis is Professor of Reproductive Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Ronald O. Perelman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell.

Alvin N. Eden, M.D., is writing his sixth book on child care, focusing on the prevention of childhood obesity. Dr. Eden has taught at Weill Cornell for the past 20 years.

Stuart S. Kassin, M.D., Medical Director of the Infusion Center of Denver and Chief Medical Officer of Multispecialty Physician Partners, has been named a Distinguished Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. This is the highest award a clinical faculty member at Colorado University can achieve. He was also recently elected as a Master of the American College of Rheumatology.

Robert G. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., FACP, MACR, FRCP, Chairman of Medicine at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Vice President of Barnabas Health, was elected 2013 Rheumatologist of the Year by the Arthritis Foundation of New Jersey. Dr. Lahita was a Weill Cornell House Officer from 1973-1976.

Fabrizio Michelassi, M.D., was named President-Elect of the Society for the Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. Dr. Michelassi was also named Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons and Vice Chair of the Advisory Council for General Surgery. In November 2013, at the 10th Annual Congress of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, Dr. Michelassi gave a keynote lecture on Italian Nobel Laureates. Dr. Michelassi is Surgeon-in-Chief, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical

Center and the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Weill Cornell Medical College.

Guy N. Minoli, D.D.S., Assistant Attending Dentist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell has completed his service as Chair of The New York Section of the American College of Dentists (ACD). The ACD is the oldest honorary dental organization comprised of the top 3% of dental leaders in the country. During his tenure as Chair, Guy initiated The Mentoring Lecture Program, which encourages dental residents from the New York metropolitan area hospitals to teach and become future leaders of the dental profession. If you are interested in mentoring or in participating in the program, please contact Guy at toothwise guys@verizon.net.

Two high school classmates with NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell ties had a recent reunion while wintering in Florida. **Thomas F.**

O'Brien, Jr., M.D., Internal Medicine HS '61, and **John S. Madaras, M.D.**, Cornell University Medical College '57, graduated together from St. Francis Xavier in New York City in 1949.

Michael A. Perelman, Ph.D., was named Editor in Chief of Springer's newly relaunched *Current Sexual Health Reports*, which is an online journal available at www.springer.com. Additionally, Michael's chapter on the "History of Sexual Medicine" was just published in *The APA Volume II, Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology*. Dr. Perelman is currently a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Reproductive Medicine, and Urology, Weill Cornell Medical College. He is also the Co-Director of the Human Sexuality Program at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. Michael can be reached at: perelman@earthlink.net.

Alfons Pomp, M.D., was the recipient of the 2013 Excellence in Clinical Care Award from the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons. Dr. Pomp is Attending Surgeon at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell and Chief of GI Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and the Leon C. Hirsch Professor of Surgery.

Marcus M. Reidenberg, M.D., donated 80 of his original photographic prints to the New-York Historical Society in January 2014 for their Museum's

permanent collection. The Society now has 300 of Dr. Reidenberg's photographs of New York City street scenes, which feature people working at their trades outdoors. His most recent series of pictures donated to the Society focuses on street food trucks, carts, and stands. Dr. Reidenberg is Professor of Pharmacology, Medicine and Public Health at Weill Cornell.

Alfred L. Scherzer, M.D., Ed.D., Weill Cornell House Staff 1963-1966, and Clinical Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics 1994, is a past President of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine, and since 2005 has served as Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine at Stony Brook University School of Medicine. Dr. Scherzer's recent awards include: The Golden Apple Award of Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine.

Henry A. Solomon, M.D., FACP, FACC, has just rejoined the full-time staff of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) as Senior Medical Advisor, having served the ACC as Consultant for the past two years. He is also Chair of the ACC Professional and Corporate Consortium. Dr. Solomon is Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell.

William E. Wagner, M.D., fellow 1989-1991/Assistant Attending Director of High Risk Obstetrics and Critical Care Division, Maternal Fetal Medicine, NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell 1992-1994, was chosen as one of the *Best Doctors* for Women in Minnesota with special expertise in the surgical management of abnormal placentation and critical care obstetrics.

Roger Yurt, M.D., became an Honorary Medical Officer of the Fire Department of New York City at a ceremony hosted by Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano and his fire chiefs in December 2013. Dr. Yurt is Chief of Burns, Critical Care, and Trauma and attending surgeon at the New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, Vice Chairman of the Department of Surgery, and Director of the William Randolph Hearst Burn Center. He is the Johnson and Johnson Distinguished Professor of Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College. •

We want to hear from you!

We invite you to send us your news. Tell us about your recent achievements, retirements, or any announcements that you would like to share with your colleagues. Please send news you would like to share to center_alumni_council@nyu.org.

Also, to ensure you receive event announcements and updates, please be sure to update your contact information by using the enclosed reply form, visiting us online or sending an email to center_alumni_council@nyu.org.



2014 Fundraising Initiative

Each year, the CAC takes on a fundraising project to support outstanding programs at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. This year the CAC Board of Trustees encourages members to support the initiatives below that help to enhance patient care.

The Housestaff Quality Council (HQC) was created in 2008 to take the lead in efforts to improve the quality and safety of clinical care. The HQC is comprised of representatives from each department's residency and fellowship programs, representatives from senior administration, and physician and nursing leaders. The Council's goals include decreasing and/or minimizing adverse events, assisting in compliance with Hospital policies and procedures, measuring outcomes, and determining best practices. An example of an HQC initiative was the Patient Safety Awareness Campaign, which focused on the potential for medical errors surrounding the potency and dosing of hydromorphone versus morphine. The HQC is also working to address other key items such as improving communications regarding interdisciplinary consultations and protecting confidential patient information in today's setting of increased use of electronic media.

The Child Life Program is one of the oldest of its kind in the United States. The program helps ease the fears of children facing emergency visits, hospital stays, and ambulatory surgeries/treatments by offering support and guidance to pediatric patients, their parents, and siblings, as well as children who are dealing with a loved one being treated at the Hospital. Working to create a vital sense of normalcy for patients and their families, the program provides therapeutic play with arts and crafts, writing, reading, and recreational games in special playrooms at the Hospital. A music therapist augments the program with instrument playing to improve children's expressive communication and to facilitate patient rehabilitation goals through movement games. The Child Life Program also organizes family-friendly activities including clown visits, pet therapy, and an Artist-in-Residence Program.

Please consider making a gift to the CAC in support of the **Child Life Program** and the **Housestaff Quality Council**. To make a gift, use the response and return envelope included with this newsletter, or make a check payable to *New York-Presbyterian Fund, Inc.* and send to: NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Center Alumni Council, 525 East 68th Street, Box 123, New York, New York, 10065. Please call (646) 317-7418 for more information.

Upcoming Events

**Fall Event Featuring
Kenneth Kamler, M.D.
Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014
Griffis Faculty Club**



Are you ready to explore the outer limits of medicine? Join Kenneth Kamler, M.D. as he uncovers the physiological and psychological effects of extreme environments. Dr. Kamler has practiced extreme medicine in some of the most remote regions on Earth. He has been on six expeditions to Mount Everest as expedition doctor and climber, treated a bear bite in the Arctic and a frostbite in the Antarctic, set fractures in the Andes, cared for scuba divers in the Galapagos, and performed surgery in the Amazon rainforest. Dr. Kamler has flown in zero gravity aboard NASA's DC-9 "Vomit Comet," testing robots for eventual use in emergency surgery on the International Space Station or on Mars. Now, Dr. Kamler will

share personal insights and perspectives of his adventures with you!

Dr. Kamler is an orthopedic microsurgeon who trained at the former Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. He is a Director of the legendary Explorers Club, and a consultant for NASA and National Geographic Adventure. Dr. Kamler has received many awards and is listed in *New York* magazine's "Best Doctors." Dr. Kamler is the author of two books, *Doctor on Everest* and *Surviving the Extremes: What Happens to the Body and Mind at the Limits of Human Endurance*. He has appeared on numerous network television news and talk shows and was featured in specials on the National Geographic, Discovery, and History channels. Mark your calendars! •

2014 Distinguished Achievement Award Nominations

The CAC Awards Committee invites you to submit nominations for our Distinguished Achievement Award, which will be presented during the CAC Award Dinner on November 13, 2014. Criteria for the award includes a physician who:

- spent at least two years as a house officer or faculty member at the Medical Center;
- developed a distinguished career at another institution and is a graduate of a medical college other than Weill Cornell Medical College.

You may submit the names of qualified candidates along with their contact information and a brief biography via email, fax, or mail to the contact information below. We look forward to honoring the selected recipient at the upcoming CAC Awards Dinner.

NewYork Weill Cornell Medical Center Alumni Council Office of Development

525 East 68th Street, Box 123

New York, NY 10065

Phone: (646) 317-7418

Fax: (212) 832-0139

Email: center_alumni_council@nyp.org

To learn more, visit us at weill.cornell.edu/about-us/cac.html

IN MEMORIAM

The Center Alumni Council would like to express sorrow at the passing of the following colleagues and friends:

Evelyn J. Basile, M.D.

Las Cruces, NM; July 26, 2013; Pediatrics

John M. Beal, M.D.

Valdosta, GA; June 3, 2013; General Surgery

George W. Hambrick, Jr., M.D.

Charlottesville, VA; December 10, 2013; Dermatology

Sidney F. Kahn, M.D., F.A.C.S.

La Mirada, CA; November 4, 2013; General Surgery

David T. Mininberg, M.D.

New York, NY; July 22, 2013; Public Health; Urology

Leonard L. Ross, Ph.D.

Philadelphia, PA; May 10, 2013; Anatomy;
Medical Administration

Leonard H. Schuyler, M.D.

Hackensack, NJ; May 10, 2013; Internal Medicine

Helga A. Windhager, M.D.

Tenafly, NJ; August 7, 2013; Pathology