On behalf of both the Department of Neurology and the Brain and Mind Research Institute, we would very much like to welcome you as an applicant to our program. This newsletter will highlight several of the crown jewels of our program: most importantly, our residents, but also of course our hospitals, our faculty and our future plans.

I hope you find this a useful source of information, but if you have any specific questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly at rii9004@med.cornell.edu. We look forward to getting to know you better on your interview day.

~ Richard Isaacson, MD

**Meet Our Department Leadership**

**Dr. Matthew Fink (Chair of Neurology)**

Dr. Matthew E. Fink, is the Louis and Gertrude Feil Professor of Clinical Neurology, chairman of the Department of Neurology and associate dean for clinical affairs at Weill Cornell Medicine. He also serves as neurologist-in-chief and chief of the Division of Stroke and Critical Care Neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Fink is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and served as resident and chief resident in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital. He trained in neurology at The Neurological Institute of New York at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center, and served as chief resident under Dr. Lewis P. Rowland. Later, he joined the faculty of Columbia University and became the founding director of the neurology-neurosurgery intensive care unit at NewYork-Presbyterian and was appointed associate professor of clinical neurology and neurosurgery at Columbia University.

**Dr. Costantino Iadecola (Director and Chair, Brain and Mind Research Institute)**

In 2012, Dr. Iadecola was named Director and Chair of the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute, a new departmental focusing on translational neuroscience research at Weill Cornell. He was also appointed the Anne Parrish Titzell Professor of Neurology, a prestigious chair previously held by Drs. Fred Plum & M. Flint Beal. An international leader in stroke and dementia research, his work focuses on mechanisms of cerebrovascular regulation, and on molecular pathology of ischemic brain injury and neurodegeneration. A major area of interest also lies in interactions between cardiovascular risk factors, stroke & Alzheimer’s disease.
Chief, General Neurology: Louise Klebanoff, MD

Louise Klebanoff, MD has been named the Chief of General Neurology and the Vice Chair of Operations for the Department of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College. She is also an Assistant Attending Neurologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Dr. Klebanoff received her medical degree from Georgetown University Medical Center, graduating first in her class, and went on to complete a residency in Neurology and a fellowship in Critical Care Neurology at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/ Columbia University Medical Center.

Prior to joining the Weill Cornell faculty, Dr. Klebanoff served as Attending Neurologist at Beth Israel Medical Center, where she also held leadership roles on various committees and served as the first female president of the Medical Board. Dr. Klebanoff is board certified in Psychiatry and Neurology. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Neurology.

Chief, Neurodegenerative Disorders: Claire Henchcliffe, MD

Claire Henchcliffe, MD, D.Phil received her medical degree from Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, and her doctorate from the University of Oxford, UK. She completed her training at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, with internship in the Department of Medicine and residency in Neurology at the Neurological Institute of Columbia Presbyterian. This was followed by a fellowship in Movement Disorders, also at the Neurological Institute.

Dr. Henchcliffe now serves as Director of the Parkinson's Institute, and as Vice Chair for Clinical Research in Neurology at the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. In addition to seeing patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders, Dr Henchcliffe's team conduct a number of clinical trials available for patient participation.
Vice-Chair of Education: Dr. Joseph Safdieh

Dr. Joseph E. Safdieh is currently the Lewis and Rachel Rudin foundation Education Scholar, Assistant Dean – Clinical Curriculum, Vice Chairman for Education and Associate Professor of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medicine. He received his bachelor's degree in neuroscience, summa cum laude, from the College of Arts and Science of New York University. He received his medical degree (MD) from the New York University School of Medicine, where he received the Alpha Omega Alpha Award for graduating first in his class. He completed his neurology residency training at the Weill Cornell Campus of New York Presbyterian Hospital, where he also served as Chief Resident in the Department of Neurology. Dr. Safdieh is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha, the medical honors society.

Dr. Safdieh is the director of the medical student Neurology Clerkship for the Weill Cornell Medical College, and has been in this role since 2007. Until last year, he was medical director of the Neurology Clinic at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and also served as Director of Outpatient Training for the Neurology Residency Program. As assistant dean, he is responsible for overseeing the entire clinical curriculum at Weill Cornell. He is well respected as an innovative medical educator, and has developed numerous curricula for the teaching of neurology to both medical students and other physicians. He has been recognized for his excellence in medical student education locally, nationally and internationally.

Dr. Safdieh currently serves on the education committee of the American Academy of Neurology, as well as the publications committee and the Undergraduate Education Subcommittee. He recently completed a two-year term as chair of the Consortium of Neurology Clerkship Directors of the AAN. He is currently editor-in-chief of Neurology Today, the official news source of the American Academy of Neurology.

Program Director: Dr. Richard Isaacson

Dr. Isaacson serves as Assistant Dean of Faculty Development, Director of the Alzheimer’s Prevention Clinic and Director of the Neurology Residency Training Program at Weill Cornell Medical College/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. He previously served as Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology, Vice Chair of Education, and Education Director of the McKnight Brain Institute in the Department of Neurology at the University of Miami (UM) Miller School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical school, and his internship at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, FL. Prior to UM, he served as Associate Medical Director of the Wien Center for Alzheimer’s disease and Memory Disorders at Mount Sinai. He is a graduate of the accelerated 6-year B.A./M.D. program at the University of Missouri - KC School of Medicine.

His career focus spans undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education, as well as patient, caregiver and community education/outreach. His recent efforts have focused on the development of Alzheimer’s Universe (www.AlzU.org) a vast online educational portal on AD which has reached over 1,200,000 people in 56 countries.

Program Coordinator: Janice Void

A native New Yorker, Janice has previously served as program coordinator for many years in various specialties before joining our Neurology Family. She brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the program.

Janice believes it is critical to sustain the foundation of our own wellness in order to positively influence those around us. She encourages resident well-being and promotes individual growth.

“Acknowledging the good you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance”. Eckhart Tolle.
**Associate Program Director: Dr. Natalie Weathered**

Dr. Natalie Weathered is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College and an Assistant Attending Neurologist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell. She specializes in the acute, inpatient management of patients with general neurological disorders, including but not limited to stroke, seizure, demyelinating disorders, neuromuscular disease, movement disorders, and encephalopathy and brain injury.

**Assistant Program Director: Dr. Mary Vo**

Dr. Mary Vo is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical College. She received her medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine after graduating with honors from St. John's University, where she earned her bachelor and doctoral degrees in Pharmacy. After completing neurology residency, neurophysiology fellowship, and postdoctoral research fellowship training at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, Dr. Vo continues to conduct multiple clinical research studies in CIDP, diabetic neuropathy and small fiber neuropathy. Her work has been published in multiple peer-reviewed journals and presented at the American Academy of Neurology and American Academy of Electrodiagnostic Medicine Annual meetings. Dr. Vo is a faculty advisor for resident research and is the faculty chair for the Annual Neurology Residency Research Symposium. She serves on the Neurology Department Education Committee, Neurology Quality Committee and Weill Cornell Medical College Teacher-Learner Committee. She is board certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is a member of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine.
Lisa DeAngelis, MD
Acting Physician in Chief, MSKCC Neurology
Co-Executive Director, Brain Tumor Center
Chair, American Academy of Neurology Science Committee

Edward Avila, DO
Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs, MSKCC Neurology

Jacqueline Stone, MD, PhD
Director of Resident Education, MSKCC Neurology
US News & World Report Hospital Rankings

NYP is Ranked #3 for Neurology/Neurosurgery
NYP is Ranked #1 in NYC for Neurology/Neurosurgery
MSKCC is Ranked #2 for Cancer

After Residency

Class of 2015
Vivian Chin—Neuromuscular, Columbia
Linn Katus—Movement Disorders, Mount Sinai
Uli Kaunzner—Multiple Sclerosis, Weill Cornell
Alex Miller—Neuro-oncology, MSKCC
Kate Nearing—Vascular, U. Tennessee
Tom Tropea—Movement Disorders, Penn

Class of 2016
Baxter Allen – Epilepsy, Weill Cornell; Neuro-critical Care, UCLA
Isha Duggal – Private Practice, NYC
Kyung-wha Kim – Epilepsy, Weill Cornell
Ursula Siddiqui – Multiple Sclerosis, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Prasad Shirvarkar – Pain, UCSF
Peter Yan – Informatics, Weill Cornell

Class of 2017
Aaron Gusdon—Neuro-critical care, Johns Hopkins
Daniel Kurz—Multiple Sclerosis, Mount Sinai Hospital
Evan Noch—Neuro-oncology, MSKCC
Setareh Omran—Vascular, Columbia
Neal Parikh—Vascular, Columbia
Alyssa Rehm—Neurophysiology, Columbia
Krithiga Sekar—Epilepsy, Columbia

Class of 2018
Yahya Atalay—Vascular, Weill Cornell
Jaclyn Burch—Neuro-Critical Care, Weill Cornell
Trent Hodgson—Neuromuscular, Stanford
Radhika Jagannathan—Aging and Dementia, Columbia
Matthew Mercuri—Neurophysiology/EEG, Weill Cornell
Caroline Miranda—Neurophysiology/EMG, Columbia
Antonio Moya—Nat. Clinical Scholars Prgm, UCLA

Class of 2019
Ashley Aaroe—Neuro-oncology, MD Anderson
Mais Al-Kawaz—Neuro-Critical Care, Johns Hopkins
Brian Andersen—Neuro-oncology, Mass General
Darya Khazanova—Neuro-Critical Care, UCSF
Jessica Wilcox—Neuro-oncology, MSKCC
Chief Resident’s

Chief Resident, Mais Al-Kawaz, MD

I was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq. I finished both my premedical and medical degree at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. I knew that I wanted to live and work New York after some of my clinical rotations as a medical student. While rotating at New York Presbyterian as a student I noticed the collegial interactions the residents had, the outstanding teaching they receive, and the diverse complex cases they encounter during training. I was planning to pursue a career in neuro-immunology when I first started residency however I quickly came to realize that my passion lies in the intensive care unit. I will be starting my neurocritical care fellowship next year at Johns Hopkins University. Looking back at my decision of ranking NYP/Cornell first, I realize that I would do it all over again. I’m honored to have met such incredibly intelligent and amazing colleagues and to have lived in a diverse, fun, and vibrant city!

Chief Resident, Brian Andersen, MD, PhD

After living in Minnesota for eight years and completing my MD/PhD, I came to Cornell for the great people, clinical training, and research environment. I am passionate about neuro-oncology, especially immunotherapy for brain tumors, and my long term goal is to do a combination of lab research and clinical work in this area. My non-neurology interests include learning about the history of the city, architecture, beer, checking off places on my NYC pizza map, and watching the East River change directions.

Chief Resident, Jessica Wilcox, MD

I was born and raised in a small town in South Jersey. After obtaining my microbiology degree at Pennsylvania State University, I moved to Philadelphia to research novel glioblastoma treatments prior to attending medical school at Drexel University College of Medicine. Wishing for both a change in scenery and to attend an institution that would best foster my ambitions for neuro-oncology, I then matched at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center for my neurology residency. Since moving to NYC, I’ve made incredible friendships, mentors, and memories. Working at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center has afforded me the opportunity to witness first-hand and research the neurological toxicities associated with immune checkpoint inhibitors and CAR-T cell therapy. As one of the neurology chief residents this year, I’m also actively involved in residency education and wellness. I am thrilled to be continuing my time in NYC and education next year as a neuro-oncology fellow at MSKCC.
Leadership Council

Sarah Bobker MD: Resident Research Representative

Sarah was born in Long Island, grew up in South Florida, and comes to NYC by way of her other favorite city in the world, New Orleans! She is drawn to Neurology because of a deep interest in the mind-body connection, inspired by a background in dance and yoga. She is most interested in Movement Disorders and Headache.

Kellyann Niotis, MD: Resident Wellness Representative

Kellyann was born and raised Manalapan NJ and enjoys anything that involves being outdoors – hiking, running, and anything by the beach. When life permits, she loves traveling and being immersed in new cultures. She tries to go on one Scuba trip a year, most recently the Galapagos. She is excited to finally live in and discover NYC.

Shamelia Loiseau, MD: PGY-2 QI Representative

Shamelia may have been born in Queens, NY, but, she identifies as a “true” Long Islander. She attended CUNY Hunter College where she studied biology with a concentration in the neurosciences and philosophy. There, she had the opportunity to conduct research on breast cancer and adult onset neurodegenerative disease. She received her medical degree from the University of Rochester SOM. In her spare time, she enjoys music, dance, chile con queso and lots of reality tv! Her current interests include neuro-oncology, stroke, neuro-critical care, medical education and palliative care.

Melvin Parasram, DO: PGY-2 Class Representative

Melvin was born and raised in the “Boogie-Down” Bronx. He traveled to Arizona for medical school and is ecstatic to be back home in NYC for residency. Currently, interested in pursuing a career in vascular neurology or Neuro-critical care. On his spare time, he loves to Netflix, (he is a huge Star Wars fan), travel, spend time with family and friends, and cheer on the New York Yankees and New York Giants.
Resident Spotlight

**Ashley Aaroe, PGY-4**
I went to Northwestern for medical school, and before that majored in neuroscience at Johns Hopkins. I wanted to come to Weill Cornell for many reasons - there is an incredible faculty to learn from, and I liked the structure of the residency itself - but the most significant factor was the camaraderie I saw between residents on my interview day. I am Mexican-American, and have an interest in health care disparities. Outside medicine I love ballet, soccer, and lemon meringue pie.

**Chris Brown, PGY-4**
Chris grew up in West Chester, PA and developed an interest in neurology while studying at Boston College. Prior to starting medical school in NYC, he performed research in autonomic and peripheral neurology and then spent a year touring the National Parks of the United States.

**Neha Safi, PGY-3**
Neha is originally from Sinking Spring, PA and is excited to explore the city one restaurant, musical and city block at a time. She also loves picnicking in Central Park, traveling, dancing and watching Netflix. She is interested in Multiple Sclerosis and Neuro Immunology.

**Ashwin Malhotra, PGY-3**
Ashwin grew up in Long Island, NY. He enjoys lifting weights, playing basketball, and will always be a Knicks fan at heart. His academic interests have involved studying Glutamate receptor physiology, understanding mechanisms in major depression, and medical education. Within Neurology, Ashwin enjoys Epilepsy, General Neurology, Neuro-critical Care,

**Andrew Tarr, PGY-2**
Andrew was born in NYC, grew up in NJ, went to college at Brown University, and attended medical school in Cleveland. His neurology interests are in Headache, Epilepsy, and MS. Outside of work he enjoys racket sports including tennis and table tennis, soccer, tai chi, video games, and TV.

**Andrea Yoo, PGY-2**
Andrea was born in South Korea but grew up in Queens, New York and considers herself a steadfast New Yorker. In her free time, she enjoys exploring different restaurants, eating her way through the city. She also likes to travel and loves being in the water, having been an avid swimmer all of her life. She is excited to be at Cornell and is currently interested in movement disorders.

See our website for everyone’s bios!!
Residents Out and About
For more information, please contact:

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Please visit our website for details about the residency program, including our clinical rotations, hospital affiliations, subspecialty opportunities, and housing information.