

Milestones



Hartman Family's Gift to Create Research Institute for Organ Regeneration and Repair

Board of Fellows member Alan Hartman and his wife, Kim

JOHN ABBOTT

With a generous gift of \$10 million from Board of Fellows member Alan Hartman and his wife, Kim, Weill Cornell Medicine will establish a multidisciplinary research institute to advance organ regeneration and repair.

The Hartman Institute for Therapeutic Organ Regeneration will expand the frontiers of stem cell-based research and organoid development, creating a hub within Weill Cornell Medicine's Division of Regenerative Medicine that will facilitate collaboration among researchers, clinicians, surgeons and entrepreneurs. Scientists in the division have already devised game-changing technologies to fully realize the promise of tissue-specific organoids for repairing injured and malfunctioning organs – and with the support of the Hartman gift, Weill Cornell Medicine will work to translate those discoveries to patient care.

The Division of Regenerative Medicine, in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine, is led by Dr. Shahin Rafii, the Arthur B. Belfer Professor in Genetic Medicine, a professor of medicine and of reproductive medicine, and director of the Ansary Stem Cell Institute.

The Hartman family's gift will bolster a key priority area of Weill Cornell Medicine's *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, fortifying the institution's commitment to develop breakthrough, personalized therapies that will improve lives. The institute is named in honor of Larry Hartman, Alan's father, who passed away last summer.

"Millions of people succumb to organ failure annually, across a multitude of diseases," says Alan, who is a vice chair

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**We're
Changing
Medicine.**



We are expanding our expertise in each of our priority areas and revolutionizing our work in patient care, research and medical education.

From Our Dean

The *We're Changing Medicine* campaign is about transformational change. It's about big, bold ideas that will usher in new approaches to science and health care. At Weill Cornell Medicine, we are meeting this pivotal moment in medicine with strategic innovation, creativity and skill, in order to continue providing the best possible care to our patients.

With this fundraising campaign, we are expanding our expertise in each of our priority areas and revolutionizing our work in patient care, research and medical education. The time for this movement in medicine is now. And, with the ongoing support of so many of our donors and friends, we are already well on our way.

Visionary research efforts like the newly established Hartman Institute for Therapeutic Organ Regeneration will propel us into this new era of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. The generous gift from Board of Fellows member Alan Hartman and his wife, Kim, highlights the importance of investing in cutting-edge translational research, which is a foundational priority at our institution. The innovative work in organ generation underway by Dr. Shahin Rafii, the Arthur B. Belfer Professor in Genetic Medicine, a professor of medicine and of reproductive medicine, and director of the Ansary Stem Cell Institute, and his team, is changing medicine, and this institute will allow this critical program to expand. The science behind organ regeneration was unimaginable just a few decades ago. And thanks, in part, to our world-class team of scientists and physicians, this has now become a reality.

Supporting life-changing work is one critical way to move the needle in science and medicine, inspiring new treatments and new hope for the future. This is one of the key pillars of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, and it's just what we need as we look to the future.

With gratitude,

Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D.

Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine
Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

From Our Co-Chairs



"The support from our donors and friends for the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign has been incredible. Your commitment to this campaign, and to improving the lives of so many of our patients, is evident in every single dollar we've received. I am so encouraged by your generosity and grateful for your foresight and vision as we continue to progress with this bold initiative. Together, we are going to transform medicine in real time. We are going to build upon our already strong institution and push it even further in order to change lives. It's simply impactful giving at its very best."

Jeffrey J. Feil
Campaign Co-Chair



"When I think about the extraordinary changes that we are making as a result of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, I am excited by our potential impact on global health. Weill Cornell Medicine is already such a powerhouse in academic medicine – we are leaders in each area of our mission to care, discover and teach. Our patients come from around the world to receive the finest care from our top-tier physicians. And now, through this campaign, we have the amazing opportunity to broaden our impact because of your ongoing support."

Sanford I. Weill
Campaign Co-Chair

Hartman Family's Gift (Continued from page 1)

of the Board-appointed Campaign Executive Committee, the leadership body of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. "Nothing would make my father happier than being part of a bold, new initiative that could save countless lives and reduce families' suffering."

"Kim and Alan Hartman's visionary philanthropy will one day make cell therapeutics commonplace in patient care," says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine. "The Hartman Institute has the potential to change medicine on a global scale, and we are tremendously grateful for their support."



Dr. Shahin Rafii

For the Hartmans, the institute offers the promise of improved health without the bittersweet experience that can surround organ donation. Even though nearly half of all organ transplants come from living donors, many organs are often donated as the result of a tragedy. "It would be wonderful to eliminate the sadness that often surrounds organ transplants," says Kim. An organ regeneration program, such as the one proposed by the Hartman Institute, would proactively help save lives. Lab-created organoids, grown from patients' own stem cells, can be made to

resemble a variety of human organs, and can also be assembled into tissue-specific organoids for use in the surgical repair of organs that are not fully functional.

"This is truly cutting-edge science and an area where Weill Cornell Medicine is an unquestioned leader," says Alan. "To be successful in this emerging field requires world-class researchers, like Dr. Rafii, clinical expertise and proximity to a premier medical center. Weill Cornell Medicine is positioned to succeed in such an endeavor."

"To be successful in this emerging field requires world-class researchers, like Dr. Rafii, clinical expertise, and proximity to a premier medical center."

**Board of Fellows member
Alan Hartman**

our commitment to innovative research and therapies as a means of achieving optimum health."

The Hartman Institute represents the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign's commitment to investing in our research enterprise to affect the lives of our patients. With research as a cornerstone of the campaign, Weill Cornell Medicine will elevate the standard for clinical care through the creation of a world-class precision health enterprise that uses breakthrough data science to personalize prevention and care.

Priority areas for the Hartman Institute will include gastrointestinal diseases, pulmonary diseases, cardiovascular dysfunction, neurological disorders and stroke, and diseases affecting the metabolic system, with the recruitment of specialists in these disciplines who will engineer organoids for regeneration, with a goal of making this therapy accessible to all patients.

The Hartmans and their children (Katie, Max and Andy) believe their new gift to Weill Cornell Medicine aligns perfectly with their family's philosophy of philanthropy. And they are looking forward to a fruitful and involved relationship with the Hartman Institute in the years to come. "We are really motivated to support change-makers," says Kim. "It's taking a leap of faith and supporting people who will make an impact on the lives of others."

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[JoinTheChange.weill.cornell.edu](https://www.jointhechange.weill.cornell.edu)

Q&A

What Inspires Giving?

Meet Lori Schreiber

When Lori Schreiber first visited Weill Cornell Medicine's cancer research labs, she was impressed with the sophistication of the facilities and captivated by the brilliance of the researchers she met. Ms. Schreiber knew then that she wanted to help advance cutting-edge medical science by directing her philanthropy to Weill Cornell Medicine.

Ms. Schreiber, a graduate of Cornell University and Columbia Business School, joined the Board of Fellows in 2020. She serves on the Development Committee, the Membership and Governance Committee, the Special Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and the Meyer Cancer Center Subcommittee. She is also a vice chair of the *We're Changing Medicine* Campaign Executive Committee.

Since 2018, Ms. Schreiber and her husband, Zach, have contributed generously to cancer research initiatives that support Weill Cornell Medicine's mission to propel groundbreaking discoveries that advance the standard of care for cancer patients. A recent substantial gift is part of a larger, pledged commitment to support the institutional biobank.

Weill Cornell Medicine's reputation for medical excellence, research innovation and educational achievement continually motivates Ms. Schreiber's philanthropy and deepening commitment. She remains passionate about cancer research and is interested in women's health. By her reckoning, philanthropy plays an essential

role in ensuring that academic medical centers like Weill Cornell Medicine remain at the forefront of health care for all. Ms. Schreiber recently sat down with Lucille Ferraro, Weill Cornell Medicine's assistant vice provost for development, to speak about the importance of philanthropy and her inspiration for giving.

LF: We appreciate your generosity to Weill Cornell Medicine and your exceptional volunteer service. Can you tell me how you first became involved with Weill Cornell Medicine and what that experience has been like?

LS: When my husband and I were able to start giving philanthropically, we decided that cancer research was going to be one of our priorities. Ellen Davis, a Weill Cornell Medicine Board Fellow, introduced us to researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine's Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, and we were blown away by the brilliance of these scientists, their passion for discovery and the impact of their work in advancing cancer care for patients. We truly believe that the research coming out of Weill Cornell Medicine will improve the lives of many people suffering from cancer.

Weill Cornell Medicine also holds a special place in our hearts for a very different reason. Zach and his sisters were the first quadruplets born at NewYork-Presbyterian, and all three of our children were delivered there. Our first-born was premature, and



JOHN ABBOTT

we witnessed firsthand how the doctors and nurses worked so tirelessly to keep mothers and babies healthy. That experience stayed with us. Weill Cornell Medicine has really been there for the most meaningful moments of our lives.

LF: What have you enjoyed most about your involvement as both a donor and as a member of the Board of Fellows?

LS: When we started donating at a higher level, I became aware of the many opportunities to hear from members of Weill Cornell Medicine's outstanding faculty – including some of the very best doctors and investigators in the world – discuss their work and research, to hear inspiring stories from patients and to attend scientific lectures on

LF: How would you describe Weill Cornell Medicine to a potential donor?

LS: I would say that people at Weill Cornell Medicine – physicians, researchers, students and Board members – are passionate about helping others. It is infused into the whole culture. Whether you are a patient, donor or volunteer, you just feel like you're at the best possible place in the world.

LF: In addition to Weill Cornell Medicine, you and your husband give your time and resources to other institutions, organizations and causes. What inspires your charitable giving and philanthropic ideals?

LS: Once Zach and I had the resources, we decided that giving back to others was of primary importance to us. We are grateful for

 **We are grateful for all that we have achieved and want to make a tangible impact on people's lives.**

a variety of topics in medicine. I love those lectures so much; I always learn new things. Many people, including myself, have a thirst for knowledge, and having these brilliant top doctors and scientists right there, speaking to you, is such a gift.

I am also excited to be on the Board of Fellows' newly created Special Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. I hope that our work on the committee will help make high-quality health care more accessible to more patients, help improve inequities and inspire and encourage more diversity in the medical profession.

LF: On a personal level, which areas of our mission – care, discover and teach – are of greatest interest to you and why?

LS: I am particularly excited about children's health, precision medicine and cancer research. At the moment, I am very interested in what Weill Cornell Medicine is doing around women's health across the lifespan – from pediatrics to adolescent gynecology, maternal-infant health, postpartum and all the way through menopause.

all that we have achieved and want to make a tangible impact on people's lives. Education has been an important area of involvement for us.

We realized that many New Yorkers take for granted the world-class institutions that exist right under their noses, such as Weill Cornell Medicine. It is very easy to overlook that Weill Cornell Medicine and the other essential institutions that are the bedrock of our great city require our investment and care, but the simple fact is that they do. It is our sincere hope that others will recognize the important role that philanthropy plays and be similarly inspired to give to Weill Cornell Medicine.

LF: What advice do you have for individuals who are deciding how to become involved and where to give to make a difference?

LS: Find something that is meaningful to you. Invest in the best people and institutions whose mission and values overlap with your own. We want to be sure our great institutions are there when we need them. Weill Cornell Medicine is a great academic medical center, and not just for New Yorkers – but for the entire world.

Gift from Elsa Brulé will support early-stage researchers

Elsa Brulé's passion for education and academic achievement inspired her to donate \$3 million to Weill Cornell Medicine's Fund for the Future, an initiative within the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine that supports promising researchers in the early stages of their careers.



RICK GUIDOTTI

"Contributing to Fund for the Future felt like a perfect marriage of my long-standing interest in education and literacy, and my deep respect for the doctors and health-care workers who helped so many people during the COVID-19 pandemic," Ms. Brulé says.

Established by Denise and Board of Fellows member Michael Kellen and the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation, the Fund for the Future supports selected junior faculty during the crucial period of career development – spanning completion of research training through the early years of their first faculty position held at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The Fund provides initial funding to pursue a wide range of breakthrough research, up to \$300,000 over a two- to three-year period for each recipient. The work it funds is varied and often global in outlook; one recent awardee, for example, is studying the prevalence of diabetes in India.

Ms. Brulé believes that education is a lifelong endeavor.

"Young scientists and doctors need our help in their quest of discovery and innovation," she says. "There is a lot more to learn about human biology, the intricacies of anatomy

and all the things that could possibly go wrong. Empowering physicians to dedicate themselves to research is critical for the prevention of disease, as well as for the development of treatments and cures."

Ms. Brulé has felt the desire to help people ever since she was a child growing up in a small town in northern Michigan. She eagerly participated in classroom drives for the American Red Cross care boxes in the 1950s. She also recalls, at age 10, hearing a dignitary from India speak about his country's problems with poverty and other social ills. That encounter inspired her to promise that "someday I'll help." It was a promise she never forgot.

Over the years, Ms. Brulé has promoted literacy by restoring school libraries and provides thousands of books for children in the United States and abroad. She also funds health-related projects across Africa and other charitable causes.

"When I first met Ms. Brulé, I was struck by her great eagerness to help," says Dr. Anthony Hollenberg, the Sanford I. Weill

Chair of Medicine in the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Department of Medicine. "Cutting-edge science needs the backing of people like her, who are passionate about making a real difference in the lives and health of others."

Ms. Brulé takes a long view of her philanthropy. She readily acknowledges that the research she is funding today might not bear fruit for another 10 or 20 years. Breakthroughs happen only after decades of hard work in the lab.

"I know that some of my philanthropy will be a legacy," she adds.

"There's an adage that I recently read and appreciate and paraphrase: 'She who plants a tree, knowing that she will not live to sit under its shade, has now understood the meaning of life.'"

"Ms. Brulé is a shining example of the power of philanthropy, at home and abroad," says Dr. Hollenberg. "We are deeply grateful for her support and for her commitment to advancing medicine."

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Elsa Brulé

Endowed Professorship Honors Legendary Clinician-Scientist

A legendary Weill Cornell Medicine physician-scientist has been honored with a named professorship, celebrating his enduring impact on the field of pediatric neurology.

The gift from the Chutorian-Semler Family Foundation will establish an endowed professorship in honor of Dr. Abe Chutorian, a professor of neurology in pediatrics, who served as director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology at Weill Cornell Medicine from 1990 to 2005 and held professorships in both the Department of Neurology and Department of Pediatrics. The professorship will support an outstanding faculty member in pediatric neurology who will embody the highest standards of patient care and biomedical research and uphold the division's tradition of excellence. The holder will be known as the Abe M. Chutorian, MD Professor of Pediatric Neurology and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology.

"Whether figuring out a complex case that stumped colleagues around the country or elsewhere in the world, training the next generation of pediatric neurologists, preparing for a lecture, working on a research paper, or leading the Division of Pediatric Neurology, he gave everything of himself – his intellectual powers, his creative thinking, his old-fashioned elbow grease – in pursuit of excellence," she says. "My husband, Eric, and I hope our gift helps the chief of the division to further Weill Cornell Medicine's

His wife of more than 70 years – Helen Chutorian, a retired social worker – has been a vital partner throughout, says Ms. Chutorian Semler, prioritizing the family over her own career.

"We are extremely grateful for this visionary philanthropy in honor of a true trailblazer in the field of pediatric neurology."

Dr. Sallie Permar

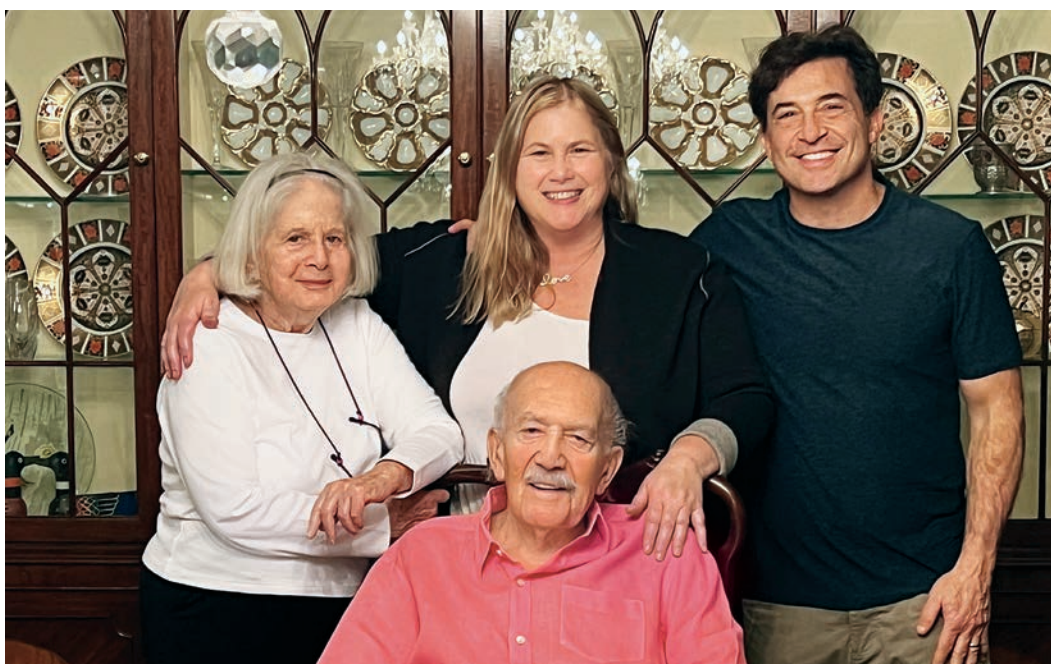
In 2017, Dr. Chutorian was honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Child Neurology Society, in recognition of his longtime commitment to advancing the field of pediatric neurology.

"During his tenure as director of the division at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Chutorian worked tirelessly

to expand the scope of our work, advancing new research, fellowships and clinical care programs that solidified our standing as a top academic medical center for pediatric neurology," says Dr. Matthew Fink, chair of the Department of Neurology, and the Louis and Gertrude Feil Professor in Clinical Neurology. "Early in my career as a resident in neurology, Dr. Chutorian was one of my most revered mentors. His teaching was so enlightening that at one time, I wanted to become a child neurologist. It is with great pride that we welcome this generous gift in Dr. Chutorian's honor."

With its support of children's health and brain health – priority areas within Weill Cornell Medicine's *We're Changing Medicine* campaign – the gift will further advance the institution's research initiatives for children with neurological disorders, ultimately leading to better therapies, says Dr. Sallie Permar, chair of the Department of Pediatrics and the Nancy C. Paduano Professor in Pediatrics. "We are extremely grateful for this visionary philanthropy in honor of a true trailblazer in the field of pediatric neurology."

"Excellence has always been a hallmark of my father's career," says Ms. Chutorian Semler. "Weill Cornell Medicine embodies the same ethos of excellence in patient care, and in the fundamental research that will move fields like pediatric neurology forward, helping tomorrow in ways we can't even begin to envision today."



Standing: Helen Chutorian, Tracy Chutorian Semler, Eric Semler. Seated: Dr. Abe Chutorian

A gifted physician and educator lauded for his analytical skills, Dr. Chutorian – who is now retired from clinical practice – lectured widely and published extensively throughout his long career. Tracy Chutorian Semler, Dr. Chutorian's daughter, describes her father's dedication to pediatric neurology as a "calling" – and says that he continues to assist friends and relatives who seek out his expertise.

lifesaving and life-enhancing work on behalf of patients who are burdened by the devastating impact of neurological diseases."

The field of pediatric neurology encompasses disorders that affect the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles of infants, children and adolescents.

After receiving his medical degree in 1957 from the University of Manitoba, and for the rest of his career, Dr. Chutorian worked to improve children's lives, juggling research with teaching, while maintaining an active clinical practice.

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