

Milestones



Belfer Research Building's 10 Years of Excellence

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ANNIVERSARY

Ten years ago, Weill Cornell Medicine opened the Belfer Research Building, creating a springboard for high-impact translational research that has been key to the institution's growth as a leading academic medical center.

A testament to inspired philanthropy, the facility was made possible by a \$100 million gift from Renée and Robert Belfer, for whom the building was named.

"My parents were honored to make a gift that set Weill Cornell Medicine on the path to becoming a world-class research enterprise," says Board of Fellows member Laurence Belfer. "We are gratified by the role that the Belfer Research Building has played in facilitating cross-collaboration among scientists from so many disciplines, ushering in a new era of team science at Weill Cornell Medicine."

Continued on page 4



**We're
Changing
Medicine.**



From Our Dean

It is often said that the character of an institution is shaped by those who dedicate themselves to its mission. And with its world-class students, staff, faculty and donors, Weill Cornell Medicine is clearly exceptional. Each day, I hear of many inspiring moments in the research lab, in the classroom or at the patient's bedside, and in each of these instances, I am so inspired by the commitment and dedication of those in our community. I am excited to work together with all of you as we embark on this next chapter.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of our amazing Belfer Research Building, which sparked exponential growth in our research enterprise and across our institution over the past decade. This is thanks, in great part, to the visionary philanthropy from our donors, alumni and friends, who are committed to supporting our critical efforts. As we look toward the future and our continued expansion in each part of our mission, it is so important to pause and reflect upon all those who have helped bring us to this moment.

At Weill Cornell Medicine, we foster a team-science approach, which is seen throughout our institution and exemplified in our clinical and research enterprises as we work across disciplines to create effective treatments and cures for our patients. That team also includes you, our donors and friends, who understand and support our mission, and we are changing medicine because of your generosity. Your support, embodied by transformative gifts like those from Renée and Robert Belfer and their family, drives our work forward.

With gratitude,

Robert A. Harrington, M.D.

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



From Our Co-Chairs

The incredible new student residence under construction on campus is a tangible and bold reflection of Weill Cornell Medicine's commitment to advancing medical education. We are teaching some of the best and brightest students in the country, who are sure to be the health-care leaders of tomorrow. With your generosity, the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign is far-reaching, and there is a palpable excitement at our institution as we realize each part of our mission to care, discover and teach.

Jeffrey J. Feil
Campaign Co-Chair

The *We're Changing Medicine* campaign is a call to action for the Weill Cornell Medicine community. We are at a pivotal moment in science and health care, and the only way to advance is to work together to create meaningful and lasting change for our patients. As we have seen with the success of the Belfer Research Building and our many efforts before it, when we collaborate – with the remarkable generosity of our donors and friends – we can accomplish ambitious goals.

Sanford I. Weill
Campaign Co-Chair

Belfer Research Building's 10 Years of Excellence *Continued from the cover*

Powered by the extraordinary support of donors – who gave more than \$550 million toward construction, recruitment of top researchers and program support – the Belfer Research Building opened in 2014, the centerpiece of the *Discoveries that Make a Difference* campaign, which ran from 2006 to 2013.



The 18-story Belfer Research Building, with its 13 floors of laboratories, dramatically expanded Weill Cornell Medicine's research enterprise, enabling a bench-to-bedside approach that has helped transform patient care. The 480,000-square-foot building, on East 69th Street near York Avenue, is devoted to translational research that targets a wide range of illnesses, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, metabolic diseases, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, children's health, global health and infectious diseases.

Since the building opened a decade ago in January 2014, Weill Cornell Medicine's sponsored research funding has more than doubled – jumping from \$191 million in 2014 to \$427 million in 2023, with a 92 percent increase in the number of faculty funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Recently, Weill Cornell Medicine was ranked number 21 among academic medical institutions receiving NIH funding – a rise of 16 spots in the rankings since 2017 – and that progress is a direct testament to the influential research now being conducted at the Belfer Research Building.



Robert and Renée Belfer

Many of Weill Cornell Medicine's leading programs are headquartered there – such as the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Center for Metabolic Health, the Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children's Health, and the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center, among others noted on page 5 – and have made this dramatic growth possible.

The building is also home to programs in virology and infectious disease that contributed significantly to the scientific understanding of COVID-19.

And now, through the current \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, Weill Cornell Medicine is building upon this foundation, with a planned expansion of programs focusing on genomics, data science, neuroscience, immunotherapy, regenerative medicine, population health, women's health and many others.

“Renée and Bob Belfer envisioned the potential for cutting-edge translational science to change medicine in a meaningful way, and we are deeply



“Renée and Bob Belfer envisioned the potential for cutting-edge translational science to change medicine in a meaningful way, and we are deeply grateful for their transformational gift”

Dr. Robert A. Harrington



Centers and Institutes

We are exceptionally grateful for the generous philanthropy that has established the outstanding research centers and institutes that have had laboratories in the Belfer Research Building, including:

- Joan and Sanford I. Weill Center for Metabolic Health
- Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center
- Englander Institute for Precision Medicine
- Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation
- Helen and Robert Appel Alzheimer’s Disease Research Institute
- Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute
- Gale and Ira Drukier Institute for Children’s Health
- Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Dalio Institute of Cardiovascular Imaging
- Sanders Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute
- Cardiovascular Research Institute

JOHN ABBOTT

grateful for their transformational gift,” says Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and provost for medical affairs of Cornell University. “Through the generosity of many donors, the Belfer Research Building enabled us to expand our core research programs, ushering in an exciting new era of growth for our institution.”

Leading philanthropic support for the Belfer Research Building was also provided by Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford I. Weill and his wife, Joan, who gave a gift of \$250 million, and gifts totaling \$100 million from Board of Fellows member Maurice Greenberg, his wife, Corinne, and The Starr Foundation.

“Bob and Renée truly inspired others to support our research enterprise, and they have made an enduring impact on patient care,” says Board of Fellows Chair Jessica M. Bibliowicz. “Extraordinary generosity such as theirs has such incredible power to change lives for the better.”

Transformational Gift from Israel Englander to Advance Research

A historic investment from Board of Fellows member Israel Englander will advance Weill Cornell Medicine's growing research enterprise and support critical initiatives throughout the institution.

The gift will broaden the Englander Institute for Precision Medicine and bolster institutional biobanking services.

Mr. Englander's investment was made as part of Weill Cornell Medicine's \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* fundraising campaign, thus far. With this gift, he becomes the largest donor to this campaign to date, and one of the most generous benefactors in the institution's history.

revolutionize personalized medicine through the creation of the Englander Institute for Precision Medicine. Since its founding in 2013, the Englander Institute has emerged as a key translational research hub that uses advanced tools such as genetics, genomic sequencing and clinical data to better understand the factors that drive disease development and progression. Applying this research, investigators work to identify treatments that are most likely to be effective for each individual patient and improve the well-being of those with cancer, genetic diseases and other illnesses.



"Weill Cornell Medicine is extremely fortunate to have the enduring and generous support of our friend and benefactor, Izzy Englander."

Jessica M. Bibliowicz

Precision health is a priority of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign, and this new gift will empower Weill Cornell Medicine to build on and expand the institute's work, broadening research initiatives and ensuring a wider array of patient treatment opportunities.

In recognition of his transformational gift and ongoing commitment to Weill Cornell Medicine, the institution has named two departments in his honor: the Israel Englander Department of Dermatology and the Israel Englander Department of Ophthalmology. The departments were chosen due to Mr. Englander's personal appreciation for their exceptional leadership, research and clinical care.


"We are immensely grateful to Mr. Englander for his generosity and his vision, which will further our leadership and innovation in health care," says Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and provost for medical affairs of Cornell University. "Investment in cutting-edge research, including precision medicine, will open new avenues of exploration as we seek to better understand and treat some of the world's most challenging diseases and ensure that we keep pushing medicine forward for the betterment of our patients."

A portion of the gift builds on Mr. Englander's previous investment in Weill Cornell Medicine that helped to



The gift will also enhance the institution's centralized biospecimen repository, or biobank – collections of human biological samples and related health data – extending essential clinical and translational research opportunities.

"Weill Cornell Medicine is extremely fortunate to have the enduring and generous support of our friend and benefactor, Izzy Englander," says Jessica M. Bibliowicz, chair of Weill Cornell Medicine's Board of Fellows. "Izzy's belief in the power of innovation in medicine is inspiring, and this gift will have a deep and lasting impact on our faculty, our patients and the wider community for decades to come."



Bequest to Support Weill Cornell Medicine's Lymphoma Research Fund

JOHN ABBOTT

To Francine D. Levine, the best way to demonstrate gratitude is by giving gifts that can benefit others.

That's why she has made a generous bequest to Weill Cornell Medicine that will support its Lymphoma Research Fund, in honor of her long-time physician, Dr. John Leonard, senior associate dean for innovation and initiatives, interim chair of the Weill Department of Medicine, and the Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology.

The planned gift that Ms. Levine has designated ensures that others will be able to benefit from the extraordinary kind of medical research that was available to her during treatment while at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Extremely grateful for the empathetic care and expert scientific knowledge that was shared with her, Ms. Levine is pleased to make a gift that will enable the same care for future patients.

"My gift really started as an expression of gratitude," she says. "I've received particularly good care at Weill Cornell Medicine, and for that I am truly appreciative."

Bequests and other planned gifts to Weill Cornell Medicine play a vital role in ensuring the institution's continued leadership in medical education, research and patient care.

"I've received particularly good care at Weill Cornell Medicine, and for that I am truly appreciative."

Francine D. Levine

Now retired from her job with the New York City Department of Education where she prescribed special education programs for high school students, Ms. Levine lives a life focused on caring for others. After years of saving during her career, she is paying it forward.

"I have been fortunate most of my life and I'm thankful that I can make a difference," she says. "I am proud of my choice to give others access to stellar health care."

It is Ms. Levine's hope that her gift will enable many others to be as fortunate as she has been to receive excellent health care at Weill Cornell Medicine.

"I want the care that I've received to be there for everybody," she says.

It is gifts like this one from Ms. Levine that are key to Weill Cornell Medicine's continued achievement as a top-tier academic medical center, says Dr. Leonard. "Generous gifts like this are so very vital to supporting our outstanding programs that help set our institution apart," Dr. Leonard says. "We are so grateful to our community of donors who place their trust in us to propel a vision of excellence across all of Weill Cornell Medicine."

Members of Weill Cornell Medicine's Planned Giving team are always happy to speak with you about creating your legacy. For more information on gift or estate planning, please contact us at either 646-962-9567 or plannedgiving@med.cornell.edu, or visit give.weill.cornell.edu

Student Residence

Weill Cornell Medicine celebrated the construction launch of its new student residence with a ceremonial groundbreaking in October 2023, attended by donors, faculty, students and campaign leadership.



Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford Weill, Board Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil, Board Chair Jessica Bibliowicz and Dean Robert Harrington

The building, under construction at East 74th Street and York Avenue, is a centerpiece of Weill Cornell Medicine’s suite of initiatives to enhance the student experience and is set to open in 2025.

The residence is made possible by the extraordinary generosity of Weill Cornell Medicine’s donors – lead gifts from *We’re Changing Medicine* campaign co-chairs Jeffrey Feil and Sanford I. Weill and their families, other long-time donors and the institution’s alumni – who collectively contributed \$122 million toward its construction.

“We’re building what will be one of the best student residences anywhere in this country,” said Dean Harrington. “Importantly, this new residence will both support our students’ academic life here and instill a lifelong emphasis on taking care of their overall wellness. The future of Weill Cornell Medicine is bright.”

PHOTOS: STUIDO BROOKE



Grant Black, Class of 2024, Bryce Katch a student in the Tri-Institutional M.D.-Ph.D. program, Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education Dr. Yoon Kang, Board of Fellows Student Member Jeremy Chang and Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences Dean Barbara Hempstead



Dean Robert Harrington



Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford Weill

Groundbreaking



Board of Fellows Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil with friends



Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford Weill and Vice Chair Jeffrey Feil



Board of Fellows Chair Emeritus Sanford Weill and his wife, Joan Weill



Karen Su, M.D. '97 and Kathleen Foley, M.D. '69, president, Weill Cornell Medical College Alumni Association

Building for the Future

Medical advances depend on exemplary clinical, research and educational infrastructure. As part of our dedication to our mission to care, discover and teach, Weill Cornell Medicine is undertaking two transformative capital projects, thanks to our \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* campaign.

Expanded Clinical Care in Midtown Manhattan

At 575 Lexington Avenue, between 51st and 52nd Streets, Weill Cornell Medicine is planning an expansion of its outstanding clinical care services with a new ambulatory care site spanning six floors.

The 216,000-square-foot clinical expansion – the first since the opening of the Weill Greenberg Center in 2012 – will house a suite of Weill Cornell Medicine specialists providing coordinated care in the areas of radiology, psychiatry, cardiology and women's health, along with additional clinical care programs and clinical research.

Through the new clinical center, Weill Cornell Medicine will support exceptional patient services and provide greater access to New Yorkers with convenient access from Grand Central Terminal and three major subway lines.



A Student Residence to Enhance Well-Being and Academic Excellence

The new student residence, on the northwest corner of East 74th Street and York Avenue, is set to transform the living and learning environment for Weill Cornell Medicine students.

The \$260 million, 16-story, 173,000-square-foot residence will be just four blocks from the heart of campus and will house 272 students in a combination of studio units and one- and two-bedroom apartments equipped with full kitchens.

Designed to enhance the well-being and success of our students, the building will include spaces for study, recreation, fitness and socialization, including meeting rooms, a fitness center, a multipurpose activity court and a rooftop lounge with an adjoining terrace.





Gift to Enhance Women's Health and Create Clinical Arm of the Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation

Dr. Laura Alonso, Dr. Orli Etingin, Barbara Friedman, Dr. David Artis

STEPHANIE DIANI

The Friedman Family Foundation, funded by Stephen and Board of Fellows Vice Chair Barbara Friedman, is propelling women's health to new levels of precision and sophistication, thanks to a new \$10 million gift that will establish a clinical arm of the Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation at Weill Cornell Medicine.

As part of Weill Cornell Medicine's planned expansion of clinical programs at 575 Lexington Avenue, the new program will connect relevant, trailblazing science to modern-day clinical approaches to disease and disease outcomes. This direct bench-to-bedside approach to care will transform how academic medicine incorporates diet and nutrition into medical strategies that will enhance and prolong life and will be focused on nutrition and diseases that largely impact women.

Physicians and staff will pay particular attention to the nutrition issues and autoimmune diseases that disproportionately impact women and affect life cycle, pregnancy, menopause and other conditions. Just as important, the new clinical arm will promote the participation of women in clinical nutrition research.

With this gift – of which \$1 million will be directed to the Dean's Strategic Initiatives Fund – Barbara and Stephen Friedman and the Friedman Family Foundation have given more than \$22 million to the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. Recently, together with the Weil, Gotshal & Manges Foundation, they honored Dr. Rahul Sharma, chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, with the first endowed professorship in the Department of Emergency Medicine. *(Please see sidebar for details.)*

"Barbara and Steve are remarkable and visionary donors," says Dr. Robert A. Harrington, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and provost for medical affairs of Cornell University. "Their outstanding philanthropy furthers the goals of our *We're Changing Medicine* campaign to transform women's health and expand health care to more patients throughout our region."

The Friedmans have a long history of philanthropy at Weill Cornell Medicine. They are both Cornell alumni, class of 1959, who have actively supported the university, where Barbara Friedman is trustee emerita and a presidential councilor. A member of Weill Cornell Medicine's Board of Fellows since

1993, she has also served on the advisory board of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar. Over the past three decades, the couple have made gifts to Weill Cornell Medicine totaling nearly \$40 million.

Their current gift builds on their 2018 gift, which established the Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation. Led by Dr. David Artis, director of the Jill Roberts Institute for Research in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the Michael Kors Professor in Immunology at Weill Cornell Medicine, the Friedman Center works toward developing treatments and preventive strategies for a range of illnesses, including cancer, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease.

"Steve and I firmly believe in the unique capacities of Weill Cornell Medicine to help patients achieve optimal health with cutting-edge technologies and world-class expertise," says Mrs. Friedman. "We are excited to continue to support an institution and campaign that is at the forefront of medical innovation."

The Friedman Center's clinical program will serve as the clinical partner of the research arm of the Friedman Center for Nutrition and Inflammation, expanding the Center's academic mission to encompass clinical as well as research and educational endeavors. Research and clinical faculty and trainees will convene on a regular basis to share knowledge from the lab to the clinic, and vice versa.

Two respected Weill Cornell Medicine physician-scientists will serve as interim co-directors during the first two years: Dr. Laura Alonso, chief of the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, director of the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Center for Metabolic Health and the E. Hugh Luckey Distinguished Professor in Medicine; and Dr. Orli Etingin, founder and medical director of the Iris Cantor Women's Health Center and the Lisa and Sanford B. Ehrenkranz Professor in Women's Health. A full-time director will eventually take over leadership duties, oversee clinical activities and mentor junior faculty, and partner with Dr. Artis.

"We see a bright future where new technologies and transformative science will yield personalized therapies," says Dr. Etingin. "Dr. Alonso and I are honored to be part of this amazing opportunity to advance the cause of women's health."

Dr. Rahul Sharma Appointed to First Professorship in Emergency Medicine



Dr. Rahul Sharma

Rahul Sharma, M.D., chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, was recently appointed the inaugural holder of the Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professorship of Emergency Medicine.

This first endowed professorship in the Department of Emergency Medicine was established through a gift of \$2.5 million from the Friedman Family Foundation, represented by Stephen and Board of Fellows Vice Chair Barbara Friedman, with an additional \$500,000 from the law firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, which is led by Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Fellows Member Barry Wolf.

The support from Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP is part of a generous \$5 million gift from the firm, which also includes an additional \$1.5 million to support the Department of Emergency Medicine, and \$3 million for the Dean's Strategic Initiatives Fund.

"This professorship will allow us to further our mission of providing outstanding clinical care, conducting innovative research and driving change through education," says Dr. Sharma, a leader in academic medicine, who has led incredible growth of the Department of Emergency Medicine. "I'm profoundly thankful to Barbara and Steve Friedman and the Friedman Family Foundation, as well as Barry Wolf and Weil, Gotshal & Manges for their support and confidence in our department, and I'm thrilled to see where the next five years will take us."

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