



**Weill  
Cornell  
Medicine**

OCTOBER 2022

# Milestones



## Strong Alumni Support Advances *We're Changing Medicine* Campaign

Dr. Karen Lin Su (M.D. '97) and Dr. Edwin Su (M.D. '97)

JOHN ABBOTT

Powered by a strong connection to their alma mater – and inspired by the student-focused initiatives of the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign – Weill Cornell Medicine alumni are affirming their enthusiasm with remarkable engagement and philanthropy.

Weill Cornell Medicine graduates have contributed more than \$13 million in the past year, many citing the debt-free financial aid program and the new student residence as motivating factors for their extraordinary support.

Inspired by the leadership of Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean – and with gratitude to Weill Cornell Medicine – the Su family recently made two gifts totaling \$6.25 million in support of the new student residence, set to begin construction in this academic year.

With a gift of \$1.25 million, Dr. Karen Lin Su (M.D. '97) and Dr. Edwin Su (M.D. '97) will name the Sky Lounge Lobby on the building's 16<sup>th</sup> floor, and with an additional gift of \$5 million –

from Karen and Ed, along with Ed's three siblings – the family will name the adjoining Sky Lounge/Roof Terrace in honor of Ed's parents, Dr. Philip C. Su and Wen-Huey L. Su. Ed's late father, Dr. Philip C. Su, was a prominent neurologist who inspired two of his children to pursue careers in medicine.

To Ed, a professor of clinical orthopaedic surgery, and his wife, Karen, a clinical associate professor of pediatrics, Weill Cornell Medicine feels almost like a second home. The couple met as students at the medical college, stayed on for their residencies and fellowships, and have remained actively involved at the institution beyond their roles as faculty members.

Karen, a pediatric endocrinologist, is a leader of the class of 1997 and will moderate a panel discussion at this year's Reunion weekend, which will be held on campus for the first time since the start of the pandemic;

*Continued on page 4*

**We're  
Changing  
Medicine.**



# From Our Dean

With continued alumni support, along with generous gifts from so many of our other donors and friends, **we can now provide debt-free education to those with financial need.**

From the moment they receive their short white coats to the moment they are handed their hard-earned diplomas on the stage at Carnegie Hall, our students are essential members of the Weill Cornell Medicine family.

Equipped with a Weill Cornell Medicine education, these new doctors are empowered with the fundamental tools to be physicians in this ever-changing medical landscape. And when they move beyond our campus, they become members of a thriving and vibrant alumni community, connected with thousands of world-class physicians. Our alumni are changing medicine right now, as they help patients around the globe to lead longer and healthier lives. And we are so proud of all that they continue to accomplish.

It is especially moving when our alumni choose to give back to their alma mater, which has provided this fertile foundation for their careers. Our alumni's commitment to our current students is evident with every gift received. With continued alumni support, along with generous gifts from so many of our other donors and friends, we can now provide debt-free education to those with financial need. In addition, we are building a new student residence that will greatly enhance their campus experience. These are critical endeavors to support the health-care leaders of tomorrow, and we are grateful to partner with our alumni in this way.

Thanks to ongoing philanthropy from so many of our supporters, the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign is on its way to fundamentally transforming our approach to patient care, research and medical education to meet the critical needs of a changing health-care environment. Join us as we continue to elevate each pillar of our mission to care, discover and teach. Together, we are making a difference in our patients' lives.

**Augustine M.K. Choi, M.D.**

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



# From Our Co-Chairs

Our patients, their families and friends understand the kind of world-class, compassionate and personalized care received at Weill Cornell Medicine is not only unique, it can be life-changing. With your help, the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign empowers our physicians with the critical resources needed to continue the extraordinary care that our patients expect. We are so grateful that you have chosen to join us in these efforts. With your generosity, we are helping our patients lead healthier and longer lives. Now, that is a gift!

**Jeffrey J. Feil**  
Campaign Co-Chair



We would like to thank our donors for their inspired philanthropy and generous contributions to the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign. Our expanding research enterprise is a critical engine for groundbreaking discoveries, multidisciplinary collaboration and innovative science. With your ongoing support, the world-class physicians and scientists at Weill Cornell Medicine are finding answers to questions that will accelerate new treatments and cures, and transform patient care for years to come.

**Sanford I. Weill**  
Campaign Co-Chair



## Strong Alumni Support Advances We're Changing Medicine Campaign *Continued from cover*

**"The campaign will allow Weill Cornell Medicine to improve patient care, make a global impact on research and train our future doctors and leaders – while improving students' experience with the debt-free initiative and the new student residence."**

Dr. Karen Lin Su (M.D. '97)

Ed, an orthopedic surgeon, is also a class leader, treasurer of the Alumni Association, chair of the Alumni Association Fundraising Committee and a member of the Campaign Executive Committee of the Board of Fellows.

"By raising funds for education and research, and with improved physical facilities, Weill Cornell Medicine will fortify its position among top-tier academic medical institutions by attracting talented clinical faculty, cutting-edge researchers and the very best medical students," says Ed.

"The campaign will allow Weill Cornell Medicine to improve patient care, make a global impact on research and train our future doctors and leaders – while improving students' experience with the debt-free initiative and the new student residence," says Karen. "Weill Cornell Medicine provided us with such amazing careers – and lives – and it means so much to us."

Like the Sus, many alumni are directing their campaign support to the new student residence, which offers Weill Cornell Medicine graduates a reduced rate for naming spaces within the building (see story on page 5). The chance to contribute to the new residence is a "once-in-a-lifetime," says Ed, who credits the Board of Fellows for giving alumni incentives to participate in this historic project.

"Ed and Karen's gifts are so befitting, given their commitment to the campaign, and we can't thank them and their family enough for their generosity and dedication to our students. It's this sort of leadership that inspires the level of alumni support we are receiving," says Dean Choi. "Every gift, at every level, moves us closer to our ambitious goals."



The Sky Lounge/Roof Terrace, on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor of the new student residence, will be named in honor of Dr. Ed Su's parents.

**"Alumni represent the very best of who we are, and they carry our mission with them throughout their careers."**

Jessica M. Bibliowicz

Dr. Natasha Leibel (M.D. '98), former president of the Alumni Association, and her husband, Dr. Harlan Levine (M.D. '98), recently made a gift to name a study nook on the lobby level of the new building. Dr. Jian Shen (M.D., Ph.D. '02) made a \$2 million gift in support of the residence to name the yoga and dance studio and two huddle rooms in honor of his Weill Cornell Medicine mentors (see story on page 6). And the class of 1974 has made a group gift to name a music room, inspired by a beloved professor (see story on page 5).

"Alumni represent the very best of who we are, and they carry our mission with them throughout their careers," says Jessica M. Bibliowicz, chairman of the Board of Fellows. "Their dedication to Weill Cornell Medicine is a true testament to the strength of our educational experience, and we are incredibly grateful for their enthusiastic support."





## Music Room in New Student Residence Named for Class of '74

With gratitude to the institution that launched their careers, the Weill Cornell Medicine class of 1974 will name a music room in the new student residence – a group gift that represents a substantial investment in the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign.

The group is headed by class leader Dr. Gene Resnick (M.D. '74), past president of the Alumni Association and a member of the Board of Fellows.

“Olin Hall has a special place in many alumni’s hearts, and to participate in helping to build a new state-of-the-art residence for students is a great way for us to recognize what we had – and to make that experience better for the next generation of students,” says Dr. Resnick.

The 16-story student residence, to be constructed on East 74<sup>th</sup> Street and York Avenue, offers numerous naming opportunities for individuals and groups, ranging from studio apartments to expansive common spaces for student gatherings and institutional events. With fundraising continuing at a steady pace – half of the \$260 million building will be supported by philanthropy – construction is expected to begin in this academic year. When it is completed, it will replace Olin Hall, the student residence on East 69<sup>th</sup> Street that has housed thousands of future doctors since its construction in the mid-1950s.

Alumni who choose to support the new student residence are offered the opportunity to name spaces at half of the public investment levels. These opportunities for Weill Cornell Medicine graduates begin at \$37,500 for a studio apartment.

The idea of a group gift in support of the campaign appealed to many members of the class of 1974, who enthusiastically reconnected as they discussed which space resonated most strongly.

They selected a music room because of their fond memories of Dr. Elliot Hochstein, a beloved professor, who brought in the cast of the Broadway musical “Hair” – for which he served as physician to many of the cast members – to present a live performance for students during one of their physical diagnosis classes.

“We may be senior citizens now, but we were young students back in the 1970s, and we went through an intense bonding experience during our four years here,” says Dr. Resnick. “To be able to enhance the student experience at Weill Cornell Medicine – either by investing in the new residence, supporting the debt-free initiative or contributing to the Alumni Association annual fund – is tremendously gratifying and keeps us connected.”

STUDIO BROOKE



Board of Fellows member Dr. Gene Resnick (M.D. '74)

Alumni of Weill Cornell Medicine continue to share a strong bond, says assistant professor of clinical emergency medicine (interim) Dr. Joseph Habboushe (M.D. '06), president of the Alumni Association, and group gifts in support of the campaign can strengthen those bonds as they advance the institution’s vision for the future.

“We’re grateful for the class of 1974’s extraordinary gift – and for everything it will help make possible for our students,” he says. “All of us can make a profound impact on the next generation of students by contributing, in any way we can, to the *We're Changing Medicine* campaign.”





Dr. Jian Shen (M.D., Ph.D. '02)

**“We are profoundly grateful to Dr. Shen and his fellow alumni who remain committed to Weill Cornell Medicine.”**

Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi

## New Student Residence to Benefit from the Generosity of Alumnus Dr. Jian Shen

Dr. Jian Shen (M.D., Ph.D. '02) started at Weill Cornell Medicine in 1992, fresh from college in Beijing and eager to pursue his passion for science at a major academic medical center in the United States.

Within 10 years, Dr. Shen completed a doctorate in pharmacology and earned his medical degree, all part of the Tri-Institutional M.D. - Ph.D. Program, a collaborative effort between Weill Cornell Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and The Rockefeller University. Now a successful spine surgeon with three offices in New York and one in New Jersey, he is profoundly grateful for the education he received, the people he has met and the career opportunities he has enjoyed over the years.

To help future students experience the same benefits, Dr. Shen recently pledged \$2 million to support the new Weill Cornell Medicine student residence. In recognition of his generosity, the yoga/dance studio will be named after Dr. Shen's practice, enVISION Spine Surgery, and two all-purpose “huddle” meeting rooms are to be dedicated in honor of his Weill Cornell Medicine mentors, Dr. Lorraine Gudas and Dr. Olaf Andersen.

Dr. Gudas is chair of the Department of Pharmacology and the Revlon Pharmaceutical Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology; Dr. Andersen is a professor of physiology and biophysics and former director of the Tri-Institutional M.D. - Ph.D. Program.

“Those 10 years at Weill Cornell were the most important of my life,” recalls Dr. Shen. “I was fortunate to be at a world-class medical institution like Weill Cornell Medicine. Drs. Gudas and Andersen were wonderful mentors and friends. Now, I would like to give back to the Weill Cornell community and help future physician-scientists grow and learn.”

“Supporting the new student residence is an amazing opportunity for a proud alumnus like me to serve the Weill Cornell Medicine community,” says Dr. Shen.

Planned for the northwest corner of East 74th Street and York Avenue, the student residence is a centerpiece of Weill Cornell Medicine's \$1.5 billion *We're Changing Medicine* campaign – the largest and most ambitious in the institution's history.

The 16-story, state-of-the-art building will create a vibrant hub of student life. Spacious apartments, modern amenities and collaborative meeting spaces will significantly improve students' living and learning experience.

“We are profoundly grateful to Dr. Shen and his fellow alumni who remain committed to Weill Cornell Medicine,” says Dr. Augustine M.K. Choi, the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean. “By helping young physicians-scientists learn and excel during a critical period in their careers, Dr. Shen's gift will help propel medicine forward to benefit patients in new, creative and unexpected ways.”

# Golubs' Gift Establishes Clinical Scholar Award to Support Cancer Research

When Dr. Bennett Golub learned that his beloved father, Aharon, had prostate cancer, he knew he had to take immediate action to help find the best possible treatment. Dr. Golub didn't think twice: He turned to Dr. David Nanus, the Mark W. Pasmantier Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine.

According to Dr. Golub, Dr. Nanus and his colleagues at Weill Cornell Medicine provided superb care during the father's struggle with cancer, helping him achieve full remission.

"The extra time Dr. Nanus gave my father was also a tremendous gift to me," says Dr. Golub, a founding partner of BlackRock, the global investment management firm. "I wanted to reciprocate in a way that I had the ability to do."

To honor Dr. Nanus, and support cutting-edge cancer clinical research at Weill Cornell Medicine, Dr. Golub and his wife, Cindy, recently endowed the David M. Nanus, M.D. Clinical Scholar Award in Cancer, in memory of Aharon Golub. The inaugural Golub Scholar is Dr. John Allan, assistant professor of medicine. Dr. Allan specializes in treating chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and other blood cancers with targeted therapies.

"I am thrilled," says Dr. Allan. "We are truly living in exciting times for cancer research, with much promise for patients at Weill Cornell Medicine and beyond. Generous philanthropy holds the key to unlocking so many potential discoveries."

Dr. Golub appreciates that Dr. Nanus, who is also a friend and a physician to other Golub family members, helped select Dr. Allan as the inaugural recipient. Dr. Golub trusts the expertise that Dr. Nanus and other Weill Cornell Medicine faculty demonstrate in deciding which researchers should be supported.

Like other Clinical Scholar Awards, the Golub family's \$1 million gift reduces the financial and administrative demands on talented junior and mid-level faculty, giving them the time and support they need to strengthen professional and research activities that mean the most to them and to the institution. The award is for three years and can be renewed at the Dean's discretion for an additional three-year period.

Aharon Golub, a Holocaust survivor who worked as a manager in medium-sized manufacturing companies, passed away a year ago at the age of 93. His family remains deeply grateful for the care he received at Weill Cornell Medicine. That care inspired Dr. Golub to support future generations of physicians who will drive science forward and help even more patients.

"It is so meaningful to me that Ben Golub wanted his support to be used to advance our cancer research initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine," Dr. Nanus says. "Expert care and cutting-edge medical breakthroughs depend on committed and visionary donors to sustain the work of brilliant physician-scientists."

Dr. Bennett Golub and his wife, Cindy Golub

"It is so meaningful to me that Ben Golub wanted his support to be used to advance our cancer research initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine."

Dr. David Nanus





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