

2024 Annual Meeting Souvenir Journal



2024 Honorees

OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Peter Acker, MD

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kham Ali, MD, MBA

“FRIEND OF THE SOCIETY” AWARDEE

Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA, President & CEO
CenterLight Healthcare PACE

“FRIEND OF MEDICINE” AWARDEE

Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE, Executive Director
Northern Westchester Hospital Northwell Health

BEST WISHES

Westchester County Medical Society

CONGRATULATIONS

Kham Ali, MD, MBA
WCMS President-elect

Peter Acker, MD
Outgoing WCMS President

Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA
President & CEO, CenterLight Healthcare PACE
"Friend of the Society" Awardee

Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE
Executive Director, Northern Westchester Hospital Northwell Health
"Friend of Medicine" Awardee

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The Medical Society of the County of Westchester

Congratulations
to our

President and CEO, Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA

“Friend of the Society” awardee

and fellow honorees

Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE

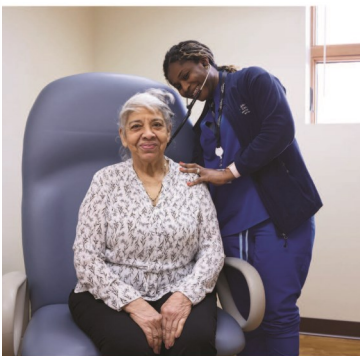
“Friend of Medicine” Awardee

Peter Acker, MD

Outgoing President

Kham Ali, MD

President-elect



Keeping Up with the PACE of Aging

1-833-252-2737 | TTY 711 | MON-FRI 8AM-8PM

CenterLightHealthcare.org

2024 Westchester County Annual Meeting Program:



6:00 pm — Networking Reception with Sponsors & Guests

Please be sure to visit all of our sponsors!

7:00 pm — Dinner

7:15 pm — Call to Order

Recognize Special Guests, MSSNY Officers, WCMS/WAM Officers,
Past Presidents, WCMS Staff, Sponsors & Supporters

7:45 pm — Meeting called back to order

Report of the Nominating Committee

Academy Program—WESEF Award Winners

Remarks of MSSNY President Jerome Cohen, MD

50 Year Citation Awards

“Friend of the Society Award”

“Friend of Medicine Award”

Outgoing President’s Remarks—Peter Acker, MD

Introduction of New President

Incoming President’s Remarks—Kham Ali, MD

Adjournment



Proudly Supports

**The Medical Society of the County of Westchester
&**

The Westchester Academy of Medicine

Join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of this year's honorees:

Peter Acker, MD

Outgoing WCMS President

Kham Ali, MD, MBA

Incoming WCMS President

The Centerlight Team

"Friend of the Society" Awardee

Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE, Executive Director

Northern Westchester Hospital Northwell Health

"Friend of Medicine" Awardee

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Would like to Congratulate

Incoming President
Kham Ali, MD, MBA

Outgoing President
Peter Acker, MD

“Friend of Medicine”
Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE,
Executive Director Northern Westchester
Hospital Northwell Health

“Friend of the Society”
Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA, President & CEO
CenterLight Healthcare PACE

The Westchester County Medical Society Administrative Staff

Would like to thank
Outgoing President, **Peter Acker, MD** for all of his
effort and hard work throughout the year.



We would like to offer Best Wishes to our
President-elect, Kham Ali, MD, MBA
We are looking forward to the upcoming year working with you!

We would also like to thank all of our members for a great year!

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908.449.9347

Chris Curcio
ccurcio@acadia.pro
516.532.9519





Medical Society State of New York
and the
Westchester County Medical Society

Would like to recognize the following Physicians
for 50 years devoted to the service of the public
in the practice of medicine:

Karen Arthur, MD
David Blum, MD
Daniel Brauman, MD
Philip Florio, MD
Allan Friedland, MD
Neil Goodman, MD
Joel Greenspan, MD
Marc Grossman, MD
Edward Heilman, MD
Habib Jamal, MD
Ronald Kaplan, MD
Raman Kaul, MD
David Lehrman, MD
Bentley Patterson, MD
Gene Resnick, MD
Stephen Scharf, MD
Jack Stern, MD
Gail Wilder, MD
Preston Winters, MD

Congratulations on such a tremendous achievement!

Past Presidents of the Westchester County Medical Society

Archibald McDonald, MD	1797-1798	Mortimer W. Raynor, MD	1933-1934
Seth Miller, MD	1797-1798	Harrison Betts, MD	1934-1935
Elias Cornelius, MD	1797-1798	Theodore West, MD	1935-1936
Ebenezer White, MD	1798-1799	Morley T. Smith, MD	1936-1937
David Rogers, Jr., MD	1817-1820	Erich H. Reston, MD	1937-1938
Matson Smith, MD	1825-1826	Ralph T.B. Todd, MD	1938-1939
Matson Smith, MD	1828-1830	Henry J. Vier, MD	1939-1940
William Hoffman, MD	1831-1832	Reginald A. Higgons, MD	1940-1941
David Palmer, MD	1833-1834	George C. Aide, MD	1941-1943
James Fountain, MD	1835-1836	Merwin E. Marsland, MD	1943-1944
Peter Moulton, MD	1836-1837	Laurance D. Redway, MD	1944-1945
Amos W. Gates, MD	1838-1839	Isadore Zadek, MD	1945-1946
William A. Stanley, MD	1840-1841	Robert B. Archibald, MD	1946-1947
Seth Shove, MD	1842-1843	Godfrey Childress, MD	1947-1948
James Fountain, MD	1844-1846	Waring Willis, MD	1948-1949
Benjamin Bassett, MD	1847-1848	Christopher Ward, MD	1949-1950
Joshua W. Bowron, MD	1848-1849	Henry E. McGarvey, MD	1950-1951
John Collett, MD	1850-1851	Margaret Loder, MD	1951-1952
Stewart Philander, MD	1851-1852	Reid R. Heffner, MD	1952-1953
George Fisher, MD	1857-1858	W. Alex Newlands, MD	1953-1955
Caleb W. Haight, MD	1859-1860	David Fertig, MD	1955-1956
J.F. Jenkins, MD	1861-1862	Harold J. Dunlap, MD	1956-1957
Thomas Snowden, MD	1863-1864	John N. Dill, MD	1957-1958
Hosea Fountain, MD	1864-1865	William P. Reed, MD	1958-1959
I.F. Pelton, MD	1865-1866	Donald Reed, MD	1959-1960
J.H. Curry, MD	1866-1867	Arthur Diedrick, MD	1960-1961
E.F. Arnold, MD	1867-1868	Charles M. Brane, MD	1961-1962
George Bayles, MD	1869-1870	Thomas Jaleski, MD	1962-1963
James W. Scribner, MD	1870-1871	James M. Jones, MD	1963-1964
H. Caruthers, MD	1871-1872	Wallace M. Sheridan, MD	1964-1965
J.J. Linson, MD	1872-1873	James Haralambie, MD	1965-1966
W.H. Helm, MD	1874-1875	Maurice Woodhull, MD	1966-1967
Z.E. Lewis, MD	1875-1876	William Brumfield, MD	1967-1968
Platt R.H. Sawyer, MD	1876-1877	Robert Healy, MD	1968-1969
Isaac G. Collins, MD	1877-1878	Francis T. Rogliano, MD	1969-1970
H. Ernest Schmind, MD	1878-1879	Allison B. Landolt, MD	1970-1971
G. P. Balch, MD	1879-1880	Katherine L. Freidman, MD	1971-1972
Henry L. Horton, MD	1880-1881	Robert A. Mayers, MD	1972-1973
Champion J. Judson, MD	1881-1882	Albert Lowenfels, MD	1973-1974
Archibald M. Campbell, MD	1882-1883	William P. Clark, MD	1974-1975
J. Frances Chapman, MD	1883-1884	Thomas D. Rizzo, MD	1975-1976
Edward F. Brush, MD	1884-1885	William J. McCann, MD	1976-1977
H. Freeland, MD	1886-1887	John A. Ramsdell, MD	1977-1978
C.S. Benedict, MD	1887-1888	Bertram J. Oppenheimer, MD	1978-1979
William H. Helm, MD	1888-1889	Charles A. Bertrand, MD	1979-1980
Samuel Swift, MD	1889-1890	Michael Sierp, MD	1980-1981
Charles Mason, MD	1890-1891	Kenneth W. Trout, MD	1981-1982
Newton F. Curtis, MD	1891-1892	Peter B. Farnsworth, MD	1982-1983
William F. Green, MD	1892-1893	Armond B. Mascia, MD	1983-1984
E. Ernest Schmid, MD	1893-1894	Richard L. Fenton, MD	1984-1985
Stuart B. Carlisle, MD	1894-1895	Stanley M. Mendelowitz, MD	1985-1986
Philander Collard, MD	1895-1896	Robert C. Mickatavage, MD	1986-1987
Archibald M. Campbell, MD	1896-1897	Richard L. Petrillo, MD	1987-1988
Edgar M. Hermance, MD	1897-1898	William J. Walsh, MD	1988-1989
R. Condit Eddy, MD	1898-1899	Pellegrino J. Tozzo, MD	1989-1990
Archibald T. Banning, MD	1899-1900	Ann C. Cea, MD	1990-1991
A.R. Snowden, MD	1900-1901	Sanford A. Kaplan, MD	1991-1992
P.A. Callan, MD	1901-1902	Thomas A. Lansen, MD	1992-1993
Robert T. Howe, MD	1902-1903	Mark L. Fox, MD	1993-1994
Robert T. Irvine, MD	1903-1904	Stephen O. Schwartz, MD	1994-1995
Charles E. Chapman, MD	1904-1905	Paul S. Carton, MD	1995-1996
T.F. Goodwin, MD	1905-1906	Robert L. Soley, MD	1996-1997
H. Beaty Brown, MD	1906-1907	Barney B. Silverman, MD	1997-1998
C.P. Byington, MD	1907-1908	Howard F. Stock, MD	1998-1999
W.A. Miner, MD	1908-1909	Carl P. Weber, MD	1999-2000
George A. Peck, MD	1909-1910	Peter S. Liebert, MD	2000-2001
S. Oscar Myers, MD	1910-1911	David E. Bank, MD	2001-2002
Frank E. Russell, MD	1911-1912	Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD	2002-2003
Edward W. Weber, MD	1912-1913	Andrew Kleinman, MD	2003-2004
John W. Smith, MD	1913-1914	Michael Rosenberg, MD	2004-2005
Samuel E. Getty, MD	1914-1915	Bonnie Litvack, MD	2005-2006
Bertrand F. Drake, MD	1915-1916	Peter F. Rizzo, MD	2006-2007
W. Stuart Woodruff, MD	1916-1917	Alfred Tinger, MD	2007-2008
Henry Moffat, MD	1917-1918	Amy E. Newburger, MD	2008-2009
William L. Russell, MD	1918-1919	John J. Stangel, MD	2009-2010
Clarence C. Guion, MD	1919-1920	Joseph J. Tartaglia, MD	2010-2011
William H. Purdy, MD	1920-1921	Abe Levy, MD	2011-2012
Francis R. Lyman, MD	1921-1922	Thomas T. Lee, MD	2012-2013
Edwin G. Ramsdell, MD	1922-1923	Robert Lerner, MD	2013-2014
A.S. Corwin, MD	1923-1924	Louis McIntyre, MD	2014-2015
Charles C. Sweet, MD	1924-1925	Thomas Lester, MD	2015-2016
H.T. Kelly, MD	1925-1926	Gino Bottino, MD	2016-2017
H.W. Titus, MD	1926-1927	Marshal Peris, MD	2017-2018
Elton G. Littell, MD	1927-1928	Omar N. Syed, MD	2018-2019
W. H. Cattle, MD	1928-1929	Daniel Gold, MD	2019-2020
W.W. Mott, MD	1929-1930	Peter Acker, MD	2020-2021
Louis B. Chapman, MD	1930-1931	Jeffrey Jacobson, MD	2021-2022
Louis V. Waldron, MD	1931-1932	Bruce Molinelli, MD	2022-2023
Andrew A. Eggston, MD	1932-1933	Peter Acker, MD	2023-2024



Westchester County Medical Society

2023-2024 Officers

2023-2024

Executive Committee

President

Peter Acker, MD

President-elect

Kham Ali, MD, MBA

Immediate Past President

Bruce Molinelli, MD

Vice President

Anaïs Carniciu, MD

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Thomas Lee, MD

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Tobi Klar, MD

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Daniel Gold, MD

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Janine Miller
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Kalli Voulgaris, MPH
CME Director

Rhonda Nathan
Accounts Manager

Westchester

Delegates 2024

Peter Acker, MD
Kham Ali, MD
Karen Arthur MD
Anaïs Carniciu, MD
Alyssa Lee, Medical Student
Thomas Lee, MD
Bruce Molinelli, MD
Joseph Tartaglia, MD
Leila Tchelebi, MD

Putnam

Delegates 2024

Elliot Barsh, MD
William Zurhellen, MD

Westchester

Alternate Delegates 2024

Elaine Healy, MD
Tobi Klar, MD
Maria Paone, MD
Marshal Peris, MD

9th District Councilor

Daniel Gold, MD

Committee Chairs 2023-2024

Ethics

Ronald Jacobson, MD

CME

Marshal Peris, MD

Budget & Finance

Andrew Kleinman MD

Delegates

Bonnie Litvack, MD

Legislative

Daniel Gold, MD

Membership

Lan Pham, MD

Communications & Public Relations

Anaïs Carniciu, MD

Socio Medical Economics

Thomas Lee, MD

Workers Compensation

Bruce Molinelli, MD

Young Physicians

Kham Ali, MD

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**Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE, Executive Director
Northern Westchester Hospital Northwell Health
2024 Friend of Medicine Awardee**



Derek D. Anderson, FACHE
Executive Director
Northern Westchester Hospital
Northwell Health

As Executive Director, Derek Anderson provides chief executive oversight of the day-to-day operations and strategic direction of Northern Westchester Hospital. He assumed the position in January 2020 after steadily progressing through the ranks at Northwell Health.

Mr. Anderson joined Northwell in 2009 and held various positions in operations before he was named associate executive director in 2016. In this role, he had oversight for the daily operations of the 850-bed quaternary campus of North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York. He was also responsible for the planning and execution of approximately \$740 million in capital projects during his tenure, including a \$625 million surgical pavilion expansion project, which opened in February of 2024. Recently at Northern Westchester Hospital, leading initiatives to successfully grow the organization in quality and state rankings, improving financial performance, launching a cardiac catheterization and electrophysiology program, and investments in community partnerships and health programs.

Mr. Anderson has published and presented nationally about hospital management. In 2014, was the recipient of the President's Award for Innovation, a Northwell-wide recognition, and received the Best Management Innovation Award from the American College of Healthcare Executives' (ACHE) annual Congress in 2012. He serves as the Chair of the Healthcare Consortium of the Westchester County Association, where he also sits on the Board and is a member of the Executive Committee. In addition, he is the Vice-Chair of the Board at Northern Metropolitan Hospital Association.

Prior to Northwell, Mr. Anderson worked in the Department of Surgery at Intermountain Healthcare, based in Salt Lake City, Utah. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion and Education from the University of Utah, a master's degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, and certificate in Project Management from Harvard's School of Public Health. He is a certified fellow of ACHE and a member of the Healthcare Leaders of New York.

**Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA, President & CEO
CenterLight Healthcare PACE
2024 Friend of the Society Awardee**



**Tara Buonocore-Rut
President and Chief Executive Officer**

Tara Buonocore-Rut is President and CEO of CenterLight Healthcare and CEO of Kinship Health. She has devoted her career to the health and well-being of older adults and brings impressive expertise in strategic and operational business planning, financial management, dual eligible populations and long-term care.

Buonocore-Rut joined CenterLight in 2020 and has since led efforts to restructure its care delivery, business development, business intelligence, and compliance functions – all in service of more integrated, higher-quality care.

In 2023, Buonocore-Rut was appointed to CEO of Kinship Health, which will be operating PACE programs in multiple states in 2024, building on CenterLight's progress with PACE in New York.

Prior to joining CenterLight, Buonocore-Rut served as Executive Vice President of Strategy and Operations at Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation, where she successfully planned and implemented corporate, financial, clinical and quality goals. From 2012 to 2017, she was Executive Director of AgeWell New York, overseeing financial performance, business development and operational planning of the organization, which grew to over \$750 million in revenue under her leadership.

An active contributor to healthcare industry and governmental workgroups, Buonocore-Rut serves on the Board of the National PACE Association. She is a member of the American College of Health Care Executives, the American College of Health Care Administrators, Health Care Leaders of New York, and the New York PACE Alliance and has served as President of the PACE/MLTC Cabinet for LeadingAge New York. She maintains a Nursing Home Administrator's license and holds a Master's in Health Administration and a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Hofstra University, where she serves as Chairperson of the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Health Sciences.

CenterLight Healthcare PACE

136-65 37th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354

1-833-252-2737 **PHONE** | TTY711 | 8AM-8PM Monday-Friday **CenterLightHealthcare.org**

**NORTHERN WESTCHESTER HOSPITAL
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE WESTCHESTER
COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & WESTCHESTER
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, DEREK ANDERSON, MPH, FACHE,
ON BEING NAMED THE “FRIEND OF MEDICINE”
AWARDEE.**

**THANK YOU, DEREK, FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP
AND COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING HEALTHCARE
FOR OUR COMMUNITY.**

**We also recognize
“Friend of the Society”awardee,
Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA,
President and CEO
Centerlight Healthcare
PACE.**



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WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
WESTCHESTER ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2024-2025

The Nominating Committee of the Westchester County Medical and the Westchester Academy of Medicine met on April 30, 2024, and hereby nominates the following candidates for election at the Annual Meeting on June 4th to take office effective **July 1, 2024**:

Note: Per the Bylaws, the current President-elect, Kham Ali, MD, automatically assumes the Office of President and the current President, Peter Acker, MD assumes the Office of the Immediate Past President.

President

Kham Ali, MD

President-elect

Anaïs Carniciu, MD

Vice President

Marshal Peris, MD

Treasurer

Thomas Lee, MD

Secretary

Bruce Molinelli, MD

Delegates to the MSSNY House of Delegates

(Two for two years; term ending 2026)

Anaïs Carniciu, MD Joseph Tartaglia, MD

***Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the WCMS/Academy Annual Meeting, provided that each nomination is supported by a petition signed by at least 100 members, as specified in the Bylaws.**

Kham Ali, MD, MBA
2023-2024
President-elect
Westchester County Medical Society

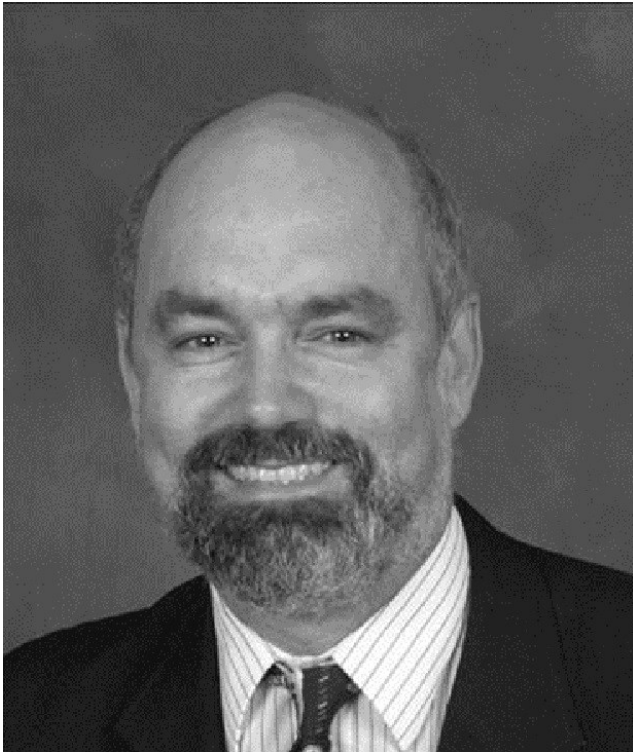


Kham Ali was born in London but grew up on the beach in South Jersey where he witnessed his parents pursue the classic American Dream via hard work, determination, and creativity. Kham was along for the ride and learned many valuable lessons as he would spend long hours in the family bakery perfecting croissants, danishes, and palmiers while serving customers. This work ethic led him to a merit scholarship at George Washington University where he completed a dual BS program and eventually medical school. He had a short stint in be-

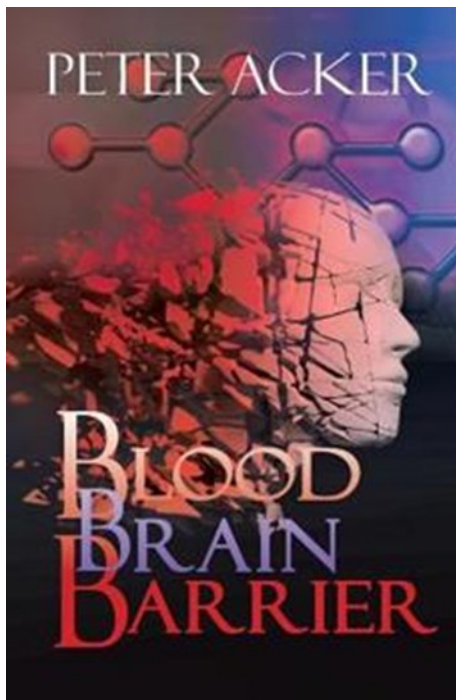
tween undergrad and medical school with the Department of Defense in the neuro defense division as an analytical chemist. With a passion for policy and improvement of healthcare systems, he took a year off of medical school to pursue his MBA at the University of Cambridge in the UK. There he completed projects for the NHS and multinational consulting firms. He begrudgingly gave up a consulting position in London and returned to DC to finish out medical school and eventually meandered to the field of Emergency Medicine where he fell back in love with patient care. Forever in search of opportunities to better serve his community on a larger scale, he decided to pursue an MPH at Harvard during which he started multiple impactful initiatives including a digital health equity program aimed at reducing avoidable visits by the homeless population to ERs. He graduated from the program this spring while simultaneously assuming the office of President. He hopes to build on his education and accomplishment in order to impact meaningful change across at risk populations, healthcare payer system inequities, and healthcare technology infrastructure.

Peter Acker, MD
Outgoing President
2023-2024

Westchester County Medical Society



Peter Acker has been a practicing pediatrician in New York and Connecticut for 36 years. He is the past chairman of pediatrics at Greenwich Hospital. He received his MD degree from Sackler School of Medicine in 1982 and completed a residency in pediatrics and fellowship in ambulatory pediatrics both at the New York University/Bellevue Medical Center. He received an MFA in writing from Manhattanville College in 2014. He is the editor of the Westchester Physician and author of a novel Blood Brain Barrier. He lives in Northern Westchester with his wife, Gila.



WHITE PLAINS HOSPITAL

IS PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY &
WESTCHESTER ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Congratulations to tonight's honorees:

Peter Acker, MD
Outgoing President

Kham Ali, MD
President-elect

Tara Buonocore-Rut, MHA
President and CEO, Centerlight Healthcare PACE
Friend of the Society Award

Derek Anderson, MPH, FACHE
Executive Director, Northern Westchester Hospital, Northwell Health
Friend of Medicine Award



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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center



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Future of Medicine Award Winner: Catherine Chun—Ardsley High School Medicine & Health Services



A senior at Ardsley High School, Catherine is passionate about the intersections of biology, technology, and global health. Through her long-term research project on the genetics of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which she conducted under the mentorship of Dr. Inga Peter at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Catherine has gained and shared insights into developing a long-term cure for IBD. Working in a lab and developing this study over the past three years has allowed her to understand and appreciate how research and scientific inquiry can help make a positive impact on the scientific community. This fall, Catherine will be attending Dartmouth College, where she plans on studying Biology and Computer Science on a pre-medical track.

Abstract

Elucidating the Genetics of Inflammatory Bowel Disease: The Effects of Risk LRRK2 Mutations on the Bacterial Gut Microbiome

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), characterized by chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, is an autoimmune disease impacting 6 million individuals worldwide. A mutation in the Leucine-Rich Repeat Kinase 2 (LRRK2) gene is a risk-factor for disease onset. However, researchers currently don't understand the exact mechanisms by which LRRK2 contributes to IBD, which has consequently slowed the development of LRRK2 inhibition treatments for IBD patients. The goal of this study was to assess how LRRK2 affects one potential LRRK2 mechanism: the gut microbiome, which is established to correlate with severity of IBD. Stool samples were collected from control individuals and case IBD individuals. Then, DNA sequencing was performed, and QIIME microbiome analysis was conducted in R, where LRRK2 carriers and non-carriers were assessed for overall bacterial abundance, alpha diversity, and beta diversity. Ultimately, the microbiome analysis results demonstrated that LRRK2 mutations are associated with decreased gut microbiome diversity, and there exists differential beta diversity between carriers and non-carriers in control and case individuals. Further, replicated analyses in control mice demonstrated similar associations, confirming the potential of mouse models to then develop and test LRRK2 inhibition treatments. The findings of this research are novel in their identification of gut dysbiosis as a specific LRRK2 mechanism in IBD, and propose a promising new avenue for the development of LRRK2 inhibitors to restore gut microbiome diversity as a long-term and universal treatment for IBD patients.

Future of Medicine Award Winner: Richa Patil—Edgemont High School Neuroscience



Project title: Alteration in Macrophage to Neuron Signaling Limits Axonal Regeneration in Diabetes

Mentor: Dr. Dianna E. Willis, Burke Neurological Institute

Abstract:

Diabetes is a chronic metabolic disease, and most patients eventually suffer from a complication called peripheral neuropathy, resulting in altered sensation in distal extremities. There is no treatment, and we do not understand the mechanism(s) that cause peripheral neuropathy. Damaged axons of peripheral nervous system neurons usually have the capacity to repair themselves following injury; however, this capacity is reduced in diabetes. Previous studies have shown that upon axon damage, ATP is released into the extracellular space, suggesting that purinergic signaling may be an important part of the injury response. We investigated the effect of different adenosine concentrations on dorsal root ganglion (DRG) axon growth to see whether increased levels of adenosine would increase growth for normoglycemic and diabetic axons. We also analyzed the protein levels of the Adenosine A1R receptor and the levels of adenosine before and after injury in both normoglycemic and diabetic conditions. In comparison to normoglycemic DRGs, it was found that axonal growth for diabetic DRG axons was both decreased and did not respond to elevated adenosine levels. The levels of the A1R receptor protein showed no difference between the normoglycemic and diabetic conditions, suggesting that changes in A1R receptor levels do not cause the reduction in axon growth. Adenosine levels in DRG tissue from normoglycemic animals show a non-significant increase following injury. Future studies would entail increasing the sample size of mice to better power the results, and further increasing adenosine concentration levels to determine the maximal axon growth that can be induced.

Future Goals:

In the future, I would like to continue exploring the field of neuroscience. In college, I hope to major in neuroscience on a pre-med track. I want to continue doing research in college, but I would also like to gain clinical experience working directly with patients. Hopefully, I will then be able to connect my work as a researcher with my experience working with patients. Aside from being passionate about science, I am a cellist and black belt in Taekwondo. I also enjoy photography and traveling.

Future of Medicine Award Winner: Massimo Reali—Harrison High School Medicine & Health Sciences



I have been involved in the Harrison Science Research program for two years. I joined science research because I have always been interested in medicine and I wanted the opportunity to explore ideas and methods beyond what was taught in the classroom. During my childhood, my father was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer, and was only expected to live for another ten years. I observed the side-effects and limitations of chemotherapeutic options for Colon Cancer patients firsthand. I hope to transform treatment options and drug delivery systems to mitigate these side-effects, fueling my passion for researching PLGA-PEG based nanoparticles loaded with the platinum-based chemotherapeutic drug oxaliplatin and folic acid. This study determined if nanoparticles improved the effectiveness and efficiency of drug delivery systems in the tumor microenvironment. Working with Dr. Jennie Williams and Dr. Justin Fang at Stony Brook University, I was able to utilize double emulsion methods to formulate nanoparticles, UV spectrophotometer to quantify

the drug content of oxaliplatin, and an MTT Assay to measure the proliferation rates of HCT116 and HT29 cell lines. The sizing between nanoparticles with folic acid was significant, leading to future research of evaluating the effectiveness of PLGA-PEG nanoparticles on cell lines derived from different ethnicities, and quantifying folic acid concentrations through Western Blot and Flow Cytometry. Future plans include working in a laboratory setting throughout my college career, as well as majoring in biomedical engineering / biomedical sciences.

Abstract

Oxaliplatin is a platinum-based chemotherapy drug facilitated in colon cancer cell lines used to produce high proliferation rates of cancer cells within the tumor microenvironment.

Nanocarriers are small agents that can encapsulate chemotherapy drugs to effectively deliver a drug to the designated tumor site, to improve drug delivery efficiency, effectiveness and selectivity. The purpose of this study was to determine if the use of PLGA-PEG nanoparticles decorated with folic acid quantifies the effectiveness of the platinum based drug oxaliplatin in colon cancer HT-29 and HCT-116 cell lines making drug delivery more efficient and effective to a targeted area. The methodology consisted of three different steps: 1. PLGA-PEG nanoparticles were formulated using single-emulsion methods 2. A calibration curve of oxaliplatin was constructed at different wavelengths using a phenanthroline assay to quantify the drug 3. XTT-Assay was used to measure colorimetric viability of the HCT-116 and HT-29 cell lines to determine the effectiveness of PLGA-PEG based nanoparticles loaded with oxaliplatin and folic acid. Results showed that under SEM Imaging, the nanoparticle group with oxaliplatin and folic acid was significantly smaller than the other samples ($p < 0.05$), meaning that these particles had a higher chance of reaching the tumor site and were more targeted. This showed promise as smaller nanoparticles are able to pass through more efficiently and effectively, while targeting the tumor site itself rather than spreading to key lymphatic systems and organs in the body. However, no color change was observed in the HCT-116 or HT-29 cell lines in the XTT colorimetric assay, indicating that the cells were not treated by any of the four nanoparticle groups. More research is needed to refine the encapsulation techniques of PLGA-PEG nanoparticles, improving the ability of these nanoparticles to target the tumor site.

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Catherine Chun—Ardsley High School
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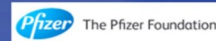
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