

New Building Opens to Fanfare (and a Few Healthy Babies)



PHOTOGRAPHS BY NIC LEHOUX,
COURTESY OF DILLER SCOFIDIO + RENFRO





Most building dedications follow a traditional agenda: a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, tours of the facilities, photo opportunities, and cocktail conversations. The June 9 dedication of the new medical and graduate education building—the Roy and Diana Vagelos Education Center—had an added feature when participants were invited to test their clinical expertise in the building’s simulation center.

The centerpiece of the building is the simulation center, four floors covering 18,000 square feet and including standardized patient exam rooms, mock emergency rooms, and surgical suites. Students will use the center’s advanced equipment and software to hone clinical skills

and receive immediate feedback through the use of one-way mirrors and video monitors that will allow teachers to observe and comment on student performance. Video recording is available from multiple angles.

It was in the simulation center on the night of the dedication that invitees veered from the traditional ribbon-cutting agenda. In the labor and delivery suite, dedication attendees practiced delivering babies. “I would estimate that we had about 15 deliveries in the span of three hours,” says Leslie Moroz, MD, a clinical fellow in maternal-fetal medicine and critical care. “Our obstetricians-in-training ranged in age from 7 to 70 years old. Sim Mom looked tired but happy at the



Built for Success

IN ADDITION TO THE SIMULATION CENTER, NAMED FOR MARY JAHARIS AND HER LATE HUSBAND, MICHAEL JAHARIS, THE BUILDING INCLUDES:

- A multipurpose auditorium, a 270-seat flexible space for lectures, screenings, and concerts
- “Academic Neighborhoods,” groups of classrooms that can be configured according to need by partitions, drop-down screens, large-scale multi-user touch screens, and suspended ceilings
- “Anatomy Quad,” a flexible learning space with integrated screens and task lighting
- Ground floor lobby and café, which adjoin a “study bar” with views of the Palisades
- Student Commons, which features a café, computer work area, and computer labs
- South and West Courts, outdoor spaces featuring local plant species



BRIAN HATTON PHOTOGRAPHY

patient’s life by assisting the team in adjusting the settings of cardiac bypass and learning how to initiate ECMO.”

The new building, which officially opened in August when the Class of 2020 matriculated, is named for the couple who provided the lead gift for the building’s construction, Diana and P. Roy Vagelos, a 1954 graduate of P&S. Other major donors on hand at the June dedication were Cheryl and Philip Milstein; Kathryn and Mary Jaharis, representing the Jaharis family; Roger Wu and David Wu, representing their parents, the late Helen and Clyde Wu; and Sudhir, Anita, and Dhairya Choudhrie, representing the Choudhrie Family Foundation.

The 14-story glass tower, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro in collaboration with Gensler as executive architect, features a distinctive cascade design that creates flexible social spaces to facilitate team-based learning. The building’s 100,000 square feet of technologically advanced classrooms and collaborative spaces integrates a range of environmentally sustainable features, including locally sourced materials, green roof technologies, and an innovative mechanical system to minimize energy and water use. Construction on the building began in 2013.

Left: Pictured at the dedication of the Vagelos Education Center—in front of a wall that spells out the Hippocratic Oath—are, from left, Roy Vagelos, Columbia University President Lee Bollinger, building designer Elizabeth Diller, Philip Milstein, and P&S Dean Lee Goldman.

end of the evening, and all of the babies went to the well-baby nursery.”

In the simulation center’s operating room, dedication participants were introduced to a scenario of a 56-year-old male undergoing heart-lung bypass for coronary artery bypass grafting surgery. The patient was under the care of a surgeon, an anesthesiologist, and a perfusionist during the procedure. After the patient came off bypass, his oxygenation deteriorated and he required emergency initiation of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation—ECMO—to save his life. “It was exciting to showcase the simulator’s capabilities throughout the evening,” says Cara Agerstrand, MD, assistant director of the medical ECMO program. “Attendees participated in saving the

Vagelos Education Center Visionary Leaders

TOP DONORS TO THE VAGELOS CENTER:

- The Russell Berrie Foundation
- Margo and John A. Catsimatidis
- The Choudhrie Family Foundation
- Mary and Michael Jaharis
- Merck & Co. Inc.
- Cheryl and Philip Milstein Family
- P. Roy Vagelos, MD P&S ‘54, and Diana T. Vagelos
- Clyde Wu, MD P&S ‘56, and Helen Wu
- George D. Yancopoulos, MD, PhD P&S ‘87

New Chair, Initiative Director Named

Two leadership appointments were made this year. Ansgar Brambrink, MD, PhD, was named chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, and Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD, was appointed director of the Columbia Stem Cell Initiative, which was launched in 2008 to bring together researchers to explore the potential of using stem cells to improve human health.

Dr. Brambrink, who also will serve as anesthesiologist-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia, succeeds Margaret Wood, MD, who retired after more than 20 years as chair.

An internationally renowned expert in brain injury, Dr. Brambrink joined P&S after serving as professor and vice chair of faculty development and advancement in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University. Dr. Brambrink received his doctorate and medical degrees from Westfälische Wilhelms-University School of Medicine in Germany.

Dr. Passegué spent 11 years in the Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regeneration Medicine and Stem Cell Research at the University of Cali-



Ansgar Brambrink, MD, PhD



Emmanuelle Passegué, PhD

fornia San Francisco, where she was a tenured professor in the Department of Medicine’s Division of Hematology/Oncology.

An expert in hematopoietic stem cells, Dr. Passegué was an active member of the UCSF stem cell program and helped shape its programmatic activities for the past decade. Before joining UCSF, she earned a PhD in endocrinology summa cum laude from Paris-XI University.

Grants Support Faculty Diversity Efforts

Six P&S faculty members received support through the Columbia University Provost's Grants Program for Junior Faculty Who Contribute to the Diversity Goals of the University. The program is part of a \$33 million commitment announced last year to reinforce and expand the University's faculty diversity efforts.

The six faculty members received support during two rounds of funding in 2015-16. Since the program began in 2013, 75 projects throughout the university have been funded.

The 2015-16 P&S recipients and their project titles:



Targeting Systemic Mediators in Cancer

Swarnali Acharyya, PhD
assistant professor of pathology & cell biology
(in the Institute for Cancer Genetics)



Modulation of Circuit Elements for Motion Detection by Locomotion

Rudy Behnia, PhD
assistant professor of neuroscience



Innovative Models for Delivery of Depression Care and Reducing Cardiovascular Disease

Nathalie Moise, MD
assistant professor of medicine



Sex Differences and the Role of Novel Calcium Kinase Signaling

Lale Ozcan, MD
assistant professor of medical sciences
(in medicine)



Immune Editing of Glioblastoma Genome During Tumor Progression

Adam Sonabend, MD
assistant professor of neurological surgery



Understanding the Molecular Pathobiology of Right Ventricular Dysfunction as a Determinant of Gender Differences in Heart Failure

Emily Tsai, MD
assistant professor of medicine



AMELIA PANICO

ABOUT THE CLASS OF 2016

- 166** MD graduates, **50** percent of them women
- 12** also received PhD degrees
- 2** also have MPH degrees
- 2** were inaugural graduates of the three-year PhD-to-MD program
- 2** also received MBA degrees from Columbia
- 2** also have DDS degrees
- 1** also received an MS degree in biomedical engineering
- 28** took an extra year for research
- 29** percent took extra time for either research or to complete a dual degree
- 27** percent went abroad for senior electives or scholarly projects, mostly to developing countries
- 30** students got married during medical school
- 20** babies were born to students in the class during medical school, and three students had two children during medical school
- Graduates completed **55** triathlons or full or half marathons
- 47** percent matched to residencies in New York City
- 26.7** percent matched at Columbia for all or part of their training
- 11** couples participated in the match, including **4** in which both were P&S students
- One-third** of the class volunteered as senior student advisers for the class below
- Many members** of the class volunteered for one of the five student-run free clinics

New Academy Recognizes Clinical Excellence

P&S has launched the Academy of Clinical Mentoring and Excellence to measure, recognize, and reward achievements of clinical faculty members who contribute to the school predominantly through patient care.

“P&S is ranked consistently among the best U.S. medical schools and is one of the most research intensive, but we also are home to excellence in clinical care in more than 230 medical specialties and subspecialties,” says Dean Lee Goldman, MD. “The creation of the academy is a way of honoring our faculty who have achieved the very best in patient care. Excellence in clinical care combines compassion with knowledge informed by research, evidence-based practices, and experience to benefit patients and their families.”

Adds James McKiernan, MD, the John K. Lattimer Professor of Urology, chair of the Department of Urology, and chair of the P&S faculty committee that developed the academy: “Membership in the academy will honor our expert Columbia clinicians and provide opportunities for inductees to also serve the academy as teachers, mentors, and champions of clinical excellence.”

Induction into the academy will take place annually with an awards ceremony and lecture. In its inaugural year, the academy will induct its first class of members who are P&S full professors



and have been at CUMC for at least the past five years. Inductees will have devoted more than 50 percent of their time to patient care and training the next generation of clinicians. In 2017, after the inaugural class, nominations for membership will be made by full-time active clinical faculty members and will be open to all ranks at P&S.

“The creation of the academy enables P&S to honor and foster what makes these faculty members so special. They have qualities as clinicians that make you want them treating yourself, your family member, or close friends,” says Robert Whittington, MD, professor of anesthesiology and academy committee member.

Global Innovation

Two projects led by P&S faculty were among 12 projects that received funding during the fourth round of grants from the Columbia President’s Global Innovation Fund. Grants are awarded to faculty members to leverage and engage Columbia Global Centers in developing new projects and research collaborations that will increase global opportunities for research, teaching, and service.

The projects make use of the network of eight Columbia Global Centers to provide opportunities for faculty and students to address important global issues. In the three previous rounds of funding, 49 projects were supported. “Collectively, these projects play an essential role in realizing the potential of the Columbia Global Centers to create new opportunities for faculty and students and in defining in tangible ways what it means for Columbia to explore new frontiers of knowledge in the 21st century,” said Provost John H. Coatsworth in announcing the 2016 funded projects.

The two projects led by P&S faculty:

Adolescents Living with HIV: Engaging and Empowering through Photography

Elaine Abrams, MD
professor of pediatrics at CUMC

Laboratory-based PhD Training in Nutritional and Agricultural Sciences in East Africa

Debra Wolgemuth, PhD
professor of genetics & development
(in obstetrics & gynecology and in the Institute of Human Nutrition)