CUMC CELEBRATES is a monthly publication that acknowledges faculty, staff, and students at Columbia University Medical Center who receive major research grants, who receive prestigious awards, who are elected to honorary societies, or who take leadership positions in professional organizations. Celebrates also gratefully acknowledges the gifts made by donors and friends of the Medical Center and highlights faculty who have appeared in the news recently.

If you have an award or honor that you would like to have listed in Celebrates, please fill out this online form. Please note: all federal grants are automatically included based on institutional data. For more information, send an email to the Celebrates editor.

RESEARCH GRANTS
(REPRESENTATIVE LISTING)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Domenico Accili, MD, Medicine, received $1.6 million from the PB Foundation for “Beta Cell Differentiation as a Diabetes Treatment.”

William S. Blaner, PhD, Medicine, received $420,000 through November 2014 from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for “Alcohol Consumption and Brown Adipose Tissue.”

Herbert Chase, MD, Medicine, received $302,726 through July 2013 from the New York State Office of Science, Technology, and Academic Research for “Timely Training of Workers Competent to Support HER Deployment and Meaningful Use.”

Stephanie Consentino, PhD, Neurology, received $2.49 million over five years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Examination of the Earliest Symptoms and Biomarkers of FTLD MAPT Carriers.”

Dear Colleagues:

One of the most gratifying aspects of my role at Columbia University Medical Center is noting the impressive honors our colleagues regularly earn, from generous grants for clinical research to prestigious awards for excellence in teaching. In the midst of our momentum, Celebrates invites us to pause in recognition of the work we’ve done. In this issue, there is a particular milestone I’d like to highlight.

On January 2, ColumbiaDoctors Midtown opened its doors to patients. With this new practice — a relocation and expansion of our former Eastside location — we took a step forward in expanding our reach through partnership with NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. We expect to see at least 20 percent more patients than we did in our previous facility. Some can walk mere blocks from the office for an appointment on a lunch hour or after work; others may travel across the country to see one of our orthopaedic specialists.

But the excellent care our patients receive comes from a team far broader than the 225 health care professionals now practicing in our Midtown facility. We could not have opened offices so comfortable and patient-friendly, so state-of-the-art — and certainly not so quickly — without the hard work, determination and teamwork of so many dedicated people across the CUMC campus.

I would like to thank each individual — from faculty members to architects in Facilities — who helped make an idea for improved access a reality. The launch of Columbia Doctors Midtown is truly a testament to what we can do as a campus working together, in partnership with NYP, and striving for excellence in all we do.

You have truly given us something special to celebrate.

Lee Goldman, MD
Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine, Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences Columbia University Medical Center
Gilbert Di Paolo, PhD, Pathology, received $266,364 from CHDI for "Towards Understanding Huntington's Disease through Lipidomic Profiling."

Michael D. Gershon, MD, Pathology, received $368,455 over two years from Shire Pharmaceuticals for "Prucalopride-mediated Neuroprotection and Neurogenesis in the Enteric Nervous System."

Michael Goldberg, MD, Neuroscience, received $300,000 over three years from the Zegar Family Foundation for "Looking at Art."

Eric C. Greene, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, received $1.217 million through November 2016, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for "Visualizing the Dynamics of Chromatin and Chromatin Remodeling Proteins."

Lloyd A. Greene, PhD, Pathology, received $2.35 million, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for "Neurotrophic Factor Deprivation and Neuronal Cell Death."

Barry Honig, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, received $984,810 through November 2016, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for "Computer Studies of Protein Structure and Function."

Rudolph L. Leibel, MD, Pediatrics and Medicine, received $298,345 through May 2013 from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust for “Understanding the Molecular Pathogenesis of Beta Cell Failure in Diabetes.”

Jennifer Levine, MD, Pediatrics, received $600,000 over three years from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for “Longitudinal Assessment of Ovarian Reserve in Adolescents with Lymphoma.”
Kang Liu, PhD, Microbiology, received $1.79 million over five years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for "Understanding the Role of Meningeal Dendritic Cells in CNS Antiviral Immunity."

Boris Reizis, PhD, Microbiology, received $1.56 million over five years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for "Molecular Control of Plasmacytoid Dendritic Cell Development and Function."

C. Daniel Salzman, MD, PhD, Psychiatry and Neuroscience, received $2.61 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Mental Health for "Neurophysiology Underlying Neural Representations of Value."

Eric A. Schon, PhD, Neurology, received $300,000 over three years from the The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation for “Treatment Strategies for Human Mitochondrial Disease.”

Douglas M. Sproule, MD, Neurology, received $539,892 over three years from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “Body Composition and Energy Utilization in Spinal Muscular Atrophy.”

Timothy C. Wang, MD, Medicine, received $994,065 over five years from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for “GI Tract Dysbiosis and Breast Cancer.”

Adam B. Wilcox, PhD, Biomedical Informatics, received $707,942 from the New York State Office of Science, Technology, and Academic Research for “Washington Heights Initiative Community-Based Comparative Effectiveness Research (WICER).”

Shan Zha, MD, PhD, Institute for Cancer Genetics, received $720,000 over three years from the American Cancer Society for “The Kinase vs Structure Function of ATM in DNA Repair and Tumor Suppression.”

Chaolin Zhang, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics and C2B2, received $695,000 through November 2015 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “An Integrative Genomic Strategy to Infer Global RNA Regulatory Networks.”
RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Carol Kunzel, PhD, Dental Medicine, received $1.32 million over five years from New York University for “Integrating Social & Systems Science Approaches to Promote Oral Health Equity.”

Stephen E. Marshall, DDS, MPH, Dental Medicine, received $605,660 from the Children’s Health Fund for “Harlem Children’s Health Project.”

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Alastair K. Ager, PhD, HDPFH, received $273,000 from World Vision Inc. for “Evaluating Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in Emergencies; Strengthening the Evidence-Base for Intervention Effectiveness in Humanitarian Crises.”

Paul Colson, PhD, ICAP, and Jennifer Hirsch, PhD, Sociomedical Sciences, received $3.07 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Advancing PrEP for Black MSM: Community-Based Ethnography and Clinic-Based Intervention.”

Karestan C. Koenen, PhD, Epidemiology, received $598,642 over two years from the State University of New York at Stony Brook for “Epigenetic Links in PTSD and Respiratory Disease in WTC Responders.”

Thelma Mielenz, PhD, Epidemiology, received $618,349 over two years from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for “Creation of the Person-centered Wellness Home Across the Life Course.”

Alfred Neugut, MD, PhD, Epidemiology, received $2.63 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Cancer Institute for “Training Program in Cancer-Related Population Sciences.”

Mary Beth Terry, PhD, Epidemiology, received $2.96 million over five years from the Cancer Prevention Institute of California for “Breast Cancer Family Registry Cohort - NY Cohort.”

SCHOOL OF NURSING

Elizabeth Cohn, RN, DNSc, Division of Academics, received $349,979 over three years from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for “Examining Minority Representation in Genomic Research.”
AWARDS & HONORS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Mark M. Churchland, PhD, Neuroscience, received the 2012 NIH Director’s New Innovator Award. The New Innovator Award initiative supports investigators who are within 10 years of their terminal degree or clinical residency but who have not yet received a Research Project Grant (R01) or equivalent NIH grant to conduct exceptionally innovative research.

Gilbert Di Paolo, PhD, Pathology, received the Margaret M. Cahn Research Award, which recognizes researchers chosen by the Cahn family who have enjoyed or who currently enjoy support from the Alzheimer’s Association’s International Research Grant program and who are making promising contributions to the study of Alzheimer’s disease.

Stephen G. Emerson, MD, PhD, Medicine, was awarded the Légion d’Honneur by the French Ambassador François Delattre for returning to the Institut de France an original letter by René Descartes, written in 1641.

Richard P. Mayeux, MD, Neurology and Psychiatry, was honored as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Barbara L. Milrod, MD, Psychiatry, received the Leon Kupferstein Memorial Award for Innovation in Psychoanalysis from the New York Psychoanalytic Society & Institute. The Leon Kupferstein Memorial Award is awarded every three years to a living person whose innovative or influential contribution has allowed psychoanalysis to move forward.

Uptal B. Pajvani, MD, PhD, Medicine, received $60,000 from the Edward Mallinckrodt Jr. Foundation to cover the first year of research on his study of how notch regulates hepatic glucose and lipid metabolism.

Michael N. Shadlen, MD, PhD, Neuroscience, received the 2012 Golden Brain Award from the Berkeley, Calif.-based Minerva Foundation. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in vision and brain research.

Elizabeth Shane, MD, Medicine, was named CUMC Mentor of the Year by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research.
AWARDS & HONORS

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Burton Wasserman, DDS, Dental Medicine, received the 2012 Theresa Lang Award from the New York Hospital Queens (NYHQ) for his leadership and dedication to NYHQ for more than 50 years.

Laureen Zubiaurre, DMD, Dental Medicine, was named associate dean for admissions and student affairs of the College of Dental Medicine.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH, Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health, received the 2012 Longevity Prize from the Ipsen Foundation.

Irwin Redlener, MD, HDPFH, was appointed to the NYS Ready Commission, which is tasked with finding ways to ensure that critical systems and services are prepared for future natural disasters and other emergencies.

Sheila Rothman, PhD, Mailman School of Public Health, and David J. Rothman, PhD, College of Physicians and Surgeons, received the 2011 American Journal of Public Health Paper of the Year Award for their analytic essay titled, “Health Advocacy Organizations and the Pharmaceutical Industry: An Analysis of Disclosure Practices.”

Patrick A. Wilson, PhD, Sociomedical Sciences, was honored as an Emerging Scholar for 2013 by the online magazine DIVERSE: Issues in Higher Education.
IRVING INSTITUTE AWARDS

As part of its mission to transform the culture of biomedical research, accelerate the discovery of new treatments, and train the next generation of research investigators, the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, home to Columbia University's Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA), funds pilot programs and career development initiatives. The Irving Institute is proud to announce the selection of award recipients for the following programs:

COLLABORATIVE AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY PILOT RESEARCH (CaMPR) PHASE I PLANNING GRANTS
A two-phase program that provides planning and start-up funds to newly configured, multidisciplinary investigative teams to support the planning of novel, multidisciplinary projects. The four recipients of the 2012–13 CaMPR Phase I Planning Grants are:


- **Jennifer Levine**, MD, MSW, MS (PI), assistant professor of clinical pediatrics, “Overcoming Challenges to Meaningful Informed Consent for Whole Genome Sequencing in Pediatric Oncology.”

- **Manuela Orjuela**, MD, ScM (PI), assistant professor of clinical pediatrics and clinical environmental health sciences, “Inhaled and Ingested Exposures in Mexican Immigrant Mother-Child Pairs Participating in Early Head Start.”

- **Lyssa Sorkin**, MD (PI), instructor in clinical rehabilitation and regenerative medicine, and **Peter K. Allen**, PhD (Co-PI), professor of computer science, “Using a Novel Brain Muscle Computer Interface to Control a Robotic Arm for Patients with Neurological Disorders.”

IRVING INSTITUTE/BIOMEDICAL INFORMATICS HEALTH PRACTICE RESEARCH PILOT AWARD
Co-sponsored by the Department of Biomedical Informatics, this program provides an individual, with a one-year health practice research pilot award of $25,000 to apply operational interventions such as information technology, operations research, and simulation, to improve the practice of health care with the result of improved outcomes and efficiency. The recipient of the Irving Institute/DBMI health practice research pilot award is:

- **Katherine D. Crew**, MD, MS, assistant professor of medicine and epidemiology, “Increasing Breast Cancer Chemoprevention in the Primary Care Setting.”

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The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Columbia University Medical Center is supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, grant UL1 TR00040. The CTSA program is led by the NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received November 27, 2012 – January 23, 2013)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS
A contribution of $10,000,000 was made toward a $20,000,000 bequest to support Systems Biology and the Judith P. Sulzberger, MD, Human Genome Center.

A $5,000,000 contribution was made toward an extraordinary $40,000,000 commitment to support the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center.

A foundation made a contribution of $2,910,000 toward a $21,000,000 commitment to support the endowment of the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center.

A donor made a gift of $2,000,000 toward a $12,000,000 commitment to support the Center for Motor Neuron Biology and Diseases at Columbia University Medical Center.

A donor made a contribution of $1,000,000 toward a commitment of $8,000,000 to support Columbia University's Mind, Brain and Behavior Institute.

A foundation made a contribution of $1,000,000 toward a $6,400,000 commitment to support the Department of Psychiatry to advance research on the developing brain.

A grateful patient made a gift of $1,000,000 to support construction of the new Medical and Graduate Education Building.

A donor made a $1,000,000 commitment to support the new Medical and Graduate Education Building and a contribution of $250,000 toward that commitment.

A donor made a $1,000,000 commitment to support scholarships at the College of Physicians and Surgeons and our campus revitalization effort. A payment of $250,000 was made toward the commitment.

A donor made a contribution of $1,000,000 to support construction of the new Medical and Graduate Education Building.

A gift of $1,000,000 was made to support clinical care, research, and patient education in the Day Treatment Program.

A bequest of $1,000,000 was realized to provide unrestricted support to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A contribution of $664,800 was made toward a $2,500,000 commitment to support a professorship in pediatric oncology.

A contribution of $600,000 toward a $2,500,000 commitment was made to support a professorship in the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

An additional contribution of $600,000 was made toward a commitment of $1,200,000 to advance alopecia areata research in the Department of Dermatology.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received November 27, 2012 – January 23, 2013)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

A bequest of $582,000 was made toward a professorship in the Department of Medicine.

A donor made a contribution of $500,000 toward a $5,000,000 commitment to support construction of the Medical and Graduate Education Building.

A foundation made a payment of $500,000 to fulfill a $2,000,000 commitment to the Department of Neurosurgery at Columbia University Medical Center to advance research in brain tumors and meningiomas.

A corporation made a gift of $500,000 to the Department of Pediatrics to establish the Robyn J. Barst, M.D. Fellowship in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology.

A donor made a gift of $500,000 to provide unrestricted support to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A family foundation made a contribution of $450,000 toward a $1,600,000 commitment to advance research into the mechanisms of brain and gut function and the ways they are affected by nurture.

A donor made a contribution of $431,900 to fulfill a $1,000,000 commitment to the Integrative Therapies program for Children with Cancer in the Division of Pediatric Oncology.

A bequest of $382,000 will provide endowed scholarship support at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A bequest of $350,000 will support scholarships at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A family foundation made a contribution of $320,000 to the Department of Pediatrics toward a $1,500,000 commitment for professorship support.

A gift of $309,000 from a family foundation was made to the Department of Neurosurgery to advance Parkinson’s disease research.

A foundation made a contribution of $300,000 to fulfill a $1,200,000 commitment to the Department of Medicine to support gastrointestinal research in the Division of Digestive and Liver Diseases.

A donor made a gift of $275,000 to the Department of Medicine to support junior faculty in the Division of Cardiology.

A contribution of $270,980 was made to the Department of Psychiatry toward fellowship support in developmental neuropsychiatry.

A foundation made a commitment of $250,000 to name a conference room in the new Medical and Graduate Education Building.
A donor made a gift of $204,400 to the Department of Pediatrics to support faculty recruitment and advance research in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology.

A contribution of $200,000 was made toward a $1,000,000 commitment to support research and clinical care at the Weinberg Family Cerebral Palsy Center.

A gift of $200,000 will provide scholarship support at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A bequest of $159,349 will advance oncology research at the Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center.

A foundation made a contribution of $150,000 toward a $1,500,000 commitment to support a professorship in the Department of Neurology.

A foundation made a contribution of $150,315 to advance research and clinical care programs at the Celiac Disease Center.

A $150,000 commitment from a foundation was made to the Department of Psychiatry to support efforts to prevent suicide among college students.

A donor made a gift of $150,000 to the Department of Ophthalmology to advance research on retinal disorders and diseases.

A contribution of $123,400 was made toward a $2,000,000 commitment to the Department of Pediatrics to support a professorship in the Division of Infectious Diseases.

Swim Across America made a gift of $114,000 to the Department of Pediatrics to support blood and marrow transplant research in the Division of Pediatric Oncology.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received November 27, 2012 – January 23, 2013)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

A bequest of $113,270 will support Huntington’s disease research at the Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center.

A donor made a contribution of $100,000 toward a $500,000 commitment to support scholarships at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A family foundation made a contribution of $100,000 toward a $300,000 commitment to the Department of Pediatrics for a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology.

A family foundation made a gift of $100,000 to the Department of Pediatrics to advance the study and treatment of childhood endocrine disorders in the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology.

A gift of $100,000 was made to the Department of Psychiatry to advance research and clinical care in non-verbal learning disabilities in the Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

A donor made a contribution of $100,000 to advance research on non-verbal learning disabilities in the Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

A donor made a gift of $100,000 to the Department of Medicine to advance kidney disease research in the Division of Nephrology.

A family foundation made a gift of $100,000 to the Department of Neurosurgery to advance cerebrovascular research.

A gift of $100,000 will advance research and support faculty recruitment in the Department of OB/GYN.

A donor made a gift of $100,000 to the Center for Translational Immunology in the Department of Medicine to advance research in type 1 diabetes.

A gift of $100,000 was made to support research and clinical care in the Department of Ophthalmology.

A donor made a contribution of $100,000 to the Department of Pediatrics to advance research in the Division of Pediatric Surgery.

The Cerebral Palsy International Research Foundation made a contribution of $100,000 to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to advance clinical research and patient care at the Weinberg Family Cerebral Palsy Center.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Atlantic Philanthropies awarded the Mailman School of Public Health a two-year grant of $200,000 to support the Age Boom Academy, an intensive training seminar for journalists on health, economic, and social issues of aging in America.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received November 27, 2012 – January 23, 2013)

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE
Dentsply Implants of North America made a commitment of $330,000 to advance clinical education in implant dentistry.

A donor made a commitment of $200,000 to the College of Dental Medicine to establish a fund to support a new Center for Health Services Research in Dentistry at the Mailman School of Public Health.

The International Congress of Oral Implantologists made a gift of $159,000 toward a $1,000,000 commitment to the College of Dental Medicine to support the Implant Center.

SCHOOL OF NURSING
A friend of the School of Nursing made a gift of $200,000 to provide augmented support for the Mary Dickey Lindsay ’45 DNP Scholarship Fund, which benefits students in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.
While [Adam] Lanza’s mental health remains a topic of speculation, experts say more should be done to flag “weird” and withdrawn behavior that might signal mental illness — a job that in our education system largely falls to overstretched teachers and school administrators. Doctors say parents often lack the “professional detachment” that may lead to a useful diagnosis. “That’s difficult for parents to do,” said Dr. Sandro Galea, chair of epidemiology at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. “I think it’s a tough to wrap your head around your kid's needing treatment for anything, but we may be even more reluctant to accept the notion of mental illness.”

Study Could Spur Wider Use of Prenatal Gene Tests — December 5, 2012
Scanning the genes of a fetus reveals far more about potential health risks than current prenatal testing does, say researchers who compared both methods in thousands of pregnancies nationwide. “This isn’t done just so people can terminate pregnancies,” because many choose to continue them even if a problem is found, said Dr. Ronald Wapner, reproductive genetics chief at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. He led the federally funded study, published in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine.

Epilepsy and Migraine Could Have Shared Genetic Link — January 7, 2013
A strong family history of seizures could increase the chances of having severe migraines, says a study in Epilepsia journal. Dr. Melodie Winawer, lead author of the study from Columbia University Medical Center, said the findings had implications for epilepsy patients. “Our study demonstrates a strong genetic basis for migraine and epilepsy, because the rate of migraine is increased only in people who have close (rather than distant) relatives with epilepsy.” She said further studies of disorders coupled with epilepsy could help “enhance the quality of life for those with epilepsy”.

Rheumatoid Arthritis Discoveries Earn Prize for Three Scientists — January 17, 2013
Discoveries that may lead to prevention and better treatment of rheumatoid arthritis earned two Americans and a Swede the Crafoord Prize in Polyarthritis, awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Peter K. Gregersen at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, New York; Robert J. Winchester at Columbia University; and Lars Klareskog of Stockholm’s Karolinska Institute will share the 4 million-kronor ($618,000) annual prize.

DNA of Newtown Gunman Unlikely to Yield Clues of Violence — December 20, 2012
Connecticut investigators planning genetic studies of the body of Adam Lanza, who shot himself and 27 other people in the Dec. 14 school massacre, are unlikely to find clues about mental illness or violent behavior. While a number of genetic mutations have recently been linked to autism, Asperger’s syndrome and other related disorders, the vast majority of cases have no known cause, according to Wendy Chung, a clinical geneticist at Columbia University in New York. “Everyone is trying to play this back and figure out if there’s a way to avoid it in the future.”
Proper Hand-Washing Essential During Flu Season — January 11, 2013
Flu season is in full force, with 47 states reporting widespread influenza and 24 states showing high disease activity, according to government estimates released Friday. While the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still says the best way to prevent influenza is to get a flu vaccine, other everyday actions like hand-washing could go a long way. Dr. Elaine Larson, associate dean of research at Columbia University School of Nursing, explains to CBSNews.com that some people may not be practicing proper hand-washing techniques in the midst of flu season. “The biggest mistake is not covering the surfaces most likely to touch, which are the fingertips,” said Larson. “People rub their palms together, when fingertips are the most critical.”

Asperger’s Syndrome Dropped From American Psychiatric Association Manual — December 3, 2012
Asperger’s syndrome will be dropped from the latest edition of the psychiatrist’s “bible,” the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, or DSM-5. Full details of all the revisions will come in May 2013 when the APA’s new manual is published, but the impact will be huge, affecting millions of children and adults worldwide. It “shapes who will receive what treatment,” said Dr. Mark Olfson, a Columbia University psychiatry professor who was not involved in the revision process. More important, he said, “Even seemingly subtle changes to the criteria can have substantial effects on patterns of care.”

ColumbiaDoctors Debuts in Midtown — January 24, 2013
The medical practice of Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons, College of Dental Medicine and School of Nursing has moved to a much bigger location that will also give it easy access to thousands of workers in midtown offices. ColumbiaDoctors Midtown opened earlier this month at 51 W. 51st St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues and across from Rockefeller Center after years at 16 E. 60th St. It is ColumbiaDoctors’ largest off-campus ambulatory care multispecialty office. Fueling the expansion is the trend of “more care being delivered in the office and not the hospital,” said Dr. Lee Goldman, executive vice president of Columbia University Medical Center and dean of faculties of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Nuclear Transfer Breakthrough Offers A Way To Prevent Mitochondrial Disorders — December 19, 2012
Researchers at the New York Stem Cell Foundation and Columbia University Medical Center announced the success of a new technique to transfer the nucleus of one human egg cell into another. “Through this study, we have shown that it should be possible to prevent the inheritance of mitochondrial disorders,” said Dr. Dieter Egli, co-lead author of the study which appears today in Nature with co-lead author, Dr. Daniel Paull, also at NYSCF Laboratory, and Dr. Michio Hirano of Columbia University Medical Center.

Many Factors to Flu — December 3, 2012
Dr. Jeffrey Shaman, assistant professor at the Mailman School of Public Health, tells NBC’s Robert Bazell why flu comes in the winter and if the weather has anything to do with it.
CUMC IN THE NEWS – DECEMBER 2012/JANUARY 2013

Exploring the Science Behind Doppelgangers — November 30, 2012
Have you ever been told, “You look exactly like someone I know,” or “You really look like that guy on TV”? Jenna Wolfe reports on doppelgangers — pairs of people who share a striking resemblance but don’t share any genes. “The estimate is that there are approximately two hundred genes that make up the facial composition,” says Dr. Angela Christiano of Columbia University Medical Center.

The New York Times

New York State legislators on Tuesday passed a gun bill that would require therapists to report to the authorities any client thought to be “likely to engage in” violent behavior. “The way I read the new law, it means I have to report voluntary as well as involuntary hospitalizations, as well as many people being treated for suicidal thinking, for instance, as outpatients,” said Dr. Paul S. Appelbaum, director of the Division of Law, Ethics, and Psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. “That is a much larger group of people than before, most of whom will never be a serious threat to anyone.”

Mining Electronic Records for Revealing Health Data — January 14, 2013
A report published last week by the RAND Corp. found that electronic health records actually may be raising the nation’s medical bills. But the report neglected one powerful incentive for the switch to electronic records: the resulting databases of clinical information are gold mines for medical research. “In the past, you had to set up incredibly expensive and time-consuming clinical trials to test a hypothesis,” said Nicholas Tatonetti, assistant professor of biomedical informatics at Columbia. “Now we can look at data already collected in electronic medical records and begin to tease out information.”

New York Has Gun Deal, With Focus on Mental Ills — January 14, 2013
Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and lawmakers agreed to a broad package of changes to gun laws that would expand the state’s ban on assault weapons and would include new measures to keep guns away from people with mental illnesses. The most significant new proposal would require mental health professionals to report to local mental health officials when they believe that patients are likely to harm themselves or others. But such a requirement “represents a major change in the presumption of confidentiality that has been inherent in mental health treatment,” said Dr. Paul S. Appelbaum, the director of the Division of Law, Ethics, and Psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, who said the Legislature should hold hearings on possible consequences of the proposal.

Experts Advise Cuomo on Disaster Measures — January 3, 2013
Two panels of experts charged with studying how New York can better prepare for disasters like Hurricane Sandy said Thursday that the state should create a strategic fuel reserve, require some gas stations to install generators and update its building codes. One of the panels, charged with proposing ways to ensure that critical systems and services would be prepared for future emergencies, suggested developing new emergency training for local officials and expanding the use of databases to keep track of vulnerable residents, like the elderly. The group was led by Ira M. Millstein, a lawyer, and Irwin Redlener, the director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health.

A Tense Compromise on Defining Disorders — December 10, 2012
This month, the American Psychiatric Association announced that its board of trustees had approved the fifth edition of the association’s influential diagnostic manual — the so-called bible of mental disorders — ending more than five years of sometimes acrimonious, and often very public, controversy. The final text, which won’t be fully available until publication this spring, has already gotten predictably mixed reviews. “Given the challenges in a field where objective lines are hard to draw, they did a solid job,” said Dr. Michael First, a psychiatrist at Columbia who edited a previous version of the manual and was a consultant on this one.
CUMC Celebrates

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

The New York Times

Columbia Gets $200 Million Pledge for Brain Institute — December 18, 2012
Mortimer B. Zuckerman, the real estate developer, owner of The Daily News and philanthropist, has pledged $200 million to endow an interdisciplinary Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia University. Prof. Thomas Jessell, joined by Prof. Richard Axel and Prof. Eric Kandel, both Nobel laureates, are founders of the institute, which will bring together researchers from Columbia University Medical Center, the faculty of arts and sciences, the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science and other collaborators in research into the neural sciences and human behavior.

When the Doctor Is Not Needed (Editorial) — December 15, 2012
There is plenty of evidence that well-trained health workers can provide routine service that is every bit as good or even better than what patients would receive from a doctor. In a report in October 2010, the Institute of Medicine, a unit of the National Academy of Sciences, called for the removal of legal barriers that hinder nurse practitioners from providing medical care for which they have been trained. Mary Mundinger, dean emeritus of Columbia University School of Nursing, believes highly trained nurses are actually better at primary care than doctors are, and they have experience working in the community, in nursing homes, patients’ homes and schools, and are better at disease prevention and helping patients follow medical regimens.

The Budding Health Care Costs of Climate Change — December 10, 2012
A growing number of public health experts are recognizing the need to integrate information about climate change into their disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. Equally important is the basic act of drawing experts from diverse disciplines around a single table to “learn one another’s languages,” said Kim Knowlton, a senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council and assistant clinical professor at Columbia University. “It sounds simplistic, but really it’s not.”

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Preventing Mass Violence A Balance Of An Individual’s Rights, Community’s Safety — January 9, 2013
All over the country, people are debating what role mental health policies can play in reducing gun violence. Researchers found that, broadly speaking, people with mental illness are not more likely to commit violence, but people with certain symptoms such as hallucinations may be more at risk of hurting themselves or others. "Jared Loughner was obviously suffering from schizophrenia and actively psychotic, who had been symptomatic and ill for not just weeks and months, but years and received no care," said Professor Jeffrey Lieberman, chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University. Dr. Lieberman says Jared Loughner is a prime example of the inadequacy of mental health care services.

Brain Series 2, Episode 12: Post-Traumatic Stress — December 14, 2012
Post-Traumatic Stress with Eric Kandel of Columbia University; Retired Lieutenant Colonel John O’Brien; Murray Stein from the University of California, San Diego; Lisa Shin, from Tufts University; Kerry Ressler from Emory University and JoAnn Difede from Weill Cornell Medical College.
Regular Aspirin Use Tied to Age-Related Vision Loss — January 23, 2013
Taking at least one aspirin every week is linked to the development of age-related vision loss, according to a new study. “I don’t think the current evidence is strong enough to conclude cause. We still need to accumulate more evidence,” said Jie Jin Wang, the study’s lead author. In a commentary published with the new study, Drs. Sanjay Kaul and George Diamond caution that the study had limitations and previous studies found mixed results.

Dr. Jack Cioffi, chair of Columbia University Medical Center’s department of ophthalmology in New York, agreed with the commentary and said people should stay on aspirin if their doctors have them on it. “Even if there is an increased incidence of macular degeneration, it’s relatively small,” said Cioffi, who was not involved with the new research.

Vaccine Switch Urged for Eradication of Remaining Pockets of Polio — January 16, 2013
The World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, proposed a shift in vaccination strategy from oral vaccines to injected ones that may have to be administered in clinics. The change is needed to mop up the last remaining pockets of polio, but experts say that it poses challenges in places that have poor access to health care. “You have to have a transition period” in which both oral and inactivated vaccines are used, “because if you stop cold turkey you’re going to have outbreaks”, says Vincent Racaniello, a virologist at Columbia University in New York City.

Researchers wrapping up a 4,406-patient study say that a new genetic test that analyzes fetal DNA in more detail than current prenatal tests should be offered to all expectant mothers. The current method of prenatal testing for genetic diseases, known as karyotyping, can identify broad abnormalities such as changes in the number of chromosomes or structural aberrations; it is used to diagnose conditions such as Down syndrome, which results from an extra chromosome. Microarray testing can do that and more, says Dr. Ronald Wapner, director of reproductive genetics at Columbia University Medical Center and lead author of the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Flu Forecasting Model Can Predict Spikes in Cases Up to Seven Weeks in Advance — November 29, 2012
Using real-time data from the Centers for Disease Control, humidity forecasts, and historical flu season data, Columbia University researcher Jeffrey Shaman, who studies the environment's effects on infectious disease transmission for the university's Mailman School of Public Health, says his model can predict the height of flu season with reasonable accuracy up to seven weeks before it hits.
Multiple studies published online Tuesday in JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association, suggest that poor coordination among different providers after patients leave the hospital is largely to blame for many readmissions, and the focus should be on improving that care. A study of three million Medicare patients from 2007 to 2009 by researchers at Yale and Columbia University found that nearly 25% of those with heart failure, 20% of heart-attack patients and 18% of those with pneumonia were readmitted within 30 days, often for the same condition but also for a wide variety of other diagnoses.

While other industries have been hobbled by the weak economy, New York's large medical centers, among the city's largest employers, have embarked on spending $2 billion on research buildings designed to attract hundreds of biomedical researchers from around the country. Columbia University researchers will get about 130,000 square feet of space in a new neuroscience building, the Jerome L. Greene Science Center, under construction on the university's new Manhattanville Campus in West Harlem. Researchers also will get an additional 50,000 square feet of space in existing buildings at the school's Columbia University Medical Center campus.

Hospitals and public health officials are working to improve safety for mothers in the delivery room following sharp increases in the rate of severe complications from childbirth. Emergencies during delivery, such as cardiac arrest, respiratory distress and kidney failure, increased by 75% in the decade ended 2009, according to a new study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Many of the most common causes of death such as hemorrhage and pulmonary embolism can also take place in the first few days after delivery to seemingly low-risk patients, so it is important that hospitals follow standardized prevention measures," said Mary D'Alton, head of obstetrics and gynecology at Columbia University Medical Center.

While frailty is most often associated with the elderly, some old people never get frail. Experts now regard it as a medical syndrome, that is, a group of symptoms that collectively characterizes a disease, one that probably has biological and genetic underpinnings and can afflict even those in middle age if they have some other debilitating chronic disease. "The symptoms are causally linked together in a vicious cycle," says Linda P. Fried, dean of the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. In 2001, Fried and research colleagues were the first to define the physical characteristics of frailty in a landmark paper published in the Journal of Gerontology. "These are people at risk of very bad outcomes."

Thanks to a collaboration between scientists at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the National Center for Atmospheric Research, a model for predicting flu outbreaks has been developed that operates like a modern day weather modeling system. "Analogous to weather prediction, this system can potentially be used to estimate the probability of regional outbreaks of the flu several weeks in advance," said Alicia Karspeck, NCAR scientist and study co-author. Karspeck and Columbia University colleague Jeffrey Shaman ran their model for the 2003-2008 flu seasons in New York City to determine how well it could predict the timing of outbreaks. The results were published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.