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

Jonathan Barasch, MD, PhD, Medicine-Nephrology, has received $1.7 million over five years from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for "Iron Delivery in the Developing Kidney." He also has received $314,000 over three years from the March of Dimes for "Spns1 Mediates TfR1-Iron Delivery in Organogenesis."

Uttiya Basu, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology, has received $2 million over five years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for "Role of ncRNA Surveillance Complex RNA Exosome in Class Switch Recombination and Somatic Hypermutation."

Katherine Biagas, MD, Pediatrics, has received $339,000 over one year from Children's Hospital Boston and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for "HALF-PINT: Heart and Lung Failure—Pediatric Insulin Titration Trial."

Dear Colleagues:

A new academic year is nearly upon us. When students return to the CUMC, they will notice some significant improvements, not the least of which is a completely renovated first floor corridor in the Black Building. Gone are the cinderblock walls and cracking floor tiles — instead we have new walls, bright lighting, and a terrazzo floor.

This is but one of many examples of recent campus upgrades. NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is in the midst of renovating the entrance to the Presbyterian Hospital building to make it wheelchair accessible and much more inviting. At the same time, the Bard Hall Gym is undergoing a complete facelift and will make its debut (complete with a new cardio deck) in January 2013.

Earlier this summer we had a public unveiling of the unique design of the new Medical and Graduate Education Building, which received quite a bit of media attention. Click here to read about the new building in The New York Times. The innovative design of the building speaks to our commitment to revitalize our campus and provide much-needed meeting and social spaces.

As demonstrated by these improvements and the awards, honors, and grants listed in this month's issue of Celebrates, we have a lot to be proud of across the campus. These achievements build a strong foundation for our continued success.

Lee Goldman, MD
Dean of the Faculties of Health Sciences and Medicine,
Executive Vice President for Health and Biomedical Sciences
Columbia University Medical Center
RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

David Bickers, MD, Dermatology, has received $1.8 million over five years from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Mechanism-based Abrogation of BCC Pathogenesis.”

Andrea Califano, PhD, Joint Center for Systems Biology, has received $5.9 million over five years from the National Cancer Institute for “Systems Biology of Tumor Progression and Drug Resistance.”

Mark Churchland, PhD, Neuroscience, has received $300,000 over three years from the Searle Scholars Program for “A Dynamical Systems Approach to Fundamental Questions in Neuroscience.”

Natalie Cusano, MD, Medicine-Endocrinology, has received $918,000 over five years from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for “Skeletal Regulation of Cortical and Trabecular Bone by Parathyroid Hormone.”

Richard Deckelbaum, MD, Institute of Human Nutrition, has received $291,000 over three years from the Phospholipid Research Center for “Characterization and Optimization of Omega-3 Intravenous Phospholipid Stabilized Diglyceride Emulsions for the Treatment of Organ Ischemia.”

Devangere Devanand, MD, Psychiatry, has received $360,000 over three years from the Department of the Army, Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, for “Olfactory Deficits in MCI as Predictor of Improved Cognition on Donepezil.”

Darryl De Vivo, MD, Neurology, has received $345,000 over two years from the Will Foundation for “Gene Therapy of Glut1 Deficiency.”

Gilbert Di Paolo, PhD, Pathology & Cell Biology, has received $1.7 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Role of Phosphoinositides in Neuronal Membrane Traffic and Neurodegeneration.”
Konstantinos Drosatos, PhD, Medicine-Preventive Medicine, has received $268,000 over two years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Mechanisms of Reduced Fatty Acid Oxidation and Cardiac Dysfunction in Sepsis.”

David Fidock, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology, has received $270,000 over one year from Medicines for Malaria Venture for “Resistance Mechanisms and Fitness Costs in Drug-Resistant Plasmodium Falciparum.”

Michael Gershon, MD, Pathology & Cell Biology, has received $1.75 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institutes of Health for “Microenvironment in Enteric Neuron Development.”

Jon Giles, MD, MPH, Medicine-Rheumatology, has received $400,000 over two years from the American College of Rheumatology for “Adipose Tissue Inflammation in Rheumatoid Arthritis: Associations with Disease Characteristics, Cardiometabolic Risk Factors, and Atherosclerosis.”

Joseph Gogos, MD, PhD, Physiology & Cellular Biophysics, has received $2 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “MicroRNA Dysregulation in Psychiatric Disorders and Cognitive Dysfunction.”

Jacqueline Gottlieb, PhD, Neuroscience, has received $2 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Attentional Control by Uncertainty and Reward: Parietal and Frontal Mechanisms.”

Eric Greene, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, has received $1.1 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Science Foundation for “Using DNA Curtains to Reveal the Mechanisms of Target Site Location by DNA Binding Proteins.”

Lloyd Greene, PhD, Pathology & Cell Biology, has received $1.8 million over five years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Neuron Death in Parkinson’s disease: The Role of Trib3.”
Rebecca Haeusler, PhD, Medicine-Endocrinology, has received $268,000 over two years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Role of FoxO1 in Lipid Metabolism.”

Tom K. Hei, PhD, Center for Radiological Research, has received $1.8 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Cytoplasmic Damage and Genotoxicity.”

George Hripcsak, MD, Biomedical Informatics, has received $4.5 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Library of Medicine for “Training in Biomedical Informatics at Columbia University.”

Jonathan Javitch, MD, PhD, Psychiatry, has received $648,000 until 2017, in a competitive renewal from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, for “Molecular Determinants for the Action of Psychostimulants.”

Gerard Karsenty, MD, PhD, Genetics & Development, has received $263,000 over two years from Institut Merieux for “Serotonin in Whole Body Energy Metabolism.”

Ronald K. Liem, PhD, Pathology & Cell Biology, has received $2.2 million over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “Training in Cellular, Molecular and Biomedical Studies.”

Richard Mayeux, MD, Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain, has received $4.3 million over five years from the National Institute on Aging for “Epidemiology of Familial Late-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease.”

Rachel Miller, MD, Medicine-Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care, has received $476,000 over two years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “Mouse Allergen Intervention and DNA Methylation of Asthma Regulatory Genes.”
RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

Umrao Monani, PhD, Pathology & Cell Biology, has received $1.8 million over five years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Novel Genetic Determinants of the Neuromuscular SMA Phenotype.”

Edward Nunes Jr., MD, Psychiatry, has received $853,000 until 2017, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for “Drug Abuse Treatment Development and Research Mentoring.”

Gregory Pelton, MD, Psychiatry, has received $523,000 over three years from the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene Inc. and the National Institute on Aging for “Pilot Combination Trial of Mild Cognitive Impairment with Depression.”

Boris Reizis, PhD, Microbiology & Immunology, has received $440,000 over two years from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Visualization and Lineage Tracing of Hematopoietic Stem Cell Heterogeneity.”

Michael Rosen, MD, Pharmacology and Pediatrics, has received $369,000 over two years from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for “Novel Ion Channel Approaches to Reentrant Arrhythmias.”

Nathaniel Sawtell, PhD, Neuroscience, has received $1.4 million over four years from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke for “Roles for Granule Cells in Adaptive Processing in a Cerebellum-like Circuit.”

Michael Shen, PhD, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, has received $2.3 million until 2017, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for “Progenitor Cells of the Mouse Prostate Epithelium.”

David Sulzer, PhD, Neuroscience, has received $704,000 over three years from Department of the Army, Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for “Altered Astrocyte-Neuron Interactions and Epileptogenesis in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Disorder.”

B. Timothy Walsh, MD, Psychiatry, has received $832,000 over four years from the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene Inc. and the National Institute of Mental Health for “A Longitudinal Multimodal MRI Study of Adolescents with Bulimia Nervosa.”
RESEARCH GRANTS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)

Cheng-Shie Wuu, PhD, Radiation Oncology, has received $590,000 over one year from the Office of the NIH Director for “Small Animal CT Image-Guided X-ray Irradiation System.”

Bin Zheng, PhD, Institute for Cancer Genetics, has received $1.7 million over five years from the National Cancer Institute for “Targeting the LKB1-AMPK Pathway in Melanoma: Mechanism and Preclinical Evaluation.”

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Joseph Korevec, PhD, and Farah Burnett, Admissions and Financial Aid, have received $103,000 over three years, in a competitive renewal, from the Health Resources and Services Administration for “Public Health Traineeship.”

Helena Duch, PhD, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, and Kimberly Noble, MD, PhD, Pediatrics and Sergievsky Center, have received $1.5 million over three years from the Department of Education for “Getting Ready for School: An Integrated Curriculum to Help Teachers and Parents Support Preschool Children’s Early Literacy, Math and Self-regulation Skills.”

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, MPA, ICAP, Epidemiology and Medicine, has received $2.5 million over three years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for “LINK4HEALTH: A Combination Intervention Strategy for Linkage and Retention, Swaziland.”

Lynn Freedman, JD, MPH, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, has received a $770,000 annual renewal from the United Nations Population Fund for “Delivering Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care at Scale: Working with Priority Countries to Generate and Use Evidence for Action.”

Tomás R. Guilarte, PhD, Environmental Health Sciences, has received $900,000 over five years, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Interdisciplinary Training in Environmental Health.”
MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH (continued)

Megan Hall, ScD, Epidemiology, has received $736,000 until 2015, in a competitive renewal, from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for “Nutrients Involved in 1-Carbon Metabolism and the Methylation of Arsenic and DNA.”

Deborah Hasin, PhD, Epidemiology, has received $1.5 million over five years from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for “Epidemiology of Substance Use Disorders Training Program at Columbia University.”

Alfred Neugut, MD, PhD, Epidemiology, has received $708,000 over three years from the American Cancer Society Inc. for “The Relationship between Insurance and Cancer-Related Prescription Drug Use.”

John Santelli, MD, MPH, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health, has received $2.3 million over five years from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “Prevention and Planning Linkages.”

Lawrence Yang, PhD, Epidemiology, has received $2.5 million over five years from the National Institute of Mental Health for “Stigma Associated with a High-Risk State for Psychosis among Adolescents and Young Adults: Impacts on Identity and Social Integration.”

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Burton Edelstein, DDS, MPH, has received $2.5 million over five years from the Health Resources and Services Administration for “Faculty Development in General, Pediatric & Public Health Dentistry & Dental Hygiene.”
Recognizing the importance of training young clinical investigators, Herbert and Florence Irving earmarked a major portion of the Irving Endowment for the Florence and Herbert Irving Clinical Research Career Awards, usually referred to as the Irving Scholars. These three-year awards provide substantial salary support allowing the Scholar more time for clinical investigation. The 2012 Irving Scholars are:

- **Roy Alcalay**, MD  
  *Neurology*

- **Alex Dranovsky**, MD, PhD  
  *Psychiatry*

- **Andrew J. Einstein**, MD, PhD  
  *Medicine-Radiology*

- **Andrew Moran**, MD, MPH  
  *Medicine*

- **Rebecca Schnall**, RN, PhD  
  "Using Queuing Theory to Improve HIV Testing in the Emergency Department."

- **Jemima Frimpong**, PhD, MPH  
  "Workplace Diversity in Substance Abuse Treatment Programs and Disparities in Patient Outcomes."

- **Ragy Girgis**, MD  
  "Antipsychotic Binding to the D3 and D2 Receptors in Schizophrenia: a PET study using 11<-(+)-PHNO."

- **Rachel Shelton**, PhD, MPH  
  "Treatment Decision-Making among Stage II Colorectal Cancer Patients."

As part of its mission to transform the culture of biomedical research to accelerate the discovery of new treatments while training the next generation of research investigators, the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, home to Columbia University's Clinical and Translational Science Award, funds pilot award programs and career development initiatives.

*The KL2 Mentored Career Development program serves as a “bridge” by which junior faculty can achieve research independence.*
AWARDS & HONORS

KM1 IMMERSE in CER Award for Mid-Level Faculty is administered with the Mailman School of Public Health and provides resources for mid-level investigators to either enhance or re-tool their skills to include Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) through didactic training, interdisciplinary research and education, colloquia, and mentoring.

Marla Hamberger, PhD, Neurology, “Comparison of Protocols for Electrical Stimulation Mapping.”

Melissa Stockwell, MD, MPH, Pediatrics, “Pragmatic Clinical Trial of Vaccine Health Literacy Related Text Message Reminders to Increase Receipt of Second Dose of Influenza Vaccine for Young, Low-Income Urban Children.”

The TL1 Research Education Program for pre-doctoral students provides two parallel training paths to further enhance clinical and translational pre-doctoral training at CUMC.

Maria Avrutsky, Integrated CMBS

Allana Forde, Epidemiology, “Impact of Social Stressors on Chronic Disease Risk in Black Ethnic Groups.”

Kristin Politi, Pathobiology & Molecular Medicine

Catherine Richards, Epidemiology, “Hospital-level Predictors of Immediate Breast Reconstruction.”
The Imaging Core Pilot Award Program funding for early career investigators using such imaging modalities as magnetic resonance imaging, optical imaging, PET, single photon emission computed tomography/computed tomography and ultrasound.

Christine Delorenzo, PhD, Psychiatry, “Uncovering Biomarkers of Major Depressive Disorder Using Multi-modal Imaging.”

David O. Kessler, MD, Clinical Pediatrics, “Sonographic Features that Predict Success or Failure with Infant Lumbar Puncture.”

Alexander D. Klose, PhD, Radiology, “Pilot Study: Optical Imaging of Radionuclides.”

Mette Skinbjerg, PhD, Psychiatry, “Probing Dopamine D2 Receptor Internalization in Schizophrenia.”

Yared Tekabe, PhD, Medicine, “VEGF-directed Imaging of the Vulnerable Atherosclerotic Plaque.”
AWARDS & HONORS

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

Stephen G. Emerson, MD, PhD, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, is being honored by decision of the President of the Republic, Grand Master of the Order, with an appointment to the title of Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honor.

Carol Mason, PhD, Department of Pathology & Cell Biology, has been elected as incoming president-elect of the Society for Neuroscience.

Lori Mosca, MD, MPH, PhD, Medicine-Cardiology, and Craig Smith, MD, Surgery, were named to the list of 20 “Champions of Heart & Stroke” by the American Heart Association New York Affiliate.

Kimberly Noble, MD, PhD, Pediatrics and Sergievsky Center, has been named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science.

Rodney Rothstein, PhD, Genetics & Development, will receive an honorary doctor of medicine degree in October from Umeå University in Sweden.

Richard G. Younge, MD, MPH, Center for Family and Community Medicine, has been appointed to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Public Health/Preventive Medicine Residency Program, Advisory Committee and Graduate Medical Education Committee.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Wafaa El-Sadr, MD, MPH, ICAP, has received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Cairo, recognizing her global leadership in the field of infectious disease and public health and her contributions as one of the world’s leading advocates for family-centered models of HIV prevention.

John Wallis Rowe, MD, Health Policy and Management, has been named an Honorary Fellow by the American Academy of Nursing, which recognizes people who have made sustained contributions to nursing and health care throughout their careers.
C. Anthony LoPresti, DDS, MS, has been named a Fellow in the Board of Regents of the International College of Dentists.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received May 30 – July 23, 2012)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

A foundation made a commitment of **$2 million** to provide fellowship support in the Department of Psychiatry.

A $1,250,000 contribution fulfills a **$5 million** commitment to establish and endow the Cerebral Palsy Center at Columbia University Medical Center.

A donor made a contribution of **$1.2 million** toward a $7,500,000 commitment to advance neurobiology research at the David A. Gardner PET Imaging Research Center.

A foundation made a payment of **$1 million** toward its transformative $21 million commitment to the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center.

A bequest of **$1 million** will provide unrestricted support to the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

A foundation made a contribution of **$762,300** toward grants to advance A.L.S. research in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics.

Another foundation made a gift of **$500,000** to support construction of the new Medical and Graduate Education Building.

A contribution of **$485,000** was made toward a $750,000 commitment to advance research and clinical care in the Division of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

A family foundation made a payment of **$400,000** toward a commitment of $1,600,000 to the Brain-Gut Initiative to advance research into the mechanisms of brain and gut function and the ways they are affected by nurture.

Another bequest of **$330,000** will provide unrestricted support to the Department of Medicine.

A donor made a commitment of **$300,000** to support junior faculty in the Columbia Comprehensive Epilepsy Center.

Another family foundation made a gift of **$250,000** to the Department of Medicine to advance cardiovascular disease research.

A foundation made a payment of **$247,738** toward a grant of $1,056,631 to support research in the Department of Genetics and Development.

A foundation made a payment of **$232,000** toward a $1,160,000 commitment to the Department of Psychiatry to support efforts to prevent suicide among college students.

A contribution of **$230,000** from a private foundation will provide research support to the Department of Ophthalmology.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received May 30 – July 23, 2012)

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS (continued)
A foundation made a contribution of $200,000 toward its $800,000 commitment to the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University.

Another foundation made a gift of $167,000 to support The Gunnar Esiason Adult Cystic Fibrosis and Lung Program.

A $150,000 contribution from a family foundation will advance biological and biomedical research in the Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics (C2B2).

A foundation made a contribution of $125,000 to complete a $250,000 commitment to support a professorship in the Department of Neurology.

Another foundation made a gift of $121,500 to support a women's health fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry.

A gift of $100,000 was made by the Department of Neurological Surgery to support construction of the new Medical and Graduate Education Building.

A $100,000 contribution was made to complete a $500,000 commitment to provide scholarship support in the Center for Advanced Cardiac Care.

A gift of $100,000 was made to the Center for Translational Immunology (CCTI) in the Department of Medicine to advance research in type 1 diabetes.

A grant of $100,000 will support research in the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior.

A $100,000 contribution was made to the Department of Pediatrics to advance metabolic muscle disease research in the Division of Clinical Genetics.

A contribution of $100,000 will provide unrestricted support to the Department of Neurosurgery.

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
The Mailman School of Public Health raised $1.5 million for the Donald H. Gemson Assistant/Associate Professorship of Sociomedical Sciences. Contributions included an $850,000 gift from the American Legacy Foundation; a Challenge Grant of $375,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); and $275,000 from individual donors.

A $375,000 contribution was made to advance research at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness.

A grant of $345,000 will support research in the National Center for Children in Poverty.
PHILANTHROPIC GIFTS
(Gifts received May 30 – July 23, 2012)

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

A bequest of $2 million was committed to provide endowed scholarship support at the College of Dental Medicine.

SCHOOL OF NURSING

A contribution totaling $128,194 was made toward a commitment of $500,000 to support the Mary O’Neil Mundinger Chair at the School of Nursing.

White Coat Couture
It’s What Everyone is Wearing

The White Coat Ceremony
Monday, August 13, 2012
The New York Times

**Unafraid of Aging** – June 25, 2012
The signal public health achievement of the 20th century was the increase of the human life span. Now, as that achievement raises the proportion of the aged around the world, what once seemed an unalloyed blessing is too often regarded as a burden — a financial burden, a health care burden, even a social burden. “It’s nuts,” said Dr. Linda P. Fried, an epidemiologist and geriatrician who is dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. “To assume defeat from what every one of us as individuals wants suggests we’re not asking the right questions.” Findings from the science of aging, Dr. Fried said, should “reframe our understanding of the benefits and costs of aging.”

**Multiple Sclerosis Drug Doesn’t Prevent Onset of Disability, Study Finds** – July 17, 2012
The most widely prescribed drug for treating multiple sclerosis has little or no effect on a patient’s progression to disability, a new study has found. Dr. Claire Riley, director of the Multiple Sclerosis Clinical Care & Research Center at Columbia University, was equally impressed with the work and somewhat troubled by its results.

**Columbia Unveils an Unorthodox Med School Building** – June 26, 2012
The architecture firm Diller Scofidio & Renfro has designed a 14-story tower of study and social spaces that will be Columbia University Medical Center’s new medical and graduate education building in Washington Heights. Construction — to begin in early 2013 and take about three-and-a-half years — will be supported by a previously announced lead gift of $50 million from Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, an alumnus of Columbia’s medical school, and his wife, Diana Vagelos. The building is to be the central hub for the students pursuing medical and doctoral degrees at Columbia University, was equally impressed with the work and somewhat troubled by its results.

**Statins Similarly Effective in Men and Women** – June 25, 2012
Cholesterol-lowering drugs are just as effective at preventing heart problems in men and women who have already had a heart attack or stroke, according to a new review of the evidence. Although statins are widely used for so-called secondary prevention — to prevent repeat strokes and heart attacks in people who have already had one — some analyses have questioned whether they work as well in women as in men, said Dr. Jose Gutierrez from Columbia University in New York.

**Heart Attacks Can Trigger Post-Traumatic Stress** – June 21, 2012
As many as 1 in 8 people who survive a heart attack will go on to develop symptoms of PTSD, a new analysis has found. A heart attack, in which blood flow to the heart is suddenly interrupted, is a common — and sometimes terrifying — experience, says Donald Edmondson, the lead author of the analysis and an assistant professor of behavioral medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, in New York City.
How to Live 13.6 Years Longer – June 21, 2012
Want to live longer? Do as New Yorkers do. The life expectancy of a New Yorker is 80.6 years – three years above the national average. Researchers credit the extra years to the NYC Health Department’s commitment to curb the Big Apple’s worst habits: They’ve banned trans fats, added calorie counts to menus, and encouraged physical activity with more bike lanes and walking paths. In 2008, NYC was the first city in the U.S. to require calories on menu boards at fast food and chain restaurants. But research by the Columbia University Medical Center found that many menu boards make it difficult to correctly calculate when you add in condiments or have to account for multiple servings. Your move: Avoid add-ons like cheese, goopy sauces, and mayonnaise, says Elizabeth Gross Cohn, RN, D.N.Sc., an associate nursing professor at Columbia University.

Subjects who looked at pictures of unhealthy snack food had more brain activity in the reward centers of their brain when they had restricted sleep compared to those who were able to get a full night’s rest. “The same brain regions activated when unhealthy foods were presented were not involved when we presented healthy foods,” study author, Dr. Marie-Pierre St-Onge, an assistant professor at Columbia University’s Institute of Human Nutrition in New York City, said in the press release.

Researchers Discover New Brain Target for Appetite Control – June 7, 2012
Researchers from CUMC have revealed a brain receptor that plays a key role in the regulation of appetite. “We call it an orphan receptor,” Dr. Domenico Accili, professor of medicine and the study’s leader, said. “We know it’s a receptor, but we don’t know the substance that activates this receptor.”

CT Scans Boost Cancer Risks For Kids – June 6, 2012
Children who get CT scans are at slightly increased risk for brain cancer and leukemia, according to a large international study released Tuesday. “I think it’s really a landmark paper,” said Andrew Einstein, who wrote an analysis of the study that’s being published along with the paper in the journal The Lancet.
Panel Calls for Annual PTSD Screening – July 13, 2012
The Institute of Medicine recommended Friday that soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan undergo annual screening for post-traumatic stress disorder and that federal agencies conduct more research to determine how well the various treatments for PTSD are working. “But treatment isn’t reaching everyone who needs it, and the departments aren’t tracking which treatments are being used or evaluating how well they work in the long term,” said Sandro Galea, a professor and chair of the epidemiology department at Columbia University.

Bloomberg
Columbia Students Dissect Robots In Campus Cliffhanger – July 25, 2012
Lounges, balconies and terraced gathering spaces jut out of the 14-story sheer-glass facade of Columbia University Medical Center’s planned medical and graduate education building. In an architectural rendering, the structure appears to have disrobed.

WALL STREET JOURNAL
Some Brain Tumors Are Linked to a Gene Defect – July 26, 2012
A genetic mutation appears to be behind some cases of a common and aggressive brain cancer, researchers at Columbia University said, and targeting the abnormality with a drug prolonged the lives of mice with the condition. But fused genes are a particularly compelling target. Because they are the product of two different genes, “they result in the production of proteins that don’t exist in normal cells,” said Antonio Iavarone, professor of pathology and neurology and the study’s senior author. “It’s unlikely that we will find a gene fusion responsible for most glioblastomas. But we may be able to discover a number of other gene fusions, each accounting for a small percentage of tumors, and each with its own specific therapy,” said co-senior author Anna Lasorella.

Closing In on a Cure for Vision Loss – July 23, 2012
Scientists believe they may be on the cusp of developing a possible cure for some types of blindness. Several potential fixes—including gene therapy, stem-cell therapy and a modified version of vitamin A—are currently being tested in people with a rare eye disorder called Stargardt disease. In his laboratory, Ilyas Washington, an assistant professor of ophthalmology at CUMC, sketched for a visitor the molecular structure of the dangerous clumps of vitamin A that remain trapped in the retinal cells. By identifying the part of the vitamin A molecule where the clumping takes place, Dr. Washington was able to devise a “better” molecule that doesn’t clump as readily but still performs its needed role in the retinal cells.

Whooping Cough Cases Spark Concern – July 24, 2012
New York health officials and doctors are keeping their eye on incidences of pertussis, or whooping cough, trying to assess whether the recent spike in cases is part of a cycle or due to parents boycotting or forgetting vaccinations. “It’s a fear, and it’s a factor that has to be accounted for,” says Dr. David Rosner, a professor in sociomedical sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, who says that anti-vaccination beliefs are on the minds of public health officials.