

Honoring Our Clinical Leaders

Weill Cornell's excellence in clinical care extends to all departments, and our outstanding physicians have inspired generous donors to create endowed professorships – one of the highest academic awards that the Medical College can bestow on a faculty member – to support the continuation of their important work. These physicians have gone above and beyond the call of duty, making groundbreaking advances for patients in their respective fields.

PHOTO: RENÉ PEREZ



Dr. Louis J. Aronne

Louis J. Aronne, M.D., is an internationally recognized weight management specialist and director of the Comprehensive Weight Control Center at Weill Cornell. His approach to weight issues has helped countless patients reach their weight loss goals, taking a problem-solving approach to a struggle that many know all too well. Dr. Aronne views obesity as a progressive disorder of the mechanisms that normally regulate weight, and he has pushed the concept of a “feed-forward” phenomenon in which appetite is stimulated, rather than inhibited, by eating.

As part of their transformative \$100 million gift that launched the *Driving Discoveries, Changing Lives* Campaign, Joan and Chairman of the Board of Overseers Sanford Weill established the **Sanford I. Weill Professorship of Metabolic Research**, created to be held by an outstanding faculty member who embodies the highest standards of physicianship and research.

“I think the world of Lou and have learned so much from him,” says Mr. Weill. “Hopefully he’s as proud as I am that our names are now linked together.”

Dr. Aronne’s center develops new ideas and treatments for obesity. The center has held more than 60 trials of new medical and behavioral treatments, recently developing a comprehensive medical weight loss program called BMIQ that can be used by any healthcare institution to manage its patients.

“I am honored and humbled to have been chosen as the Weill Professor of Metabolic Research,” says Dr. Aronne. “Metabolic health affects our bodies on a cellular level, and the more we understand it, the better our chances of keeping it in check. This professorship will give me the opportunity to enrich that understanding, ultimately benefitting our patients.”

The Weills have made a substantial commitment to metabolic health at the Medical College, having also recently established the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Center for Metabolic Health. Center physicians will continue to provide advanced treatment for patients, while scientists in the center will seek to understand the molecular underpinnings of metabolic diseases, translating their discoveries into new therapeutic approaches. ♦



PHOTO: JANET CHARLES

Joan and Board Chairman Sanford I. Weill



Ursel and David Barnes

David Barnes and his wife, Dr. Ursel Barnes, live in the U.K., and when David was diagnosed in January with a meningioma – a tumor in the brain – they searched far and wide for a surgeon who could remove it safely and with minimal scarring. They were told by doctors throughout Europe that he would need a bifrontal craniotomy, an invasive procedure in which the skull is opened to remove the tumor.

With limited time remaining – Mr. Barnes had already lost his sense of smell and was losing hearing in one ear – the Barneses were referred by a physician in Austria to Weill Cornell neurosurgeon Theodore Schwartz, M.D., F.A.C.S., Professor of Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology and Neuroscience and Director of Surgical Neuro-Oncology, Pituitary and Epilepsy Surgery.

The fears amongst the previous doctors were that the tumor was too close to the optic nerve to operate in any other way. However, after reviewing Mr. Barnes’s scans, Dr. Schwartz was confident that he would be able to employ a minimally invasive technique that involved removing the tumor from Mr. Barnes’s brow line. By mid-March, the Barneses were at Weill Cornell, and his surgery was successful. With an almost imperceptible scar, Mr. Barnes walked out of the hospital four days later.

“I cannot describe to you how amazed I was,” Mr. Barnes says. “I feel like I was given another life.”

The Barneses were so impressed with Dr. Schwartz that they endowed a \$3 million professorship, the **David and Ursel Barnes Professorship in Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery**, in support of Dr. Schwartz’s work.

“Although Dr. Schwartz is one of the top in his field, he really works in a team-based environment,” says Mr. Barnes. “He has a clear commitment to transferring his skills.

“There are situations where minimally invasive surgery is not an option; but there are also many where it should be used but it isn’t, either because people don’t have the practice of it or the equipment for it. That is why my wife and I, as incredible beneficiaries of this technique, would like to help.”

Dr. Schwartz, globally renowned for his expertise in minimally invasive skull-based surgery, is grateful for the Barneses’ support and the opportunity to spread his knowledge.

“The donation provided by the Barnes family will be crucial to growing the minimally invasive, endoscopic tumor program, thereby bolstering our ability to teach national and international fellows these cutting edge techniques,” says Dr. Schwartz. “I am honored to be the first holder of this endowed professorship.” ♦



PROVIDED

Dr. Theodore Schwartz