



Nicolas Mjaess

Candidate for Student Fellow · Third-Year Medical Student · nim4022@med.cornell.edu

Hi! My name is Nicolas Mjaess, and I am a medical student here at Weill Cornell Medicine. Before medical school, I studied biochemistry and psychology at the University of Notre Dame, and before that, I grew up in Lebanon, where I served as an EMT with the Lebanese Red Cross. In my free time, I run around Central Park, go on fishing trips, and tend to an overly dramatic aquarium. I am thrilled to be doing my clinical training in the city and to run for the opportunity to work with all of you!

WHY VOTE FOR NICOLAS?

One thing you should know about me is that I absolutely love this community. I grew up far from here, in Lebanon, and coming to WCM is the first time since leaving home that a place has actually felt like one. I owe so much to the amazing environment you all create, and I would cherish the opportunity to give back to this amazing institution.

Since arriving here, I've been actively involved in how this institution functions. I've served on the Clerkship Council, advocating for changes to our clinical education based on real student experience; the LCME Standards 6, 7 & 8 Subcommittee, reviewing our curriculum against national accreditation standards; and the Continuous Quality Improvement Curriculum Review Subcommittee, helping assess teaching quality across courses and sites. Across all three, my goal was the same: making sure that our voices are being heard and shape how we're taught. As a student fellow, I will carry this goal to a broader stage, where I will advocate not only for how we're taught but for the full experience of being a student here.

GOALS AS STUDENT FELLOW

I see the Student Fellow position as an opportunity to keep advocating for every student here, not just the ones in my own program or year. I want to build on the conversations I've already had through council and committee work by focusing on:

Interconnectivity	Research & Mentorship	Transparency
Medical, graduate, PA students, and our peers at other campuses often operate in silos. I want to create more consistent opportunities for these groups to interact and feel part of one community.	I've experienced firsthand the hardships of obtaining research opportunities, funding, and mentorship. I want access to research to be something every interested student can find, not just those who know the right people.	Miscommunication between students and administration on timelines and policies creates unnecessary stress. As your Student Fellow, I'd push to be informed, responsive, and proactive.

My goal as Student Fellow is simple: represent you. Make your vote stick, pick Nick!

Public sessions: Tuesday, August 18th — 6:00 PM | Tuesday, August 25th — 6:00 PM (Zoom, password: wcm) · Questions: nim4022@med.cornell.edu

VOTING RUNS AUGUST 31 – SEPTEMBER 9

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for considering me.

Candidate Statement for Student Fellow Daniel Markowitz

Who I Am

My name is Daniel (Danny) Markowitz, and I am a medical student here at Weill Cornell Medicine. I decided to pursue an Extended Curriculum for Research and have now joined the Class of 2028. I am running for Student Fellow with three main goals: building connections across WCM, strengthening communication between students and leadership, and elevating the student experience.

My path to medicine has been neither short nor conventional. After graduating from Dartmouth College, I played professional ice hockey both nationally and internationally for nearly two years. I began a career in finance and later transitioned into real estate development, where I focused on building affordable housing in New York City. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, I was deeply inspired by the first responders, physicians, and healthcare providers who stepped up to care for their communities, and I knew it was time for one final pivot, bringing me back to where my childhood self had always predicted I would end up: a career in medicine.



I completed a one-year postbaccalaureate program at Bryn Mawr College, followed by a dedicated research year at Weill Cornell, and then joined our community as a medical student in August 2023. Outside of medicine, you can usually find me running in Central Park, fishing, or watching the occasional TV show (or an entire nine-season series in one weekend).

Why Vote for Me

As a career changer who entered medical school in my 30s, being accepted to Weill Cornell was one of the greatest honors of my life. I have now spent several years here as a medical student and will have the opportunity to remain here for two more years. I am incredibly grateful to be part of our vibrant, collaborative, and diverse community. Weill Cornell has been my home, and I would be honored to give back by serving as Student Fellow.

I would begin my term having experienced nearly the full medical school curriculum firsthand, including preclinical coursework, clerkship rotations, USMLE Step 1 and Step 2, and Part 1 of the AOC course. This breadth of experience would allow me to represent students with a deep understanding of the different stages of medical school. I would bring these experiences to my work with faculty, leadership, administration, alumni, and the Board of Fellows.

I have also served in multiple leadership positions, including student interest groups, the House System, and as a student voting member of the CQI Curriculum Review Subcommittee, where I contribute to curriculum evaluation and provide an independent student perspective.

My Goals as Student Fellow

As Student Fellow, I would build on these experiences by working closely with school leadership to ensure the student perspective remains integral to institutional decision-making. After speaking directly with students across WCM's degree programs, I have synthesized their perspectives into the following goals:

Build connections across WCM: Weill Cornell is a diverse institution that brings together students from different disciplines, degree programs, and campuses, from New York City to Qatar. I would embrace this multidisciplinary and international community by creating opportunities for students to engage with one another, build relationships, and expand their networks across Weill Cornell.

Strengthen communication between students and leadership: Communication is bidirectional and consistent dialogue is foundational. I would hold regularly scheduled events, both in person and virtually, to hear students' concerns, understand the issues they want leadership to consider, and discuss how these can be addressed. In turn, I would report back to students on what was discussed, set clear and upfront expectations about what is possible, and communicate realistic next steps.

Elevate the student experience: The student experience extends beyond the classroom, hospital, laboratory, and curriculum. I would create opportunities for students to engage with accomplished faculty and alumni who can provide meaningful, ongoing guidance as they pursue their professional and personal interests. Professional development is vital to educational and career advancement, and Weill Cornell is uniquely positioned to provide students with the connections and mentorship needed to develop their skills, foster a sense of belonging, and pursue individual passions.

My immediate goal is for you to get to know me and for me to hear from you. I will be hosting open sessions on Tuesday, August 25th, and Thursday, August 27th, at 6:00 p.m. for students to ask questions, share their perspectives, and discuss what they hope to see from their next Student Fellow. The Zoom link is [here](#). If you cannot attend, please feel free to reach out anytime at dmm4004@med.cornell.edu.



Hi, everyone! I'm Steven Zeldin, a medical student at Weill Cornell. I'm originally from Brooklyn, and—before coming here—studied neuroscience at Columbia and global health at Karolinska in Stockholm. I'm now on a research year between M3 and M4. I like writing, linguistics, and a rotating grab-bag of eclectic nonsense.

A quick story

One of my first memories at Weill Cornell was huddling with some folks in Olin and poring over the “*Who’s Who?*” student rosters for the other class years. I’d unearthed them as the Executive Council’s Student Services Rep, which prompted a fun idea. Q: *who were the rest of our schoolmates?*

A: *no idea*. A different cohort was a different world. For non-med students, even more so.

Our substrate

Weill Cornell isn’t just an excellent med program. **We’re also some of the best PhD, master’s, and PA programs in the world**, and the only U.S. medical school with a branch in another country, **WCM-Q**.

That’s really one of a kind.

Cornell’s done a lot to bridge some gaps. The cAMP incoming student program I’ve volunteered for each year connects M1s to M2-4s. Mentorship groups I’ve co-led, from Pre-OP to RIG, were inherently cross-year—and clubs like AI in Medicine that I’ve helped run are explicitly cross-school. Being the Student Services Rep, especially, meant mediating housing, financial aid, and registrar services for every student population at once. Yet...

Goal

More of a good thing can be a great thing. My chief goal as Student Fellow would be to significantly strengthen the bonds between both our class years and our schools:

-We should have **regular meetings** between student representatives of every school, not just the informal outreach I’ve been doing. This is vital to bringing student concerns to the Board of Fellows.

-We need direct availability of the Student Fellow to hear *any* students’ concerns, not just representatives. My dedicated Google Voice # is 929-367-7104 and my email is sdz4002@med.cornell.edu. My research year offers unmatched time and flexibility for this role.

-We need inter-program sessions and tours during student orientations like cAMP.

-The social angle! More explicit inter-school groups and events. We’re a stone’s throw from the NY Academy of Medicine (free), the MET (free to us), and the MoMA (rectangles).

From MD students’ questions about AOA and clerkships, to PA students’ search for housing, to the improvement of WCM-Q representation, to the funding and international policy changes facing PhD and master’s students, our student-islands have drifted quite far apart. Each cohort can find itself living its own version of Weill Cornell.

Yet if we can pinocytose Sotheby’s, we can get on the same page to get the most out of our time here.

An M1, an M4, a PA, and a grad student walk into a bar/curriculum steering committee/hackathon. Write the punchline.

P.S. If you would like to get to know me better, I will be hosting public Zoom sessions to chat on Thursday, August 27th at 6:00 PM EDT and Sunday, August 30th at 12:00 PM EDT (7:00 PM AST for WCM-Q).

Link for Thursday, August 27th: <https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92010747803?from=addon>

Link for Sunday, August 30th: <https://weillcornell.zoom.us/j/92543563763?from=addon>

Candidate Statement for Student Fellow

Grady Hofmann

About me

I am a rising second year medical student at Weill Cornell Medicine and serve as Social Chair for the Class of 2029. I am involved in student life through a variety of organizations, including interest group boards, Team KiPOW, Magic Aid, Companionship Club, PreOp, and the Catholic Student Association and Weill Cornell Golf Club, both of which I founded. I also work with faculty and school leadership through the WCM Admissions Council, the Weill Rounded leadership series, and the Healthcare Leadership and Management Research Fellowship. Before coming to Cornell, I studied Computational Biology and Computer Science at Stanford University. In my free time, I like to golf, surf, and fish with my family.



Previous Experiences

Community Building: As Social Chair, I listen to classmates and use their feedback to build stronger class connections. I have worked with Class Council to organize orientation, the Halloween party, Admitted Students Weekend, class bonding events, and the winter retreat. At Stanford, I also served on Class Council. These experiences taught me how to listen to what students want and turn their ideas into events that bring people together.

WCM Involvement: My involvement across WCM has given me experience working with both students and institutional leadership. Through student organizations and Class Council, I regularly hear what students value and what they would like to see improved. Through the Healthcare Leadership and Management Research Fellowship and my work with faculty and administrators, I have learned how to communicate student priorities clearly, understand different perspectives, and advocate for ideas in a way that helps build support. These experiences have prepared me to represent students while working constructively with WCM leadership.

Interest in Student Fellow Position

My involvement at WCM has given me experience both representing students and working directly with faculty and school leadership. Through Class Council and student organizations, I regularly hear what students enjoy, what frustrates them, and what they would like to see changed. My work with faculty and leadership has also given me a better understanding of how decisions are made within WCM. As Student Fellow, I would use that perspective to serve as a liaison between students and leadership, bring student priorities directly to the Board of Fellows, and follow up so students know their concerns are being heard.

Goals

Connect the Cornell Community: I will advocate for stronger connections between WCM, Cornell Tech, and Ithaca to create more opportunities for MD, PhD, PA, master's, and Qatar students to connect. I also want Qatar students rotating in New York to have better access to student events and the broader WCM community.

Create a Stronger Student Feedback Loop: I want to create a regular way for students to share concerns, such as a quarterly survey, so issues can be raised with the Board of Fellows or other student leaders when appropriate. I have already heard concerns about subletting, health insurance costs, study hours, and the future use of the former Sotheby's building.

Build School Pride: I want better access to WCM apparel, more group trips to Cornell hockey, football, and other sporting events, and more traditions that bring students together. My goal is to build camaraderie and bring more Big Red spirit to Manhattan and a feeling of one Cornell community.

I am running to represent the student perspective and help build a stronger WCM community. I would be grateful for your vote and the opportunity to represent WCM on the Board of Fellows.

Ken Stier

Candidate for Student Member of the Board of Fellows

Weill Cornell Medical College · MD Program, Class of 2030

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Dear fellow students,

I am an incoming first-year medical student, and I am running to finish this term as your Student Fellow. Before Weill Cornell, I spent two years as a healthcare investment banker in New York, financing the biotech companies developing the therapies many of us will one day prescribe, and two years at The Wharton School earning an MBA with a double major in Management and Finance. Before that, I studied cell and molecular biology at Yale and served as Chief of Yale Emergency Medical Services, running a 50-person student EMT division through the height of COVID. What those roles taught me is how large institutions actually reach decisions, and how much depends on whether someone in the room is prepared to speak for the people those decisions affect. That is the work of this seat.

Why this seat, and why now

This is a one-year interim term at an unusually consequential moment. The CARE strategic plan is setting institutional priorities through 2029. The Feil Family and Weill Family Residence Hall has just reshaped where and how we live. The AI to Advance Medicine initiative is being built around us, and students still lack clear, consistent guidance on how AI may be used in our coursework and assessment. Clinical expansion at 1334 York and 575 Lexington will reshape where we train. Federal research funding pressure is squeezing the training pipeline our PhD and MD-PhD colleagues depend on. None of these are future decisions. They are being made this year, and the Student Fellow holds the only student vote on the body making them.

What I bring to the room

Investment banking is, functionally, stakeholder management under a deadline. At Chardan and Oppenheimer, I sat between management teams, boards, investors, and scientists on private and public offerings ranging from \$15M to \$650M, and my job was to make everyone in the room work from the same set of facts, then translate the science for the people writing the checks. I read financial disclosures for a living, and I know how to ask hard management questions and analyze a budget. At Wharton, I have spent two years studying how large, multi-mission organizations actually make decisions, and I lead healthcare operations for Center City Ventures, our student-run investment fund. At Yale, I learned the part that matters most here: a student organization only works when its leader keeps showing up for the unglamorous meeting, quarter after quarter.

The honest case for a first-year

I have not started classes, so I will not pretend to already know what your experience has been. That is exactly why I would spend my first weeks listening rather than proposing. But consider the calendar this role demands: quarterly Board meetings, three standing committees, monthly MSEC and GSEC updates, and semesterly meetings with Deans Harrington, Safdieh, and Hempstead. A pre-clerkship student is the one person who can guarantee that calendar for a full year, with no wards, no away rotations, and no residency interviews. Whatever I learn this year, I will carry forward for three more. I am also not new to the neighborhood. The Upper East Side has been my home for several years, and I already know this community as a place to live and not only a place to train.

What I would actually do

Listen on a schedule, not by accident. Standing open office hours, a short survey before every Board meeting, and deliberate outreach to graduate, master's, and WCM-Q students, who are least likely to be reached by a hallway conversation in Olin. **Close the loop, every time.** After each meeting I will report back what I raised, what was said, and what happens next; a representative who never reports back is not representing. **Bring evidence, not just anecdote.** Boards move on data, so I will pair what I hear from you (housing costs and the lottery, what it takes to live in this city on a stipend or an aid package, wait times for mental health support) with the numbers that make those concerns actionable. **Speak for one WCM.** This seat is the only one that represents the medical school, the graduate school, and Doha at once, and I will make sure our WCM-Q classmates are heard on the same footing as students in New York. **Leave the seat stronger than I found it.** Because this is a single year, I will document what I hear, what I raise, and what results, so that the next Student Fellow inherits a working record rather than a blank page.

A single vote carries only as much weight as the preparation behind it. I will do the reading, ask the uncomfortable question, and come back and tell you what happened. I would be honored to earn your vote.

With appreciation,

Ken Stier



Mohamad "Mo" Hijazi

First-Year Medical Student

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A LITTLE ABOUT ME

Born and raised in Côte d'Ivoire to a Middle Eastern Muslim family, before immigrating to Anaheim, CA. I studied Biological Sciences at Chapman University, and now I'm an M1 at WCM. You'll probably run into me around campus with a Catan board, aggressively trying to trade sheep for wood. Monopoly and Ticket to Ride are some of my favorites too. I also program video games as a hobby, and enough of a gamer that I use a PS5 controller to run my Anki. M1 year is the sponge year, the year you meet the most people, ask the most questions, and actually have room to listen. **I can't wait to spend it learning from all of you, and turning what I hear into real, actionable plans I can put in front of administration.**

WHY I'M RUNNING

We all carry questions about the things that shape our lives here: financial aid, housing, technology, belonging, and whether every program truly has a voice. Too often, those questions stay in group chats and hallway conversations instead of reaching the people who can act on them. The Student Fellow has a seat with the Board and Deans—and I'm running to connect that seat directly to you. I'll listen across our community, bring your questions into the room, and follow up until we have real answers and a clear path toward solutions. **One student may hold the seat, but every student should have a voice in it.**

THE QUESTIONS ON OUR MINDS

Can reapplying for financial aid every year be simpler?

Could WCM do more to help eligible students navigate Fair Fares and SNAP?

One student seat, this many voices—how do we make sure everyone is represented?

Can we get reliable Wi-Fi everywhere we study?

How can classmates visiting from WCM-Q feel fully at home here?

Are PhD stipends keeping pace with New York rent?

How can WCM make dual-degree pathways more affordable?

Why are students still paying out of pocket for essential subscriptions?

● AFFORDABILITY

● TOOLS & SPACES

● REPRESENTATION & BELONGING

WHAT WE'LL PUSH FOR

Aid and benefits students can actually access; reliable Wi-Fi and useful study and AI tools; and a consistent channel for students across **MD, MS, PhD, PA, WCM-Q, and Houston** to bring concerns to the Student Fellow—and get answers.

WHAT I'VE LEARNED THAT'LL HELP US HERE

Over several years as a student senator at Chapman, I helped advance initiatives centered on affordability and access—including efforts that secured hundreds of thousands of dollars so cost wouldn't stand between students and the exams and certifications their programs required. But the most important thing I bring isn't a single accomplishment or title: **I know how to turn student concerns into concrete asks, bring them to the people who can act, and keep following up.** I'm not afraid to walk up to an administrator's office, knock on the door, and start the conversation. **Because the gap between "someone should fix this" and "it's fixed" is usually just someone willing to show up and ask.**

MOre Voices • MOre Answers • MOre Action

One seat. Every program. Every voice.