

Eighth Annual Dean's Symposium on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

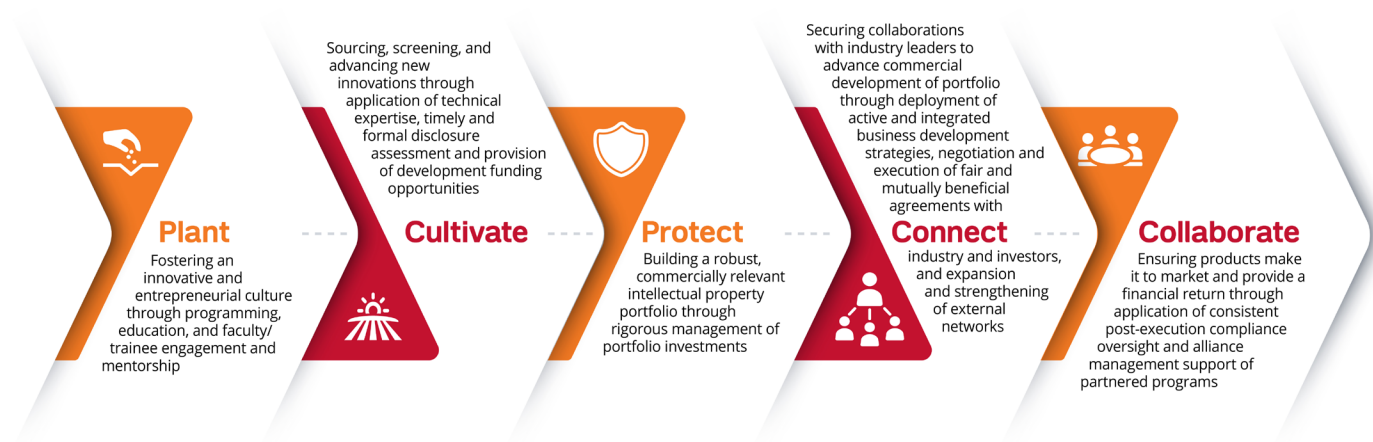


**Weill Cornell
Medicine**
Enterprise
Innovation

December 18, 2024

Integrating Weill Cornell Medicine's different teams and resources under a single, united organization, Enterprise Innovation encompasses the entire spectrum of an effective innovation ecosystem. We offer unique opportunities for faculty and trainees to transform their research into medical advances through collaborations including access to the Sanders Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute.

Our team of top-tier business development experts works collaboratively with a network of partners to commercialize technologies spanning the major pillars of biomedical innovation including therapeutics, devices, diagnostics and precision medicine, tangible properties, digital health and data assets. We proactively engage Weill Cornell faculty and trainees to nurture promising nascent biomedical technology and bring biotech innovations to market quickly and efficiently through connecting our innovators with the right tools, resources, funding opportunities, education and industry leaders.



Whether you are a researcher interested in disclosing an invention, a trainee considering launching a company or an industry leader searching for promising technologies, Weill Cornell Medicine Enterprise Innovation is here to help.



Agenda

In-Person

Griffis Faculty Club
521 E 68th Street, New York, NY

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Enterprise Innovation Open Office Hours and Registration

1:1 Meetings with Enterprise Innovation Business Development Experts. Register ahead. Walk-ins are welcome.

2:15 p.m. Welcome/Opening

2:20 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. Weill Cornell Medicine Faculty Panel

“Becoming an Inventor and the Process of Translating Concept into Reality in Women’s Health Innovation”

Moderator: Donna Rounds, Ph.D., Associate Director, Business Development and Licensing, Center for Technology Licensing at Weill Cornell Medicine

- Tamatha Fenster, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Bobak Mosadegh, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering in Radiology
- Rache Simmons, M.D.
Anne K. and Edwin C. Weiskopf Professor of Surgical Oncology and Professor of Surgery

3:05 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. Break/Final Registration

3:25 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Symposium

Schedule

3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m. Opening Remark “Moving Innovation to Impact as One Cornell”

Krystyn J. Van Vliet, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research and Innovation, Cornell University

3:40 p.m. - 4:25 p.m.

Introduction and Fireside Chat “From Academic Scientist to Leading Entrepreneur”

Robert A. Harrington, M.D.

Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine

Provost for Medical Affairs, Cornell University

Rachel Haurwitz, Ph.D.

President and CEO, Caribou Biosciences

4:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Weill Cornell Medicine Faculty Presentation

“ArmaBio: Developing Precision Therapeutics for crPC”

Paraskevi Giannakakou, Ph.D.

Professor of Pharmacology in Medicine

4:50 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

Weill Cornell Medicine Faculty Panel “Beyond Therapeutics: Turning Care Delivery Workflows and Pain Points into Innovation”

Moderator: Lisa Placanica, Ph.D., CLP, *Senior Managing Director*

Center for Technology Licensing at Weill Cornell Medicine

- Keith Hentel, M.D., *Professor of Clinical Radiology*
- Denise Howard, M.D., *Associate Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology*
- Conor Liston, M.D., Ph.D., *Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience*
- Rahul Sharma, M.D., *Barbara and Stephen Friedman Professor of Emergency Medicine and Chair of Emergency Medicine*

5:25 p.m. - 5:35 p.m.

Recognition of Daedalus Fund for Innovation & Selma and Lawrence Ruben Science to Industry Bridge Fund Awardees

John P. Leonard, M.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Innovation and Initiatives, Weill Cornell Medicine

5:35 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. Closing Remarks

Krystyn J. Van Vliet, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research and Innovation, Cornell University

5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Networking Reception

Fireside Chat



Rachel Haurwitz, Ph.D.
President and CEO, Caribou Biosciences

Dr. Rachel Haurwitz is a co-founder of Caribou Biosciences and has been its president and chief executive officer and a director since the company’s inception in 2011. Dr. Haurwitz is an inventor on patents and patent applications covering multiple CRISPR-based technologies and has co-authored several scientific papers in high-impact journals characterizing CRISPR-Cas systems. In 2014, she was named by Forbes Magazine to the “30 Under 30” list in Science and Healthcare, and in 2016, Fortune Magazine named her to the “40 Under 40” list of the most influential young people in business. In 2018, the Association for Women in Science recognized Dr. Haurwitz with the annual Next Generation Award. She serves on the board of directors for Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO). Dr. Haurwitz earned an A.B. in biological sciences from Harvard College and a Ph.D. in molecular and cell biology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Remarks by Leaders

Robert A. Harrington, M.D.



Dr. Robert A. Harrington is a cardiologist and serves as the Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean of Weill Cornell Medicine and provost for medical affairs of Cornell University. His research areas of focus include evaluating antithrombotic therapies to treat acute ischemic heart disease and to minimize the acute complications of percutaneous coronary procedures and trying to better understand and improve upon the methodology of clinical research, including the use of technologies to facilitate the conduct of clinical trials.

Dr. Harrington was the Arthur L. Bloomfield Professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at Stanford University for more than 10 years. He previously served as the Richard Stack Distinguished Professor and the director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute at Duke University, where he completed his fellowship in general and interventional cardiology.

Dr. Harrington earned his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and served as chief resident during his residency in internal medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester.

Passionate about sharing information about health and medicine, Dr. Harrington has written more than 760 peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews, book chapters and editorials. He served as senior editor for the 13th and 14th editions of Hurst's The Heart — one of the leading textbooks of cardiovascular medicine. He also hosts a podcast for practitioners called "The Bob Harrington Show."

A previous American Heart Association (AHA) president, Dr. Harrington remains a member of AHA's Board of Directors. He is also an elected member of the Association of American Physicians, the Association of University Cardiologists, and the National Academy of Medicine/Institute of Medicine. In addition, he has served as a chair and member of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Cardiovascular and Renal Drugs Advisory Committee.

Among his numerous awards and recognition, Dr. Harrington was named a Master of the American College of Cardiology in 2016, was awarded the AHA's Clinical Research Prize in 2017, and earned the AHA Council on Clinical Cardiology (CLCD) Distinguished Achievement Award in 2022. In 2022, he was awarded the Stokes Medal, and in 2023, Honorary Fellowship in the Irish Cardiac Society.

Krystyn J. Van Vliet, Ph.D.



Dr. Krystyn J. Van Vliet is vice president for research and innovation at Cornell University and professor in the Cornell University College of Engineering, with a joint appointment in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering and the Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering.

As vice president for research and innovation, Dr. Van Vliet oversees research and research compliance for non-medical research programs, as well as innovation and technology transfer – including intellectual property licensing, incubation and acceleration of startup companies – across all Cornell campuses. This includes responsibility for 25 interdisciplinary research centers and specialized user facilities that support research collaborations, education, workforce development and fee-based use by companies. Dr. Van Vliet also coordinates strategic engagements, including Cornell participation in public-private-partnerships, research consortia and industry alliances.

As a professor in Cornell's College of Engineering, she directs a large and active research laboratory focused on material chemomechanics: the material behavior at the interface of mechanics, chemistry, physics and biology. Specifically, Dr. Van Vliet seeks to predict how mechanical force can alter the speed of adhesive chemical reactions, and how chemical stimuli can alter the forces required to rupture adhered interfaces.

Dr. Van Vliet joined Cornell University as vice president for research and innovation in February 2023.

Remarks by Leaders



John P. Leonard, M.D.

Dr. John P. Leonard is senior associate dean for innovation and initiatives and the Richard T. Silver Distinguished Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine and completed his residency in medicine at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Leonard completed a fellowship in hematology and oncology at Weill Cornell Medicine and served as chief medical resident at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Leonard's primary research interests are in the development of novel therapeutic strategies for the treatment of lymphoma and related hematologic malignancies. Much of his work involves the development of novel therapies for lymphoma, including monoclonal antibodies, other immune-based treatments, targeted agents, and other innovative approaches. His research has been widely published in top medical journals, and he has served on the editorial boards of *Blood* and the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. He is chair of the Lymphoma Committee of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, a multi-center cooperative group and key component of the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network. Dr. Leonard has been a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Subspecialty Board on Hematology and is elected to membership in the American Society of Clinical Investigation.

As senior associate dean for innovation and initiatives, he leads Weill Cornell Medicine's efforts to foster a dynamic culture of innovation and entrepreneurship and promote commercialization opportunities for inventions developed by its investigators. A chief aspect of this role is his oversight of Weill Cornell Medicine Enterprise Innovation, a robust innovation ecosystem that accelerates the transfer of technologies to industry partners and the health care marketplace to maximize impact.

Panel Moderator



Donna J. Rounds, Ph.D.

Dr. Donna Rounds is an associate director, business development and licensing at Weill Cornell Medicine. She has over 25 years of experience building value in early-stage life science technologies—from sourcing emergent technologies to developing strategies for commercialization. She specializes in managing complex scientific and business relationships and leveraging the synergy of cross-functional teams in due diligence and technology assessments, prototype development and proof-of-concept studies. She has a strong track record of successful outcomes through negotiation and transactions for licensing, startup formation, sponsored research and the creation of strategic alliances in pharma, biotech and academia. Her passion is launching innovative projects into next-generation products for health and wellness care.

Dr. Rounds received her doctorate in molecular biophysics and biochemistry at Yale University. Instead of pursuing a postdoctoral position, Dr. Rounds joined the startup world as one of the founders of Physiome Sciences, Inc., the first in-silico drug discovery platform using computational models of cells, tissues and organs. She later joined the British Technology Group (BTG Plc) as a technology scout, where she visited academic institutions across the East Coast searching for biotech projects in the early stages of development. Later, Dr. Rounds joined Columbia Technology Ventures (CTV) and managed a portfolio of world-class scientists and Nobel laureates at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. She was later recruited to lead the technology development program at Hospital for Special Surgery with a focus on musculoskeletal innovations and medical devices in orthopedics and rheumatology. Dr. Rounds was on the scientific advisory board of Tohi Ventures and co-founded Nirova BioSense, which is dedicated to the development of optical sensors for real-time detection of ovarian cancer biomarkers.

Panelists



Tamatha Fenster, M.D., M.S., FACOG

Dr. Tamatha Fenster serves as the director of innovations and biotechnology of the Fibroid Center for Weill Cornell Medicine. She is an assistant professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology at Weill Cornell Medicine and assistant attending obstetrician and gynecologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Her entire 20-year medical career is devoted to innovating female health care. She specializes in minimally invasive laparoscopic and robotic gynecologic surgery and uses the latest surgical innovations to treat all types of benign gynecologic conditions such as fibroids, endometriosis and ovarian cysts.

Dr. Fenster received her Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University, master's degree in Biological and Physical Science from Touro College, and medical degree from The State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Beth Israel Medical Center.

Dr. Fenster has inventions in the areas of patient education, imaging and medical devices, including a novel speculum. She has earned two utility patents and currently has three preliminary patents pending.



Bobak Mosadegh, Ph.D.

Dr. Bobak Mosadegh received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of California, Irvine and his doctorate from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, all in Biomedical Engineering. Under the guidance of George M. Whitesides, Dr. Mosadegh performed his postdoctoral training at Harvard University and the Wyss Institute of Biologically Inspired Engineering. Dr. Mosadegh started as an assistant professor in the Department of Radiology at Weill Cornell Medicine in November of 2014, and is currently an associate professor and serves as the director of the Dalio Institute of Cardiovascular Imaging. His research leverages next-generation technologies such as soft robotics, artificial intelligence (AI) and mixed reality to advance medical diagnosis and treatment. He served as the convener for the ISO working group to establish the first international regulatory standard for transcatheter cardiac occluders. He has co-founded multiple companies that range from medical device spinouts from Weill Cornell Medicine to consumer health services.



Rache M. Simmons, M.D., M.S., M.B.A., FACS

Dr. Rache Simmons is passionate about caring for women, in her roles as an innovator, a breast cancer surgeon and a physician leader interested in promoting women's equity.

She has been part of the clinical surgical faculty at Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City, with a practice in breast cancer surgery for three decades. She served as chief of breast surgery from 2011-2018. Her current positions include professor of surgery and Anne K. and Edwin C. Weiskopf Professor of Surgical Oncology.

Dr. Simmons has also been active in clinical research with over 100 peer-reviewed publications. Her clinical research focuses on innovative ways to improve the cosmetic results from breast cancer surgery with minimally invasive techniques, such as cryoablation and nipple sparing mastectomy.

Dr. Simmons is a founding member and a past-president of the American Society of Breast Surgeons, an organization of over 3,000 members. She has been a leader in numerous national and regional surgical boards and societies. Dr. Simmons enjoys serving as a clinical advisor for industry in the breast oncology and surgical space.

She is also regarded as a national leader of women's equity in academic medicine. Dr. Simmons is the associate dean of diversity and inclusion, and the inaugural director of the Office of Women at Weill Cornell Medicine, as well as the co-director of Women Physicians of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. In March 2020, Crain's Business recognized Dr. Simmons for her accomplishments for women's equity in the workplace. She received the 2020 Women in Medicine Summit #SheforShe Honorary Award for her efforts as an ally to other women in medicine.

She received her bachelor's degree from Duke University and her medical degree from Duke University Medical School. Dr. Simmons also received her Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Healthcare Leadership degrees from Cornell University S.C. Johnson School of Management and Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences in May 2020.

Faculty Presenter



Paraskevi Giannakakou, Ph.D.

Dr. Paraskevi Giannakakou serves as professor of pharmacology in medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and is a member of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center. She has 20+ years of research experience in cancer biology and molecular oncology. Her research is focused on understanding the molecular basis of response/resistance to microtubule inhibitors and targeted therapies in solid tumors as well as developing novel therapeutics. Dr. Giannakakou and her lab colleagues have identified several microtubule-dependent signaling and trafficking pathways critically involved in cancer progression and treatment resistance, including nuclear transport of transcription factors such as the tumor suppressor p53, the hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α (HIF-1 α) and, more recently, the androgen receptor (AR) and its splice variants in prostate cancer. They identified the mechanisms by which AR-V7 confers resistance to standard-of-care treatment in prostate cancer and elucidated the pathways that uniquely regulate AR-V7.

Panel Moderator



Lisa Placanica, Ph.D., CLP

Dr. Lisa Placanica is senior managing director, Center for Technology Licensing at Weill Cornell Medicine. She is responsible for overseeing activities in technology management, marketing, licensing and outreach to support Cornell's goals in commercializing technologies, promoting startups and building alliances. As part of Weill Cornell Medicine's research leadership, she provides strategic guidance and advice to senior leadership on matters relating to intellectual property, innovation and entrepreneurship and the formation, launch and operation of Weill Cornell Medicine Enterprise Innovation.

Prior to joining Weill Cornell Medicine in 2020, Dr. Placanica held the position of managing director, business development and licensing at Mount Sinai Innovation Partners. In this role, she was responsible for managing a team of business development professionals focused on identifying, advancing, and partnering therapeutic technologies developed at the Mount Sinai Health System and acted as deal team lead for closing complex intellectual property transactions.

Dr. Placanica received her doctorate in pharmacology from Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences, where she studied the biochemical composition of gamma secretase and its role in Alzheimer's Disease in the laboratory of Dr. Yueming Li at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Cornell University. In 2013, Dr. Placanica became a certified licensing professional.

Panelists



Keith D. Hentel, M.D., M.S., FACR

Dr. Keith Hentel is a professor of clinical radiology and executive vice chair of the Department of Radiology at Weill Cornell Medicine, vice president of Weill Cornell Imaging at NewYork-Presbyterian and a practicing musculoskeletal and emergency radiologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr. Hentel is also a recent past president of the New York Radiological Society. He has focused much of his efforts on the use of technology to improve the patient experience and value of care provided. This includes leading Weill Cornell Medicine's efforts in the utilization of Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) in Imaging. He led Weill Cornell Medicine's efforts to become one of only a handful of academic practices to be recognized by CMS as Qualified Provider Led Entity. This led to the development of the Weill Cornell Medicine AUC, which has since been licensed and used by several entities and institutions.



Denise Howard, M.D., M.P.H.

Dr. Denise Howard is the site chief at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, vice chair in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Weill Cornell Medicine, and an associate professor of clinical obstetrics and gynecology.

She won first place in the 2024 Biomedical Business Plan Challenge competition hosted by BioVenture eLab, a part of Weill Cornell Medicine Enterprise Innovation. She seeks to revolutionize the patient consent process and will use the funds to create a prototype.

Dr. Howard grew up in Columbus, Mississippi. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Mississippi and then attended Johns Hopkins University, receiving a medical degree and a Master of Public Health degree in 1993. She completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Pittsburgh's Magee Women's Hospital in 1997 and then a fellowship in urogynecology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Howard remained on faculty there until 2001, when she relocated to the Atlanta area to work in private practice. In 2010, she and her family moved to the Middle East, where she worked in various leadership positions in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates and Doha, Qatar before returning to the U.S. at the end of 2019.

Prior to joining Weill Cornell Medicine, she was the chief of gynecology for Geisinger Health System in Danville, Pennsylvania, where she also had a faculty appointment at the medical school and served as core faculty for the residency program. She is board certified in obstetrics and gynecology and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a certified physician executive, and a fellow of the American Association for Physician Leadership. She is also a member of the American Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology and the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons.



Conor Liston, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Conor Liston is a professor of psychiatry and of neuroscience in the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medicine.

The long-term goals of his research program are to define basic mechanisms by which prefrontal cortical brain circuits support learning, memory and motivation, and to understand how these functions are disrupted in depression, OCD and other neuropsychiatric disorders. His team is also developing neuroimaging technologies for informing psychiatric diagnosis in human populations and predicting treatment response to transcranial magnetic stimulation and other forms of therapeutic neuromodulation.

He graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 2002, and received his doctorate and medical degrees from The Rockefeller University and Weill Cornell Medicine in 2007 and 2008, respectively. He subsequently completed his residency in psychiatry at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and postdoctoral training at Stanford University. He returned to Weill Cornell Medicine as an assistant professor of psychiatry in 2014. His research has been recognized with awards from the Klingenstein-Simons Foundation Fund, the Rita Allen Foundation, the Dana Foundation, the One Mind Institute, the Pritzker Neuropsychiatric Disorders Consortium, the Hope for Depression Research Foundation, the Wellcome Leap Foundation, the Jeanne and Herbert Siegel Award for Outstanding Medical Research, the Thomas W. Salmon Award from the New York Academy of Medicine, and the Eva King Killam Award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Dr. Liston is also a clinically active psychiatrist specializing in the management of treatment-resistant mood disorders.



Rahul Sharma, M.D., M.B.A.

Dr. Rahul Sharma is the Barbara and Stephen Friedman Endowed Professor and chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. He also serves as the Emergency Physician-in-Chief for NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. His leadership extends beyond these roles, as he is the founder and executive director of the Center for Virtual Care at Weill Cornell Medicine.

With dual faculty appointments as professor of emergency medicine and professor of population health sciences, Dr. Sharma plays a pivotal role in shaping both clinical practice and healthcare policy. As the academic chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, he oversees all academic and operational activities for the four Weill Cornell-affiliated emergency departments in New York City.

As a national leader in emergency medicine, health care operations, telemedicine and virtual health care, Dr. Sharma's operational and research focus centers on developing novel care delivery models. He leverages technology to enhance patient experience, safety and overall quality of care. His contributions have been widely recognized with publications in peer-reviewed journals and invitations to speak at national and international programs, including the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Sharma's innovative achievements have garnered attention from major media outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, NEJM Catalyst and JAMA. Notably, he has been named a Top 25 Innovator in the healthcare industry by Modern Healthcare and recognized as a Crain's New York Business Notable in Health Care. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) also honored him with the National Innovative Change in Practice Management Award.

Dr. Sharma's multifaceted contributions to emergency medicine, health care leadership and medical education make him a respected figure at Weill Cornell Medicine and a trailblazer in the field. His work continues to shape the future of emergency care and virtual health services.



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