How it all started
In 2006, the New York-Presbyterian Hospital Phyllis and David Komansky Center for Children’s Health began to integrate a family-centered approach to healthcare within the Department of Pediatrics.

Family-centered care
Family-centered care acknowledges that the family is a child’s primary source of strength and support. It recognizes and respects that the perspectives and information provided by the families of pediatric patients are of paramount importance in clinical decision making.

Who we are
The Komansky Center Family Advisory Council (KCFAC) was established in 2007 as a means of facilitating collaboration between families of patients and hospital staff. The KCFAC provides a forum whereby the two work together in equal partnership to explore and implement new and innovative ways of promoting patient and family-centered care.

Where we stand
We are proud to report that in our eight years, the KCFAC has grown from its initial five founding members to a vibrant and thriving group of 35 committed and dedicated individuals. We have made significant progress and have realized exponential growth in many areas throughout the hospital. Our vision remains unwavering:

The KCFAC seeks to achieve and maintain a level of care in which patient and family involvement is expected and welcomed by all.

Since its inception, the KCFAC has evolved in structure. Today, we focus on two principal areas:

Support Group –
During the often difficult and stressful time of a child’s stay, our members help guide and offer emotional support to families. We provide much welcomed teas, lunches and dinners as well as host special holiday events to bring some cheer to patients and loved ones. The support group is vital in keeping us abreast of the needs of our patients and families and in identifying areas in which the hospital may further improve and develop.

Advisors –
Our role is to ensure that the communication and feedback received from families directly impacts and influences positive change in the hospital’s policies, programs and practices. We have made huge strides in our Family Faculty group – most notably in the curriculum development and training of our onsite Cornell medical students. The feedback we have received from medical students, nurses and residents alike is that the perspective of the KCFAC is invaluable in helping them to truly understand the impact of patient and family-centered care.

The Annual Report provides an overview of the achievements of which we are most proud. We would like to thank all of our wonderful members, our dedicated hospital staff and our supportive leadership for working together to realize and sustain our vision.

With much gratitude,
Kanisha Dolsingh & Annie Nugent

Chairs - Komansky Center Family Advisory Council
New York-Presbyterian Hospital / Weill Cornell Medical Center
### Staff Members

**Faculty Advisor**  
Dr. Nena Osorio  

**Medical Students Education**  
Dr. Thanakorn Jirasevijinda  

**Residents Education**  
Dr. Jen DiPace  

**Nursing Education**  
Monique Zayas  

**Director of Nursing**  
Joan Halpern  

**Neonatal Intensive Care (NICU)**  
Rae-Jean Hemway, Patient Care Director  

**Pediatric Intensive Care (PICU)**  
Larissa Elgin, Patient Care Director  

**General Pediatrics (6N)**  
Felicia Alleyne, Patient Care Director  

**Burn Unit (8S)**  
Nicole Leahy, Trauma Program Manager  

**Patient Centered Care Department**  
Emily Marcelli, Andrew Deraney  

**Social Work**  
Heather Bencivenga, Manager  
Talia Grossman  

**Child-Life Services**  
Sharon Granville, Manager  
Sophia Hornick  

**Nursing**  
Brittany Sobin, Clinical Manager (PICU)  
Claudette Theuriere, Clinical Manager (NICU)  
Vivian Lopez, Nurse  

**Volunteer Department**  
Laura White, Manager  
Elaine Ohlson

### A look back at the achievements of the KCFAC in 2014 – 2015

- Welcomed 11 new members to the KCFAC team.  
- Hosted over 60 events throughout the year to provide support to the families of our patients. These included:  
  - 24 Teas  
  - 24 Luncches  
  - 10 Dinners  
  - 12 Wacky Wednesdays (new initiative introduced in January 2015)  
  - Halloween  
  - Thanksgiving  
  - Winter Holidays  
  - Valentine’s Day  
  - Mother’s Day  
  - Father’s Day  
- Assisted in the “Light Up A Life” annual Halloween event and the Komansky Prom.  
- Further developed and expanded our training of residents, medical students and nurses in the principles of family-centered care as follows:  
  - Designed case studies and commenced with the training of nurses in the Burn Unit.  
  - Enhanced the curriculum utilized to train medical students.  
  - Augmented the case studies employed in the instruction of residents.  
  - Engaged and trained additional KCFAC members to join the Family Faculty team.  
- Attended the Institute for Patient and Family Centered Care conference in Boston, MA.  
- Presented at Pediatric Grand Rounds at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center.  
- Built strong relationships with both corporate as well as hospital committees which provide sponsorship to the KCFAC.  
- Received recognition for the 2nd consecutive year at the “Celebrating Excellence” event.  
- Increased our visibility by participating in a number of committees and engaging with various units within Pediatrics.

### The collaboration of input by hospital staff, the KCFAC and our patients culminated in this wonderful work of art commissioned for the newly renovated Hematology / Oncology Center.
The KCFAC, Pediatric Support Committee (PSC), and Children’s Advisory Council (CAC) launched Wacky Wednesdays.

Performers come to the hospital to entertain our patients and help put smiles on their faces.

Our NICU babies celebrating Halloween!!

The KCFAC enjoyed the Child-Life Halloween event “Reverse Trick-Or-Treating” which is held annually for our Pediatric patients.

Thanksgiving!

The KCFAC is proud to participate in the annual Thanksgiving tradition with Child-Life Services. The delicious feast is kindly donated by James Strong & Mitchell Silverman.

Our Facebook fan base is growing!

Thank you to all of our sponsors for the many wonderful donations throughout the year.

Holiday Celebrations!

The KCFAC assisted March of Dimes in providing support and pampering NICU moms with gifts and manicures.

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Mother’s Day Celebration!

The KCFAC assisted March of Dimes in providing support and pampering NICU moms with gifts and manicures.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for the many wonderful donations throughout the year.

Holiday Celebrations!
Goals for 2015-2016

- Advance the Family Faculty Training Program to maximize our utility and impact
- Establish a Parent-to-Parent Support Network
- Expand the KCFAC presence to include additional units within the Department of Pediatrics
- Increase our visibility on committees and hospital management forums
- Focus on leveraging the insight and expertise of our new members to facilitate invaluable and innovative KCFAC initiatives

Thank you to the Pediatric Support Committee (PSC) and Children’s Advisory Council (CAC) for continuing to make all of this possible!

The goal of the Komansky Center Family Faculty Program is to promote a family-centered care approach to healthcare. This is achieved by fostering the collaboration of hospital staff, patients and families. KCFAC members participate in the following:

**Residents Training**  
Dr. Jen DiPace (Director - Pediatric Graduate Medical Education)

**Medical Students Training**  
Dr. Thanakorn Jirasevijinda (Associate Professor of Pediatrics)

**Nursing Orientations**  
Monique Zayas (Pediatric Nurse Educator)

To apply or for more information, please visit  
http://www.nyp.org/komansky/families_visitors/family_advisory_council.html