

Acceptance Speech for Distinguished Alumni Award

I am deeply honored and grateful to receive this Distinguished Alumni Award. My sincere thanks to the selection committee and especially to Linda Saal, whose nomination made this recognition possible.

It is particularly meaningful to receive this award from the Cornell University New York Hospital School of Nursing, an institution that helped shape not only my career, but also my values as a nurse and healthcare professional.

When I came to New York Hospital in 1974 as a staff nurse, I could not have imagined the journey that lay ahead. The education I received and the opportunities I was given provided a strong foundation for a career that has now spanned more than four decades.

Since becoming a Nurse Practitioner in 1980, I have had the privilege of caring for patients in adult primary care at Weill Cornell. Throughout my career, I have believed that healthcare is about more than treating disease. It is about helping people live their best lives through healthy lifestyle choices, prevention, education, and compassionate care. At the same time, it is about supporting those living with chronic illness and helping them remain as healthy and active as possible.

In recent years, much of my work has focused on diabetes care. As a Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, I have had the opportunity to educate, support, and partner with patients as they navigate the challenges of living with diabetes. One of the greatest rewards of my career has been seeing patients gain confidence in managing their health and improving their quality of life.

I have also been fortunate to teach and mentor nurses, nurse practitioner students, medical students, and residents. Watching the next generation of healthcare professionals grow and develop has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my professional life. I am especially proud to have been among the first nurses appointed to the faculty at Weill Cornell Medical College, reflecting the important and expanding role of nursing in education, leadership, and patient care.

I would like to thank my family for their support, encouragement, and patience throughout the years. I am also grateful to my colleagues, mentors, students, and friends, who have inspired me, challenged me, and made my professional journey so meaningful.

Most importantly, I thank my patients. They have entrusted me with their care, taught me resilience, and reminded me every day why I chose this profession.

This award is a tremendous honor, and I accept it with gratitude on behalf of all those who have shared this journey with me.

Thank you very much.

Stasi Lubansky '78