

Mount Sinai inside



Diane E. Meier, MD, will receive the Clinical Excellence Award from Castle Connolly on March 23.

Honored for Excellence

Diane E. Meier, MD, Director of both the Center to Advance Palliative Care and the Lilian and Benjamin Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute, and the Catherine Gaisman Professor of Medical Ethics, will receive the Clinical Excellence Award at the fourth annual Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. National Physician of the Year Awards on March 23 at the Millennium Broadway Hotel in New York City.

A pioneer in palliative care, Dr. Meier has dedicated her career to improving the quality of life for patients with chronic and debilitating illnesses. She is one of only three physicians to receive the award, which is designed to recognize excellence in clinical medical practice. Physicians profiled in the elite Castle Connolly "Top Doctor" guides nominated Dr. Meier for this award.

"I cannot think of a higher honor than recognition from my colleagues and fellow travelers in the work of caring for patients," said Dr. Meier.

"We congratulate Dr. Meier on receiving this very prestigious honor," said Dennis S. Charney, MD, the Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. "Dr. Meier's leadership in the field of palliative care has created a paradigm shift in hospital care of patients with serious illness. Her work is of critical importance not only to Mount Sinai but to the entire country."

Dr. Meier joined the Mount Sinai faculty in 1983, a year after the Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development was established, and spent the next 25 years working to improve the care of seriously and chronically ill patients.

Dr. Meier's research has examined how palliative care programs improve symptoms and satisfaction with care for both patients and their families, and how hospitals can best integrate this model into modern medicine.

In 1998, Dr. Meier established the Hertzberg Palliative Care Institute at Mount Sinai, a model program that assists patients and families in navigating the complexities of illness and devises strategies for managing pain and other symptoms. Dr. Meier's work has positioned Mount Sinai as a national leader in palliative care.

Dr. Meier is the recipient of the 2008 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. Throughout her prestigious career,

Dr. Meier has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including the National Institute on Aging Academic Career Leadership Award and the Alexander Richman Commemorative Award for Humanism in Medicine. She is the Principal Investigator of an NCI-funded study on the outcomes of hospital palliative care services in cancer patients.

Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Meier completed her residency and fellowship training at Oregon Health Sciences University. She received her medical degree from Northwestern University Medical School.