



**Mount  
Sinai**

# inside

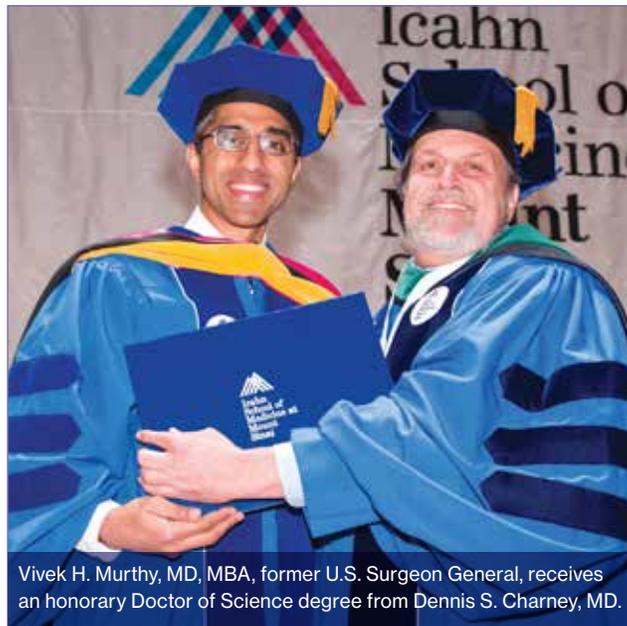
A PUBLICATION OF THE MOUNT SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM

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## Calls for Courage and Caring at Commencement 2017

A former U.S. surgeon general, the chief executive officer of an innovative health care system, a leader in public health, and pioneers in chromatin biology and genome editing were honored at the 48th annual Commencement of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, held on Friday, May 12, at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center.

The Icahn School of Medicine granted a total of 139 MDs, 79 PhDs, and 25 dual degrees. Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, the 19th Surgeon General of the United States, delivered the commencement address to the 1,000 faculty, staff, graduates, and their families and friends who filled the hall.



Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, former U.S. Surgeon General, receives an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Dennis S. Charney, MD.

The event began with a sweeping overview of the “unusual times” facing graduates as they start their careers, in an address by Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System. “Our ability to treat each and every patient in need of care, to prevent disease, and to optimize care is under threat today,” Dr. Davis said, describing a bill passed by the U.S. House of

Representatives that might cause as many as 24 million Americans to lose health care coverage. “At Mount Sinai, we are committed to caring for everyone,” Dr. Davis told the graduates. “We have always been committed to that core value—serving the most vulnerable, as well as the most fortunate. So now I implore you to retain and live the values you’ve been taught here.”

Dr. Murthy said the nation is increasingly divided, driven by a fear of change, and struggling with an epidemic of chronic illness. Yet he expressed a strong belief in “the power and the promise of America,” which allowed him, the grandson of a poor rice farmer in India, to become the nation’s chief public

health officer. “As society’s newest leaders, the choice of how to lead starts with all of you,” Dr. Murthy said. “Lead with love, always. Love is our greatest source of power. It is what we need to build a nation that is safe and strong for our children.”

Dr. Murthy received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his

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## A Special Ceremony For Master’s Degrees

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai conferred 207 master’s degrees at Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center on Friday, May 12, during a ceremony that marked significant growth in its master’s degree programs.

“This is a special ceremony,” noted Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System, who presided over the commencement before a jubilant audience of graduates, their families and friends, and Mount Sinai faculty and staff. “It is only the second time that



Graduates in the Master of Public Health program, from left: Ceciley Bly, who was the student speaker, Alycia Gardner, and Heather Omdal.

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## > Calls for Courage at Commencement 2017

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work addressing public health challenges, including tobacco-related disease, the Zika virus, and the nation's opioid crisis. Honorary degrees also were awarded to:

- **C. David Allis, PhD**, Joy and Jack Fishman Professor, and Head of the Laboratory of Chromatin Biology and Epigenetics, Rockefeller University, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for discovering that a protein complex called chromatin plays a crucial role in expressing and silencing genes, paving the way for new approaches to treating birth defects, cancer, and neurological disorders.

- **Jennifer Doudna, PhD**, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, University of California, Berkeley, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for research that led to the development of CRISPR-Cas9, a revolutionary technique that may enable researchers to manipulate DNA in order to someday treat, and potentially cure, devastating diseases.

- **Bernard J. Tyson, Chairman and CEO**, Kaiser Permanente, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for leading a \$65 billion integrated health system that embraces advances in technology and a holistic approach to preventive care.

- **Howard Alan Zucker, MD, JD**, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health, who



Clockwise from top left: Kenneth L. Davis, MD; graduates recite a modified Hippocratic Oath; Maximiliano Sobrero, MD, MSCR, receives his hood; and Giselle Joseph, PhD, and Miyoun Hong, PhD, march into Alice Tully Hall.

received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for devoting his career to advancing public health and safety, and pioneering programs that influence the health of individuals in New York State and around the world.

In his address, Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, focused on the fast-changing world of health care, with innovations in treatment and a shift from a fee-for-service model to a population health approach. "The training you have received at Mount Sinai has given you the tools that you need to meet these challenges," Mr. May said. "And knowing what you have already accomplished, I have every faith that you will be compassionate and formidable leaders of this exciting evolution in health care."

The graduates were congratulated for their scholarship, research, and "legendary" community service by Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System.

"To be a great leader, you are going to need to be resilient and have courage," Dr. Charney said, and recounted three "profiles in courage": A young woman who fought off beta-cell lymphoma and dreams of being a researcher; a young man who lost his father to cardiomyopathy, then was treated for the same disorder, and founded a health nonprofit in his native Zimbabwe; and a young woman who was hit by a drunken driver and, still suffering from residual health problems, organized a citywide antiracism coalition.

"Do not underestimate how hard it is to be resilient. It requires the courage to confront painful realities, the faith that there will be a solution when one is not immediately evident," Dr. Charney said. "In my dream, where Mount Sinai graduates change the world, they do so by shining through on their darkest days. How do I know this is possible? The three heroes I just described are not only in this room right now, they are graduates of the Class of 2017."

## › A Special Ceremony for Master's Degrees *(continued from page 1)*

we have had a commencement just for Master's graduates. This signals that the master's programs at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai are very important—and much larger.” The Graduate School granted 54 more master's degrees this year compared to last year's 153 master's degrees.

In total, the Graduate School conferred 121 degrees in Public Health, one of its oldest master's degree programs, and 22 in Health Care Delivery Leadership, one of its newest master's programs, as well as 35 in Biomedical Sciences, 17 in Clinical Research, 9 in Genetic Counseling, and 5 in Biostatistics.

Marta Filizola, PhD, Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and Professor of Pharmacological Sciences, addressed the graduates. “Our Class of 2017 comes from all over the world and represents different cultures and backgrounds,” she said. “But your common strength—and what unites you—is your desire to learn, to embrace new challenges, to experiment, to discover, and to collaborate with others to envision and create a better world.”

Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD, Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs, Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience, and Director of The Friedman Brain Institute, greeted the graduates and spoke about the need for continued diversity in the research community. “Empirical evidence has shown that a diverse group of people, with different backgrounds,

perspectives, and viewpoints, can tackle highly complex problems with far greater innovation and creativity,” he said, “but despite progress, we still have a lot of work to do to create a society and culture that values what we have in common, as well as what makes us all different. Mount Sinai is at the vanguard of capturing this strength through diversity and demonstrating to others how we can do better.”

Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH, Chief Executive Officer of the nonprofit organization McKinsey Social Initiative, who has addressed social inequity and health-related challenges on an international scale, was the commencement speaker. She told the graduates that in the midst of a deeply divided political landscape, economic inequality, and racial tensions across the United States, “You have taken an affirmative step toward action by choosing a career in health” and would be able to make a difference in the lives of people everywhere—an effort, however, that would take more than science, technology, and know-how to achieve. “If we want equality in health care, we are going to have to stand up for it, and we're going to have to keep standing up for it,” she exhorted. “It is time that we affirm that access to health services is a right. It is as basic as education, clean water, and clean air.”

Dr. Gayle concluded: “If you can maintain the will to pursue that highest ambition, I believe we can all meet the greatest challenges of our time and leave a legacy of healthy populations and health equity for generations to come. So, let's go do it!”



Clockwise from top left: Marta Filizola, PhD; Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD; students in the Biomedical Sciences master's program; and Helene D. Gayle, MD, MPH.

# Around the Health System

## Celebrating DNA Day

With cake pops appropriately arranged in the shape of a double helix, DNA Day was recently celebrated at the Guggenheim Pavilion. The event, on Wednesday, April 26, was organized by the BioMe™ BioBank team of The Charles Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine and commemorated the discovery of the molecular structure of DNA in 1953 and the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003. The team also recruited volunteers for its program, which collects de-identified DNA and plasma for research purposes, signing up more than 38,000 people to date. “We are fortunate to have a great amount of diversity among our participants, including many Mount Sinai employees,” says Judy H. Cho, MD, Director of The Charles Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine and Ward-Coleman Professor of Translational Genetics. “Growing is central to our efforts in applying precision medicine to benefit patients.”



Judy H. Cho, MD, front row, center, with members of the BioMe™ BioBank team on DNA Day.



Charles P. Melone Jr., MD

## Two Top Honors for Mount Sinai Hand Surgeon

Charles P. Melone Jr., MD, a renowned hand surgeon who has treated a wide spectrum of patients—from star players for the New York Yankees and New York Knicks to earthquake victims in Haiti—has received two prestigious honors. Dr. Melone, Director of the Hand Surgery Center at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, and Professor of Orthopaedics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, in February received the Founders Alumni Award for achievement in medicine from his alma mater, Georgetown University. And in March, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York Society for Surgery of the Hand. Dr. Melone, a leader in microsurgery and arthritis treatment, has performed more than 30,000 operations. “These awards reflect Dr. Melone’s extraordinary contributions to hand surgery over his greater than 40-year clinical career,” says Peter D. McCann, MD, Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery, Mount Sinai Beth Israel. “We are extremely fortunate to have a surgeon of such accomplishments on the Mount Sinai Beth Israel staff.”

## Winning Views of Mount Sinai Doctors

Mount Sinai Doctors harnessed the photography skills of everyday citizens with a citywide contest. Held over four months ending in April, the contest aimed to highlight the growing presence of Mount Sinai Doctors throughout New York City. Participants entered by posting a photograph taken of—or from—a Mount Sinai Doctors location on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter with #MSDNYC. From 208 entries, 10 photographs were selected, including an image of The Mount Sinai Hospital campus from Central Park and a close-up of tulips and truck graffiti outside a Mount Sinai practice on the Upper East Side. The prize for each winning photograph was a \$200 American Express gift card.





# Mount Sinai Celebrates at the 32nd Crystal Party

More than 1,100 leaders, staff, supporters, and friends of the Mount Sinai Health System celebrated a year of significant progress and accomplishments on Thursday, May 4, at the 32nd annual Crystal Party, Mount Sinai's major social event of the season. The Crystal Party is a festive occasion that raises several million dollars annually and helps support key educational, clinical, and research programs of the Health System and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner, and dancing inside a huge tent adorned with pink and orange flowers and multicolored lights that was located in the Central Park Conservatory Garden.

Mount Sinai Trustee Zibby Schwarzman and Kyle Owens chaired this year's celebration. Other members of the event's leadership included Doctor Chairs: Frances Cartwright, PhD, RN, and Peter Alcarese; Leesa M. Galatz, MD, and David J. Finlay, MD; Kathleen and William B. Inabnet III, MD; and Cindie and Donald Kastenbaum, MD; and Friends of Mount Sinai Chairs:

Dayna and Thomas Sessa.

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, welcomed guests and thanked them for their support in helping Mount Sinai push the "boundaries of medicine, while also succeeding in a new cost-conscious era of health care delivery." Mr. May said, "In recent months, our teams have made discoveries regarding cancers of the blood, liver, and bladder; congenital heart defects; sepsis; and autism." As a "world-class health system that encompasses seven hospitals, numerous centers of excellence for specialized care, and dozens of ambulatory clinics, we have positioned Mount Sinai for success in the new era of value-



Zibby Schwarzman and Kyle Owens, Crystal Party Chairs

focused population health management."

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, told the attendees, "We have become a health system that takes advantage of its size and geography to produce efficiencies and economies of scale. We are also growing and investing in all our facilities and the communities we serve." Dr. Davis said Mount Sinai's downtown practices on the East and West Sides

of Manhattan are becoming centers of excellence in multiple specialties, and the Mount Sinai Health System is becoming truly integrated, with The Mount Sinai Hospital excelling in intensive care, among other areas; Mount Sinai West specializing in orthopedics and neurosurgery; and Mount Sinai St. Luke's pursuing advances in heart disease. "Your philanthropy," he told the guests, "is a very meaningful part of



Howard C. Katz and Mount Sinai Emeritus Trustee Ellen P. Katz



From left: U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) with Kenneth L. Davis, MD, and Peter W. May



Mount Sinai Trustee Blaine V. Fogg and Diane Fogg

## Mount Sinai Celebrates *Risk Management Week*

The Department of Risk Management and Patient Safety invites faculty and staff to attend activities during Risk Management Week, Monday, June 19 – Friday, June 23. This annual campaign by the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management raises awareness about the critical role risk managers and safety professionals play in patient safety and patient care practices, safe environments, and liability. This year's event, "Leading Innovations in Risk Management," will feature lectures and presentations—which will also be available as live webcasts at other Mount Sinai Health System locations—and informational tables.

### Among the events:

- Marc Napp, MD, Senior Vice President, Medical Affairs, presents "Just Culture," a model used by The Mount Sinai Hospital that considers both individual and institutional responsibilities to help guide patient safety initiatives.

**Monday, June 19**  
**Noon – 1 pm**  
**Hatch Auditorium**

- Members of the Risk Management team present "Risk Management and the Serious Adverse Event Process." Learn how unexpected or adverse events are identified and handled.

**Thursday, June 22**  
**Noon – 1 pm**  
**Hatch Auditorium**

- Wilson, Elser, Moscovitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP, presents "Mock Trial: Failure to Diagnose Cauda Equina."

**Friday, June 23**  
**Noon – 1:30 pm**  
**Mount Sinai West**  
**Fourteenth Floor**  
**Boardroom**

### Informational tables

Stop by for educational handouts and register for raffle prizes.

**The Mount Sinai Hospital**  
**Guggenheim Pavilion**  
**Monday, June 19**  
**Thursday, June 22**  
**Friday, June 23**

## "Breaking of the Fast" Offered During Ramadan

Ramadan, the most important annual religious observance in Islam, marks a month of fasting, introspection, and prayer, until Sunday, June 25. During this period, those observing will rise early to eat before sunrise and not eat or drink until after the sun has set. Observers may participate in a free "iftar," a daily breaking of the fast, at The Mount Sinai Hospital. Staff and visitors are also encouraged to visit the Hatch Interdenominational Chapel, in the Guggenheim Pavilion, West Lobby, for prayer times. To learn more, email [ejaz.siddiqui@mssm.edu](mailto:ejaz.siddiqui@mssm.edu). Fast-breaking meals will be served daily, except on weekends, until Friday, June 23.

### Plaza Café

Guggenheim Pavilion

Use the entrance to the vending machines area.

Monday – Friday (sundown)

The area is reserved beginning at 7:30 pm.

## Mount Sinai Transformation update

For the most recent updates on Mount Sinai's downtown transformation, please go to:

<http://www.mountsinaihealth.org/locations/downtown>

## "Epic BedTime" Launching at Two Hospitals

The Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai Queens will transition to Epic BedTime, a new bed management system, in June and July. The hospital-wide system aims to improve quality and safety for patients by utilizing a single system for bed management and patient movement. After the go-live, all bed planning, environmental services, and patient transport activities will be managed and communicated in Epic. Registration, admission, and billing activities will remain in their current systems, but after the initial admission, all clinical patient information and bed management, transfers, and discharges will occur in Epic.

### Among the expected benefits:

- **Improved management** of patient room utilization, and Emergency Department and Labor & Delivery throughput.
- **Increased patient satisfaction** driven by decreased wait time and a seamless patient flow experience.
- **Workflow transparency** for both clinicians and nonclinicians.
- **Access to real-time and historical data** to right-size spaces, monitor performance, and forecast future demand.

**The Mount Sinai Hospital Go-Live:**  
**Sunday Morning, June 11**

**Mount Sinai Queens Go-Live:**  
**Sunday Morning, July 23**

For more information, contact [EpicBedTimeMSHQ@mountsinai.org](mailto:EpicBedTimeMSHQ@mountsinai.org).

## Neurosurgery Research Day 2017

The activities will feature the annual Ved P. Sachdev, MD Memorial Lecture, "Robotic Skull Base Surgery," to be given by George Wanna, MD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai and Mount Sinai Beth Israel. Neurosurgery Faculty Research presentations will take place after the lecture.

**Wednesday, June 14**

**7:30 am: Breakfast**

**7:45 – 8:45 am: Lecture**

**8:45 – 11 am: Faculty Research Presentations**

**The Mount Sinai Hospital**

**Fifth Floor Seminar Room**



### INSIDE MOUNT SINAI

Marketing & Communications

Carrie Gottlieb, *Executive Editor*

Marilyn Balamaci, *Executive Editor*

Vanessa Gordon, *Editor*

Leslie Kirschenbaum, *Design*

### SUBMISSIONS

Box 1475

[inside@mssm.edu](mailto:inside@mssm.edu)

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