

Mount Sinai inside



The Mount Sinai Medical Center received a high safety rating in the annual New York State Hospital Report Card.

Mount Sinai Listed Among New York's Safest Hospitals

The Mount Sinai Medical Center has been named one of New York State's safest hospitals for 2011, as reported in an annual study by the nonprofit Niagara Health Quality Coalition (NHQC). In addition to issuing the annual New York State Hospital Report Card in which Mount Sinai rated highly, the NHQC runs www.myHealthFinder.com, a website that provides consumers with health care data.

Mount Sinai was the only hospital in New York State to receive the NHQC's highest safety rating for the performance of percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, and was the only hospital named to the NHQC "Honor Roll" for that critical cardiac procedure. Mount Sinai also received the highest safety rating for gastrointestinal hemorrhage mortality.

"As gratifying as it is to see our success recognized, it is even better to know that this reflects better, safer care for our patients," says Ira S. Nash, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs at The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Look inside

Primary Care Associates Expands Staff, Space

Students Help During Hurricane Irene

New Drugs For Late-Stage Prostate Cancer

Making Informed Decisions

Advancing Treatments for Prostate Cancer

Physicians at The Mount Sinai Medical Center's Department of Urology continue to innovate and expand treatment options for patients with prostate cancer.

Each week, David Samadi, MD, Chief of Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery, and his surgical team perform robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomies (RALP) on patients with localized prostate cancer. Using his own technique called the Samadi Modified Advanced Robotic Technique (SMART), Dr. Samadi, Vice Chair of the Department of Urology, is able to perform the RALP procedure in less than two hours, with a 24-hour hospital stay and no blood transfusions.

The unique, endopelvic fascia-sparing SMART technique removes the entire prostate, seminal vesicles and lymph nodes.



David Samadi, MD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Safest Hospitals

(continued from page 1)

The NHQC is an independent organization based in Williamsville, NY, that uses federally endorsed hospital quality indicators to measure hospital performance. The “Safest Hospitals” list is based on several patient safety indicators, including mortality rates for 14 different procedures; patient safety rates for 11 separate conditions, including post-operative sepsis and post-operative blood clots; any instances of foreign bodies retained during surgery and transfusions of the wrong blood type; whether hospitals performed a minimum number of cases to claim competency on six complex surgeries; and hospital participation in two national safety programs.

“The report is an important indicator that the quality measures we have in place, and the systems we have for continuously reviewing and improving these measures, are successful,” says Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

The NHQC also issues a similar annual “Watch List” of hospitals that performed poorly overall in key patient safety indicators.

Primary Care Associates Expands Staff, Space



Aida Vega, MD

The Mount Sinai Primary Care Faculty Practice Associates has expanded its staff, space, and hours, all to help patients have better access to a primary care provider. “This effort reflects a commitment by Mount Sinai leadership to add physicians and expand primary care services,” says Aida Vega, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine), and Director of Primary Care Associates.

The primary care practice now has eight physicians, and recently relocated to 13 rooms on the fifth floor of the Center for Advanced Medicine building, at 17 East 102nd Street. “These physicians are ready to accept new patients, and we can usually accommodate patients the same day,” says Dr. Vega. “Our goal is to decrease wait times for an appointment, increase access to our physicians, and deliver comprehensive, integrated, and personalized care to all of our patients. We want to be early leaders in the national movement to increase primary care access, and become the premier primary care practice in New York City.” The primary care

practice eventually will occupy 22 rooms on two floors in the new Center for Science and Medicine building now being constructed.

“A primary care physician is a first point of contact for anyone who has an urgent problem, or needs to be evaluated for preventive services,” explains Dr. Vega. “Our doctors are able to coordinate care to a patient’s specific needs, and can help refer the patient to the appropriate specialist. A lot of people across the nation end up going to the Emergency Department, or self-referring to a specialist, because they don’t have an established relationship with a primary care physician. Our goal is to change this.”

Mark Babyatsky, MD, Chairman of the Samuel Bronfman Department of Medicine, says, “Improving access to primary care is one of the major goals of the Department of Medicine, and I couldn’t be more pleased to see this increased access to first-line medical care. It’s important for all Mount Sinai faculty and staff to know that the doctors of Primary Care Associates are ready and able to serve them for all their primary health needs.”

Primary Care Associates is open Monday – Thursday, from 8:20 am – 7 pm; Friday, 8:20 am – 5 pm; and Saturday, 8:20 am – 2 pm.

Advancing Treatments for Prostate Cancer (continued from page 1)

It yields continence rates of 96 percent, and potency rates of 79 percent in preoperatively functional men, according to a report that Dr. Samadi recently published in the *Journal of Endourology*. In September, Dr. Samadi and his team performed their 2,000th procedure at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Samadi attributes this success rate to his dedicated surgical team, the support of Mount Sinai Hospital, state-of-the-art technology, and to his own expertise in oncology, and open, laparoscopic and robotic surgery. He says there have been no major

complications following his surgeries; none of his patients has returned to the operating room, and none has had rectal perforation. In complicated prostate cases, Dr. Samadi works very closely with general surgeons.

“Our patients come to Mount Sinai from all over the world,” says Dr. Samadi. “We have a very high rate of satisfaction. Only 5 percent to 10 percent of patients have radiation after surgery.” He adds that caring for patients is a critical part of the equation. “The journey has to be seamless. We are there guiding our patients from the beginning. They choose this procedure because it is associated with less

pain, less blood loss, improved cosmesis, and a quicker return to daily life.”

During RALP, Dr. Samadi operates a console with two controls that allow him to use a robotic interface to manipulate instruments that are inside the patient. The movement of the instruments mimics the flexibility of a human wrist, and the 3-D surgical field provides him with the same depth as if he were looking directly at the image.

The success of RALP has driven demand for the procedure—from 9,000 robotic prostatectomies in the United States in 2004, to more than 66,000 in 2009, making it the most popular surgery for localized prostate cancer.



The robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy team, FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Alejandro Alamon, LPN; Henry C. Chen, MD, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology; Lauren Zuckerman, PA; Iverette Sevileno, medical assistant; Daniel M. Gainsburg, MD, Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology, and Urology. BACK ROW: David Samadi, MD

SEPTEMBER IS PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

For more information and to make an appointment, please visit www.mountsinai.org/urology or call 212-241-4812

Students Help During Hurricane Irene

As Hurricane Irene moved toward New York City, 130 medical and graduate students were mobilized as volunteers to help assure that The Mount Sinai Medical Center had sufficient supplies and resources to meet the needs of patients and staff.

Kelly Brennan, PhD, Director, Enrollment Services, and Student Council leadership, quickly organized the volunteers into six-hour shifts on Saturday, August 27, and Sunday, August 28, to monitor and assist nursing staff with patient care, answer phones at the Incident Command Center, help patient transport services, and work with cafeteria staff to deliver food to patients.

“The medical students brought such energy and enthusiasm taking on various assignments. Their commitment and involvement in these activations is invaluable to the Medical Center,” says Marianne Coughlin, Vice President, Hospital Operations, who served as Incident Commander during the hurricane.

“It was truly incredible to see the sense of duty the students felt to their school and to the patients they care for,” says Romit Bhattacharya, a medical student and Student Council vice president who served as a shift coordinator.

“It was great to make the lives of the hospital staff a little bit easier,” adds shift coordinator and medical student Claire Graves. “And, juggling so many different logistics also gave me a glimpse into what my life will be like next year as an intern.”

Volunteer Tobias Cohen, an MD/PhD candidate and a Chief Emergency Preparedness Representative, says, “I saw how great the Mount Sinai community is: students working 12-hour shifts, Dean David Muller calling into the Command Center to help, and Dr. Brennan not going

home until our emergency mode ended.” David Muller, MD, is the Marietta and Charles C. Morchand Chair in Medical Education and Dean for Medical Education.

Says Dr. Brennan, “I learned, firsthand, how many selfless students we have who are proud members of the Mount Sinai community.”



FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT: Colin Feuille, medical student; Claire Graves, medical student; Kelly Brennan, PhD; and Romit Bhattacharya, medical student. BACK ROW, FROM LEFT: Medical students Stephen Harris, John Herndon and Sameer Lakha; and Tobias Cohen, an MD/PhD candidate

New Drugs for Late-Stage Prostate Cancer



Simon J. Hall, MD

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently approved three new treatments that prolong the lives of patients with late-stage prostate cancer. Simon J. Hall, MD, Chair of Mount Sinai's Department of Urology, served as a

lead investigator for one of the treatments, Provenge, a vaccine that uses a patient's dendritic cells to generate an immune response that fights the cancer.

Dr. Hall and his researchers at Mount Sinai participated in five clinical trials, and co-authored two peer-reviewed articles on Provenge, a form of active cellular immunotherapy, and the first treatment of its kind approved in the United States. He says Provenge has little toxicity and is routinely well tolerated by patients.

Two other new therapies available to patients with late-stage prostate cancer are Jevtana®, a microtubule inhibitor used in combination with prednisone that is delivered

intravenously and prevents the growth and division of cancer cells, and abiraterone acetate, a pill that decreases the production of testosterone, which stimulates prostate cancer cell growth. All three treatments can be used sequentially.

“Things have changed for the better for patients with fatal prostate cancer,” says Dr. Hall. “While these treatments aren't a cure, we want to be able to tell patients there is something we can do to help.”

Making Informed Decisions

Roughly one man in six will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during his lifetime, and one man in 36 will die of the disease, making it the second leading cause of cancer death in American men after lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

Patients face several treatment options and often find it difficult to choose whether to have surgery, external beam radiation, radioactive seed implantation, or active surveillance. Michael Diefenbach, PhD, Associate Professor of Urology,



Michael Diefenbach, PhD

and Oncological Sciences, is the principal investigator and developer of the Prostate Interactive Education System (PIES), a web-based patient education and

decision software that also is available on CD ROM. The software features interviews with Mount Sinai's prostate cancer specialists who provide answers to frequently asked questions on all recommended treatment options. Users can also enter virtual support groups to hear from patients who have undergone the procedures. A special section in the program is available to address concerns of spouses and partners.

Dr. Diefenbach says patients have reacted favorably to the PIES program. “They rated the information in the program as highly helpful, felt more confident about their treatment decision, and felt the information they received was emotionally reassuring,” he says.

Events

13th Annual Rehabilitation Fair

Vendors will provide information on wheelchairs, cushions, orthotics, prosthetics, and other items. Adaptive vans, adaptive motorcycles, and ATVs will be on display. Also, stop by to get a blood glucose screening and talk to nutritionists about healthy eating habits. To learn more, contact Laurie Allen-Schneider at 212-824-7612.

Wednesday, October 5
11 am - 3 pm
Guggenheim Atrium

Grand Rounds Oncological Sciences

Eva Hernando, PhD, Assistant Professor, NYU School of Medicine, Pathology Department, presents "Elucidating the Role of MicroRNAs in Melanoma Progression."

Tuesday, September 20
Noon
Icahn Medical Institute
First Floor Seminar Room

Grand Rounds Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine

Louise C. Walter, MD, Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, presents "Unintended Consequences of Performance Measures in Older Adults."

Thursday, September 22
5 - 6 pm
Annenberg 10-30

Grand Rounds Cardiovascular Institute

Roger Hajjar, MD, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), and Jason C. Kovacic, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), present "CVI Research Initiatives."

Monday, September 26
7:45 - 8:45 am
Hatch Auditorium

Seminar Series Friedman Brain Institute Translational Neuroscience

Mary B. Kennedy, PhD, Allen and Lenabelle Davis Professor of Biology, California Institute of Technology, presents "Roles of Postsynaptic Scaffolds in Diseases of the Brain."

Thursday, September 29
1 pm
Icahn Medical Institute
First Floor Seminar Room

Employee Health Service

Annual Tuberculosis (TB) Screening

New York State and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration require that all employees get an annual screening for TB. To help employees who work all shifts meet this requirement, the Employee Health Service is offering PPD screenings (TB skin tests). The initial test is done on one day, and the results are read two to three days later. Bring your Mount Sinai ID. To learn more, call 212-824-7690.

Monday, September 19
9 am - 5 pm
Outside the Plaza Café
(Must return for test results
Thursday, September 22
same time and location)

Tuesday, September 20
7 am - 3 pm
Outside the Plaza Café
(Must return for test results
Thursday, September 22
same time and location)

Mount Sinai School of Medicine Second Annual Postdoctoral Symposium

The Second Annual Postdoctoral Symposium will take place on Tuesday, September 20, as part of National Postdoc Appreciation Week activities. The theme for this year's symposium is "Communication and Science." Shirley M. Tilghman, PhD, President of Princeton University, Professor of Molecular Biology, and a world-renowned scholar and leader in the fields of genetics and molecular biology, will deliver the keynote address, which will focus on how collaboration and networking shaped her career.

Among the program's highlights will be a "speed-dating" style competition where participants have 10-minute rounds to collaborate on innovative scientific ideas, and a chance to win a \$500 award. The program will also feature brief presentations by noted Mount Sinai postdocs, and a networking session with industry representatives. To learn the times and locations of specific program events, visit the Facebook page: Mount Sinai PostDocs.



Inside Mount Sinai

2011 Marketing & Communications
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Visit Inside on the Web

www.mountsinai.org/inside



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