

# Mount Sinai inside



Erwin P. Bottinger, MD, above, is Director of the Charles R. Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine.

## Identifying Genetic Disease Risk Markers in Patients

Mount Sinai School of Medicine has been awarded a \$3.4 million grant over four years from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) to identify genetic markers of disease in patients and make this genetic risk information accessible to physicians and patients securely through patients' electronic medical records. Physicians at Mount Sinai will use the information to plot a course of personalized treatment for each patient. The NHGRI is part of the National Institutes of Health. The grant—the largest of its kind—marks the first time individual genetic-disease risk information will be used in a clinical setting.

The research is being led by investigators from Mount Sinai's Charles R. Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine, using DNA and plasma samples from the Mount Sinai Biobank, which has collected these samples from 20,000 consenting patients.

“Discovering genetic disease risk markers through genome-wide genotyping has been a major advance toward personalized medicine, but thus far the genomic information of individual patients has been limited to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Look inside

Earvin “Magic” Johnson Visits Mount Sinai

New Infusion Suite Opens in Derald H. Ruttenberg Center

17th Annual Medical Student Research Day

Innovative Cancer Therapy Symposium

## Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, Joins Mount Sinai

Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, an internationally acclaimed physician-scientist in cardiovascular medicine, has joined The Mount Sinai Medical Center as Philip J. and Harriet Goodhart Chair in Medicine.

In his new role as Director of the Cardiovascular Imaging Program at Mount Sinai Heart, Dr. Narula will help develop cost-effective strategies to use cutting-edge technology that contributes to enhanced patient care. He plans to ensure the practice of appropriate use criteria for all imaging modalities. “We want to set the example for other institutions,” he says, “by using the right test at the right time for the right patient.”

Dr. Narula also serves as the Associate Dean of Global Health at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. In this capacity, he will develop a comprehensive program for global cardiovascular health, working



Jagat Narula, MD, PhD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, Joins Mount Sinai (continued from page 1)

in close collaboration with Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, Director of Mount Sinai Heart, the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, and the Marie Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health, and Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, Dean for Global Health, and the Ethel H. Wise Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine.

Cardiovascular diseases have become the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, both in developed and developing countries. An epidemiological transition from agrarian diets and active lifestyles has given way to fast foods, tobacco use, and sedentary habits, which have led to an accelerated incidence of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases, even in low-income countries. "To effectively control this scourge, we need to think and act globally," says Dr. Narula.

As the recently designated Editor-In-Chief of *Global Heart*, the official journal of the World Heart Federation, Dr. Narula will keep Mount Sinai at the forefront of international efforts to stem the growing epidemic of cardiovascular diseases. His first issue, released at the U.N. General Assembly Meeting in New York in September 2011, highlighted the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine committee on Preventing the Global Epidemic of Cardiovascular Disease. Dr. Narula is a member of this committee, which is chaired by Dr. Fuster. In September, Dr. Fuster met with committee members at the United Nations to discuss

why non-communicable diseases are now supplanting infectious diseases as the greatest health threats in the developing world. Dr. Fuster is leading two studies in Grenada and Colombia to examine how risk factors for cardiovascular diseases can be alleviated through health promotion and health care delivery on multiple levels.

*"We want to set the example for other institutions by using the right test at the right time for the right patient."*

— JAGAT NARULA, MD, PHD

"This was the first time the United Nations made a strong effort to recognize the threat of cardiovascular diseases as a global health problem," says Dr. Narula. "Smallpox and polio have been eradicated, and encouraging results are being seen in control of HIV and malaria. But if we want to help humanity, we have to control risk factors for non-communicable diseases."

## Earvin "Magic" Johnson Visits Mount Sinai

Staff and patients at The Mount Sinai Medical Center's Jack Martin Clinic were recently treated to a little magic. Former Los Angeles Laker Earvin "Magic" Johnson paid a visit to the clinic, which provides treatment to adults and children with infectious

the fifth floor board room in Annenberg. Mr. Johnson's manner was easygoing, but his message was one of discipline and hard work.

"You are going to face challenges," he told the group. "What's important is how you

deal with them. Winning is about your mindset and attitude. In order to win you've got to put the work in. Play your role and be the best at it. Make your teammates better. You work for a great hospital."

*"Play your role and be the best at it. Make your teammates better. You work for a great hospital."*

— EARVIN "MAGIC" JOHNSON

diseases, on Friday, October 14. While there, Mr. Johnson spoke with patients in the waiting room, shook their hands, hugged them, and offered inspiration. Several people posed with the 6'9" former National Basketball Association star for pictures taken on their smart phones. In 1991, Mr. Johnson announced that he had contracted HIV. He has been an advocate for HIV/AIDS prevention ever since.

"I love this," said Mr. Johnson, referring to the people he met in the waiting room. "I understand these people. A young man told me, 'I need a hug. You helped get me through this.'" Following his trip to the Jack Martin Clinic, Mr. Johnson joined Daryl Wilkerson, Vice President of Support Services at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, and approximately 50 members of Mr. Wilkerson's staff for an inspirational talk in



### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Mr. Johnson with Jack Martin Clinic patient Margarita Torruellas

Jack Martin Clinic staff members, FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: David C. Thomas, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Medicine, Medical Education and Rehabilitation Medicine, and Vice Chair of Medicine; Jean Marie Reisman DiNapoli, MSRN, Clinical Nurse Manager; Seth Ciabotti, Senior Director of Ambulatory Care; and Lavonia Francis, DNP, RN, Director of Nursing BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Matthew Baney, Administrative Director/HIV Services; and Mr. Johnson

LEFT TO RIGHT: Shirish Huprikar, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, with patient Denna Brown, and Mr. Johnson

# New Infusion Suite Opens in the Derald H. Ruttenberg Center

The Mount Sinai Hospital recently opened six new infusion bays at the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center to accommodate the increasing number of hematology and oncology patients requiring blood and platelet transfusions. The new, brightly lit infusion bays are located just upstairs from the main facility, which has 29 chairs housed on the first floor of Guggenheim Pavilion. The additional location will help expedite patient flow, and ease demand for the infusion bays, which sometimes handle more than 90 patients a day. “We want patients to receive their treatments in a pleasant, stress-free environment,” says Pat Spencer-Cisek, MS, ANP-BC, AOCN, Director of Clinical Operations at the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center and the Dubin Breast Center. “The new suite will help facilitate that.”

Says Wayne Keathley, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital: “This new transfusion suite reflects the growth of our cancer program, and satisfies our longstanding need for an improved and comforting environment for our patients requiring transfusions. I would like to thank Dr. Nat Wisch and the Association of the Attending Staff for supporting this initiative.”

When the state-of-the-art Center for Science and Medicine (CSM) opens in 2012, the Ruttenberg Treatment Center will relocate there, occupying two floors and more than doubling in size. It will offer an even greater number of infusion bays, as well. Even after CSM opens, the newly renovated transfusion suite on the second floor of Guggenheim Pavilion will remain operational for patients requiring transfusions. “The cancer programs

at Mount Sinai have undergone incredible growth over the past three to four years,” says Randall F. Holcombe, MD, Director of Clinical Cancer Affairs and Medical Director of the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center. “The new infusion suite is absolutely essential as it provides patients needing transfusions with a state-of-the-art facility and expands the capacity of the Ruttenberg Treatment Center.”



The new infusion suite officially opened with a ribbon cutting. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Steven J. Burakoff, MD, Director of The Tisch Cancer Institute, Professor of Oncological Sciences, and Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology); Pat Spencer-Cisek, MS, ANP-BC, AOCN; Randall Holcombe, MD; Nathaniel Wisch, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology), and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics; and Wayne Keathley

---

## Identifying Genetic Disease Risk Markers in Patients (continued from page 1)

the laboratory and research setting,” says Erwin P. Bottinger, MD, Director of the Charles R. Bronfman Institute for Personalized Medicine, and the Irene and Dr. Arthur M. Fishberg Professor of Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. “This will allow us to bring that critical individual genetic-disease risk information to the patient setting, which we believe will eventually have a tremendous impact on the practice of medicine.”

The Mount Sinai study, the “Biorepository for Genomic Medicine in Diverse Communities,” is part of a consortium of leading genomic medicine institutions called Electronic Medical Records and Genomics (eMERGE), which includes the Mayo Clinic, Northwestern University, Vanderbilt University, the Marshfield Clinic, Geisinger Health System, and Group Health Cooperative in conjunction with the University of Washington.

As a member of eMERGE, Mount Sinai will advance the clinical translation of genomic knowledge to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in diverse communities. Mount Sinai has several goals for the study. Among them: To develop, validate, and contribute electronic phenotyping libraries in cardiac, renal, and liver disease, and adopt and validate methodologies for phenome-wide association studies; replicate established high-value genome risk and pharmacogenomics markers, and validate genomic risk scores for minority populations from diverse communities in New York City; expand genome-wide association studies for cardiovascular, metabolic, and renal phenotypes across minority populations; and explore innovative approaches for educating the community about genomic research and medicine.

Each month, the Mount Sinai Biobank adds more than 600 participants from the racially and ethnically diverse communities that the institution serves. In May, Mount Sinai researchers, in collaboration with Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, published a report that found the use of ethnic labels—African-American, Hispanic, and Caucasian—may no longer be helpful in predicting disease risk or determining how a patient will respond to certain medications.

.....

**Mount Sinai will advance the clinical translation of genomic knowledge to reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes in diverse communities.**

.....

The report, published in the online journal *PLoS One*, found that nearly 1,000 Biobank participants who self-identified as European American, African-American, or Hispanic, had considerable parts of their genome coming from mixed-African or -European ancestry.

“These findings emphasize the importance of considering the unique genotype of the individual patient rather than grouping patients by self-reported ethnicity,” says Dr. Bottinger. “Individual genomic disease risk and treatment response information will allow us to provide highly effective personalized care.”

## Events

### 17th Annual Medical Student Research Day

The Medical Student Research Office invites all faculty, staff, and students to attend the Annual Medical Student Research Day. This year the results of 135 basic, clinical, and translational faculty mentored research projects will be presented by students.

Thursday, November 10  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Stern Auditorium

#### Friedman Brain Institute Translational Neuroscience Seminar Series

Bernardo L. Sabatini, MD, PhD, Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Professor, Department of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, presents “Activity Dependent and Competitive Synapse Formation in the Developing Brain.”

Thursday, November 3  
1 pm  
Hatch Auditorium

#### Grand Rounds Oncological Sciences

Xianxin Hua, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Cancer Biology, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, presents “Menin: Jekyll and Hyde in Controlling Endocrine Tumors or Leukemia.”

Tuesday, November 8  
Noon  
Icahn Medical Institute  
First Floor Seminar Room

#### Men’s Health Seminars

Natan Bar-Chama, MD, Director of Male Reproductive Medicine, Department of Urology, presents “Erectile Dysfunction: Finding the Right Solution For You.” Spouses and partners welcomed. RSVP required. To register, call 877-433-2873.

Tuesday, November 1  
6:30 – 7:30 pm  
Icahn Medical Institute  
First Floor Seminar Room

#### Grand Rounds Health Evidence & Policy

Steven Shea, MD, MS, Chief, Division of General Medicine, Senior Vice Dean, College of Physicians and Surgeons, presents “Informatics for Diabetes and Education Telemedicine (IDEATel) Project: Did the Intervention Increase Disparities in Diabetes Outcomes?”

Tuesday, November 8  
1 pm  
Icahn Medical Institute  
Second Floor, Classroom L2-82

## National Diabetes Awareness Month

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month, and the Mount Sinai Diabetes Center is sponsoring a number of educational and screening activities, among them:

#### Healthy Living Counseling And Education Sessions

Learn about diabetes prevention and management; get one-on-one counseling with physicians and certified diabetes educators; and more.

Tuesday, November 1  
Monday, November 7  
Noon – 2 pm  
Guggenheim Pavilion

#### Diabetes Screening and Counseling

Free glucose screening

Tuesday, November 8  
Noon – 2 pm  
Center for Advanced Medicine  
First Floor

#### Diabetes-Friendly Thanksgiving Tips

Learn how to cook a healthy Thanksgiving dinner with Chef George Russo and Alenka Ravnik-List, MS, RD, CDE. For reservations, call 212-241-7836.

Thursday, November 10  
6 – 8 pm  
Guggenheim Pavilion

#### World Diabetes Day

Glucose screening and counseling, cooking classes, and fitness demonstrations

Monday, November 14  
Noon – 3 pm  
Guggenheim Pavilion

## A Symposium on Innovative Cancer Therapy



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Edward Ambinder, MD; Janice Gabilove, MD; and William Oh, MD

More than 2,000 oncologists, hematologists, and other cancer-care providers are scheduled to attend the Chemotherapy Foundation Symposium on Innovative Cancer Therapy for Tomorrow®, a CME-accredited program of The Chemotherapy Foundation and the Page and William Black Post-Graduate School of Continuing Education, to learn about new developments in cancer therapeutics.

The annual conference was founded in 1972 by Ezra M. Greenspan, MD, a former Clinical Professor of Medicine (Oncology), Mount Sinai School of Medicine, renowned for his pioneering advances in the treatment of cancer patients.

Three of Mount Sinai’s Tisch Cancer Institute faculty are Associate Chairs of the event: Edward Ambinder, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology) and the Program Director; Janice Gabilove, MD, James Holland Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology); and William Oh, MD, Chief of the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology) and Urology, the Ezra M. Greenspan, MD, Professor of Clinical Cancer Therapeutics, and Associate Director of Research, The Tisch Cancer Institute. Twelve additional Mount Sinai faculty are presenters, moderators, and commentators. Franco Muggia, MD, Professor of Oncology, NYU Langone Medical Center, is the Symposium Chair.

To learn more, contact: [Jaclyn.silverman@mssm.edu](mailto:Jaclyn.silverman@mssm.edu)  
Register online at [chemotherapyfoundationsymposium.org](http://chemotherapyfoundationsymposium.org)

Tuesday, November 8 – Saturday, November 12  
Marriott Marquis  
1535 Broadway  
Between 45th and 46th streets



#### Inside Mount Sinai

2011 Marketing & Communications  
Carrie Gottlieb, Editor  
Marilyn Balamaci, Editor

#### Submissions

Box 1475  
[inside@mssm.edu](mailto:inside@mssm.edu)

#### Visit Inside on the Web

[www.mountsinai.org/inside](http://www.mountsinai.org/inside)



To find out what’s happening right now, follow Mount Sinai on Twitter @MountSinaiNYC



Visit us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/mountsinainyc](http://facebook.com/mountsinainyc)