

Mount Sinai inside



FROM LEFT: Co-Directors of the Center for Health Equity and Community Engaged Research (CHECER), Nina Bickell, MD, MPH, and Carol Horowitz, MD, MPH; and Associate Director Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP

Mount Sinai Creates Center for Health Equity and Research

Mount Sinai School of Medicine recently created the Center for Health Equity and Community Engaged Research (CHECER) to conduct research that improves the health of vulnerable and underserved populations in New York City. CHECER will operate within the Department of Health Evidence and Policy, and maintain a multidisciplinary focus by drawing upon Mount Sinai's groundbreaking translational research in cancer, metabolic disease, cardiovascular disease, maternal-child health, emergency medicine, and pediatrics.

"We plan to expand and strengthen collaborations across the institution," says Carol Horowitz, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of Medicine, and Health Evidence and Policy, and Co-Director of CHECER. "This is the place where we come together to understand and eliminate health disparities, and work with community members and leaders to improve local health."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A Breakthrough in Schizophrenia Research

Researchers at The Mount Sinai Medical Center have discovered a pattern of cell signaling in two brain receptors linked to schizophrenia, a significant finding that sheds light on the underlying physiology of the mental disorder. The research, published in the November 23, 2011, issue of *Cell*, could pave the way for the development of more effective compounds used to treat schizophrenia.

The Mount Sinai investigators, working with researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University, found that the ratio of two signaling pathways linked to the glutamate mGlu2 receptor and the serotonin 5-HT2A receptor creates a metric that allows them to predict whether a drug will be antipsychotic.

"We have proposed a model for the molecular basis of schizophrenia and antipsychotic drug action," says Javier González-Maeso, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and of Neurology at Mount Sinai



Javier González-Maeso, PhD

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lookinside

Women's Health Fashion Show

The Mount Sinai Hospital Premieres TV Show

Go Red For Women Events

PBS Series Features Mount Sinai Professors

A Breakthrough in Schizophrenia Research (continued from page 1)



Miguel Fribourg, PhD

School of Medicine. He was the lead researcher on a team that included Stuart C. Sealton, MD, Glickenhau Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology at Mount Sinai, and Miguel Fribourg, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow and the first author of the study. "This work may provide a route to the development of new, more effective therapies for the treatment of schizophrenia and other psychiatric disorders," he says.

Schizophrenia affects approximately 1 percent of the world's population. It is characterized by hallucinations, delusions, and thought and movement disorders. Finding new treatments for this and other serious mental disorders has proved challenging. The first generation of commonly used antipsychotic drugs, such as

chlorpromazine, was introduced in the 1950s. A second generation of drugs in the 1970s was found to have serious side effects, such as hypertension, and low white blood cell count. Approximately 30 percent of patients who are schizophrenic do not respond to antipsychotic medication.

The latest research expands upon earlier work at Mount Sinai that was published in *Nature* in 2008, and demonstrated a functional interaction between the mGlu2 and 5-HT2A receptors.

Marta Filizola, PhD, Associate Professor of Structural and Chemical Biology at Mount Sinai, and her team collaborated with the investigators by creating three-dimensional computer models that helped them understand how, at the molecular level, drugs activate the receptor complex formed by 5-HT2A and mGlu2. Dr. Filizola says the computerized models will also be used to advance drug discovery.

Women's Health Fashion Show and Luncheon

The Mount Sinai Medical Center recently hosted its inaugural Women's Health Fashion Show and Luncheon at 583 Park Avenue, an event that drew approximately 500 attendees and raised more than \$485,000 to support a variety of women's health initiatives at Mount Sinai. The proceeds will help fund research focused on early-detection markers for all female reproductive cancers, pilot projects to develop models of teaching medical students and health professionals about gender disparities in health, and a fellowship in clinical research to foster the development of physician leaders in women's health education and research.

Three Mount Sinai physicians spoke to the audience about medical advances in cardiology, and obstetrics and gynecology: Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, Physician-in-Chief, and 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; Michael Brodman, MD, the Ellen and Howard C. Katz Chair and Professor of Obstetrics,

Gynecology and Reproductive Science; and Mary Ann McLaughlin, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) and Assistant Professor of Health Evidence and Policy. "Our goal is nothing short of offering outstanding preventive care through health education, screening, and clinical services to help promote a healthy lifestyle for women at every stage of life," said Dr. Brodman.

Serving as chairs for the fashion show and luncheon were: Rebecca C. Brightman, MD, Clinical Instructor of Obstetrics, Gynecology

and Reproductive Science; supporter Vanessa Cornell; Lynn S. Friedman, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science; supporters Michele Kleier, Samantha Kleier-Forbes, and Sabrina Kleier-Morgenstern; and Sarah Lane, wife of Trustee Eric S. Lane.

The event featured a preview of the Naeem Khan Spring 2012 Collection. Mr. Khan's wife, Ranjana Khan, held a trunk sale of her collection of jewelry and contributed a portion of the proceeds to Mount Sinai.

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO, FROM LEFT: The physician chairs were: Ellen S. Marmur, MD, Associate Professor of Dermatology; Michael Brodman, MD; Mary Ann McLaughlin, MD; Elissa Gretz Friedman, MD, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, and Co-Director, Women's Health Program; and Jennifer A. Kent, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (General Internal Medicine), and Co-Director, Women's Health Program. *Not shown:* Austin Abramson, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science; Joanna Chikwe, MD, FRCS, Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery; and Jill Kalman, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology).

BOTTOM RIGHT PHOTO, FROM LEFT: The chairs were: Sarah Lane; Vanessa Cornell; Lynn S. Friedman, MD; Sabrina Kleier-Morgenstern; Michele Kleier; and Samantha Kleier-Forbes. *Not shown:* Rebecca C. Brightman, MD.



Mount Sinai Creates Center for Health Equity and Research (continued from page 1)

“It is critical to increase and diversify enrollment in scientific clinical trials,” says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. “Representative enrollment across trials will ensure that our scientists are developing and prescribing the right diagnostics and therapeutics, and our outreach teams are launching relevant community programs.”

According to Nina Bickell, MD, MPH, Associate Professor of General Internal Medicine, and Health Evidence and Policy, and Co-Director of CHECER, “There are ways to improve the health of vulnerable populations, but the system is not helping them as it should.”

One example of a system failure became apparent when Mount Sinai researchers found that breast cancer survival rates of women in New York State were lower among low-

income Latinas and African Americans than white women, even though they had received early screenings and appropriate surgeries. “Surgeons thought they had ordered follow-up treatments but the women weren’t getting them,” says Dr. Bickell, who is now working with hospitals across the New York metropolitan area to close that loop.

Another inequity is the higher rate of depressive symptoms among African-American and Latina post-partum mothers in East Harlem. Elizabeth Howell, MD, MPP, Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, and Health Evidence and Policy, and Associate Director of CHECER, has been working with psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers to establish educational programs that have successfully reduced depression among these women.

On a grassroots level, CHECER will engage local communities to improve their health.

In East Harlem, which has the highest prevalence of diabetes in New York City, Dr. Horowitz is working with local leaders to conduct peer-led educational and weight-loss programs in response to the high incidence of pre-diabetes that was diagnosed in more than half of overweight adults. This program, and others like it, will serve as models for community-partnered interventions wherever the prevalence of diabetes and other chronic illnesses are on the rise, locally, nationally, and internationally.

The center will look for novel strategies to conduct clinical trials among vulnerable populations that traditionally have had very low participation. “We are developing trials people really want to be in, and we have really robust recruitment,” says Dr. Horowitz. The ultimate goal, she adds, is to create change that is sustainable long after the trials are over, and that will influence health systems and health and social policies.

The Mount Sinai Hospital Premieres TV Show

The Mount Sinai Hospital premiered its first weekly health and wellness television program on Saturday, January 7. *iA tu Salud!* (*For Your Health!*) spotlights health issues that are of special importance to the Latino community to help viewers become better informed patients. The program will air every Saturday at 11 am, through March, on WNJU-TV Channel 47, a Telemundo-owned and -operated station that broadcasts throughout the tri-state area. It is the country’s largest television market and second largest Hispanic market.

By providing Latino families with knowledge and the right tools, we will be able to engage and empower them to lead healthier lives, and *iA tu Salud!* allows us to do just that.

— WAYNE KEATHLEY

iA tu Salud! stems from Mount Sinai’s continued commitment to the Hispanic community, which is disproportionately affected by serious conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and HIV/AIDS. The series features 15 Mount Sinai physicians who will address these and other health issues, including cancer, lung disease, spine disorders, kidney care, digestive diseases, and teen and mental health. “This series was inspired by the three strategic goals that support Mount Sinai’s commitment to the Latino community: Educate, Engage, and Empower,” says Wayne Keathley, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital. “By providing Latino families with knowledge and the right tools, we will be able to engage and empower them to lead healthier lives, and *iA tu Salud!* allows us to do just that.”



FROM LEFT: Eliscer Guzmán, MD, with show host Yamila Constantino

Each episode has five segments: interviews with Mount Sinai physicians and patients about specific health conditions, first-person patient stories, medical news, a question-and-answer session, and resources and support for patient families. Eliscer Guzmán, MD, FACC, Assistant Clinical Professor of Cardiology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, is the show’s Executive Medical Consultant. He will also host the “*Pregunte al Dr. Guzmán*” (“*Ask Dr. Guzmán*”) question-and-answer segment. “The most common questions are about diet, exercise, and alcohol; heart attack symptoms and cardiovascular disease in women; calories in popular Latino foods; and the risk of using painkillers,” says Dr. Guzmán. “We are planning to cover these topics at length in *iA tu Salud!*”

Says Carlos Sanchez, President and General Manager of Telemundo 47, “Mount Sinai’s innovative approach marks a milestone in our mission to offer Latinos culturally relevant local content that makes a difference in their lives.”

To view show segments and to learn more about Mount Sinai’s Latino initiatives, visit www.mountsinai.org/latino.

Events

Go Red For Women

Mount Sinai promotes heart health events in February:

Health Screening Fair

Friday, February 3
10 am - 2 pm
Guggenheim Pavilion Lobby

Question-and-answer session with female cardiac specialists

Wednesday, February 15
Noon - 1 pm
Stern Auditorium

American Heart Association's Go Red For Women Luncheon

Mary Ann McLaughlin, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) will co-chair

Tuesday, February 28
10:30 am - 2 pm
The Hilton New York

Grand Rounds Health Evidence & Policy

John Spivack, PhD, Department of Biostatistics, Columbia University, presents "A New Way To Explore the Dose Response Curve in Adaptive Seamless Phase II/III Trials."

Tuesday, January 24
1 pm
Icahn Medical Institute
Second Floor
Classroom L2-82

Friedman Brain Institute Translational Neuroscience Seminar Series

Uri Hasson, PhD, Assistant Professor, Psychology, Princeton University, presents "Topographic Mapping of a Hierarchy of Temporal Receptive Windows Using Natural Stimuli."

Thursday, January 26
1 pm
Icahn Medical Institute
First Floor Seminar Room

Basic Science Lecture Division of Vascular Surgery

Deborah R. Horowitz, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology, presents "Current Practices in the Management of Stroke and TIA."

Friday, February 3
7 - 8 am
5 East 98th Street
Fifteenth Floor
Conference Room

Grand Rounds Oncological Sciences

Xing Dai, PhD, Professor, Department of Biological Chemistry, University of California, Irvine, presents, "Ovol and Pygopus—the Yin and Yang of Skin and Breast Stem Cells."

Tuesday, February 7
Noon
Icahn Medical Institute
First Floor Seminar Room

Education

The Page and William Black Post Graduate School for Continuing Education

The Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) offers seminars, conferences, grand rounds, and live webcasts for physicians and other health professionals to extend their knowledge and remain current in their specific fields. For more information on courses, visit <http://www.mssm.edu/education/continuing-medical-education/courses> or call the Office of CME at 212-731-7950.

Announcement

Weight-Loss Program

Register for Winning by LosingSM, an eight-week weight-loss program conducted by registered dietitians from the Department of Clinical Nutrition. The program begins on Monday, February 6, from noon - 1 pm. The \$125 fee includes the weight-loss program and a year-long membership in the Employee Weight Management Support Group. To sign up or for more information, call Laurie Tansman, MS, RD, CDN, at 212-241-7797.

PBS Series Features Mount Sinai Professors

Joy S. Reidenberg, PhD, Professor of Anatomy, the Center for Anatomy and Functional Morphology, Department of Medical Education, is featured in a PBS documentary series, *Inside Nature's Giants*, which explores the evolution and anatomy of some of nature's largest animals: the sperm whale, Burmese python, the great white shark, the lion and tiger. PBS will air the show on Wednesdays, January 25, February 1, and February 8, at 10 pm.

Dr. Reidenberg traveled to South Africa, the Florida Everglades, and the United Kingdom, where she joined a veterinary scientist and biologist. Together they provide insight into these predators—the powerful jaws that give the shark its enormous bite, for example, and the voicebox that gives the lion its roar. Dr. Reidenberg dissects the animals and further explores their anatomy.

The filmmakers also came to Mount Sinai to tape a segment on zebrafish in the lab of Kirsten C. Sadler, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Liver Diseases), and of Developmental and Regenerative Biology, with fifth-year MD/PhD graduate student Dru Imrie. They also conducted



Joy S. Reidenberg, PhD, with the great white shark she dissects in the PBS series, *Inside Nature's Giants*.

an interview on human speech with Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Center for Anatomy and Functional Morphology, and Professor of Medical Education and of Otolaryngology, and taped a demonstration on how the human larynx works with Peak Woo, MD, Clinical Professor of Otolaryngology.

Says Dr. Reidenberg, "Comparative anatomy is such an exciting science. There are always new discoveries to be made."

For more, go to: www.pbs.org/programs/inside-natures-giants.



Inside Mount Sinai

2012 Marketing & Communications
Carrie Gottlieb, Editor
Marilyn Balamaci, Editor

Submissions

Box 1475
inside@mssm.edu

Visit Inside on the Web

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