Icahn School of Medicine Restructures Admissions Criteria

At a time of unprecedented advancements in technology and science, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has taken a bold step in restructuring its medical school admissions criteria to attract gifted medical students from a wide range of backgrounds through its new FlexMed program, which is the first of its kind in the nation.

Starting next fall, half of each medical school class will be guaranteed early acceptance to Mount Sinai during the sophomore year of college without having to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT), or a traditional premed course load, under the school's new FlexMed program. The students will come from majors as diverse as computational science and engineering, the social sciences, and genetics and molecular and cell biology.

The goal is to provide students the opportunity to become self-directed and life-long learners, who will have time to focus on courses in health policy, ethics, genetics, or

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Cancer Researcher Ramon E. Parsons, MD, PhD, Joins Mount Sinai

Ramon E. Parsons, MD, PhD, a highly acclaimed researcher in cancer genetics, has joined Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as the Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer, and Chair of the Department of Oncological Sciences.

Dr. Parsons succeeds Stuart Aaronson, MD, Jack and Jane B. Aron Professor, whose significant discoveries in molecular oncology include identifying the first normal function of an oncogene, and its role in growth factor signaling. Dr. Aaronson has been appointed Founding Chair Emeritus of the Department of Oncological Sciences, and will continue to lead his highly funded laboratory at Mount Sinai.

“With an innovative and enthusiastic leader like Dr. Parsons at the helm, Mount Sinai will push the limits of cancer research to discover improved diagnostics and novel treatments,” says

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Mount Sinai Queens to Go Live with Epic

In a continuing effort to standardize and improve patient documentation and care across facilities, Mount Sinai Queens will roll out Epic, the state-of-the-art electronic medical record system, in the Pharmacy, Emergency Department, and all inpatient units on Sunday, April 7. Last summer, it launched Epic in three ambulatory sites: Mount Sinai Queens Physician Associates, Family Health Associates, and the Cancer Program.

“The Mount Sinai Queens Epic Clinical Implementation will connect the campuses in Queens and Manhattan so there is a single electronic medical record for every patient,” says Kristin Myers, Vice President, IT, Epic Clinical Transformation Group. “This will facilitate improvements in efficiency, communication, care delivery, and patient safety for our patients.”

From left: Kathleen Scher, RN, EdD, Vice President of Nursing, Mount Sinai Queens; Caryl A. Schwab, Executive Director, Mount Sinai Queens; David Nierman, MD, MMM, Vice President, Medical Affairs, and Chief Medical Officer, Mount Sinai Queens; and Judy Trilivas, Chief Operating Officer, Mount Sinai Queens and shared by The Mount Sinai Medical Center are invaluable assets and resources for our staff and physicians enthusiastically embrace this transition to electronic medical records.”

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Throughout the roll-out, Mount Sinai staff and physicians from the Manhattan campus have assisted their Epic colleagues in Queens. “Key members of the clinical staff and information technology team at The Mount Sinai Medical Center coordinated the efforts and provided on-the-ground expertise,” says Ken Koppenhaver, RN, MS, Senior Director, Epic Applications, at the Medical Center.

“Mount Sinai Queens is well positioned for this major step that will take place in April with the inpatient implementation,” says David Nierman, MD, MMM, Vice President, Medical Affairs, and Chief Medical Officer, Mount Sinai Queens. “The experience and depth of our Epic team and the lessons learned will take place in April with the inpatient implementation.”

Mount Sinai and the Department of Neurology are the first in the nation to offer a premedical program that encourages critical thinking and collaboration, and social conscience.

FlexMed is an outgrowth of Mount Sinai’s Humanities and Medicine (HuMed) program, which began in 1987, and was the first in the nation to offer early assurance of acceptance to sophomores with a background in humanities. HuMed students have performed as well as their peers and are highly represented in clerkship honors, selection to Alpha Omega Alpha, the Gold Humanism Honor Society, scholarly year research participation, first author publications, and community service.

Dr. Muller says the metrics and outcomes in medical school, residencies, and fellowships, and career paths of the FlexMed students will be prospectively tracked in an IRB-approved longitudinal research study that compares them to their peers. By documenting this in an evidence-based fashion, Mount Sinai hopes that FlexMed will serve as a model for premedical preparation, and be duplicated at other schools around the country.

News about FlexMed reached more than 122,000 people via social media, including these tweets:

Daniel Ebner @EbnerrDK
Really impressed by #FlexMed. Would’ve loved a shot at that as a sophomore. Be interesting to see if it chain reacts to other schools.

Alison Vera Welsk @alivw
Mount Sinai now accepting college kids w/o traditional science reqs or MCAT. Kudos for focusing on humanities to improve healthcare. #FlexMed
Mount Sinai Auxiliary Board Honors Physicians for Work in Global Health

The third annual Awards for Outstanding Service to the International Community were presented to Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai faculty members Nils Hennig, MD, PhD, MPH, and Ebby Elahi, MD, on Tuesday, March 5, by The Mount Sinai Auxiliary Board and its Young Women’s Division.

Both physicians have worked extensively with global health organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, and led numerous international medical missions on behalf of underserved populations.

Dr. Hennig is Director of the Graduate Program in Public Health, Associate Director of the Global Health Center, and Assistant Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Preventive Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Elahi, who specializes in ophthalmic and oculofacials, is an Associate Clinical Professor in Ophthalmology and Global Health at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is also an Attending Surgeon at Beth Israel Medical Center; Elmhurst General Hospital; and New York Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital.

“The Auxiliary Board and its Young Women’s Division are pleased to recognize members of the Mount Sinai Community who have taken a leading role in improving global health,” said Jephtha Tausig-Edwards, PhD, President of the Mount Sinai Auxiliary Board. “It is a privilege to present the Awards for Outstanding Service to the International Community, which honor the spirit of humanitarianism and reflect the Auxiliary Board’s mission to support excellent and compassionate patient care.”
**Events**

**National Nutrition Month**

In recognition of National Nutrition Month, the Nutrition and Food Service Department will promote healthy foods from different cultures on Thursdays in March. Visit the station in front of the Plaza Café to learn more about nutrition and suggestions for healthy meals.

**Thursdays, March 21 and March 28**

*Noon – 2 pm*

*Outside the Plaza Café*

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**Educating the Community about Diabetes**

Mount Sinai physicians, nurses, and diabetes educators participated in the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Diabetes Expo on Saturday, March 9, at the Jacob K. Javits Center. The Mount Sinai team of more than 70 volunteers provided free screenings for blood pressure, weight, blood sugar, and cholesterol, as well as eye exams, to approximately 500 individuals. Physicians were on site to interpret the screening results and discuss how participants could take better control of their diabetes.

Ronald Tamler, MD, PhD, MBA, CDE, Director of the Mount Sinai Diabetes Center and Associate Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease), served as Chairman of this year’s Expo. “We were able to educate hundreds of New Yorkers about their numbers, counsel them about how to prevent their diabetes from worsening, and empower them to control their condition, and, ultimately, to improve their lives,” says Dr. Tamler.

“The ADA office of Greater New York could not have been more pleased with the overwhelming community turnout and visitor feedback,” says Kevin Shippy, Executive Director, American Diabetes Association, Greater New York. “We are indebted to Dr. Tamler and his team from Mount Sinai for serving as the hub of Expo’s health care screenings and diabetes-related outreach to more than 7,500 visitors.”

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**Grand Rounds Psychiatry**

Marianna Shimonova, MD, PGY-4 Resident, presents

“Stuttering: Current Perspectives and Treatment.”

**Tuesday, March 19**

*11:30 am – 1 pm*

*Hatch Auditorium*

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**Grand Rounds Psychiatry**

Jeffrey W. Olin, DO, FACC, FAHA, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), presents

“Peripheral Artery Disease: New Strategies for Diagnosis and Treatment.”

**Thursday, March 21**

*8:30 – 9:30 am*

*Atran Building*

*Fourth Floor, Room AB4-11*

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**Grand Rounds Radiation Oncology**

Sarah Kerns, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, presents

“Radiogenomics: Using Genetics to Identify Cancer Patients at Risk for Adverse Effects Following Radiotherapy.”

**Friday, March 22**

*8 – 9 am*

*Radiology Conference Room*

*AMC-714*

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**Developmental and Regenerative Biology Research Seminar Series**

David A. Sinclair, PhD, Professor, Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School, presents “Slowing Aging: New Approaches to an Age-Old Problem.”

**Thursday, March 28**

*Noon – 1 pm*

*Annenberg 25-51*

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**Holiday Services**

**For Easter:**

Palm Sunday, March 24

Noon: Catholic Mass

1:30 pm: Christian Service

Good Friday, March 29

Noon: Commemoration of Christ’s Passion

Easter Sunday, March 31

11:15 am: Catholic Mass

1:30 pm: Christian Service

Hatch Interdenominational Chapel

Guggenheim Pavilion West

**For Passover (Pesach):**

Monday, March 25, Erev Pesach

7 pm: Mincha/Ma’ariv

Tuesday, March 26

8:30 am: Shacharit, Birkat Ha Tal Blessing the Spring Dew

7:30 pm: Mincha/Ma’ariv

**Wednesday, March 27**

8:30 am: Shacharit

7:30 pm: Mincha/Ma’ariv

**Saturday, March 30**

Shabbat Chol HaMoed

8:30 am: Shacharit

10 am: Shir Ha Shirim

**Sunday, March 31**

Eve of Seventh Day of Passover

7:30 pm: Mincha/Ma’ariv

**Monday, April 1**

8:30 am: Shacharit

Eve of Eighth Day of Passover

7:30 pm: Mincha/Ma’ariv

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