A New Era for Biomedical Education, Research

Mount Sinai’s leadership in biomedical research and patient care, together with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s expertise in engineering and invention prototyping, form the foundation for a new academic affiliation agreement between the two institutions. The agreement signals a new era of biomedical discovery and entrepreneurship for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Rensselaer.

The partnership, commemorated at a signing ceremony on Wednesday, May 22, promotes collaboration in educational programs and research, with the ultimate goal of developing innovative diagnostic tools and treatments for patients around the world.

Mount Sinai and Rensselaer plan to develop complementary research programs in neuroscience and neurological diseases, genomics, imaging, orthopaedics, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and scientific and clinical targets. The agreement also promotes joint funding in research programs, in areas such as precision medicine, drug discovery, stem cell biology, robotics and robotic surgery.

Champions of Children’s Health

More than 700 attendees showed their support for children’s environmental health at The Mount Sinai Medical Center’s sixth annual Greening Our Children luncheon, held on Monday, May 20, at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich in Connecticut.

Proceeds from the event—which featured a guest appearance from actress and author Jessica Alba—will be used to support Mount Sinai’s Children’s Environmental Health Center (CEHC) and the Laboratory for Molecular Environmental Chemistry at Mount Sinai. The CEHC and laboratory are led by Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, Dean for Global Health, the Ethel H. Wise Professor of Community Medicine, and Professor of Pediatrics; and Robert O. Wright, MD, Professor of Preventive Medicine, and Pediatrics, at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

The CEHC, founded by Dr. Landrigan in 2007, conducts research to identify the environmental causes of childhood diseases. Studies under way include an autism and learning disabilities discovery and prevention project; research into how environmental and genetic factors lead
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novel imaging techniques, cellular engineering, and computational neurobiology.

“With fierce competition for federal research funding, and with the pharmaceutical industry looking for academic partnerships, institutions with complementary strengths can most effectively advance biomedical research,” says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, The Mount Sinai Medical Center. “Both institutions are committed to a culture of innovation in research and education, and we look forward to working with Rensselaer to help provide the blueprint for discoveries that will lead to better treatments and novel methods of health care delivery.”

Shirley Ann Jackson, PhD, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, adds: “Combining Mount Sinai’s leadership in biomedical research and patient care—with Rensselaer’s breakthrough research in biotechnology and interdisciplinary studies, rooted in our leadership in science, engineering, and technological entrepreneurship—we expect this agreement to result in radical innovations in health care. At Rensselaer, we have a very simple motto that is nonetheless breathtaking in its audacity: ‘Why not change the world?’ Mount Sinai and Rensselaer are now taking a significant step toward revolutionizing education, research, and practice in the field of medicine—and ultimately, improving human health around the globe.” Rensselaer, located in Troy, New York, is the nation’s oldest technological research university.

Among the many collaborative projects outlined, the institutions plan to develop novel neuroimaging techniques and neurotechnologies to better understand and treat neurological disorders. “Neuroscientists and engineers will work together to identify shortcomings in imaging, develop new diagnostic tools, and even treatment tools, such as a system for helping paralyzed people walk and manipulate their environment with the assistance of robotics,” says John Morrison, PhD, Mount Sinai’s Dean of Basic Sciences and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Also planned is the creation of the Mount Sinai and Rensselaer Collaborative Center for Biomedical Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which will join with Mount Sinai’s Center for Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship to transition research breakthroughs from the laboratory, to patent, and eventually to the marketplace.

“Mount Sinai will benefit greatly from Rensselaer’s expertise in prototyping, engineering know-how, and intellectual property development, and Rensselaer from Mount Sinai’s leadership in biomedical research,” says Scott L. Friedman, MD, Dean for Therapeutic Discovery at Mount Sinai. “This synergistic relationship will propel both institutions to the forefront of therapeutic discovery and development.”

Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, Receives Honor

Jagat Narula, MD, PhD, was recently named a 2013 Master of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) for his leadership and educational contributions on behalf of the organization. This is the latest of several ACC awards that have been bestowed upon Dr. Narula, the Philip J. and Harriet L. Goodhart Professor of Medicine, Director of the Cardiovascular Imaging Program at Mount Sinai Heart, and Associate Dean of Global Health.

In 2012, Dr. Narula received the ACC’s Gifted Educator Award and was also designated as one of five “Innovators in Cardiovascular Medicine” for his substantial contributions in advancing research and education in cardiovascular imaging. His pioneering work includes describing the phenomenon of heart muscle suicide, and the detection of atherosclerotic plaques that are likely to cause acute heart attacks. He is actively involved in population-based heart attack prevention programs, including the multinational Heart Attack Prevention Program for You (HAPPY).

“Jagat Narula’s recognition as a Master of the American College of Cardiology is the highest honor bestowed on fellows to recognize a very few who have made major contributions to the ACC and the field of cardiology,” says Spencer B. King III, MD, Past President, ACC.

“For more than 60 years, the ACC has dedicated itself to furthering the field of cardiovascular medicine through education. It is a charge that all of its members, myself included, take as our fundamental responsibility,” says Dr. Narula, whose translational research has been published in both basic science and clinical journals, including Nature Medicine, Science, PNAS, The New England Journal of Medicine, and The Lancet.

“Dr. Narula continues to embody an unparalleled commitment to translational research and education in cardiology, not only as a physician and professor, but also as a distinguished member of the American College of Cardiology,” says Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD. “There is no greater legacy for a physician than sharing knowledge with the next generation of doctors and scientists, and in Dr. Narula we have a great educator who has helped make better physicians of us all.” Dr. Fuster is Physician-in-Chief of The Mount Sinai Medical Center, the Richard Gorlin, MD/Heart Research Foundation Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, 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. Dr. Fuster was recognized by the ACC in 2012 as one of two U.S. physicians who are “Legends of Cardiovascular Medicine.”
Mount Sinai Named Health Provider for USTA

The Mount Sinai Medical Center has been named the first-ever official medical service provider and hospital of the USTA and the US Open. The five-year agreement calls for Mount Sinai to provide on-site clinical care for tennis players competing in the US Open, develop policies around injury prevention, and conduct educational outreach to promote the health benefits of playing tennis.

Mount Sinai is also the official sponsor of Arthur Ashe Kids’ Day, an annual tennis event for children, which takes place before the US Open on Saturday, August 24, at Arthur Ashe Stadium. Mount Sinai will have an informational booth on the grounds of the US Open, which will be held August 26 – September 9.

At a special press event held in Guggenheim Pavilion on Thursday, May 30, a temporary tennis court was set up to hold a demonstration that included tennis pros James Blake and Patrick McEnroe, General Manager of Player Development at the USTA, and children from the Harlem Junior Tennis and Education Program (HJTEP). The HJTEP was founded in 1972 to give inner-city children the opportunity to excel in tennis and develop self-discipline, self-esteem, and sportsmanship.

Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, Assistant Professor of Sports Medicine at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedics, will serve as the USTA’s Chief Medical Officer, and as Medical Advisor to the U.S. Fed Cup team. Dr. Colvin previously served as a consultant to the USTA for the US Open, providing medical care to the players.

Dr. Colvin’s colleague, James Gladstone, MD, Associate Professor of Sports Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Co-Director of Sports Medicine at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, will serve as Medical Advisor to the U.S. Davis Cup team.

Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, said, “The USTA and Mount Sinai share a common goal to promote health and safe, effective exercise. We are united in this effort because America is in a health crisis, with escalating prevalence of childhood and adult obesity, and many related conditions. We at Mount Sinai are proud to support the USTA’s outreach and educational programs that are aimed at players young and old, established and inexperienced, and from a great range of neighborhoods and backgrounds.”

Other Mount Sinai orthopaedic leaders who will serve as consultants include: Evan L. Flatow, MD, Bernard J. Lasker Professor and Chair of the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedics at Mount Sinai; Michael Hausman, MD, Dr. Robert K. Lippman Professor and Vice-Chair of Orthopaedics and Chief, Hand and Elbow Surgery at Mount Sinai; Andrew C. Hecht, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Neurosurgery, and Co-Director of Orthopaedic Spine Surgery at Mount Sinai; and Steven Weinfeld, MD, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service at Mount Sinai.

Additional members of Mount Sinai’s support team will include: Michael Yorio, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics; Deena Casiero, MD; and Brian Neri, MD, who are also members of ProHEALTH Care Associates, a Long Island-based physician group practice that has been providing medical services at the US Open since 1997.

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to breast cancer; and how exposure to bisphenol A (BPA), phthalates, perchlorate, and other endocrine-disrupting toxins affect children’s health.

At this year’s event, which drew a record number of attendees, Dr. Landrigan told the audience: “The next frontier for CEHC is analyzing samples to assess the timing of chemical exposure, as children’s health is not just affected by the dose of chemicals but by how long a child has been exposed to them.”

Dr. Landrigan presented Ms. Alba with the Champion for Children Award for co-founding The Honest Company, which sells cleaning supplies, along with bath and baby products that are free of toxic chemicals.

“I’m not sure if many of you know this about me, but I suffered from multiple health issues as a kid, including severe asthma, bouts of pneumonia, kidney surgery, appendicitis, and tonsillitis, and spent many nights in hospital rooms,” Ms. Alba said in her acceptance speech. “So I was determined to create the safest and healthiest environment for my little ones—and not just for my family but for everyone.”

She said she was moved to start The Honest Company when she broke out in welts after washing her daughter’s clothing in a popular laundry detergent. “I called my mom and said, ‘There’s no way this is safe for babies.’” Ms. Alba said she relied on Dr. Landrigan’s research in her efforts to create safe products.

A renowned leader in the field of environmental health, Dr. Landrigan has published more than 500 scientific papers. Over the years, his research has led to national and local legislation governing the removal of lead from paint and gasoline, and banning BPA from baby bottles and children’s cups. Dr. Landrigan’s textbook on children’s environmental health—the first on this subject—will be published in October.

The new Laboratory for Molecular Environmental Chemistry at Mount Sinai, headed by Dr. Wright, will enable the CEHC to conduct rapid analyses of toxic chemicals, something no institution other than the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta has the ability to do.
Events

Randomized Clinical Trials Workshop
The Office of Academic Enhancement and Mentoring and the Research Administration Reengineering Program are hosting a Randomized Clinical Trials Workshop, led by Michaela Kiernan, PhD, Senior Research Scientist, Department of Medicine, Stanford University. RSVP at www.surveymonkey.com/MNNTST5.

Tuesday, June 11
Session One: 9 – 11 am
Session Two: 11:15 am – 1:15 pm
Annenberg 19-79

Joseph L. Goldman Alumni Day Otolaryngology
Faculty speakers present “Updates in Otolaryngology.”
Keynote speaker:
Ralph Metson, MD,
Clinical Professor,
Harvard Medical School

Friday, June 14
7:30 am – 1 pm
Goldwurm Auditorium

Grand Rounds Surgery
Steven D. Wexner, MD, PhD,
Chair, Colorectal Surgery,
Cleveland Clinic Florida,
presents “Controversies in Pouch Surgery.”

Wednesday, June 19
7 am: M&M Conference
7:45 am: Grand Rounds
Hatch Auditorium

Seminar Series Developmental and Regenerative Biology
Thomas Gridley, PhD,
Professor, Maine Medical Center Research Institute, presents
“Investigations of Notch Pathway and Snail Family Gene Function during Mouse Development.”

Thursday, June 20
Noon – 1 pm
Annenberg 25-51

Grand Rounds Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Ula Hwang, MD, Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine, and Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, presents “The Geriatric Emergency Department.”

Thursday, June 13
5 – 6 pm
Annenberg 10-30

Education

16th Annual Complex Coronary Valvular & Vascular Cases
This symposium will cover emerging areas in the field of intervention, present information on the latest techniques and technologies, and help clarify areas of diagnostic and therapeutic controversy. Selected lectures will supplement the live cases, and unbiased commentaries by experts will help bring about consensus on appropriate strategies that physicians can apply immediately.

To register, go to www.cccsymposium.org, or call 212-731-7950.

Tuesday, June 11 – Friday, June 14
8 am – 5 pm
Stern Auditorium

July 2013 Mount Sinai TOWN HALL
We invite you to attend one of Mount Sinai’s Town Hall meetings. Bring your colleagues and your questions to this lively, open exchange.

Tuesday, July 9
4 – 5 pm

Kenneth L. Davis, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Mount Sinai Medical Center

Wednesday, July 10
9:30 – 10:30 am
7 – 8 pm
Stern Auditorium

Dennis S. Charney, MD
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
The Mount Sinai Medical Center

David L. Reich, MD
Interim President and Chief Operating Officer
The Mount Sinai Hospital

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