



**Mount  
Sinai**

# inside

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## Convocation 2015 Celebrates Achievements

Ten physician-scientists—renowned leaders in the fields of community medicine, medical imaging and bioengineering, neurogenetics, neurology, oncology, orthopaedics, palliative care, pulmonary medicine, and surgery—were honored for their groundbreaking achievements at Convocation 2015. The celebratory event marks the beginning of the academic year for Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, welcomed the honorees, their families and friends, physicians, staff, and Mount Sinai benefactors who filled Goldwurm Auditorium on The Mount Sinai Hospital campus on Thursday, October 1.

“Since forming the Mount Sinai Health System, we have done nothing less than revolutionize scientific discovery and the delivery of medicine,” Mr. May said. “Today,



Dennis S. Charney, MD, delivers the State of the School address.

we are honoring some of the remarkable physicians, scientists, and benefactors who share our vision. Through the support of our loyal donors, we have embraced innovation and entrepreneurship to implement sweeping changes that will benefit patients, transform medicine, and

serve the overall medical community and the general population for generations to come.” (See page 4 for the names of the honorees).

Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System, presided over the ceremony and delivered the annual State of the School address. For a copy of his presentation, visit <http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/leadership/communication>.

“This has been one of the most transformative years in the history of Mount Sinai,” Dr. Charney said during his State of the School presentation, which spotlighted key areas of growth and accomplishments, and outlined new plans. “The full-time faculty has grown by 56 percent since the creation of the

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## White Coat Ceremony Kicks Off School Year



Emily N. Tixier was one of 140 first-year medical students who received white coats and stethoscopes at the 18th annual White Coat Ceremony.

One hundred and forty first-year students at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai received their white coats and stethoscopes in a symbolic celebration on Thursday, September 17, that marked the beginning of their medical education. Families and friends cheered on the Class of 2019, as the students walked to the stage to be coated by faculty during the jubilant 18th annual White Coat Ceremony held in Stern Auditorium.

“Your class has credentials that place you among the best and brightest medical students in the nation,” said Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System. “Over the course of your career, you will make fundamental discoveries in the laboratory and in the clinic resulting in more precise, personalized care, leading to the cures that we desperately need.”

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# New Study Links Emotional Behavior to Anesthesia

Repeated exposure to anesthesia early in life causes changes in emotional behavior that may persist long-term, according to new research from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

The findings, published in the August 2015 *Online First* edition of *Anesthesiology*, mark the first time nonhuman primates have been found to experience long-term behavioral changes resulting from repeated postnatal exposure to anesthesia. Prior results have shown that baby rodents also experience cognitive impairments later in life stemming from early anesthesia exposure.

The study was conducted in the absence of other factors and comorbidities that are associated with anesthesia and surgery, and done in collaboration with researchers at the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University.

Newborn rhesus monkeys, which have comparable brain growth to human babies, were used to carry out the controlled studies. Seven days after birth, and again two weeks and four weeks later, ten rhesus monkeys were exposed to a common

anesthetic procedure that is used on pediatric patients during surgery.

Researchers then evaluated the socio-emotional behavior of the exposed subjects at six months of age and compared it with that of healthy controls by introducing both groups to a mild social stressor,

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*“Our results confirm that multiple anesthesia exposures alone result in emotional behavior changes in a highly translational animal model. This raises concerns about whether similar phenomena are occurring during clinical anesthesia exposure in children.”*

– Mark Baxter, PhD

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an unfamiliar human. They found the anesthesia-exposed infant monkeys were significantly more anxious than the control group when confronted by the unfamiliar human.

“Our results confirm that multiple anesthesia exposures alone result in emotional behavior changes in a highly translational animal model. This raises concerns about whether similar phenomena are occurring during clinical anesthesia exposure in children,” says Mark Baxter, PhD, Professor of Neuroscience, and Anesthesiology, at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and senior author of the study.

The findings are part of a larger longitudinal study that will identify the mechanisms by which anesthetics cause long-term changes in the central nervous system and impact behavior; and the length of time emotional changes persist and whether they resolve over time.

According to Dr. Baxter, future studies may also lead to the development of a new anesthetic agent or prophylactic treatment to counteract the impact of anesthesia on behavior in children.

# Dubin Breast Center Holds Annual Symposium

Five leading researchers and clinicians at the Mount Sinai Health System discussed the latest trends in women’s health with more than 100 guests at the Dubin Breast Center’s fourth annual Fact vs. Fiction Luncheon and Symposium, held recently in midtown Manhattan. Mount Sinai’s experts responded to questions from the audience on pressing issues such as advances in cancer immunotherapy; how each person’s unique microbiome, or bacteria, interacts with his or her immune system; and whether chemotherapy is the best treatment for all invasive breast cancers.

This year’s event was presented by the Marisa Acocella Marchetto Foundation through a grant from Bloomingdale’s. Perri Peltz, host of “Doctor Radio Reports,” a weekly public health program on Sirius XM radio, served as moderator. Eva Andersson Dubin,



From left: Joel Dudley, PhD; Elisa Port, MD; Perri Peltz; Emily Sonnenblick, MD; Hanna Irie, MD, PhD; Michael Brodman, MD; Eva Andersson Dubin, MD; and Marisa Acocella Marchetto

MD, Founder of the Dubin Breast Center at The Tisch Cancer Institute, provided opening remarks. In addition to fresh fruit smoothies, the guests dined on organic and seasonal fish, vegetables, and grains.

Elisa Port, MD, Co-Director of the Dubin Breast Center and Chief of Breast Surgery, said the annual Fact vs. Fiction event was a great opportunity for Mount Sinai’s experts to reliably guide the public through the flood

## › White Coat Ceremony Kicks Off School Year *(continued from page 1)*

Dr. Charney noted how far the field of medicine has advanced since he was a medical student in the 1970s, when there was no magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or positron emission tomography (PET) scans; antiviral drugs; vaccines for Hepatitis A, B, C, and HPV; statins for high cholesterol; DNA sequencing; and other technologies.

Despite this, he told the students, “There are too few curative treatments for human illness. MRIs enable us to diagnose strokes, but we cannot bring back lost brain tissue. PET scans can help diagnose Alzheimer’s disease, yet there are no good treatments for this terrible illness. Class of 2019, there is much work to be done. It is to your generation that we now turn, to guide us toward an age of insight and discovery.”

Roberto Posada, MD, Faculty Advisor and Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Medical Education, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, administered an oath written by the students that expressed their most important ideals. The class pledged “To treat each patient



Keynote speaker Rachel Levine, MD



Class of 2019 students showed their new white coats.

with unconditional dignity and compassion as a human being, respecting their autonomy, beliefs, and culture; and to remain life-long students and challenge ourselves to grow personally and professionally.”

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, highlighted the many resources and opportunities available to students at the Icahn School of Medicine. “You will be able to tap the power of our two supercomputers to pinpoint genetic mutations that will direct you to the best course of treatment. You can help us to understand the dynamics of disease through big data analysis of our Biobank that has detailed genetic information on thousands of patients. Your education will equip you to thrive in the new environment, and to lead, whether you ultimately work in a laboratory, clinic, hospital, or executive office.”

Keynote speaker Rachel Levine, MD, Physician General, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and an Icahn School of Medicine alumnus, said, “The decision to become a physician is a very significant one. You will receive an outstanding medical education at Mount Sinai. Have big goals for your career. Keep your idealism. It will be shaped by realism as well, but don’t lose it. Life may take many different turns and send you on many unexpected paths, but I am confident that your training here will prepare you for all roads—those expected and those unexpected.”



Guests included, from left: Sonia Jones, JulieAnn Edmonds, and GERALYN Lucas.

of information or misinformation they receive on the Internet or through social media. “It’s so easy for some of these myths to get perpetuated,” she said. One myth she debunked at the symposium is the widely held rumor of a link between breast cancer and the use of deodorant.

The panel participants also included:

- Michael Brodman, MD, Ellen and Howard

C. Katz Chairman’s Chair, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, who told the audience that there is no difference between so-called “bioidentical hormones” that are administered through a patch and hormone pills taken by mouth;

- Joel Dudley, PhD, Director of Biomedical Informatics and Assistant Professor of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, who explained how an individual’s microbiome can influence the way the body processes medicine;
- Hanna Irie, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology), and Oncological Sciences, who pointed to new drugs and immunotherapies that may soon be available for certain breast cancers; and
- Emily Sonnenblick, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology, who discussed the use of screening mammography for early cancer detection and supplemental breast imaging technologies for average and high-risk women.



Elisa Port, MD, right, Co-Director of the Dubin Breast Center at The Tisch Cancer Institute, recently celebrated the release of her book, *The New Generation Breast Cancer Book: How to Navigate Your Diagnosis and Treatment Options—and Remain Optimistic—in an Age of Information Overload* at a special signing event hosted by Eva Andersson Dubin, MD, left, and Mount Sinai Trustee Glenn Dubin, and Jamie and David Mitchell.

## ► Convocation 2015 Celebrates Achievements *(continued from page 1)*

System in 2015, and continued growth is expected in 2015, and in 2016, especially, when hundreds of additional hospital physicians throughout the Health System will join Mount Sinai Doctors Faculty Practice,” he said. The Mount Sinai Doctors Faculty Practice experienced a robust 10.2 percent growth in 2014.

Impressively, funding in 2015 by the National Institutes of Health, described by Dr. Charney as “the coin of the realm because it is peer-reviewed,” increased 7 percent to \$265 million. “This is the biggest amount in our history and places us well within the Top 20 nationally.” He also said that Icahn School of Medicine is now ranked No. 2 among U.S. medical schools in research dollars per principal investigator.

### Among other topics, Dr. Charney also noted that:

- The metrics for medical student applications remain extremely high: notably, the median MCAT scores were in the top 5 percent nationally for 2015 applicants.
- More than 2,000 house staff train at Mount Sinai hospitals, making it the largest such program in the nation. Ten training programs are now fully integrated throughout the Health System, and two are pending for 2016. Integrated programs require rotations at each of the Health System’s six Manhattan campuses, providing more diverse training experiences.
- The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences has expanded its PhD and MS programs, with an increased focus on innovation, and translational and intellectual property discovery. Dr. Charney noted affiliations with Apple and IBM, for example, to offer internship opportunities, thesis work, and training; and new collaborative grants with academic



From left: Nathan E. Goldstein, MD; Daniel M. Herron, MD; Alison Goate, DPhil; Robert O. Wright, MD, MPH; Barbara G. Vickery, MD, MPH; Zahi A. Fayad, PhD; Dennis S. Charney, MD; Louis R. DePalo, MD; Luis M. Isola, MD; Leesa M. Galatz, MD; and James C. Iatridis, PhD

partner Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to advance biomedical discovery and entrepreneurship.

- The Health System will undertake several major initiatives, including extensive renovations at Mount Sinai Beth Israel’s Phillips Ambulatory Care Center, to help improve patient care, access, and satisfaction.
- A major new advertising campaign involving print ads, and digital and social

media promotion, was launched to showcase Mount Sinai’s expanded presence throughout the New York region, and its contributions to breakthrough research and education.

- In 2015, the Icahn School of Medicine created a state-of-the-art website optimized for mobile devices that will continue to be phased in throughout 2016.

Dr. Charney told the audience in closing remarks: “We will continue to examine, invest, and build on our excellence.”

### The Convocation Honorees

**LOUIS R. DEPALO, MD**  
Sarah and Eric Lane  
Professor of Pulmonary Medicine

**ZAHİ A. FAYAD, PHD**  
Mount Sinai Professor in Medical  
Imaging and Bioengineering

**LEESA M. GALATZ, MD**  
Mount Sinai Professor in Orthopaedics

**ALISON GOATE, DPHIL**  
Willard T.C. Johnson  
Research Professor of Neurogenetics

**NATHAN E. GOLDSTEIN, MD**  
Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman  
Chair in Palliative Care

**DANIEL M. HERRON, MD**  
Salky Professor of Surgery

**JAMES C. IATRİDİS, PHD**  
Mount Sinai Professor in  
Orthopaedic Research

**LUIS M. ISOLA, MD**  
Gerald J. Friedman Chair in Oncology

**BARBARA G. VICKREY, MD, MPH**  
Henry P. and Georgette Goldschmidt  
Professor of Neurology

**ROBERT O. WRIGHT, MD, MPH**  
Ethel H. Wise Professor of  
Community Medicine

## Around the Health System



▲ Marc K. Siegel, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine, presents a Corporate Social Responsibility Award to Gary C. Butts, MD.

### Gary C. Butts, MD, Honored for Diversity Achievements

Gary C. Butts, MD, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for the Mount Sinai Health System, recently was honored for his work to eliminate health disparities and improve equity for minority and underserved populations with a Corporate Social Responsibility Award from *City and State Reports*. The publication showcases exceptional New York business leaders and corporations. Dr. Butts, also Senior Associate Dean for Diversity Programs, Policy and Community Affairs, at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, was awarded for building innovative programs that have increased the percentage of underrepresented minorities at the School of Medicine, and for strengthening diversity programs at the Mount Sinai Health System. He also was honored for his work in the 1990s as Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he led programs to increase citywide immunization rates and reduce infant mortality.

### Large Turnout at Free Cholesterol Screenings

Nearly 1,000 visitors and staff received free cholesterol screenings at six Mount Sinai Health System hospitals during September, National Cholesterol Education Month. Nursing staff also distributed free educational material. “Cholesterol disorders are one of the most significant contributors to a person’s risk of a heart attack or stroke,” says Beth Oliver, RN, DNP, Senior Vice President of Cardiac Services, Mount Sinai Health System. “Knowing your numbers can help you and your health care provider work together to make sure you keep your cholesterol level under control.”



◀ Elvin Razilov, RN, and Emily Danz, RN, tested visitors and staff for cholesterol at Mount Sinai Beth Israel’s Phillips Ambulatory Care Center.



▲ Susan Somerville, RN, President, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, joined staff and physicians to celebrate the first year of accomplishments at the hospital’s Rapid Evaluation and Treatment Unit.

### Rapid Evaluation and Treatment Unit Celebrates Anniversary

Mount Sinai Beth Israel staff recently gathered to celebrate the first anniversary of the hospital’s Rapid Evaluation and Treatment Unit (RETU), which cares for patients who cannot be safely discharged after their initial evaluation in the Emergency Department. The RETU provides additional testing and short-term treatment so decisions can be made to admit patients, release them safely, and/or arrange for follow-up care—all in an effort to avoid unnecessary hospital inpatient stays. During its first year, Mount Sinai Beth Israel’s RETU cared for more than 5,000 patients. Eighty percent of patients were discharged safely from the unit and did not require hospital admission. The first RETU opened at The Mount Sinai Hospital in 2014. There also are RETUs at Mount Sinai Roosevelt and Mount Sinai St. Luke’s.

## EVENT

### Annual Alumni Luncheon

The Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing's Alumni Association will honor the Classes of 1945, 1955, 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, and 2005. For more information, visit <http://pbisn.edu/alumni-home/>.

Sunday, October 18

Noon – 3:30 pm

Cibo Restaurant

767 Second Avenue at 41st Street

#### Grand Rounds / Psychiatry

Cynthia Neill Epperson, MD, Director and Professor of Psychiatry, Penn Center for Women's Behavioral Wellness, University of Pennsylvania, presents "Neuroendocrinology of Women's Behavioral Health."

Wednesday, October 14

11 am – 12:15 pm

Mount Sinai St. Luke's

Muhlenberg, Room 410

Teleconferenced to: Mount Sinai Roosevelt  
Second Floor Conference Room C

#### Grand Rounds / Medicine

Robert Darnell, MD, PhD, President, CEO, and Scientific Director, New York Genome Project, presents the "Sixteenth Annual Dutka Advanced Learning Center Lecture: Next-Generation Medical Genomics."

Tuesday, October 20

8:30 – 9:30 am

Mount Sinai Beth Israel

Podell Auditorium, Bernstein Pavilion

#### Grand Rounds / Neurosurgery

Isabelle M. Germano, MD, Professor of Neurosurgery, and Neurology, presents the Ninth Annual Leonard I. Malis, MD, Memorial Lecture.

Wednesday, October 21

8 – 9 am

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus

Annenberg, Fifth Floor Board Room

#### Grand Rounds / Developmental and Regenerative Biology

Benoit Bruneau, PhD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Gladstone Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, University of California, San Francisco, presents "Transcriptional Regulation of Heart Development."

Thursday, October 22

Noon

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus

Annenberg 25-51

## Calling All Epic Users

Are you prepared for the new Electronic Prescribing of Controlled Substances (EPCS) rollout on Monday, November 2? According to a New York State mandate, prescribing of all pharmaceuticals, controlled and non-controlled, must be performed electronically by all health care practitioners in all settings, and will require dual-factor authentication for controlled substances, meaning the prescriber must have both a passcode and a token (hard or soft). Enrollment in the new EPCS process applies to both employed and voluntary providers.

All prescribing providers using Epic must enroll in-person with the project enrollment team by Monday, October 26, for the EPCS go-live date of Monday, November 2. Visit the EPCS intranet site at <http://chip.chpnet.org/epcs> for complete details and links to the necessary documentation.

Please contact [EPCSquestions@mountsinai.org](mailto:EPCSquestions@mountsinai.org) with questions or to find out how to enroll.

## REGISTER NOW!

### Fourth Annual **SINAI**innovations Conference:

#### Theme: Digital Medicine

Tuesday, October 27 – Wednesday, October 28

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Stern Auditorium

Speakers and breakout sessions will explore the expanding interface between digital technologies and medicine, and how it is transforming all aspects of health care.

Registration is **FREE**, but required. Go to:  
<http://icahn.mssm.edu/sinainnovations>.

Watch the live webcast on your desktop at  
<http://icahn.mssm.edu/sinainnovations>.

Or, view it live at these locations:

#### Mount Sinai Beth Israel

Phillips Ambulatory Care Center (PACC) Auditorium;  
Bernstein, Podell B; and Bernstein, Conference Room 2

#### Mount Sinai St. Luke's

Babcock Café Conference Room

#### Mount Sinai Roosevelt

Fourteenth Floor Board Room

#### New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai

Lecture/Conference Room

**Twitter:** #**SINAI**innovations



#### INSIDE MOUNT SINAI

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