Celebrating Science and Medicine at Convocation

Convocation 2017 was an especially inspiring event for the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. It was a celebratory evening where 10 renowned faculty members were honored, the State of the School address was delivered, and a transformational strategic plan, “Boldly Expanding the Frontier of Science and Medicine,” was unveiled. This blueprint promises unprecedented investment across key areas with the fundamental goal of advancing science and medicine, and accelerating commercial development of products, drugs, and devices to predict, prevent, and cure human disease.

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 Convocation ceremony, held on Thursday, September 7, presenting a set of guiding principles that will drive the 2017 strategic plan for years to come.

“The state of the school is strong,” Dr. Charney told the guests in Goldwurm Auditorium, who included the Convocation honorees, along with their families and friends, faculty and staff, and benefactors who generously support Mount Sinai. He spotlighted research accomplishments, faculty growth and clinical expansion, an outstanding and diverse matriculating class of medical and graduate students, new academic affiliations, and significant investments that are already driving drug discovery and commercialization.

Among the high points for the School of Medicine:

- It ranks No. 2 in research dollars per investigator among private U.S. medical schools, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.
- The number of full-time faculty has grown by 70 percent since the creation of the Mount Sinai Health System in 2013, and continued growth is expected as new strategic initiatives are implemented.
- It has the largest Graduate Medical Education program in the nation—2,193 residents and fellows. “We have a great responsibility to train the next generation of leaders in medicine,” he said.
- The matriculating class of medical students “has a median grade point average of 3.83 (out of 4.0) and the students come from the best schools in the country,” Dr. Charney noted.
- The PhD program has the highest metrics in its history, and the number of Master’s programs continues to grow. New academic collaborations and affiliations enhance access to courses in mathematics and engineering.

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

Nature Publication Names Mount Sinai Among Most Innovative in Research

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai is among the top 10 research institutions in the world based on its contributions to published research that is later cited by other organizations in patent development. The rankings, created by the Nature Index 2017 Innovation supplement and published in August, used a unique set of metrics to shed light on the impact academic research is having on innovation and determine key academic players whose ideas may shape tomorrow’s inventions.

According to the Nature Index, the top rankings reflect institutions with global reputations for high-quality research and others whose published work is having a disproportionately high impact relative to their size.
Mount Sinai reached a diversity milestone: in 2017 it was ranked No. 1 by DiversityInc magazine among hospitals and health care systems in the nation for excellence in diversity management and best practices.

Dr. Charney especially noted significant commercialization achievements. “Our science is headed toward commercialization, and our technology transfer office, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners, is providing the infrastructure for that to happen,” he told the audience. “To facilitate this, the School of Medicine is funding an accelerator program, beginning with a $10 million investment, to identify Mount Sinai science that needs further financial investment so the science is ready for commercialization with an industry partner.” He then spotlighted “the most dramatic example” of success in this arena: the June launch of Sema4, a first-of-its-kind School of Medicine-owned company “whose mission is to revolutionize clinical diagnostics and to create a big data information system that will enable us to identify ways to better treat human disease.”

Dr. Charney promised that the bold new strategic plan would build upon the achievements of the past decade, which included establishing the Mount Sinai Health System, creating 19 research institutes, opening the Hess Center for Science and Medicine, establishing The Tisch Cancer Institute and becoming a National Cancer Institute-designated center, and, significantly, instituting a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship. This includes a multimillion-dollar collaboration between Mount Sinai and three other NCI-designated cancer centers and Celgene Corp. to advance novel therapies for cancer.

At the core of the new strategic plan, he said, is a set of guiding principles that will:

- take advantage of the size and excellence of the Mount Sinai Health System
- establish unrivaled excellence in medical and graduate education
- anticipate and fund new areas of research that will result in discovery of novel approaches to disease diagnosis and treatment
- invest further in current areas of excellence
- power an “engine of discovery” to create more intellectual property, more collaborations with industry, and more Mount Sinai companies.

Dr. Charney cited five new research institutes in the areas of addiction, adolescent health, exposomics, transformative clinical trials, and women’s health, and an expansion of the scope of diabetes/obesity, gastroenterology, nephrology, pulmonary, and pediatrics research, among other areas.

In a broad overview of the strategic plan, he presented a road map:

- Graduate Education would spearhead a pedagogical shift to transform biomedical research and its translation into precision medicine—a major initiative of the National Institutes of Health, and Mount Sinai will lead the way.

Four new centers of excellence in the areas of greatest potential—in neurotherapeutics, focused on developing novel therapeutics for brain disorders; in discovery medicine, to leverage novel insights in human genetics and genomics; in immunotherapeutics, to develop human therapeutic antibodies and vaccines that target cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and other areas; and in genome editing.

Further investment in current areas of excellence in the clinical sciences—brain, cancer, diabetes, geriatrics, heart, infectious diseases—as well as the sciences that underpin these disciplines: cell and developmental biology, genetics and genomic sciences, microbiology, neuroscience, and pharmacological sciences. He also envisioned transformational exploration of the brain.

According to Dr. Charney, “A great strategic plan anticipates what’s not so obvious, but where science and medical care are going.” Ultimately, he said, “The most important measure of our success will be discoveries that make the Mount Sinai Health System the nation’s best and improve the lives of our patients locally and around the world.”

Following the address, Dr. Charney bestowed endowed titles on 10 “spectacular” leaders in their field who have advanced biomedical science, dermatology research, environmental medicine and public health, geriatrics and palliative medicine, molecular medicine, neurology, neurotherapeutics, nursing, and vascular surgery (see page 5).

Said Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System: “I want to thank our dedicated philanthropists who have made these chairs possible, many of whom are here celebrating with us tonight. We thank you for the support you provide and your belief in our commitment to excellence in research, education, and clinical care.”

To view the State of the School presentation, please go to: http://icahn.mssm.edu/state.

A Salute to a Legendary Neurologist

Bernard Cohen, MD, right, who was named the inaugural Dr. Morris B. Bender Professor of Neurology in 1976, received a special tribute at Convocation. Over his 54 years of “nonstop funding” by the National Institutes of Health and NASA, Dr. Cohen has been a “tenacious, pioneering, vigorous, and enthusiastic” scientist, said Dennis S. Charney, MD. Among Dr. Cohen’s achievements was the first successful cure for mal de débarquement syndrome, a condition marked by continuous rocking, swaying, and bobbing after sea voyages.
THE CONVOCATION HONOREES

Manish Arora, PhD, MPH
Edith J. Baerwald Professor of Environmental Medicine and Public Health

Anne Bowcock, PhD
Norman Orentreich, MD
Professor of Dermatology Research

Frances Cartwright, PhD
Edgar M. Cullman, Sr. Chair of the Department of Nursing

Joel Dudley, PhD
Mount Sinai Professor in Biomedical Data Science

Andrea Dunaiif, MD
Lillian and Henry M. Stratton Professor of Molecular Medicine

Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD
Sol and Clara Kest Professor of Dermatology

Joanna Jen, MD, PhD
Dr. Morris B. Bender Professor of Neurology

Helen Mayberg, MD
Mount Sinai Professor in Neurotherapeutics

James F. McKinsey, MD
Mount Sinai Professor in Vascular Surgery

R. Sean Morrison, MD
Ellen and Howard C. Katz Chair in Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine

From left: Joel Dudley, PhD; Andrea Dunaiif, MD; R. Sean Morrison, MD; Emma Guttman-Yassky, MD, PhD; James F. McKinsey, MD; Dennis S. Charney, MD; Helen Mayberg, MD; Anne Bowcock, PhD; Frances Cartwright, PhD; and Manish Arora, PhD, MPH. (Not pictured is honoree Joanna Jen, MD, PhD.)
Mount Sinai Physician-Scientist Wins Award for Young Investigators in Cancer Research

Eirini Papapetrou, MD, PhD, Associate Professor, Oncological Sciences, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, has won the Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research for her work using stem cells and genome editing to study blood disorders and uncover new therapeutic options.

Dr. Papapetrou was among six researchers to receive the award earlier this year from the nonprofit Pershing Square Sohn Alliance for Cancer Research. All are based in New York and have spent at least two years running their own laboratories. Her laboratory will receive $200,000 yearly for the next three years.

“I am very pleased that Dr. Papapetrou has been recognized by Pershing Square Sohn for her important work,” says Ramon E. Parsons, MD, PhD, Ward-Coleman Chair in Cancer Research, Professor of Oncological Sciences, and Director of The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Papapetrou is among pioneers turning human cells into induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, which are reprogrammed to behave like embryonic stem cells so that they can form any kind of adult cell. Combining that breakthrough technology with CRISPR gene editing, her laboratory performs a range of experiments, including creating models of cancer mutations. She says: “We take cells from patients who have cancers of the blood, and we convert them in the lab into iPS cells, which we then use to study their disease and to test the effects of drugs on specific mutations.”

“I envision a new era of cancer research,” Dr. Papapetrou says, “in which human iPS cells will be a valuable tool in the armamentarium of the modern cancer researcher.”
Mount Sinai Celebrates Fifth Year as Medical Services Provider at US Open

Physicians and staff from the Mount Sinai Health System’s departments of Orthopaedics, Radiology, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Dermatology were on hand to help the United States Tennis Association (USTA) kick off the 2017 US Open at a two-day event at the South Street Seaport in August. Amid the live entertainment, culinary tastings, and appearances by professional tennis players at the special US Open Experience, Mount Sinai’s physicians and staff shared information about the Health System’s clinical services and handed out branded towels, tennis balls, individual hand sanitizers, and water bottles.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Mount Sinai Health System has served as the official medical services provider to the USTA. As in prior years, physicians from Mount Sinai’s departments of Orthopaedics and Radiology provided onsite medical care to tennis players during the US Open. In addition, Mount Sinai’s Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, Associate Professor, Sports Medicine, Chief Medical Officer, USTA; and James N. Gladstone, MD, Co-Director of Sports Medicine, Mount Sinai Health System, serve year-round as medical advisors to the US Fed Cup Team and US Davis Cup Team, respectively.

Comprehensive Orthopedic Center Opens at Mount Sinai West

The Mount Sinai Health System recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of its 11,000-square-foot Orthopedic Center at Mount Sinai West, a completely renovated, modern space featuring a comfortable reception and waiting area, 15 spacious exam rooms, two X-ray rooms, a cast room, and offices for orthopedic staff. The facility offers comprehensive orthopedic care, as well as rheumatology services, and encompasses the entire fifth floor of the faculty practice building adjacent to the hospital at 425 West 59th Street.

In other news, three Mount Sinai Health System orthopedists and members of the Mount Sinai Doctors Faculty Practice—Evan L. Flatow, MD; Steven F. Harwin, MD; and Andrew C. Hecht, MD—were recently listed in Becker’s Orthopedic Review of 65 orthopedic surgeons nationwide recommended by orthopedic surgeons.

Dr. Flatow is President of Mount Sinai West and Professor of Orthopaedics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Dr. Harwin is Associate Professor of Orthopaedics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; and Dr. Hecht is Chief of Spine Surgery, Mount Sinai Health System, and Associate Professor, Orthopaedics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

At the ribbon-cutting, from left: Claudia DiLeonardo, Practice Manager; Michael J. Bronson, MD, Chair, Orthopaedic Surgery, Mount Sinai West and Mount Sinai St. Luke’s; Leesa M. Galatz, MD, Chair, Orthopaedic Surgery, Mount Sinai Health System; Evan L. Flatow, MD, and Shivana Patel, Administrator.
6th Annual SINA/Innovations Leading a New Era of Discovery

Email: Sinainnovations@mssm.edu
http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations

Tuesday, October 17 - Wednesday, October 18
Annenberg, Stern Auditorium
Registration is free but required.

2nd Annual Mount Sinai Health Hackathon
Creating Novel Technology Solutions for Health Care
(formerly SINA/medMaker Challenge)

A 48-hour fun and high-energy, team-based, multidisciplinary competition focused on creating novel technology solutions for problems in health care.

Email: health-hackathon@mssm.edu
http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations/health-hackathon

Friday, October 13 - Sunday, October 15
Hess Center for Science and Medicine
Davis Conference Center
Registration is $10.

5th Annual Careers & Connections
(formerly Trainee Forum/Networking Reception)

A series of interactive breakout sessions and panels culminating in a networking reception with entrepreneurs and industry professionals.

http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations/networking

Tuesday, October 17
Hess Center for Science and Medicine
Davis Conference Center
Registration is free but required.

#healthHackathon #sinainnovations

Professional Development Expos

The Mount Sinai Hospital and Mount Sinai West Diversity Councils will host two informational events in October designed to educate and connect employees to resources to aid in their professional growth and development. All Mount Sinai Health System faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

Thursday, October 5
2 - 4 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital
Hess Center for Science and Medicine
Second Floor, Davis Auditorium

For more information or to register, email the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at diversity@moundsinai.org.

Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Symposium

Mount Sinai Heart presents a one-day program designed to enhance current knowledge about the prevention, intervention, and management of multiple cardiovascular diseases.

Presentations will include evidence-based approaches for management and treatment care options, among other topics. To learn more about the program, fees, accreditation, and registration, go to mountsinaiheartnp.com.

Friday, November 17
7 am - 5:45 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital
Stern Auditorium

Got a Minute?

Take the Semi-Annual IT Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Department of Information Technology (IT) is seeking feedback on its services. The results are used to enhance IT service delivery to better serve the needs of faculty and staff. All are encouraged to participate. The survey is accessible on the Desktop Application Launcher as of Sunday, October 1, and takes about a minute to complete. To learn more, email elizabeth.ide@mountsinai.org.

Wednesday, October 25
2 - 4 pm
Mount Sinai West
Second Floor
Conference Room B

Mount Sinai Transformation Update

For the most recent updates on Mount Sinai’s downtown transformation, please go to:
http://www.mountsinaihealth.org/locations/downtown

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