



**Mount
Sinai**

inside

A PUBLICATION OF THE MOUNT SINAI HEALTH SYSTEM

May 18 - 31, 2015

Honoring Achievement: Commencement 2015

A distinguished bioethicist and oncologist; a pioneer in the creation and development of integrated, patient-centered health care software; a Nobel Prize-winning neurologist; and an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court were honored at the 46th annual Commencement of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, held Friday, May 8, at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center.

Mount Sinai granted a total of 129 MDs, 20 PhDs, and 94 master's degrees. Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD, PhD, Vice Provost for Global Initiatives, the Diane v.S. Levy and Robert M. Levy University Professor, and Chair, Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, University of Pennsylvania, delivered the commencement address to more than 3,000 jubilant faculty, staff, graduates, and their families and friends who filled the hall at Lincoln Center.

Dr. Emanuel received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his vital leadership in the field of bioethics, on both national and international levels, and delivered the commencement

continued on page 2 >



Kenneth L. Davis, MD, left, and Dennis S. Charney, MD, right, present Commencement Speaker Ezekiel J. Emanuel, MD, PhD, with an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Leads a Lively Discussion At Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor meets with students and faculty at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Practice medicine with professionalism and integrity, be compassionate, and amid daily challenges always remember what inspired you to become a doctor. U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor offered that advice to students at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai during a special question-and-answer session on Thursday, May 7. Justice Sotomayor met with students and faculty on campus in Goldwurm Auditorium the day before receiving her honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters at the Icahn School of Medicine's 46th annual Commencement Ceremony.

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mount Sinai Health System, presided over the event's question-and-answer session. During the frank and lively discussions in which Justice Sotomayor descended from the stage to pose for photos with participants as she talked, she told students they must "always come back to center," and remember their "purpose," despite professional demands. She reminded the audience that "doctors start out in a place that most people don't and that is with patients' hopes and expectations that you will take care of them."

continued on page 3 >

➤ Honoring Achievement: Commencement 2015 *(continued from page 1)*

address. In his remarks, Dr. Emanuel asked the graduates to promise they would never forget why they chose to become doctors: “Deep down, you wanted to help people in distress. You wanted to help people improve their health and well-being.”

He emphasized that treating patients must be a team and communal effort that involves far more than a dedication to putting a patient’s well-being first. “To be a professional in the twenty-first century, you have to dedicate yourself to creating a system of care that is constantly rooting out errors and adverse events; measuring, publicizing, and improving quality; and helping patients make hard behavior changes,” he said. “So, if there is anything you remember today, please let it be these two questions: ‘What does it take to create a system that cares for people as well as you do?’ and ‘How can I do my part to create that system?’ Only by keeping those questions at the forefront can you truly be a twenty-first century medical professional—and prove that the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai did the right thing by conferring an MD on you today.”

Honorary degrees also were awarded to:

- **Judith R. Faulkner**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Epic Systems, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for her contributions to health care information systems and data management, and for creating an integrated, patient-centered electronic medical record platform.
- **Stanley B. Prusiner, MD**, Director, Institute for Neurodegenerative Diseases, and Professor, Department of Neurology, University of California, San Francisco, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his seminal discovery of prions, a class of proteins that cause neurodegenerative diseases in animals and humans.
- **Sonia Sotomayor**, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree for her key role in deciding some of the most urgent legal questions of our day—core issues that affect the lives of all Americans.



Top photo: Medical students recite a modified version of the Oath of Maimonides. Bottom photo, from left: Graduate students Yisheng Cao, Elisse Catalan, Sangeetha Chandramohan, and Glennly Coats received MPH degrees.

Addressing the graduates, Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System, discussed many of their achievements. “Members of the Class of 2015 have accomplished so much, from conducting groundbreaking research on emerging pathogens, such as Ebola, and investigating new models for studying cancer, to organizing health initiatives in Uganda and Nicaragua,” said Dr. Charney. “I predict that our graduates will provide the leadership needed to move medicine and biomedical science toward a global health care system that provides exceptional health care not only to all Americans, but also to disadvantaged people around the world.”

He added: “My generation of physicians and scientists dreamed of a world where each individual had a fair shot to thrive from infancy into old age. Instead, we have a world where, in many cases, the treatment for the disease is known but the patient does not have access to it. A world where too many of our patients are still dying from cancer, heart disease, and mental illness. A world where many times we know the genes causing disease, but cannot fix them.

I know it is in your hearts and minds to pursue great dreams. Stand on the shoulders of our generation so you can turn these promises into reality.”

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, encouraged the graduates to carry on Mount Sinai’s heritage and core values. “Mount Sinai’s founders had a dream: that hospitals should take care of everyone regardless of their religious affiliation or their ability to pay,” he told the audience. “Here, at Mount Sinai, we find a place for everyone in our health care system. We operate under the premise that health care is not a privilege that must be earned or purchased. That means anyone who needs health care should receive it. That means people should not have diseases that go untreated because they cannot afford care. That means people should not suffer from conditions that would have

been preventable if they could have afforded health care.

“I suspect you agree with the founders of our hospital—that health care should not be denied to those less fortunate. And I suspect that your experiences in the last four years have led you to conclude that enhanced access to care for more Americans is a good thing. I entreat you to preserve those values when you make important decisions about how you practice medicine in the years to come.”

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, said, “As graduates of the Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai’s remarkable legacy of philanthropic and community service is your heritage. I hope that you will keep this heritage central in your lives and in your practice and study of medicine. Draw on the skills and the experiences you have cultivated at Mount Sinai to treat all patients, from all walks of life, with respect and compassion. Seek opportunities to give back, whether locally or globally.”

To see a video of Dr. Charney’s commencement address, go to: icahn.mssm.edu/about-us/deans-office/videos.

Singing the Praises of Mount Sinai's Voice Center

Helena-Joyce Wright enjoyed a successful career on Broadway, hitting the low notes as a powerful contralto/alto singer for more than three decades. But after undergoing a series of surgeries starting in 2011 to treat cancer, Ms. Wright, a longtime smoker, thought her career was coming to an end.

That is when she began therapy sessions with Daniel McCabe, DMA, a vocologist at the Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center at the Mount Sinai Health System, who told her he was surprised she still had such “incredible range,” despite her continued smoking. He asked her, “Wouldn’t you like to see just how good it could be?” That question was all the encouragement she needed to stop smoking for good.

The therapy sessions helped restore Ms. Wright’s voice. Mr. McCabe’s work, she says, would have made the late Dr. Grabscheid proud of the Voice Center he started in 1989 that bears his name. As a young singer in the 1980s, Ms. Wright had been a patient of Dr. Grabscheid’s, when, she adds, he was the “go-to doctor for most Broadway and opera performers.”

Over the years, the Voice Center—the first of its kind in New York City to specialize in the professional voice—has treated thousands of singers, actors, broadcasters, and teachers.

Ms. Wright credits Mr. McCabe for helping her get her voice back, and she calls the late Dr. Grabscheid, a “guardian angel for



Daniel McCabe, DMA, vocologist at the Eugen Grabscheid MD Voice Center, with patient Helena-Joyce Wright

professional singers, especially those of us who have committed our lives to performing on stage.”

› U.S. Supreme Court Justice Leads a Lively Discussion at Mount Sinai *(continued from page 1)*

In introducing Justice Sotomayor, 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, highlighted her professional trajectory from the South Bronx to Princeton University and Yale Law School, eventually becoming the first Latina Supreme Court Justice. Justice Sotomayor also dealt with juvenile diabetes, which she credits with helping her develop discipline at an early age.



David Muller, MD, Dean for Medical Education, and the Marietta and Charles C. Morchand Chair for Medical Education, kicks off the question-and-answer session with Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

“Your remarkable personal story inspires us,” Dr. Charney said. “You have successfully navigated so many challenges—economic, ethnic, linguistic, gender, political, and have proven that intelligence, hard work, and courage can break down barriers. Your roles as a mentor and a role model resonate with many of us at Mount Sinai. Just as your relationship with numerous mentors helped you along your unique path to an incredible career, it also laid the foundation for you to become a mentor to countless others.”

When asked about her dreams for the future, Justice Sotomayor said, “I continue to work on being a better Justice. I’ve spent a lifetime becoming a better writer, trying to make my opinions shorter, more persuasive, more convincing, and that includes not just the logic of the opinion. There is a way to be fair and impartial and to touch people’s hearts. I think that’s what legal opinions have to make you do.”

During the event, the Justice discussed her favorite president: Abraham Lincoln, who “grieved for the soldiers who were dying but understood that segregation and unequal treatment of human beings would mar us forever if a step wasn’t taken to eliminate slavery”; and her favorite cartoon hero: Wolverine, “who would rather be on his own but always gets pulled in to do the right thing.”

Shortly before President Barack Obama nominated her to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009, he interviewed Justice Sotomayor. She

told him she knew he had to pick from among three candidates. “I said, ‘Mr. President, I know you have a hard choice. I am going to be happy whether you pick me or you don’t. I feel honored that I was even considered. I love what I do. I’m just happy I was here.’”

Justice Sotomayor encouraged the students to develop their civic duty and to “be an active voice in promoting new discoveries. Doctors, you need to be involved. Laws get made by people who want them passed and get changed when other people don’t want them anymore. There are no bystanders in life.” She said she takes time to feed the homeless in Washington, D.C., and is involved in college-bound mentoring programs.

In concluding the event—moments before inspired audience members eagerly lined up to shake hands with Justice Sotomayor—Dr. Davis said, “In 45 years at Mount Sinai, this is one of the most remarkable hours I have ever spent.”

Around the Health System

Bridge Walk Raises Awareness and Funds

Nearly 200 Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency patients, friends, and family members donned red T-shirts and walked from Fort Lee, N.J., to Manhattan and back on Saturday, May 2, raising more than \$25,000 to support research for the hereditary condition. The eighth annual George Washington Bridge Walk was organized by the James P. Mara Center for Lung Disease, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at Mount Sinai St. Luke's and Mount Sinai Roosevelt.

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency can cause early chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in adults and liver disease in adults and children. The James P. Mara Center is a Center of Excellence for research, diagnosis, and treatment of Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, and serves individuals with asthma and COPD, which can include chronic bronchitis and emphysema.



▲ From left: Edward Eden, MD, Chief, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Mount Sinai St. Luke's and Mount Sinai Roosevelt; Lori Tartell, RN, Director, Clinical Programs and Education, James P. Mara Center for Lung Disease; and Gerald M. Turino, MD, Director of Research, James P. Mara Center for Lung Disease



▲ Participants start their round-trip walk across the George Washington Bridge.

Mount Sinai Beth Israel Employees Receive Heart Awards

Eleven Mount Sinai Beth Israel employees received a 2015 Heart Award, one of the institution's highest honors, at a breakfast reception on Thursday, April 30, at Podell Auditorium, Petrie Campus. The award recognizes employees—nominated and selected by peers—who make outstanding contributions that help staff provide the highest quality care for patients, with a special focus on compassion and concern for their well-being. Mount Sinai Beth Israel President Susan Somerville, RN, congratulated the 2015 awardees at the reception.



▲ Front row, from left: Robert Keffer, PCA, Patient Care Services; Rosa Elena Romero, RN, Patient Care Services; Ms. Somerville; Julie Topsis, MD, Neonatology; Roshnie Keso, PSR, Beth Israel Medical Group-34th Street; and Tasha Milledge, Security Officer. Middle row: Regina Flecha, RN, Patient Care Services; Subarna Roy, RN, Patient Care Services; Beatrice Maloney, LCSW, Social Work; and Angella Chin-Smith, RN, Patient Care Services. Back row: Edgardo Martin, Unit Support Associate, Patient Care Services; and Glen Jordan, Laboratory Services.

New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai Gets New Signage

New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai recently received its new permanent exterior signage—to reflect the Mount Sinai Health System's logo—on the facade of the North Building, at Second Avenue and 14th Street. This replaces signage that was installed in 1968.



The 30th Annual Crystal Party Celebrates A Year of Major Accomplishments

Approximately 1,340 leaders, supporters, faculty, staff, and friends of the Mount Sinai Health System celebrated a year of growth and accomplishments on Thursday, May 7, at the 30th annual Crystal Party. Under a festively adorned tent located in the Central Park Conservatory Garden, guests enjoyed cocktails, dinner, and dancing on a clear spring evening.

This year's Crystal Party was hosted by Mount Sinai Trustee Joel I. Pickett and his wife Joan, who chaired the event, and helped raise \$5 million for the Health System.

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, welcomed the guests and said that in less than two years since its formation, the Health System had become increasingly unified.

"As I look around this room, I no longer see physicians and staff from individual hospitals spread throughout New York City," Mr. May said. "Instead, I see true members of one integrated family—the Mount Sinai Health System. Our broad geographic footprint allows us to service one of the most ethnically



From left: Kenneth L. Davis, MD, and Trustee Bonnie M. Davis, MD; Trustee Joel I. Pickett and Joan Pickett; and Leni May and Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees

diverse communities in the world. With seven hospital campuses and over 200 neighborhood health care providers, virtually every New Yorker is now within walking distance of a Mount Sinai facility. We are in the best position of any health care system in the northeast to address the changes and challenges in medicine today."

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mount Sinai Health

System, said, "Many people have said this is a time when the delivery of health care and the pursuit of science is filled with frustration and obstacles. But we believe it is a time filled with opportunity. We see a health care system of tomorrow that provides greater access to care with a focus on prevention and lower costs. We see unparalleled opportunities for scientific discoveries. We will enhance our focus on wellness and prevention, and use some of our most sophisticated analytics to identify at-risk patients. We will enhance our ambulatory centers to improve access to our care. And we will grow our scientific enterprise."

Special guest U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who also spoke at the podium, congratulated the Health System on its success and called Mount Sinai "a crown jewel of New York."



From left: Trustee Richard A. Friedman; U.S. Senator Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.); Trustee James S. Tisch; Daniel Neff; Susan Friedman; Nancy Neff; Stuart Katz; Jane Martin, PhD; Beth Nash; Sue Nestler; Trustee Joshua Nash; and Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD



A view of the Crystal Party tent in the Central Park Conservatory Garden

EVENT

Graduate Program in Public Health Lecture

Mallika Dutt, Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the global human rights organization, Breakthrough, presents “Spotlight in Public Health: Human Rights Starts With You.”

Tuesday, May 19

5:30 pm

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Hatch Auditorium

Grand Rounds / Neurology

Barbara Barnett, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, presents “We Can Do Better.”

Friday, May 22

1 – 2 pm

Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Phillips Ambulatory Care Center
Levy Conference Room

Seminar Series / Pharmacology and Systems Therapeutics

Lucy R. Forrest, DPhil, Investigator, Computational Structural Biology Unit, National Institutes of Health-NINDS, presents “The Value of Repetition: Computational Studies of Pseudo-Symmetrical Membrane Transport Proteins.”

Tuesday, May 26

4 – 5 pm

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Hess Center, Seminar Room A

Grand Rounds / Surgery

Mazen Iskandar, MD, Chief Resident, Department of Surgery, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, presents “Surgical Innovation in the Treatment of GERD and Achalasia.”

Wednesday, May 27

8 – 9 am

Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Podell Auditorium

Grand Rounds / Endocrinology

Azeez Farooki, MD, Assistant Attending Physician, Endocrinology Service, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, presents “Skeletal Fragility in Cancer Patients: Clinical Considerations.”

Thursday, May 28

5 – 6 pm

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Atran Building, AB4-11

OPEN HOUSE

The Phillips Beth Israel School of Nursing

Stop by to learn about the School of Nursing’s new RN-BSN Program. To RSVP, email Maria Gallo at mgallo@chpnet.org. For more information, visit www.pbisn.edu. Applications are being accepted for the Fall 2015 semester until Monday, June 1.

Wednesday, May 20

6 – 8 pm

776 Sixth Avenue
Suite 4A, Classrooms 5 and 6

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2015 Soffia Wathne Memorial Lecture

V. Reggie Edgerton, PhD, Distinguished Professor, Neurobiology, Integrative Biology, Physiology, Neurosurgery, Member, Brain Research Institute, University of California, Los Angeles, presents “Potential and Mechanisms of Novel Neuromodulatory Interventions for Motor Recovery.”

Hosted by the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine

Thursday, May 21

5 pm

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Goldwurm Auditorium

Biostatistics Summer Program For Clinical Research

The mission of the Summer Program is to increase the research capacity of clinical investigators, fellows, residents, postdocs, and public health professionals by providing application-driven instruction in biostatistics and statistical programming. Participants will receive 42 hours of intensive, in-person theory and SAS-related instruction over a three-week period. The program will be led by Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s Center for Biostatistics, including Emilia Bagiella, PhD, Emma Benn, DrPH, MPH, and master’s-level statisticians. The fee is \$2,000. **Registration is limited to the first 40 applicants.** To learn more and to register, visit <http://icahn.mssm.edu/biostatsummer>.

Mondays – Thursdays, July 6 - 23

3 – 6:30 pm

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Annenberg 13-01



INSIDE MOUNT SINAI
Marketing & Communications
Carrie Gottlieb, *Editor*
Marilyn Balamaci, *Editor*
Donald Maxton, *Editor*
Ha Ly, *Graphics Manager*

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](https://www.facebook.com/mountsinainyc)