Introducing the New Surgical Director at RMTI

Michael J. Goldstein, MD, FACS, a renowned transplant surgeon, who specializes in high-risk procedures that improves patient access to transplantation, has been appointed Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation at The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

One of Dr. Goldstein’s areas of expertise is operating on patients with high immunologic risk, and helping them to overcome organ rejection through the use of advanced immunosuppressant drug regimens. He also performs procedures that maximize the use of organs that might otherwise have been less than optimal for transplantation.

His innovative technique for minimally invasive kidney transplantation utilizing an astoundingly small two-inch incision minimizes pain, accelerates patient recovery, and reduces hospital stay.

“My goal as a surgeon and a clinician is to provide more patients with access to safe transplantation,” says Dr. Goldstein. “I’ve been working to do that through better utilization of organs from deceased and living donors.”

Dr. Goldstein says he is looking forward to working closely with Mount Sinai’s Living Donor Program. “Recipients of organs from living donors have much better outcomes than those who receive organs from deceased donors,” he says. “Mount Sinai is unique in the work it has done to increase the number of transplants coming from living donors, through outreach and through the efforts of the Center for Living Donation.”

Sander Florman, MD, Director of Mount Sinai’s Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute, calls Dr. Goldstein, “an exceptionally talented and knowledgeable surgeon. The breadth of his surgical knowledge and his experience in techniques that can shorten the time a patient spends on the waiting list are invaluable for Mount Sinai and, most importantly, will help save lives.”

In addition to his work at Mount Sinai, Dr. Goldstein is Medical Director of the New York Organ Donor Network, a non-profit organization that works to improve the quality and the number of organs available for transplant in the Greater New York area. He also serves as Vice Chair of the United Network for Organ Sharing’s Organ Availability Committee, and is on the Medical Directors Council of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations.

Dr. Goldstein says Mount Sinai is on course to become one of the leading transplantation programs in the nation, in clinical practice, and in research. “Transplantation and immunology go hand in hand,” he says. “You can’t have transplants without immunosuppression, and the study of ways to prevent organ rejection is critical to the whole process.”

Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Goldstein was an Assistant Attending Surgeon and an Assistant Professor at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center.

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www.mountsinai.org/OrganTransplants  
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Launching the Center for Living Donation

Living donors—healthy people who voluntarily donate an organ to save the life of a gravely ill loved one—are the heroes of organ donation, and require special care to ensure their continued health. Recently, The Mount Sinai Medical Center opened the first multiorgan living donor program in the country to specifically address their needs—

The Center for Living Donation at the Recanti/Miller Transplantation Institute.

Dianne LaPointe Rudow, DNP, a leading advocate for living donors, is the center’s newly appointed director. “When I first began working with living organ donors,” says Dr. LaPointe Rudow, “I recognized the need to design programs that address all aspects of the donor experience. With the Center for Living Donation, which focuses on comprehensive care and wellness, we are taking living donor care 10 steps forward.” Mount Sinai has long been a leader in organ transplantation, with one of the country’s oldest and largest transplant programs.

With the establishment of the Center, Mount Sinai is committed to advancing living donor research and patient care, and educating transplant patients, family members, and the public about living donation. Under Dr. LaPointe Rudow’s leadership, the Center’s multidisciplinary staff provides donors with comprehensive care, from initial evaluation and inpatient care to post-operative health maintenance, and health promotion. Ultimately, the goal is to create a positive, healing experience for donors and offer psychological and nutritional counseling, physical therapy, yoga, massage, educational resources, support groups, and seminars.

Dr. LaPointe Rudow and Sander Florman, MD, Director of the Recanti/Miller Transplantation Institute, believe the Center will help increase living organ donations to meet the overwhelming need in the New York City area. “Living donation is important to recipients. They have better outcomes with live donor organs,” says Dr. LaPointe Rudow. “I think patients will feel more comfortable allowing family members to donate when they know they can receive personalized care at a center focused on wellness.”

According to Dr. Florman, there are more than 105,000 people around the nation currently waiting for the estimated 7,000 organs that are expected to be donated from the deceased this year.

Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. LaPointe Rudow served as Director of Clinical Operations and Clinical Director of the Living Donor Liver Transplantation program at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center. She has helped develop national and New York state standards for donor care and serves on the board of directors of the American Society of Transplantation.

Research Update at RMTI

Dr. Bernd Schröppel, Medical Director of Kidney/Pancreas Transplantation at RMTI is a leading transplant nephrologist with a special interest in the role of the immune system in transplantation. His research has been widely published in prestigious and ground breaking publications as the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The long wait for a transplant has driven efforts to expand the organ supply by using kidneys from deceased donors with increased risk factors such as older donor age and acute kidney injury. It is intuitive that procured kidneys of lower quality should not be transplanted. However, in the absence of precise methods to assess kidney quality, it is likely that some good kidneys are not used and some lower-quality kidneys are transplanted with poor results.

In collaboration with researchers at UPenn and Yale, Dr. Schröppel is exploring innovative diagnostic tools that enable early assessment of donor kidney quality. Such research aims to maximize the allocation of viable kidneys, lead to better therapies to treat delayed kidney function and improve recipient outcomes.

There are ongoing, multicenter studies evaluating the safety and efficacy of existing and new immunosuppressive medications on graft function and rejection.

For more detailed information about our clinical and basic science research programs please visit our website: www.mountsinai.org/OrganTransplants
Name: ______________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________________
Home __________________________ Work __________________________ Mobile __________________________
Email Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________
SS# ____________________  DOB: ____________________ Age: ______  Sex: ______ Marital Status: _____________________

Dialysis Unit
Name of Unit: _________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________________
Days at Dialysis: ______________________________________________________________________________________
Contact Person: ___________________________________________  Phone: ________________________________________

Referring MD
Name: __________________________________________________  MD Type: _____________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________  Fax: ______________________  Email: ____________________________________

Insurance Information
Primary: ______________________________________________  Policy #:_______________________________________
Primary: ______________________________________________  Policy #:_______________________________________
If policy Holder is not the patient, name of holder and relationship to patient:  _________________________________________________

Are there any family members interested in donating?  □ Yes  □ No
Name: ______________________________________________  Relationship: __________________________
Name: ______________________________________________  Relationship: __________________________
Name: ______________________________________________  Relationship: __________________________
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Please fax Form to: 212-731-7354 if you would like to an appointment with our team.
Or call Sharyn Kreitzer: 212-659-8086
A Patient Story

Soon after the birth of her daughter Rebecca in 1985, Ellen Skolnick was diagnosed with “Diffuse Scleroderma.” Holding her newborn was nearly impossible due to the swollen joints and daily nausea and vomiting caused by this disease. Scleroderma eventually destroyed her kidneys. By the time Rebecca was 3, Ellen required life-sustaining dialysis treatments.

In 1992 Ellen received her first kidney transplant from a deceased donor. For many years she enjoyed a feeling of wellness and independence from dialysis.

When Ellen’s transplanted kidney stopped working, it was her younger brother, David, who volunteered to give her one of his kidneys.

“Every anniversary of my transplant I send a thank you lunch to the kidney staff. These kidneys were my gift but all the staff at Sinai have enabled me to get it and keep it. I always send my brother a delivery from Barney Greengrass — bagels and lox on “our anniversary” and my family in New Mexico celebrate together!”

Ellen visits dialysis patients and provides information and hope about transplantation. She is the team captain and a major fundraiser for the annual National Kidney Foundation Walk. She is getting honored in 2011 for the American Kidney Fund for all of her community service and outreach efforts.