



**Mount
Sinai**

inside

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The Tisch Cancer Institute Receives National Designation

The Tisch Cancer Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has been named a National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated Cancer Center, an honor reserved for an elite group of U.S. institutions committed to researching and treating cancer.

In conjunction with the NCI designation, The Tisch Cancer Institute received a five-year, \$8.5 million grant to support research and the recruitment of top physicians and scientists. More than 50 of the nation's leading cancer researchers have joined The Tisch Cancer Institute since it was established in 2008.

"The NCI designation signifies excellence," says Steven J. Burakoff, MD, Director of The Tisch Cancer Institute and the Lillian and Henry M. Stratton Professor of Cancer Medicine. "Receiving this designation in New York City, which is a highly competitive market, is tangible proof of the meaningful work we are accomplishing in research and clinical care."

Sixty-nine cancer institutions in 35 states and the District of Columbia carry the NCI designation. To qualify, Mount Sinai met

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Leaders at The Tisch Cancer Institute include, from left: Randall Holcombe, MD, Deputy Director; Steven J. Burakoff, MD, Director; and William Oh, MD, Associate Director, Clinical and Translational Research.

A New Era in Cancer Immunotherapy



Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD

Advances in cancer immunotherapy, a promising new area in cancer treatment that harnesses the body's immune system or natural defenses to destroy cancer cells, are being led by Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, Director of Immunotherapy, and Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology), at The Tisch Cancer Institute.

In clinical studies, Dr. Bhardwaj and her team are exploring multiple approaches to immunotherapy, from intratumoral injections to the development of personalized vaccines used in combination with traditional treatments such as surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy.

"Combining different immunotherapy strategies is an exciting new area of clinical research," says Dr. Bhardwaj. "Mount Sinai has the best basic scientists and clinicians and we are fortunate to have assembled an integrated and collaborative immunotherapy group."

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stringent requirements and demonstrated its strength in laboratory and clinical research, and population science.

In granting the designation, the NCI cited The Tisch Cancer Institute's focus on at-risk populations in East and Central Harlem that have a high incidence of aggressive prostate and breast cancers; its comprehensive liver cancer program; a strong immunotherapy program; expertise in environmental health; its World Trade Center First Responders Program; and Mount Sinai's commitment to reducing health disparities among underserved cancer patients.

"Under Dr. Burakoff, The Tisch Cancer Institute has become a national leader in basic, clinical, and population cancer research and treatment," says Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System. "These strengths were central to our success in receiving this NCI designation."

Mount Sinai's cancer research teams have earned grants totaling \$79 million. Renowned physicians and scientists in cancer immunology, cancer cell signaling, cancer genomics



Key members of The Tisch Cancer Institute who helped obtain National Cancer Institute designation include, seated from left: William Oh, MD; and Steven J. Burakoff, MD. Back row, from left: Philippe Soriano, PhD, Associate Director, Basic Science Shared Resources; Sharon Mias, MPA, Executive Administrator; Randall Holcombe, MD; Chan-Bene Lin, MPH, Director, Research Administration; and Stuart Aaronson, MD, Associate Director, Basic and Translational Research. Not pictured: Paolo Boffetta, MD, MPH, Associate Director, Population Science; Janice Gabrilove, MD, Associate Director, Training and Education; and Marshall Posner, MD, Associate Director, Clinical Trials Infrastructure.

and bioinformatics, cancer epidemiology, and cancer pathology are making new discoveries. Their collaborations across the Mount Sinai Health System have led to promising clinical trials.

Research and clinical space in the Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine, a nearly 500,000-square-foot building at 1470 Madison Avenue that opened in 2012, has helped foster collaborations. The Tisch Cancer Institute's Ruttenberg Treatment Center, which provides patients with chemotherapy and a range of treatments, is located there, along with many of Mount Sinai's laboratories.

"This honor is based on the exceptional leadership of Steven J. Burakoff, MD, and his team, extensive research facilities, and an institution-wide commitment to cancer research," says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System. "The NCI designation will help facilitate the expansion of novel treatment options and clinical trials for cancer patients throughout the Mount Sinai Health System."

› A New Era in Cancer Immunotherapy *(continued from page 1)*

Using immunotherapy to treat cancer has become increasingly viable within the past two years, due to the identification of an immune checkpoint blockade that enables the human body to unleash a powerful anticancer response without being restrained by the cancerous tumors. This discovery, the most significant advance in cancer treatment in almost 40 years, is transforming human cancer therapeutics.

Indeed, The Tisch Cancer Institute, working in collaboration with researchers led by Eric E. Schadt, PhD, Director of the Icahn Institute for Genomics and Multiscale Biology, Chair of the Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, and the Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor of Genomics is one of a handful of U.S. medical institutions currently pursuing personalized vaccines.

In a unique proof-of-concept study that is set to begin this fall, Dr. Bhardwaj's team will explore the feasibility of developing personalized vaccines for patients with multiple solid tumors. Using the supercomputing capabilities housed within the Icahn Institute for Genomics and Multiscale Biology and the Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, Mount Sinai scientists will

sequence a patient's tumor and identify its mutations. Then, they will use the tumor antigens produced by the mutations to create a vaccine specific to the patient. Personalized vaccines that originate within the patient's body are believed to carry less toxicity and be well-tolerated by the patient.

"We are going to test whether it's feasible to sequence the tumor, find the mutation, make the antigen, and immunize the patient," says Dr. Bhardwaj.

In related work, Dr. Bhardwaj and team member Joshua Brody, MD, Director of the Lymphoma Immunotherapy Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, are using approaches to modify the tumor microenvironment with immune modulatory agents. Dr. Brody has had success in using two immune-modifying medications that are administered directly into a tumor in combination with low-dose radiotherapy. The treatment works by priming the patient's immune system to kill the lymphoma. Patients have reported fewer side effects with these intratumoral injections than with conventional therapies.

Unique Liver Transplant at The Mount Sinai Hospital Restores a Patient's Quality of Life

On a crisp, clear Sunday morning in early June, a Mount Sinai Health System team of more than 100 strong participated in the 2015 Liver Life Walk at Hudson River Park. Among the enthusiastic participants who walked the three-mile course and raised more than \$20,000 to support the American Liver Foundation was Jennifer Long, a patient at Mount Sinai's Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute.

Ms. Long is the only person in the United States to have had a liver transplant due to porphyria, a disease that occurs when porphyrins—chemicals that help form many substances in the body, including hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells—affect the nervous system and/or skin. An estimated one in 20,000 people carries the disease, which actually comprises nine separate disorders, but only 10 percent of people will experience symptoms.

Over several years, Ms. Long's acute form of porphyria had become so extreme that her nausea; the constant pain in her back, stomach, and legs; and attacks of paralysis forced her to be hospitalized for months at a time.

In 2012, after a series of failed treatments and being rejected as a liver transplant candidate at two other medical facilities, Ms. Long, a resident of Maryland, was referred to Lawrence Liu, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Liver Diseases), a specialist in porphyria and liver transplantation at The Mount Sinai Hospital. Dr. Liu and a team of medical researchers at Mount Sinai believed the best course of action for Ms. Long was, indeed, a liver transplant.

As Ms. Long moved up the waiting list for liver transplants, she was transferred by ambulance from Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center in Baltimore to The Mount Sinai Hospital for several months of testing and preparatory treatments.

"A transplant had never been done in the United States for a patient with porphyria, so there was no precedent," says Dr. Liu. "It had been done in the United Kingdom,



During her annual checkup at Mount Sinai earlier this year, Jennifer Long gathered with members of her medical team. From left: Lawrence Liu, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Liver Diseases); Jawad Ahmad, MD, Professor of Medicine (Liver Diseases); Jennifer Long; and Antonios Arvelakis, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute, the Mount Sinai Health System.

"A transplant had never been done in the United States for a patient with porphyria, so there was no precedent. It had been done in the United Kingdom, and the early results that were published were more favorable than detrimental."

— Lawrence Liu, MD

and the early results that were published were more favorable than detrimental." Using the results from the procedures in the United Kingdom as a guide, Dr. Liu and his team were able to proceed successfully and avoid major setbacks.

Today, Ms. Long is free of the excessive porphyrins in her body that impeded her quality of life and is grateful for her remarkable gift. "The medical team at Mount Sinai did a wonderful job of taking care of me," says Ms. Long, who has written a letter of thanks to the family of her liver donor. For routine health



Jennifer Long, left, with Sharyn Kreitzer, MSW, Director, Outreach, Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute, at the 2015 Liver Life Walk in June.

care needs, she sees specialists at Johns Hopkins, and for annual follow-ups Ms. Long returns to her doctors at Mount Sinai's Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute.

Around the Health System

Alison M. Goate, DPhil, Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Trailblazing neurogenetics researcher Alison M. Goate, DPhil, was presented with the Khalid Iqbal, PhD, Lifetime Achievement Award in Alzheimer's Disease Research during the 2015 Alzheimer's Association International Conference® held recently in Washington, D.C. The award honors individuals who have made significant, fundamental contributions to Alzheimer's research, either through a single specific scientific discovery or a body of work. Dr. Goate, who has been studying the genetics of Alzheimer's disease for more than 27 years, reported the first genetic mutation that causes an inherited form of Alzheimer's and co-led a team of researchers that reported on some of the first disease-causing genetic mutations discovered for frontotemporal dementia. Her current research focuses on understanding the genetic risk factors for the more common, late-onset form of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Goate is Professor of Neuroscience, Genetics and Genomic Sciences, and Neurology for the Mount Sinai Health System and Director of the Ronald M. Loeb Center for Alzheimer's Disease at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



▲ Alison M. Goate, DPhil, with Khalid Iqbal, PhD, co-founder of the Alzheimer's Association International Conference

"Story Time" for Pediatric Patients

New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai recently launched a "Story Time" program for pediatric patients, an initiative designed to ease their anxiety in the hospital waiting room and to acquaint them with best-selling books that also happen to have a medical-friendly theme: *The Berenstain Bears Go to the Doctor*, for example, and *Magenta Gets Glasses* from the "Blue's Clues" series. "Story Time" occurs at two locations: the main hospital and the nearby Ear Institute.



◀ New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai volunteer Françoise Brodsky, center, reads to, from left: Melaney Duran; Keithy Castillo; Kaniya Sutton; and Mya Thomas Jorge.



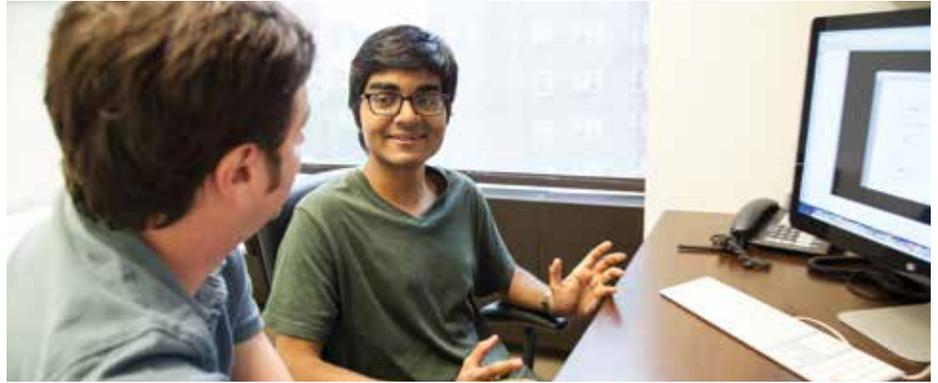
▲ Front row, from left: Lucille Perrotta, MD; Anne Marie Dassler, NP; Rachel Levine, IBCLC; and Elizabeth Gavin, RN. Back row, from left: Lisa Altin, PA; Robin Sewsanker, RN; Joanna Toledano, RN; Aliasha Brown, PCA; Norma Cortez; Susan Somerville, RN; Jamal John; Joanne Rutland, LCSW; and Mark Gorelick.

Saluting Exemplary Patient Care At Mount Sinai Beth Israel

Mount Sinai Beth Israel President Susan Somerville, RN, personally thanked 12 hospital employees for delivering exemplary patient care at a "Dinner With the President" held Tuesday, July 21, in the 2 Dazian Boardroom, Petrie Campus. Ms. Somerville recounted that the employees had been singled out by grateful patients—through letters and emails—as especially "caring," "professional," "courteous," "fantastic," and "kind." Ms. Somerville said of her guests: "Their warmth, love, and commitment to their patients make them people who will move our hospital into the future." She plans to host similar dinners and breakfasts every quarter to honor outstanding employees.

Enriching the Talent Pipeline Through Internships

Fifteen high school, college, and graduate students who aspire to careers in health care participated in recent internships throughout the Mount Sinai Health System. The initiative, which provides opportunities to students from groups underrepresented in health care, is supported by the Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) in partnership with five local organizations: the Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA); All Stars Project, Inc.; Committee for Hispanic Children and Families; Prep for Prep; and YouthBridge-NY.



Benjamin Greenbaum, PhD, engages with Prep for Prep intern Amit Chowdhury.

The students gained exposure in areas such as hospital administration, managed care, biomedical research, and the new Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program. They also had the opportunity to meet with Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mount Sinai Health System; David L. Reich, MD, President and Chief Operating Officer, The Mount Sinai Hospital; Arthur A. Gianelli, President, Mount Sinai St. Luke's; and Susan Somerville, RN, President, Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

"Meeting Dr. Davis was one of the greatest experiences of my internship," says Columbia University Master of Public Health student Geraldine Massuh, one of three GNYHA interns who attended a lunchtime roundtable with Dr. Davis. Inspired by Dr. Davis's enthusiasm for research and medicine, Ms. Massuh intends to pursue a career in health care administration.

For Amit Chowdhury, a Prep for Prep

intern who will begin his freshman year at Yale University in September, the internship was both a stimulating and challenging experience. Under the supervision of Benjamin Greenbaum, PhD, Assistant Professor, Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology), Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Mr. Chowdhury says that he "wrote codes to analyze the network relatedness of different HIV and influenza proteins using a mathematical model published in a recent scientific paper." He plans to major in physics upon entering college this fall.

Among other activities, interns learned about best practices in lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) health care, facilitated by Barbara Warren, PsyD, Director, LGBT Programs and Policies, and in financial management, with Hope Bellingham, Vice President, Finance. They also had a tour of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and an introduction to the Center of Excellence in

Youth Education (CEYE) programs, led by Alyson Davis, Program Manager.

High school students Sarah Rebarber and Hemali Dave, YouthBridge-NY interns, had an opportunity to meet with Gary Butts, MD, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, and Senior Associate Dean, Programs, Policy, and Community Affairs, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "Dr. Butts encouraged us to take all the opportunities that are given to us in order to help us achieve our goals," says Ms. Dave, who wants to attend medical school upon graduation from college.

Says Dr. Butts about the role that these internships play in advancing the talent pipeline for groups underrepresented in health care: "This program offers participants exposure to relevant issues, as well as critical opportunities for mentorship and developing professional networks for the future."



From left, Greater New York Hospital Association interns Sneha Subramaniam, Irani DeAraujo, Jr., and Geraldine Massuh.



Prep for Prep interns Tisheya Ward, left, and Fatima Johnson, center, with their preceptor, Nina Bastian, Associate Director of Operations, Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Take the “Push-Up Challenge”

The Department of Urology is sponsoring a Men’s Health Event on Wednesday, September 16, during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, which will feature a “Push-Up Challenge” with 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. Men—and women—are invited to take a turn on the push-up mat to try to “Beat the Dean,” an effort aimed at encouraging all to include physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle. All participants will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

The event is being hosted by Ash Tewari, MBBS, MCh, Kyung Hyun Kim, MD Chair in Urology, Mount Sinai Health System. Stop by to meet physicians and staff from the Department of Urology, who will be on hand to answer questions about prostate cancer, men’s health, and the role of diet and exercise in preventing and managing disease. They also will provide free, private prostate-cancer risk consultations onsite. In addition, a representative and trainer from New York Sports Club will offer tips on exercise routines and discounts on gym memberships.

Wednesday, September 16

10 am - 2:30 pm

1:15 pm “Push-Up Challenge”

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus

Guggenheim Pavilion Atrium

EVENT

ICD-10 Town Hall

All are invited to join the IT Program Management Office and project leaders for the next ICD-10 Town Hall Meeting, “Are You Ready for ICD-10 Compliance?” The hour-long discussion will feature updates on the project and how the Mount Sinai Health System is handling the final phase of the implementation ahead of the Thursday, October 1, mandatory deadline.

Wednesday, September 9

10 - 11 am

The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus

Annenberg, Stern Auditorium

Mount Sinai Physicians at the US Open

Mount Sinai physicians, led by Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, and James Gladstone, MD, will be courtside at the 2015 US Open in Flushing Meadows, Queens, which gets under way Monday, August 31. This is the third year that Mount Sinai is serving as the official medical services provider for the tennis tournament, as well as for the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and the US Davis Cup and US Fed Cup teams.



Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, with James Gladstone, MD

Dr. Colvin, Associate Professor of Sports Medicine in the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, is continuing her role as chief medical officer at the tournament and as team physician for the US Fed Cup. Dr. Gladstone, Co-Chief of Sports Medicine at The Mount Sinai Hospital, and Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, is a consultant to the US Open and medical advisor to the US Davis Cup team.

Also onsite for the first time this year will be Mount Sinai radiologists, who will use portable, ultrasound devices made by GE Healthcare, to quickly diagnose bone, muscle, and joint injuries among the players. Carlos Benitez, MD, Director of Musculoskeletal Imaging at Mount Sinai Roosevelt and Mount Sinai St. Luke’s, will lead a team of radiologists, supported by Alexander Kagen, MD, Site Chair, Department of Radiology, Mount Sinai Roosevelt and Mount Sinai St. Luke’s. To learn more about the USTA Mount Sinai Partnership, visit www.mountsinaihealth.org/usopen.



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