Mount Sinai School of Medicine Receives Independent Accreditation

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education recently granted Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM) independent accreditation status, enabling the School, for the first time, to grant its own degrees to graduates. Mount Sinai School of Medicine’s new status makes it the most highly ranked independent medical school in the United States, with 969 students enrolled in degree-granting programs. In granting institutional accreditation, the Middle States Commission commended Mount Sinai on the high quality of its Self-Study submission.

New York University (NYU) formerly granted degrees to Mount Sinai students pursuant to an academic affiliation established in 1998 in conjunction with a clinical alliance between The Mount Sinai Hospital and New York University Hospitals Center. Prior to that, Mount Sinai School of Medicine had been affiliated with The City University of New York.

Throughout its affiliation with NYU, Mount Sinai’s finances were separate from NYU’s, and Mount Sinai School of Medicine had a separate Board of Trustees. Under a new agreement, Mount Sinai and NYU will continue to license

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Mount Sinai is featured in Frontline documentary, Facing Death

Frontline, the award-winning public affairs program on PBS, recently aired Facing Death, a documentary filmed entirely at The Mount Sinai Hospital that explores today’s difficult end-of-life decisions that patients, their families, and their doctors confront. On Wednesday, December 8, in Stern Auditorium, Mount Sinai School of Medicine hosted a special screening and a question-and-answer session with the doctors featured in the documentary.

Physicians, faculty, staff, and students joined the film’s co-producers, Karen O’Connor and Miri Navasky, to watch the documentary as a community. The film captured the most intimate portraits of several families as they decided when to continue—and discontinue—treatment

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Winner of “Tribute to Nurses” Award

Clare Ceballos, NP, a Wound Care Specialist and Clinical Coordinator for the Children’s IBD (inflammatory bowel disease) Center at Kravis Children’s Hospital at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, was recently honored with the prestigious New York Times “Tribute to Nurses” award for her commitment to community service.

Each year, Ms. Ceballos volunteers her services at Camp Sunshine in Maine, a year-round program for children with life-threatening illnesses, and at a week-long camp for children with IBD in upstate New York that is run by the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of America. Earlier this year, during National Nurses Week, Ms. Ceballos received the Mary Mendes Award from Mount Sinai for her community service work. Mary Mendes was a respected nurse at Mount Sinai, and a strong advocate for children.

“Clare represents nursing at its finest,” says Carol Torchen, RN, Director of Women’s and Children’s Services, and the supervisor who nominated Ms. Ceballos for her “Tribute to Nurses” award. The award is open to nurses who work in hospitals in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. “She gives up weeks of her time to work with children who have illnesses such as Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, says Ms. Torchen.” This was the first time a nurse at Mount Sinai has received the “Tribute to Nurses” award.

A native of the United Kingdom who has worked at Mount Sinai for 20 years, Ms. Ceballos says she was “surprised and humbled” by the award. Community service has been a part of her life since childhood, she adds, and it influenced her career choice.

“I come from a small community in England that had strong community spirit,” says Ms. Ceballos. “In a small town, everybody relied on everyone else. I chose a career in nursing because I love working with people, and I like to help when I can. Nursing provides an amazing opportunity to do both.”

Ms. Ceballos met her husband, Javiel, while working at a summer camp for homeless children. Now she is passing on her enthusiasm for community service to her daughter, Rebekah, 17, and son, Thomas, 13, both of whom worked with her at Camp Sunshine last summer.

The joy that Ms. Ceballos brings to her work comes through in her interactions with patients and colleagues. “I’m lucky I work in a career that allows me to help people every day,” says Ms. Ceballos. “I have this amazing opportunity to make someone’s life a little easier.”

Frontline Documentary, Facing Death (continued from page 1)

for loved ones, underscoring just how far the medical community has come in its ability to preserve life, and how limited it is, as well.

In the film, Scott Lorin, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, said: “We have a tremendous amount of technology to prolong life, but ultimately, we can’t overcome the patient’s illness.”

Judith Nelson, MD, JD, Professor of Medicine, Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, told Frontline: “My job is to try to prevent people from dying if there’s a possible way to do it that will preserve a quality of life that’s acceptable to them—but if they can’t go on, to try to make the death a good death.”

According to co-producer Karen O’Connor, “The conversations the doctors had with us were extraordinarily honest, moving, and very powerful. The response to the film has been remarkable—and it seems to have struck a deep chord in people everywhere.” She said several medical schools have expressed an interest in using the film to train their students in handling end-of-life situations.

In addition to Drs. Lorin and Nelson, Facing Death featured the following Mount Sinai doctors:

Celia L. Grosskreutz, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology;

Adriana K. Malone, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology;

Barbara Mann, MD, Fellow, Medicine, Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine;

David Muller, MD, Marietta and Charles C. Morchand Chair in Medical Education, Dean for Medical Education, and Associate Professor of Medicine, and of Internal Medicine;

Keren Osman, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology;

Eileen Scigliano, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, and Pediatrics.

The film is also available online at www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/facing-death.
MSSM Receives Independent Accreditation (continued from page 1)

electronic resources jointly, and MSSM students will continue to have access to the NYU library.

“Although connected to NYU through an affiliation agreement, MSSM has functioned autonomously, setting its own educational goals and objectives, developing its own curricula, and evaluating its own programs,” says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at The Mount Sinai Medical Center. “Our relationship with NYU remains cordial, and we are committed to retaining our collaboration in areas such as library resources that are mutually beneficial to both organizations.”

David Muller, MD, Marietta and Charles C. Morchand Chair in Medical Education and Dean for Medical Education, says, “This accreditation by Middle States is a ringing endorsement of all we have achieved in the past five years. We have seen our programs in education, research, service, and clinical care grow in both scope and quality, and we have charged ahead of many of our peers in terms of the impact we’re having on biomedicine and health care.”

Says John H. Morrison, PhD, Dean of Basic Sciences and the Graduate School of Biological Sciences, the W.T.C. Johnson Professor of Geriatrics and Adult Development (Neurobiology of Aging), and Professor of Neuroscience: “The process of achieving independent accreditation status has been very enlightening with respect to our educational mission, and it represents an important step in our emergence as one of America’s outstanding academic institutions for biomedical education.”

Going Above and Beyond in Caring for Patients

When employees at The Mount Sinai Medical Center go above and beyond the usual acts of kindness in caring for patients, the results not only bring smiles, they sometimes yield surprises. Recently, Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Mount Sinai Medical Center, and Wayne Keathley, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital, commended two employees for their spontaneous acts of kindness toward patients, and rewarded them with New York Jets tickets.

The employees, Eunice Davis, Assistant Director for Telecommunication Services, and Zulay Mota, Support Associate in Building Services, had acted instinctively to calm distressed patients they had encountered when going about their daily routines. Ms. Davis happened to be riding the elevator in the Annenberg Building with an elderly patient, and sang to her. Ms. Mota befriended a patient in 8 East whose hospital room she was cleaning.

“In your hearts you really know how to help people,” Dr. Davis told Ms. Mota and Ms. Davis, who had gathered in his office with Mr. Keathley and Daryl Wilkerson, Vice President of Support Services, to receive their tickets and commendations. “That kindness makes Mount Sinai an amazing institution.”

Young Friends of Mount Sinai Hold Their Fall Fete

The Young Friends of The Mount Sinai Medical Center drew more than 300 supporters, and raised close to $100,000, at their fifth annual Fall Fete in November, held at Carnival in Manhattan, where guests enjoyed a night of carnival games, music, and a silent auction. Proceeds from the event will be donated to The Jack Martin Fund Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Mount Sinai. Toy prizes were donated to Mount Sinai’s Department of Pediatrics.

Teddy Schwarzman, Chairman of the Young Friends, welcomed guests and thanked them for supporting Young Friends in its efforts to help children with cancer and blood diseases. The mission of the Young Friends of Mount Sinai is to engage professional men and women in their 20s and 30s as supporters and future leaders of Mount Sinai. For more information on the Young Friends, please visit www.youngfriendsofmountsinai.org.

Young Friends of Mount Sinai Advisory Board (not all members pictured) LEFT TO RIGHT: Allison Charney; Teddy Schwarzman; Jonathan Saisky; Andrew B. Steinau; Susan Karzer; Wesley LePatner; Evan LePatner; David Richman; Sarah O’Malley; Tyler J. Friedman; Tracey Hanfling; David Simon; Ross Koller; Jackie Friedman; and Elizabeth Shaoul Wilens
### Events

#### A Special Promotion To Benefit Pediatric Cancer

Aflac, the insurance company, has teamed up with Macy’s to help fight pediatric cancer by creating a plush toy of its company icon—the Aflac Duck—which can be purchased for $15 at participating Macy’s stores or macys.com. One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to 40 pediatric cancer hospitals across the country, including The Mount Sinai Medical Center. For more information, go to www.aflacholidayduck.com.

#### Grand Rounds

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<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health Evidence &amp; Policy</strong></td>
<td>Tuesday, December 21</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Icahn Medical Institute, Second Floor, Classroom L2-82</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Anesthesiology</strong></td>
<td>Wednesday, December 22</td>
<td>6:45 – 8:10 am</td>
<td>Annenberg 13-01</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cardiovascular Institute</strong></td>
<td>Monday, December 20</td>
<td>5 – 6 pm</td>
<td>Hatch Auditorium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Geriatrics &amp; Palliative Medicine</strong></td>
<td>Thursday, January 20</td>
<td>5:15 – 6:15 pm</td>
<td>Annenberg 10-30</td>
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#### Mount Sinai Makes Donations To the Yorkville Common Pantry

The Mount Sinai Medical Center’s Department of Food and Nutrition Services this year donated 720 pounds of whole turkeys to the Yorkville Common Pantry, which provides food to the East Harlem community. Mount Sinai employees also provided the pantry with 300 pounds of assorted groceries, and made cash donations totaling $1,200—enough to provide 40 families with full Thanksgiving meals. Wayne Keathley, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital, presented a check for $1,200 to Stephen Grimaldi, the Pantry’s Executive Director.

#### Mount Sinai Medically Supervised Weight Management Program Weekly Orientation

Mount Sinai’s Weight Management Program holds a weekly orientation session, “Toward Lasting Better Health,” to introduce employees and others to the Weight Management Program. The program is geared to help people who need to lose more than 30 pounds, and is led by physicians and dietitians. Participation requires a comprehensive obesity screening by an endocrinologist. Closely supervised, patients in the program should lose weight rapidly, while learning healthy lifestyle skills. To reserve a seat for the orientation session, call 212-241-4991.

- Mondays, 5 pm
- Atran Building
- Fourth Floor Conference Room AB4-11

### Education

#### The Page and William Black Post Graduate School for Continuing Education

The Office of Continuing Medical Education offers seminars, conferences, grand rounds, and live Web casts for physicians and other health professionals to extend their knowledge and remain current in their specific fields. For more information on courses, visit www.mssm.edu/education/continuing-medical-education/courses or call the Office of CME at 212-731-7950.

#### Editor’s Note

Look for the next issue of *Inside Mount Sinai* on Monday, January 10, 2011. Happy New Year!