Scott L. Friedman, MD, Fishberg Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Liver Diseases at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, has been appointed Dean for Therapeutic Discovery, a new position that underscores Mount Sinai’s emerging role in the development of novel drugs and diagnostic products.

In his new position, Dr. Friedman will work closely with the Office of Technology and Business Development, the Experimental Therapeutics Institute, and with researchers throughout the institution to implement strategies to enhance therapeutic discovery, and identify molecules that can be commercialized through collaborations with biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

“Dr. Friedman is the ideal person to shepherd Mount Sinai into a new phase of innovation, with bench-to-bedside medical discoveries that may result in high-impact therapeutic products,” says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

The Mount Sinai Medical Center has agreed to collaborate with MRC Technology, the licensing arm of the United Kingdom’s prestigious Medical Research Council, on the development of monoclonal antibodies that can be commercialized as drugs to control infection and treat diseases. The agreement calls for MRC Technology to humanize mouse antibodies that are created by Mount Sinai’s Center for Therapeutic Antibody Discovery (CTAD). Through humanization, a mouse antibody’s molecular structure is altered without changing its binding specificity to make it compatible for therapeutic use in humans.

Mount Sinai, one of the largest creators of mouse antibodies in the New York metropolitan area, will license the humanized antibodies to drugmakers through its Office of Technology and Business Development (OTBD). The two-year agreement with MRC Technology marks the first time Mount Sinai has entered into a collaboration of this kind.

With its expertise in utilizing mouse models, and culture of translational science, Mount Sinai can identify unmet medical needs and target these areas for commercialization.

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Mount Sinai Signs Commercialization Agreement

Mount Sinai Cath Lab Number One For PCI
David H. Koch Donates $10 Million to Jaffe Food Allergy Institute

Philanthropist David H. Koch recently donated $10 million to the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, to create the David H. and Julia Koch Research Program in Food Allergy Therapeutics. The program will serve as a hub for drug discovery related to food allergies, and build upon the promising work already under way at Mount Sinai. The additional major advocate for medical research. The gift represents one of the largest donations ever made to the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute.

Hugh A. Sampson, MD, Kurt Hirschhorn Professor of Pediatrics, Dean for Translational Biomedical Research, and Director of the Jaffe Food Allergy Institute, says Mr. Koch’s gift strengthens Mount Sinai’s position as a global leader in food allergy therapeutics. “Right now, the only recourse for patients who have food allergies is to avoid those foods,” says Dr. Sampson. “This program has the potential to deliver the first therapies and cures for food allergy.”

“MRC’s recognition of Dr. Moran’s and Mount Sinai’s antibody work, and the enhanced commercialization capabilities of Dr. Araujo, put us in a stronger position to impact development of new therapies, diagnostics, and biomedical research reagents,” says Teri F. Willey, Vice President, Office of Technology and Business Development.

Dr. Moran encourages Mount Sinai researchers to bring him their ideas. “Mount Sinai is strong in early science and research, and we can see things that aren’t in the public domain yet,” says Dr. Moran. “We want to encourage clinical and basic scientists to identify unmet medical needs in their individual areas of expertise, and work with us to identify potential targets and develop biologics with therapeutic potential.”

A snapshot of a humanized antibody shows the complementary determining regions (CDRs) that have been taken from a mouse antibody (red loops), and grafted into the framework of a human antibody (in green and blue).
The creativity of Mount Sinai’s physicians and scientists, combined with the unique capabilities of the pharmaceutical and device industry, will result in the discovery of important new therapies for serious medical diseases.

As the cost of developing a new drug continues to rise—it is estimated to be upward of $1 billion—companies will increasingly look to Mount Sinai and other top research institutions to provide concrete scientific advances.

“Mount Sinai is uniquely positioned as a translational academic center that provides outstanding patient care, and generates discoveries that are of great interest to the pharmaceutical industry,” says Dr. Friedman. “We have a lean, integrated structure that is responsive to the rapidly changing world of drug discovery and development.” As Dean, Dr. Friedman says he will introduce Mount Sinai to a wide array of companies that are eager to invest in the intellectual property developed here.

An internationally renowned physician-scientist, Dr. Friedman holds eight patents and serves as a consultant to more than 40 companies in the field of liver fibrosis. He will continue to serve as Chief of the Division of Liver Diseases in the Department of Medicine, a position he has held since 2001. Under his leadership, the division has grown into the largest liver medicine program in the United States, incorporating the largest clinical liver fellowship training program in the country, a postdoctoral fellowship training grant supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and an Alcohol Research Center focused on fibrosis that is supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The division conducts international clinical trials of novel hepatitis treatments, and collaborates on an enormous national clinical and investigative liver cancer program, which incorporates groundbreaking clinical trials and NIH-sponsored basic/translational research.

26th Annual Valentine’s Reunion Party

The Annenberg West lobby was adorned with cartoon cut-outs and balloons for the 26th Annual Valentine’s Reunion Party that brought together several hundred pediatric heart patients and their families with Mount Sinai physicians and staff. Wearing shiny hats in the shape of glittering crowns, and painted red hearts on their cheeks, the children ate frosted cupcakes, played games, and celebrated their improved health. The children also posed for pictures with Miss USA Alyssa Campanella, Miss Teen USA Danielle Doty, and television actor Matthew Settle.

Project Sunshine, a nonprofit organization that helps children and families living with medical challenges.

Ira A. Parness, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology, told guests, “This Valentine’s reunion day reminds us to celebrate the purpose of our therapy as we watch the children playing joyously outside of the clinic environment. This is our greatest reward.”

One of the participants was heart transplant patient Donald Redfield, 26, from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., who has attended five reunions. He first came to The Mount Sinai Medical Center in 1998, when he was 12 years old, to receive treatment for dilated cardiomyopathy, a disease of the heart muscle. “It’s great to see all the doctors, nurses, and echo-technicians who have taken care of you over the years,” said Mr. Redfield, who is now an adult patient at Mount Sinai Heart.

Dr. Parness acknowledged staff, among them EKG Supervisor Robbin Berry, who every year oversees a large team of volunteers responsible for creating and painting hundreds of cartoon cut-outs for the party. He also thanked Project Sunshine and Aileen Janover, a member of the Mount Sinai Auxiliary Board, who helped establish Heart-to-Heart clubs in 12 Manhattan high schools to enable students to interact with patients at Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital. Approximately 50 of these students volunteered to set up the event and work at the booths.

Said Rachel Justus, LCSW, about the annual reunion, “This is an incredible opportunity to celebrate life, and a wonderful way for Mount Sinai staff, and all volunteers, to come together and support these heroic families.”

For more information, visit kravischildrenshospital.org.
## April Is Donate Life Month

In honor of National Donate Life Month, The Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute and New York Organ Donor Network will distribute educational material about the importance of organ donation during the week of April 16. Health professionals are encouraged to attend the Passport to Life Program on April 17 to learn how they can participate in organ donation.

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<td>Monday, April 16 – Friday, April 20</td>
<td>10 am – 3 pm</td>
<td>Guggenheim Pavilion</td>
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**Friedman Brain Institute Translational Neuroscience Seminar Series**

George Koob, PhD, Professor and Chair, Committee on the Neurobiology of Addictive Disorders, The Scripps Research Institute, presents “Neurocircuitry of Addiction: View from the Dark Side.”

**Grand Rounds Pediatrics**

Richard Insel, MD, Chief Scientific Officer, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, presents "Type 1 Diabetes: Progress Toward Prevention, Treatment, and Care."

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<td>Thursday, March 22</td>
<td>1 pm</td>
<td>Icahn Medical Institute</td>
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<td>First Floor Seminar Room</td>
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<td>Thursday, March 29</td>
<td>8 – 9 am</td>
<td>Hatch Auditorium</td>
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**Developmental and Regenerative Biology Seminar Series**

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, PhD, President and Professor, Laboratory of Brain Development Repair, The Rockefeller University, presents “Wiring the Brain: Combinatorial Control of Axon Guidance.”

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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 21</td>
<td>8 – 9 am</td>
<td>Goldwurm Auditorium</td>
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**Grand Rounds Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science**

Chyong-Huey Lai, MD, Director, Gynecologic Cancer Research and Clinical Trial Centers, Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan, presents “Molecular Imaging on Gynecologic Malignancies.”

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## Mount Sinai Cath Lab Number One For PCI in New York State

The Mount Sinai Medical Center’s Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory again has achieved the highest “two-star” safety rating among 54 New York State institutions that perform percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) in two categories: overall cases, and non-emergency cases. This is according to a report released in March by the New York State Department of Health that examined patient discharges from 2007–2009. PCI is a minimally invasive procedure used to treat patients with diseased or blocked coronary arteries.

The Lab achieved these results while also performing the highest number of PCI procedures in the state—5,060 in 2009, and 13,993 for the entire three-year period from 2007 to 2009. The two-star safety rating is risk-adjusted to account for the varying level of difficulty involved in treating each patient. As such, to earn this designation, a cardiac center has to accept difficult cases and complete them with virtually no complications.

“We have shown that teamwork and adherence to meticulous standardized medical protocols can drive complication rates to their minimum, and this is evident by the safety rating we have achieved for the last 15 years,” says Samin K. Sharma, MD, Mount Sinai’s Director of Clinical Cardiology.

Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, Physician-in-Chief of The Mount Sinai Medical Center, and Director of Mount Sinai Heart, the Zena and Michael A. Wiener Cardiovascular Institute, and the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Center for Cardiovascular Health, says, “We have a world-class team of interventionists capable of handling the most difficult cases. Our comprehensive outreach and education programs—and ever-expanding regional affiliate network—are also critical to the high-quality care we deliver, and the improved patient outcomes we achieve.”

Annapoorna Kini, MD, newly appointed Director of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, says, “Our strong leadership team encourages open communication and emphasizes constant incremental improvement in every area.”

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## Joint Commission Survey Preparation

The safety of patients and employees is Mount Sinai’s highest priority. In preparation for the upcoming hospital-wide survey by the Joint Commission, an organization that accredits and certifies health care organizations and programs in the United States and sets performance standards, employees are asked to ensure a safe environment by taking these steps:

- Wear your Mount Sinai ID visibly above the waist at all times;
- Keep hallways free of clutter;
- Review and know location of red emergency guides;
- Call 4FIRE and follow RACE (Rescue, Alarm, Confine, Extinguish) in case of a fire;
- Remove expired items from refrigerators and maintain temperature logs;
- Access Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) by calling 800-451-8346 or visiting www.msdso.com (username: mssm, password: msds);
- Identify patients correctly by name and date of birth;
- Avoid use of unapproved abbreviations;
- Get important patient test results (critical values) to the right staff person on time;
- Label, check expiration, and reconcile all medications;
- Practice effective handoff communication;
- Always perform hand hygiene;
- Pause (time out) before surgery;
- Protect private patient information;
- Document all patient care interventions in the care plan;
- Document multidisciplinary involvement in patient and family education.

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## Mount Sinai

**Inside Mount Sinai**

2012 Marketing & Communications
Carrie Gottlieb, Editor
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