New Corporate Center Unifies Mount Sinai

A landmark building at 150 East 42nd Street—a 45-story architectural jewel built in the mid-1950s—now serves as the official Corporate Services Center for the Mount Sinai Health System and the offices for 1,800 staff from nearly two dozen departments. Mount Sinai has leased six floors and is one of the building’s largest occupants. The Health System logo is prominently displayed at the building’s entrances.

“Isn’t this amazing?” said Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, as he showed trustees, Health System leaders, and guests the new space—specifically, the new corporate boardroom, which he inaugurated with Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, during a reception on Wednesday, September 30. Mr. May also took guests onto an outdoor terrace that overlooks 42nd Street. “This really is a milestone that has been fulfilled,” said Dr. Davis, and he thanked Leni and Peter May for providing a contribution to create the space.

“Having 1,800 people together on six floors provides huge opportunities for collaboration, especially with the open-space design and breakout rooms that allow staff to congregate,” said Mr. May, noting that the center, dedicated two years after the creation of the Health System, unifies many departments that previously had staff located at multiple sites.

Departments were moved to the new building in phases, beginning in February, a relocation effort that is now complete. “Extensive planning went into scheduling the moves to minimize disruption to our staff,” says Kenneth Holden, Chief Facilities Officer. “We knew that successful and stress-free moves would color everyone’s first impression of the new headquarters.”

Also playing key roles in the effort were Thomas C. Ahn, Vice President, Real Estate Division; and Loida Ramos, Vice President, Planning, Design and Construction, who note that the Health System received

Transforming the Mount Sinai Hospital Campuses

A transformation is under way at the seven hospital campuses that comprise the Mount Sinai Health System, with various projects that streamline and modernize facilities, and strengthen their ability to better serve patients.

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, has called this “a landmark time for our hospitals.” The changes, he says, will increase efficiency and enable Mount Sinai to “stand out as a health care hub,” locally and globally.

Here is an inside look at the changes taking place and future plans at each hospital campus:

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Leadership in Energy & Efficient Design (LEED) silver certification, a green-building program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices and showcases Mount Sinai’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

Among the departments that have transitioned to the new 448,000-square-foot center are Billing, Communications, Development, Finance, the Grants and Contracts Office, Human Resources, IT, Legal, Mount Sinai Innovation Partners, Mount Sinai Network, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Real Estate Services, and Supply Chain.

Commanding space on the fourth floor—the location of the boardroom, terrace, and the just-opened “Avenue C” self-service café—is the Department of Human Resources, the hub for sourcing, onboarding, and educating every new hire throughout the Health System. Employee Health Services (EHS), a Division of Human Resources, now oversees the pre-placement exams of about 150 new hires weekly, says Madelynn Azar-Cavanagh, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Employee Health, Safety and Wellness, Mount Sinai Health System. EHS is also offering a popular yoga class and a diabetes prevention program to staff located at 150 East 42nd Street, and will roll out additional wellness initiatives in the coming months.

Jane Maksoud, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, says, “The new centralized space offers more opportunities for employee engagement and in-person collaboration within and across departments, but it will also have a significant role in articulating and fostering a common culture within the Health System.”

According to Ms. Maksoud, Mount Sinai’s mandatory “New Beginnings” orientation program for new staff will soon be conducted in the center’s state-of-the-art training facility. “We are pleased to welcome new staff to the Mount Sinai Health System and introduce every new employee to the impact our culture has on our language, behavior, standards and expectations, approaches to problem-solving, and advances in health care for our global community.”
In 2016, Mount Sinai Queens will open a six-story, 130,000-square-foot building adjacent to the main hospital that will house an expanded, state-of-the-art Emergency Department and a new Ambulatory Care Pavilion with operating suites, advanced imaging and laboratory services, and an outpatient physician medical practice. The new building will provide patients with comprehensive multidisciplinary care in one location. Other improvements will include a new two-story entrance to the existing hospital, the renovation and expansion of the hospital lobby, a new community education center and café, five new elevator banks, and an updated hospital façade that creates and unifies the look of the campus.

At the Phillips Ambulatory Care Center (PACC) at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, construction will begin in November on an updated façade that advertises Mount Sinai Doctors at the facility, and an expanded and modernized lobby featuring a contemporary glass stairway that provides direct access to the second floor. At the Comprehensive Cancer Center West, design is under way for an enhanced Women’s Health Center and improved radiology services to provide patients with a complete range of oncology services.

In September, Mount Sinai St. Luke’s began construction on a number of projects that are part of a master plan to expand and enhance cardiac services, consolidate behavioral health and addiction inpatient and outpatient services, create a Diabetes Center for Excellence, and establish an on-campus Mount Sinai Doctors medical mall to provide patients with comprehensive medical care in one location. An expanded and modernized Emergency Department will include space allocated for an on-campus Urgent Care Center. The sale of the Plant, Scrymser, Minturn, and Travers buildings that house the Spencer Cox Clinic, Child & Family Services, Neurology, ED Offices, Crisis Management, and additional administrative offices, will provide funding for the construction. These services are being moved to other on-campus locations.

Mount Sinai Roosevelt will create an Orthopaedics Center of Excellence to provide high-quality care to patients with muscle, bone, and joint conditions. Plans call for upgrades to the operating rooms, the purchase of additional labor and delivery beds and a new MRI machine, and for construction of a new Central Sterile Processing Department and Surgical Innovations Laboratory. The construction will be funded with proceeds from the sale of the former Antenucci research building. Research programs once housed in that building have been relocated to the Mount Sinai St. Luke’s, Mount Sinai Roosevelt, and Mount Sinai Hospital campuses.

In 2015, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai completed several major construction and renovation projects, including the reopening of the Pediatric Surgical Unit, the installation and opening of the Laser Vision Correction Center in the hospital’s Bank Building, and a modernization project for the hospital’s cafeteria. In 2016, the hospital will continue modernizing its North and South buildings and upgrading all buildings to ensure they are handicapped accessible.

Enhancements are being made to the main lobby and include improvements to the handicapped-accessible entrance. Food services are being upgraded. Plans also call for the creation of a new Urgent Care Center, a new Cancer Infusion Suite, and the purchase of a CT scanner. Renovation efforts will include pharmacy and laboratory upgrades.

In the near future, plans call for expanding critical care and intermediate care facilities at Mount Sinai Heart; improving the oncology protective isolation area; and adding a new pediatric cardiac operating room. Upgrades to the inpatient dialysis unit, along with enhancements to other inpatient and outpatient areas, are expected to improve the patient experience.
Town Hall Meeting on Diversity in Neuroscience

Creating a level playing field, increasing mentorship opportunities, and making inclusion a priority, are among the steps needed to attract more underrepresented minorities and increase the number of women in senior faculty positions in the neurosciences. Those steps were outlined on Friday, September 25, at a Town Hall Meeting on “Diversity in Neuroscience,” attended by an overflow crowd of students and faculty in Hatch Auditorium on the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai campus. Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD, Nash Family Professor and Chair, Fishberg Department of Neuroscience, and Director, The Friedman Brain Institute, presented statistics that illustrate the underrepresentation of women at senior faculty ranks in neuroscience departments throughout the country, and how minorities continue to lack equal representation in the sciences. At the Icahn School of Medicine, for example, there are 52 women and 39 male instructors and 386 women and 436 male assistant professors; but at the professor level, there are 79 women and 240 men. And of the 261 faculty members within the Mount Sinai Health System’s eight basic science departments, only 15 are from underrepresented minority groups. These data are equivalent at other leading medical centers around the country.

The meeting included a panel discussion with Icahn School of Medicine faculty members, Alison M. Goate, DPhil, Professor of Neuroscience, Genetics and Genomic Sciences, and Neurology, and Director of the Ronald M. Loeb Center for Alzheimer’s Disease; Kristen J. Brennand, PhD, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, and Neuroscience; and George W. Huntley, PhD, Professor, Neuroscience. For more information, go to: neuroscience.mssm.edu/diversityinneuroscience/.

Walk4Hearing Raises Funds

A team of 50 employees from New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai and The Mount Sinai Hospital joined 2,000 participants in the Hearing Loss Association of America’s (HLAA) New York Chapter Walk4Hearing on Sunday, September 27, in Manhattan’s Riverside Park. The 5K walk raised approximately $165,000 for the HLAA, a consumer advocacy organization that provides information and support to people of all ages with hearing loss. The HLAA also works to eliminate the stigma associated with hearing loss. Each year, the Walk4Hearing takes place in multiple cities throughout the country.

“Rollin’ Colon” Exhibit Attracts Visitors at Union Square Park

More than 600 people visited the “Rollin’ Colon,” an exhibit of the digestive tract that was on display in Union Square Park on Thursday, September 24, during the Third Annual Colon Cancer Awareness Event, sponsored by Mount Sinai Beth Israel’s Division of Digestive Diseases, the Colon Cancer Challenge Foundation (CCCF), and the Union Square Partnership. The walk-through exhibit featured the abnormalities seen during a colonoscopy. Staff from Mount Sinai Beth Israel and the CCCF provided information about colon cancer and the importance of early detection. David Carr-Locke, MD, Professor, Medicine (Gastroenterology), Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, showed visitors his large-scale model of a colonoscope. Six visitors at the event registered for colonoscopies.

Walk4Hearing raises funds for hearing loss organizations.
Push-Up Challenge for Men’s Health

Sixty-two men and women took to the mat in the Guggenheim Pavilion on Wednesday, September 16, to participate in the Mount Sinai Health System’s Push-Up Challenge, an event highlighting Prostate Cancer Awareness Month that was sponsored by the Department of Urology.

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, kicked off the challenge by completing 106 push-ups that were tallied by trainers from the New York Sports Club.

“I’ve been an athlete my whole life, and I’m still doing it,” Dr. Charney told an enthusiastic crowd of faculty, staff, students, and visitors who gathered to cheer on the participants or to compete themselves. “Exercise is important to your health and your sense of self.”

Three participants at a time stepped onto a temporary podium to do their push-ups, trying to surpass Dr. Charney’s total of 106. No one was able to top Dr. Charney’s lead, but two members of the Department of Pathology at the Mount Sinai Health System had a strong showing. Martin Maurer, a laboratory technician within the department, came in second with a total of 104 push-ups and received tickets to a subway series game between the New York Mets and the New York Yankees. Daphne Semet, Administrative Director of the Department of Pathology and the Department of Thoracic Surgery, was the strongest female contender, completing 80 push-ups.

The driving force behind the event—at which a total of 3,576 push-ups were performed—was Ash Tewari, MBBS, MCh, Kyung Hyun Kim, MD Chair in Urology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Chairman of the Milton and Carroll Petrie Department of Urology at the Mount Sinai Health System. “We want all men to understand their risk for prostate cancer and be aware that diet and exercise impact their risk,” said Dr. Tewari. “Push-ups are great exercise, and you don’t need to join a gym or buy expensive equipment to do them.”

An estimated one in seven American men is diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 233,000 new cases are diagnosed annually.

At the event, physicians and staff from the Department of Urology conducted 66 men’s health consultations, and provided attendees with information on diet and exercise, stress management, and wellness programs. Of the 34 PSA blood test screenings that were conducted, four required additional testing, according to Leslie Schlachter, Senior Physician Assistant, Director of the Men’s Health Program at the Mount Sinai Health System.

The public also had the opportunity to “test drive” a da Vinci Surgical System robot that was on display in the Guggenheim Pavilion. The system is considered the standard of care in performing prostatectomies. Mount Sinai physicians use the da Vinci Surgical System to treat kidney and bladder cancer, as well. They employ a new technique, MRI Fusion Biopsy, on large and small cancer lesions in order to obtain a precise diagnosis and provide more targeted treatment.

For additional information on men’s health, please visit www.mountsinai.org/menshealth.
Open Enrollment Season

Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select (HMO)

Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select, the Medicare Advantage (MA) plan run in collaboration with the Mount Sinai Health System and launched last year, is enrolling new members between Thursday, October 15, and Monday, December 7, 2015. All Manhattan residents who are eligible Medicare beneficiaries can enroll in the Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan for coverage effective January 1, 2016.

The plan offers an innovative model of care that gives members affordable access to Mount Sinai’s top-rated network of doctors and hospitals. It includes all of the traditional benefits offered by Original Medicare, and it also provides coverage for prescription drugs, dental care, hearing aids, acupuncture, and eyewear. Members will not need referrals for most specialist visits.

The Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan offers two levels of cost sharing:

- For Tier 1, when using Mount Sinai-affiliated physicians and hospitals, copayments are not required for visits to a Mount Sinai primary care physician, while specialty care visits require a $20 copayment.
- For Tier 2, when using other Healthfirst providers, copayments are $35 for primary care physician visits and $50 for specialty care visits.
- Members will not be charged for annual routine eye exams or any Medicare-covered preventive services, such as mammograms or prostate screenings. They will also have access to thousands of additional Tier 2 providers in the Healthfirst network.

Other benefits include free transportation to and from doctor appointments via car service (up to 12 round trips per year, with three round trips provided every three months).

NOTE: CMS does not allow health care providers to recommend or steer patients toward specific health plans, but they can confirm Mount Sinai Health System’s participation in the Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan and direct interested patients to Healthfirst for additional information. Health care providers may visit http://chip.chpnet.org/General.aspx?id=19086 to gain a better understanding of the Healthfirst Mount Sinai Select plan and direct people appropriately who would like more information.

Faculty and Staff: Get Your Flu Shot!

The New York State Department of Health recently launched its 2015 Flu Shot Awareness Campaign as a reminder that the flu vaccine is the best protection against the “Pain, Fever, Chills, Misery” associated with influenza. Last year, 1,610 New Yorkers died from influenza and pneumonia.

Influenza vaccination is the most effective way to protect ourselves, our patients, and our families from getting influenza. The vaccine is offered at no expense to all Health System personnel, including volunteers, and is available immediately through Employee Health Services. Influenza vaccine will also be offered at a variety of convenient venues over the coming weeks. For a schedule, visit these intranet sites: http://intranet1.mountsinai.org/msmc/home.asp; http://chip.chpnet.org; and http://intranet-2.nyee.edu/nyee/.

REMINDER – THE TIME IS NOW!

Fourth Annual SINA Innovations Conference:

Theme: Digital Medicine
Tuesday, October 27 – Wednesday, October 28
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Stern Auditorium
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