Mount Sinai’s Department of Psychiatry Welcomes New Chair

René S. Kahn, MD, PhD, an internationally renowned expert on the neurobiology of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, joins the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS) on January 1st, 2017, as Chair of the Department of Psychiatry.

Dr. Kahn is currently Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Brain Center Rudolf Magnus at the University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands; he served as Chair of Psychiatry at Utrecht for more than 20 years and has held the Brain Center Directorship since 2002. Dr. Kahn has dedicated his career to the study of psychotic disorders, with a particular focus on the origins and treatment of schizophrenia. His recent research interests include neuroimaging in schizophrenia and the genetic dissection of complex traits in specific psychiatric disorders. Dr. Kahn’s research has been supported by many international grants, and he has served on neuroscience grant review boards in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Germany. He has authored or co-authored more than 800 research papers, and sits on multiple prestigious editorial boards.

The ISMMS Psychiatry Chairmanship marks Dr. Kahn’s return to Mount Sinai after more than two decades. Upon earning his MD from the University of Groningen School of Medicine, Dr. Kahn completed his residency and fellowship training in psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular neurobiology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then held a faculty position at Harvard Medical School before moving to the Netherlands in 2002.
Dr. Kahn pursued postgraduate training in the Netherlands and the United States, including a four-year psychiatry residency at The Mount Sinai Hospital. He was appointed to the ISMMS faculty in 1992, where he conducted schizophrenia research and served as Research Unit Chief at the Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Kahn subsequently returned to the Netherlands to accept the position of Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Utrecht. He has maintained an adjunct appointment at ISMMS for many years in order to continue collaborations with our faculty.

Dr. Kahn’s recent honors include membership in the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science; the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Neuropsychopharmacology Award; an honorary doctorate at Semmelweis University in Budapest; inclusion in Thomson Reuters’s list of highly cited researchers, representing “some of the world’s most influential scientific minds”; and the lifetime achievement award of the Netherlands Psychiatric Association. He is also an Honorary Lifetime Professor at Jilin University in Changchun, China. Dr. Kahn has held multiple leadership roles in ECNP, and is past President of the Schizophrenia International Research Society. He is a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ACNP).