Mount Sinai Announces
Inaugural Leon Levy Fellows

We are pleased to announce that Sam Horng, MD, PhD, and Ivan Chavarria-Siles, MD, MSc, have been selected as Mount Sinai’s first Leon Levy Fellows through the Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship Program at Mount Sinai.

Established by the Leon Levy Foundation to honor the late Wall Street investment genius and prolific philanthropist, The Leon Levy Fellowship in Neuroscience at Mount Sinai is an innovative plan for strengthening the entry and retention of physician-scientists into significant research careers in the brain sciences.

Drs. Horng and Chavarria-Siles were chosen based on their individual outstanding medical education performance, their accomplishments to date in the lab and their demonstrated commitment and likelihood to become academic and translational leaders in the field of neuroscience. The Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship Program provides the Leon Levy Fellows with protected research time, intensive mentoring and seed money for research, thereby eliminating the long delay between research training and protected time for research experienced by most individuals during their clinical training.

About Dr. Horng:

Dr. Horng received his BA in Biology, summa cum laude, from Columbia University. He pursued pre-doctoral training in clinical bioethics at the National Institutes of Health then completed his MD-PhD degrees at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences. His graduate work with Mriganka Sur focused on mechanisms of visual map formation in the developing mouse. Currently, he is a resident in the Neurology residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center. He has joined the laboratory of Gareth John, where he studies mechanisms of blood brain barrier breakdown in inflammatory brain disease. As a Leon Levy fellow, he will focus on the role of reactive astrocytes in modulating soluble factor and leukocyte entry into the brain.

About Dr. Chavarria-Siles:

Originally from San José, Costa Rica, Dr. Chavarria-Siles received his medical degree from University of Costa Rica. He completed his MSc in biochemical science at Francisco de Vitoria University in Madrid, Spain before starting an NIMH/Fogarty founded fellowship in psychiatric genetics research at UT San Antonio. He continued his research career at the Center for Neurogenomics and Cognitive Research at the VU University in Amsterdam, where his research work focused on understanding how genetic variations can produce structural and functional changes in the brains of patients with psychiatric disorders. After several years doing basic and clinical research, he decided to translate some of his research knowledge into clinical care of patients with psychiatric disorders. In 2012 he joined the Psychiatry Residency Program (Research Track) at Mount Sinai, where he has been able to get clinical training as well as protected time to continue his research in brain imaging genetics of schizophrenia under the supervision of Dr. Pamela Sklar. More recently he started working in a functional Neuroimaging study of Borderline Personality Disorder under the supervision of Dr. Harold Koenigsberg. In 2014 he received the NIMH Outstanding Resident Award.

As fellows at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, a medical school embedded in a hospital with an exceptional history of bringing new knowledge to the patient bedside, our Leon Levy Fellows are poised on a clear path towards greatness.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming Drs. Horng and Chavarria-Siles.

Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD
Nash Family Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience
Director, The Friedman Brain Institute
Mount Sinai Health System