It is on the shoulders of these giants in neurosurgery that I take over as chair, with hopes to bring the department to even greater achievements in the years to come. As you will see from the pages that follow this newsletter, our neurosurgery service was established in 1914 under Charles Elsberg, co-founder of the Society of Neurological Surgeons. He was succeeded by Dr. Harold Neuhof and in 1932 by Dr. Ira Cohen who formed the Department of Neurosurgery, established the Residency Training Program in 1947 and remained its head to 1950. Dr. Leo M. Davidoff became chair in 1951. A prolific writer, he was also President of the Society of Neurosurgical Surgeons and was succeeded by Dr. Sidney Gross who was chair from 1956 to 1970. Under Dr. Gross’ leadership the AMA and ABMS approved our neurosurgery residency in 1956. Dr. Leonard Malis was chair of the department from 1970 to 1991. Among many firsts attributed to Dr. Malis was the first micro-neurosurgical operation in 1965, Mount Sinai’s first practical course in 1968, and numerous technological advances including creation of the first automatic angiographic cassette changer, full-column myelography, the first description of Bragg peak radiation effects in neural tissue and development of the dedicated bipolar spark-gap. The “Malis” bipolar is widely cited as the most common neurosurgical instrument in use throughout the world today. Under our immediate past chair, Dr. Kalman Post, the department more than doubled in size. During Dr. Post’s 17 year tenure from 1991 to 2008 the department benefited from his world class clinical practice, his numerous contributions to the neurosurgical literature and his ability to foster young academic neurosurgeons to develop original NIH-funded research laboratories and evolve the different neurosurgical subspecialties. We are fortunate that Dr. Post remains an active member of the department, continuing his clinical, academic and educational activities at full pitch.

Chairman’s message continued from page 1

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Dr. Bederson named chair
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Dr. Bederson’s career at Mount Sinai began in 1992 as the Director of the Cerebrovascular Surgery Program. He established the first basic science lab in the Department of Neurosurgery, developing models of stroke and subarachnoid hemorrhage. His laboratory has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1997.

In 2002, Dr. Bederson was the first neurosurgeon at Mount Sinai to receive an NIH R01 as a principal investigator. He developed one of the first interdisciplinary clinical programs with the Department of Neurology Stroke Program, and continues his collaborative efforts with the Departments of Otolaryngology, the Cancer Institute, and the Translational Neuroscience Center. Dr. Bederson has served as Chair of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/ Congress of Neurological Surgeons Cerebrovascular Section. He is Chair of the American Heart Association’s writing group on Subarachnoid Hemorrhage and serves on numerous neurological societies.

“Neurosurgery is a vibrant field that attracts talented individuals committed to understanding the complexities of surgical problems of the nervous system,” Dr. Bederson says. “By collaborating with the many accomplished physicians and scientists at Mount Sinai, I hope we will continue to advance the field and develop treatments for the challenging problems our patients face.”

Dr. Bederson earned his medical degree and completed a residency in neurosurgery at the University of California, San Francisco. During residency he completed advanced study programs in neuropathology at the University of Turin in Italy, as well as microvascular and skull base neurosurgery at the University Hospitals of Zurich, Switzerland, and the University Medical Center in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He completed a fellowship in cerebrovascular surgery at the Barrow Neurological Institute.

Dr. Bederson specializes in the treatment of complex intracranial and spinal pathology such as meningiomas, schwannomas, cranio-phyngiomas, pituitary tumors, giant intracranial aneurysms, acoustic neuromas, neurovascular compression syndromes like trigeminal neuralgia, Chiari malformations, as well as treatment of cervical and lumbar spine disease. His vascular practice includes the treatment of aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, cavernous malformations, cartoid artery disease, moyamoya disease and extracranial-intracranial bypass procedures. Dr. Bederson has performed more than 2500 neurosurgical operations at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Post steps down
continued from page 1

minimally invasive surgery, endoscopic neurosurgery, micro-surgery, physiologic monitoring in the operating room, spinal disease, management of neurovascular abnormalities and tumors of the nervous system, and the surgery of epilepsy. The number of operations performed in microvascular neurosurgery, pituitary and acoustic surgery, epilepsy and movement disorder surgery, and spine surgery dramatically increased. He recruited two neurointensivists, neurologists with a joint appointment in Neurosurgery, to work with the neurosurgeons in the ICU. In terms of its physical resources, the department remodeled the eighth floor of Annenberg to accommodate 19 academic offices, four operating rooms, an additional waiting room, and a neuro- surgical ICU that was expanded from 12 to 16 beds. Dr. Post created a Clinical Center for Skull Base Surgery at Mount Sinai in conjunction with the Department of Otolaryngology and recruited a scientist who organized the department’s intraoperative neuro-physiological monitoring team. He also facilitated the purchase of the Novalis system, at the time one of the most sophisticated approaches to stereotactic radiosurgery and radiotherapy. In 2002, Dr. Joshua Bederson was appointed Vice Chairman and Residency Program Director, and in 2003, Dr. H. Richard Winn joined the faculty as Director of Research. The number of NIH grants increased to two R01s and one R03.

Under Dr. Post’s Chairmanship, the department created the Leonard I. Malis, MD/Cornite and Joseph Graber Endowed Chair in Neurosurgery, as well as four annual lectureships: The Sidney A. Hollin, MD, Endowed Lecture; the Jeanette and Bernard S. Post, MD, Endowed Lecture; The Ved P. Sachdev, MD, Endowed Lecture; and the Leonard I. Malis, MD, Endowed Lecture. The Kalmom D. Post Resident Research Prize, which acknowledges and promotes excellence in scholarship, was established to be awarded annually for the best peer-reviewed manuscript by a resident that has been published or accepted for publication during the preceding year.

Dr. Post trained 38 residents, including more women neurosur- geons than have been trained in any other department in the country. He built one of the country’s largest neurosurgical practices, specializing in acoustics with hearing preservation, pituitary and other skull base tumors. In addition to his busy surgical schedule, he chaired or served on many boards and com- mittees at Mount Sinai, including the leadership of searches for the chairs of Otolaryngology and Surgery, the chairmanship of the Executive Board, and, for four years, the presidency of the Faculty Practice Association. Dr. Post inherited a strong department with robust potential, continued the tradition of excellence and vision, and leaves an extraordinary legacy at The Mount Sinai Hospital.
Dr. Erin Gordon, MD, came to Mount Sinai in July 2008 as an assistant professor with a joint appointment in Neurology and Neurosurgery after spending two years at Columbia University Medical Center as a Post Doctoral Fellow and Clinical Instructor in Neurocritical Care. After earning a BS at Sophie Davis City College, Dr. Gordon attended SUNY Downstate Medical College and did his residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He will be working in the Neurosurgical ICU.

Luni Esmail, MBBS, PhD joined the Department of Neurosurgery in June 2008 as an Assistant Professor on the research track, coming from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia, where she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Genetics. Prior to that, she served as a Postdoctoral Research Scientist (12/2002-5/2006) and an Associate Research Scientist (5/2006-12/2007) in the Department of Pathology and Urology at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons. She will be working in the laboratory of Isabelle Germo, MD, investigating the effects of mouse and human embryonic stem cells-derived astrocytes conditionally expressing pro-apoptotic genes on human malignant glioma.

Sharona Ben-Haim, MD
MD: University of California, San Diego
BA: University of California, Berkeley, Molecular Biology

While in medical school, Sharona was honored by the San Diego Medical Society with the Robert E. Hertzka Student Leadership Award. Some of her leadership positions included Medical Student Board Representative for the San Diego Medical Society Foundation, Medical Student Director of the San Diego County Medical Society, Vice President of the American Medical Student Association at UCSD and Student Coordinator of the student-run free clinic at UCSD. She also was Editor-in-Chief of The Human Condition, USCD’s Art and Literary Magazine, as well as a Food critic for the San Diego Community Newspaper Group. During a one-year research fellowship at Harvard Medical School under Emad Eskandar, MD, Director of Functional and Stereotactic Neurosurgery at MGH, Sharona studied the role of the globus pallidus in the inhibition of motor programs using microelectrode recordings in a primate model.

Madhu Jansampudd, MD
MD: Baylor College of Medicine
BS: Johns Hopkins University, Biomedical Engineering

In addition to his outstanding academic record, Madhu exhibited his leadership skills while in medical school: he was a health careers mentor in the National Youth Leadership Forum, a peer resource network mentor, as well as a Baylor College of Medicine Representative to the Texas Political Action Committee and a charter officer of the school’s Professionalism Committee. He served on the Medical Ethics Curriculum Review Committee and the Compassion in the Art of Medicine Curriculum Advisory Committee, and found time to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. His biomedical engineering background is helpful in his hobby of building computer hardware and learning about new technologies. The Department is looking forward to his contributions to our baseball team next year!
News Briefs

Dr. Isabelle Germano was awarded an RO1 from the NIH/NCI. The $1,700,000 five year grant is for malignant glioma therapy. At the AANS meeting in Chicago in April, Dr. Germano participated on the faculty of a practical course on brain mapping and epilepsy. On September 13 she spoke at a Medical Education Oncology Seminar on “Treatment of neurological malignancy including surgical treatment.”

As Chair of the AANS/CNS Cerebrovascular Section, Dr. Joshua B. Bederson gave a “State of the Section” presidential address at the AANS meeting in Chicago. He also overviewed the cerebrovascular Section meeting in New Orleans in February.

Dr. Arthur Jenkins III, participated as a faculty member in a course titled, The Aging Spine, held May 8 and 9 in New York City. Dr. Jenkins lectured on Influence of bone cement to the blood supply of vertebrectomy and the adjacent discs in the course section, The Uses of Cement in the Aging Spine. Dr. Jenkins has been a awarded two year grant as co-investigator for promoting recovery of spinal cord function after injury by treating with microbeam radiation therapy.

Dr. Jamie Ullman was elected to the Executive Committee of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons as Member-At-Large to serve on a committee regarding improving physician/patient communication at Mount Sinai.

Marat Averbakumov, PhD, received a two-year grant from the NIH/NINDS. His study is focused on the effect of unbalanced formation of reactive oxygen species on physiological properties of dopaminergic neurons in substantia nigra.

Ronit Gilad, MD, PGY 6, won the $2,000 Kalmon D. Post Neurosurgery Resident Research Award for the paper, Uncorrected sagittal plane imbalance predisposes to symptomatic instrumentation failure, published in the December 12, 2007, Spine Journal. Authors are Ronit Gilad, Chirag Gandhi, Marc Arginteanu, Frank Moore, AA Steinberger and Martin Canis.

Congratulations to PGY2 Jake Golodrsny, MD, who was nominated by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Class of 2009 for a special award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. Presented on June 30 at the Student Clinician Ceremony, Jake’s certificate reads: “The Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award to an Outstanding Resident Role Model.”

Scott Meyer, MD, PGY 5, has been selected as a “physician leader” to serve on a committee regarding improving physician/patient communication at Mount Sinai.

Dr. H. Richard Winn was interviewed and answered callers’ questions in two separate sessions on the Greek radio station, first on aneurysms and next on stroke and carotid stenosis. In April, he was a visiting professor at the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of California in Los Angeles. The following month, he spoke to basic scientists at Shunsh University School of Medicine in Matsumoto City, Japan, and was also a Special Lecturer in the Department of Neurosurgery there. Dr. Winn was the Mayfield Lecturer and Graduation Speaker for the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati in May and the Grand Rounds Lecturer and Graduation Speaker at Penn State University Medical School in Hershey, Pennsylvania, in June.

Associate Professor Patricia A. Sebha, PhD, lectured on Mechanisms of cerebral injury after subarachnoid hemorrhage to the Loma Linda University Neuroscience Research Consortium on April 4, 2008. Dr. Sebha leads research of early brain injury after subarachnoid hemorrhage.

The department fielded a team to participate in the Fifth Annual Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament sponsored by George M. Steinbrenner III and the New York Yankees on Saturday, June 7 in Central Park. Mayor Michael Bloomberg threw out the honorary first pitch, as this date has been declared “Neurosurgery Charity Softball Tournament Day” in the City of New York. Competition was very stiff this year with 16 teams competing, and Sinai did not repeat its high finish of the past two years. Everyone had a good time, however, and will practice harder for next year’s event!

Dr. and Mrs. Kalmon Post hosted three residents, Erin Bim, Haripal Singh and Alex Poon, who attended Neurosurgery in the Rockies in February. Each resident gave a talk and also had time to enjoy the wonderful snow conditions.

NSCU news Jennifer Frontera, MD, and the NSCU have received IIB approval for the IHOP study (Intracranial Hemorrhage Outcomes Project) which will be enrolling patients with ICH, SAH and SDH and following their outcomes at three months and one year. Dr. Frontera is also launching a subarachnoid hemorrhage MRI project where she will be looking at DWI/PWI changes from admission through the vasospasm period and correlating these findings to angiographic and clinical findings and outcomes. She lectured at the 59th New York Symposium on Neurological Emergencies & Neurocritical Care meeting in June, passed the first offered Neurocritical Care boards and is editor of the Patients and Family Section of a new website launched by The Neurocritical Care Society.

A Grand Tribute to Kalmon D. Post, MD

On June 2, members of the Department of Neurosurgery and the Mount Sinai community, as well as friends, colleagues and former faculty and residents from near and far, joined to honor Kalmon D. Post, MD, for his 17 years as Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai. The tribute was in anticipation of Dr. Post’s stepping down as Chair on July 1, 2008. Happily for the department, he will be staying on the faculty, continuing his active surgical, teaching, and research schedule. The tribute included a scientific session during the day at the New York Academy of Medicine and a gala dinner at The Yale Club in the evening. The morning’s scientific session featured speakers who had worked with Dr. Post, who presently work with him and who had trained with him. The afternoon session included three named lectureships as well as comments from Dean Kenneth Davis.

Morning speakers from Mount Sinai were Isabelle M. Germano, MD, The Mount Sinai Bench to Bedside Approaches to Primary Brain Tumors; Aman D. Patel, MD, The Mount Sinai Experience in Carotid Artery Stenting; Elias B. Geer, MD, Body Composition in Cushing’s Disease; Ron L. Alterman, MD, Deep Brain Stimulation for Torsion Dystonia; H. Richard Winn, MD, The Academic Legacy of Kalmon D. Post, MD; Pamela Freda, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at Columbia, who has been collaborating with Dr. Post since 1994 on patients with pituitary tumors of different types, spoke about Biochemical Criteria for Diagnosis and Remission of Acromegaly. R. Michael Scott, MD, and Dr. Post were faculty members together at Tufts in the 1970s. Dr. Scott, now a Professor and Director of Clinical Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Boston Children’s Hospital, spoke about Cavernous Malformations in Children. Paul C. McCormick, Professor of Clinical Neurosurgery at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, was a resident at that institution when Dr. Post was on the faculty there and discussed Dr. Post’s influence in his talk, Hemangio-Blastosomas: What I Learned from Kal Post. A faculty member at Mount Sinai from 1991 until 2000, Dr. Chandrahan Sen is presently Chair of the Departments of Neurosurgery at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center and Beth Israel Medical Center. The title of his talk was Clival Chordomas: Clinical Results and Complications.

In the afternoon, Edward Laws, MD, who shares Dr. Post’s interest and expertise in neuroendocrine disorders, delivered The Ved P. Sachdev, MD, Memorial Lecture. The Evolution of Pituitary Surgery. Dr. Laws recently joined the Department of Neurosurgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. Following Dr. Laws, Peter J. Jannetta, MD, of the Leonard I. Malis, MD, Memorial Lecturer. A pioneer in cranial nerve disorders and trigeminal neuralgia treatment, Dr. Jannetta is a Professor of Neurosurgery at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His talk was titled Vascular Brainstem Compression: Changing Perceptions, Changing Therapies. The last speaker of the day, Rudolf Fahlbusch, MD, had traveled from Germany to honor his friend. Dr. Fahlbusch presented The Jeannette and Bernard Post, MD, Memorial Lecture. Intraoperative Visualization of Brain Tumors.
Celebrating Career and Friendships

Recent Publications


June 2, 2008, Yale Club, New York City

continued on page 19


Starkes RM, Konotori BJ, Otten ML, Schmidt JM, Fernandez LD, Rincon F, Gordon B, Badjatia N, Mayer SA, Connolly ES. Predicting Long Term Outcome in Poor-Grade Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage Patients Utilizing the Glasgow Coma Scale (Accepted Journal of Clinical Neuroscience)


Freda PU, Shen W, Heymsfield SB, Reyes-Vidal CM, Geer EB, Bruce JN, Gallagher D. Lower visceral and subcutaneous but higher intermuscular adipose tissue deposits on patients with growth hormone and insulin-like growth factor I excess due to acromegaly. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2008 Jun;93(6):2334-43.


Som PM, Park EE, Naidich TP. Lawson W. Crista galli pneumatization is an extension of the adjacent frontal sinuses. AJNR Am J Neuroradiol. 2008 Sep 3 [Epub ahead of print]


Announcements

Chen S. Chen, MD, and Martin Camins, MD, were selected for the recent New York Magazine Castle Connolly Guide to Best Doctors in New York City.

Save the Dates

Radiosurgery Spine Symposium for Patients and Caregivers
Spine Radiosurgery: New Hope for Cancer
October 28, 2008
Mount Sinai Hospital Goldwurm Auditorium
1480 Madison Avenue
For more information on this event, call Kathleen Maloney-Lutz, 212-241-5052
Isabelle M. Germano, MD, Director

 Sidney A. Hollin, MD, Endowed Lecture
Wednesday, October 22, 2008
7:30 AM
Brain AVMs: Endovascular Nidal Occulsion and Paradigm Shift in Multi-Modality Treatment
Aman Patel, MD, Associate Professor
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Annenberg 5 Boardroom

October Grand Rounds

October 8: 7-8:50 AM: Quality Assurance: Mount Sinai Hospital
Ron Alterman, MD, Department of Neurosurgery, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

October 15: 7-7:50 AM: Quality Assurance: Elmhurst Queens Hospital
Jamie Ullman, MD, Department of Neurosurgery, Elmhurst Queens Hospital
8-8:50 AM: Practicing Excellence in Patient Care
Deborah Marin, MD, Medical Director, Physician Access Services, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

October 22: Sidney A. Hollin, MD, Memorial Lecture (see Save-the-Date on this page)

October 29: 7-7:50 AM: Clinical and Radiographic Comparison of Mini-Open TLIF to Open TLIF in 42 Patients with Long-Term Follow Up
Sanjay Dhall, MD, Chief Resident, Department of Neurosurgery, Emory University School of Medicine
8-8:50 AM: Mount Sinai School of Medicine Master of Public Health Degree: Options for Resident and Fellow Physicians
Emily Senay, MD, MPH, Master of Public Health Program, Mount Sinai School of Medicine

New Clinical Trial: Phase I Trial of MPC-6827 and Carboplatin for the Management of Relapsed Glioblastoma Multiforme
MPC-6827 is a drug that has a novel mechanism of action and is being studied here in patients who have relapsed or progressive glioblastoma. This unique drug reaches a concentration 20-fold greater in brain tumor tissue than in blood and appears to be unusually effective in shrinking tumors in experimental animals. When used with a platinum based drug like carboplatin, there appears to be a synergetic response promoting an anti-tumor response. Appropriate patients for this protocol are individuals with glioblastoma who have not responded to Temozolomide and radiation. Prospective patients do not require further surgery but need to meet certain performance and health minima. If you think that you may have an appropriate patient, please call Robert Aiken, M.D. at 212-241-4503.