Over the past four years, The Tisch Cancer Institute has recruited more than 30 acclaimed physicians and researchers specializing in basic research, clinical research, and population science. At the same time, we have increased our focus on solid-tumor oncology; enhanced our internationally renowned program in hematological malignancies; advanced the study of cancer immunology and vaccine therapy; and accelerated our role in molecular cancer epidemiology.

The completion of the Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine, at 1470 Madison Avenue, has enabled us to recruit 20 additional cancer researchers who will be housed on two full floors comprising 48,000-square feet of space dedicated to cancer research. Our outpatient facility, the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center, relocated to the Hess Center in October 2012 and now includes 48 examination rooms and 54 infusion suites.

We are well on our way toward building The Tisch Cancer Institute into a world-class center for translational research. As such, we will continue to develop robust cancer research programs in basic science, disease-focused research, and population science, and enhance our top-notch cancer clinical trials program. Our commitment to strengthening The Mount Sinai Medical Center’s genomics and molecular pathology programs, and supporting the collaborative efforts of our researchers and clinicians through development funds, interdisciplinary meetings, and other initiatives, remains as strong as ever.

All of these efforts are designed to foster the collaborative partnerships we value in our mission to find new and innovative ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer.

Steven J. Burakoff, MD, Director, The Tisch Cancer Institute, and the Lillian and Henry M. Stratton Professor of Cancer Medicine

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**P A T I E N T - C E N T E R E D  C A R E**

**The Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center Relocates and Expands**

The Tisch Cancer Institute’s outpatient treatment facility, the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center, has doubled in size and relocated to the newly constructed Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine on Madison Avenue, between 101st and 102nd streets. Infusion suites, exam rooms for hematology and medical oncology, oncologic surgical subspecialties, radiation oncology, and radiology are together in one building, providing one-stop service for patients.

Exam rooms are located on the third floor, and our state-of-the-art infusion rooms are located on the fourth floor. In spring 2013, Radiology and Radiation Oncology will open on a lower level. Our new location provides a larger, centralized space for our nursing staff; two comfortable and spacious waiting rooms for patients and families; and several new consultation rooms where physician and nursing teams can develop customized care plans for each patient.

With our research and clinical facilities now housed together within the Hess Center, The Tisch Cancer Institute can facilitate the translation of advanced science into groundbreaking medicine.

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**Mount Sinai officially opened the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center with a ribbon-cutting event.**

Left photo, from left: Steven J. Burakoff, MD; and Randall F. Holcombe, MD, Medical Director of the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center. Right photo: The Leon and Norma Hess Center on Madison Avenue, features natural light, comfortable seating areas, and a spiral staircase that connects the research floors.
NEW FACES

Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD

Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, will be joining The Tisch Cancer Institute in early 2013 as the Director of the Immunotherapy Program. In this role, Dr. Bhardwaj will develop a robust program in immunotherapy, with an emphasis on cancer. She plans to develop a recognized vaccine production facility, and further develop the existing immune monitoring core. Dr. Bhardwaj is known as a leading investigator in the biology of dendritic cells, a class of immune cells in the body that are involved in the early detection of invading pathogens such as bacteria, and have shown potential as a basis for a therapeutic vaccine for cancer. A winner of the Doris Duke Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award, Dr. Bhardwaj was named by Scientific American as one of the top 50 researchers in the country. She comes to Mount Sinai from NYU Langone Medical Center. Dr. Bhardwaj received her MD and PhD from New York University School of Medicine. She completed her internship and residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital/Harvard Medical School; completed a rheumatology fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery/Weill Cornell Medical College; and was a post-doctoral associate at Rockefeller University in New York.

Sacha Gnjatic, PhD

Sacha Gnjatic, PhD, will be joining The Tisch Cancer Institute in January 2013 as an Associate Professor in the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology. He will also be the Associate Director of the Immune Monitoring Core, where he will work closely with the Director, Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, to oversee operational aspects of this facility, and to plan for future growth and development. Dr. Gnjatic will be conducting research in cancer immunology with a focus on cancer vaccine development. His research focuses on human immune responses to cancer in an antigen-specific manner, including: the characterization of serological and cellular immune responses against tumor antigens such as p53, MAGE-A3, and NY-ESO-1; mechanisms of antigen presentation to T cells; and the impact of immunoregulation on tumor antigen-specific responses. Dr. Gnjatic is joining Mount Sinai from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he is an Associate Member, and Director of Immunological Monitoring at the Ludwig Center for Immunotherapy. He received his PhD in Immunology from the University of Paris VII; and completed a fellowship at the Institut Cochin in Paris, and a post-doctoral fellowship at Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

RESEARCH FRONTIERS

Cancer Clinical Trials

The Tisch Cancer Institute’s Cancer Clinical Trials Office (CCTO) offers a robust portfolio of cancer clinical trials across a wide range of diagnoses, including solid tumors (such as genitourinary, melanoma, and head and neck cancers) and hematological malignancies (such as myeloproliferative disease and multiple myeloma). In the coming months, the CCTO is planning to expand the number of protocols that focus on cancer vaccines. According to Marshall Posner, MD, Medical Director of the Cancer Clinical Trials Office, “With the expansion of the immunotherapy program, and the recruitment of Nina Bhardwaj, MD, PhD, as the director of the program, we will focus on exciting investigator-initiated clinical trials that offer novel therapeutic vaccines, and we’ll have the science to maximize their impact.”

For more information on current cancer clinical trials at The Tisch Cancer Institute, contact the CCTO at 212-824-7309, or log onto http://www.mssm.edu/research/clinical-trials.

MEDICAL MILESTONES

Mount Sinai Opens New World Trade Center Oncology Clinic

Jorge Gomez, MD

Jorge Gomez, MD, recently joined The Tisch Cancer Institute as Medical Director of the Thoracic Oncology Program, and Medical Director for the new World Trade Center Oncology Clinic.

The Oncology Clinic adds a new component to the World Trade Center Monitoring and Treatment Program, which has been providing care to thousands of 9/11 responders under its Director, Michael Crane. MD, through the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

In his role as Medical Director of the Thoracic Oncology Program, Dr. Gomez will enhance interdisciplinary clinical collaboration with the departments of surgery and radiation therapy, and with other supportive care subspecialties, and expand clinical and translational research in thoracic oncology.

In June 2012, in an expansion of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, the U.S. government announced it will pay health care costs for 50 different cancers that may have developed in those who were present at the World Trade Center on or following 9/11.

The Oncology Clinic at The Mount Sinai Medical Center is one of several locations that will care for cancer patients who came into contact with hazardous chemicals (including asbestos, concrete, jet fuel, and other fibers and agents) during and immediately after the World Trade Center attack.

“No only have there been patients diagnosed with lung cancer, which we expected, but there have also been patients with prostate cancer, bladder cancer, and other malignancies,” says Dr. Gomez. “As we get further away from the actual event, we will likely see more patients requiring our care.”

The Oncology Clinic will also enhance ongoing research in areas such as medical oncology and epidemiology in order to better understand these processes, says Dr. Gomez. “It will help us in the overall fight against lung and other cancers.”