ACCELERATING SCIENCE – ADVANCING MEDICINE

This is an exciting time for The Tisch Cancer Institute as we mobilize the resources of one of the world’s leading institutions — The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Central to this momentum is our multimillion-dollar expansion. Over the next several years, The Tisch Cancer Institute will grow by 150,000 square feet of research and clinical space. Almost 50 percent of Mount Sinai’s new state-of-the-art Center for Science and Medicine (CSM), scheduled for completion in 2012, will be devoted to cancer programs. Our outpatient center, the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center, will move into a space four times larger than its current one, while breast cancer services formerly housed in the Ruttenberg Center will move into the new Dubin Breast Center (scheduled to open in 2011 in the Klingenstein Pavilion).

The Tisch Cancer Institute continues to recruit prominent clinical investigators and laboratory researchers. Major figures in oncology have joined us this year, including epidemiologist Paolo Boffetta, MD, MPH, Director of the Institute for Translational Epidemiology and Bluhdorn Professor of International Community Medicine; Sundar Jagannath, MD, Director of the Multiple Myeloma Program; Marshall Posner, MD, Medical Director of the Cancer Clinical Trials Office and Medical Director of the Head and Neck Oncology Program; and Randall Holcombe, MD, Director of Clinical Cancer Affairs, Medical Director of the Derald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center, and Director of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology. At the assistant, associate, and full professor levels, we are recruiting cancer biologists who will focus on stem cell research and epigenetics, with the goal of developing cancer-preventive vaccines and targeted cellular therapies.

These recruits, along with the expansion of our cancer facilities, represent significant progress toward our goal of becoming a world-class cancer institute.

We look forward to continuing to update you on exciting new developments within The Tisch Cancer Institute as we continue to expand.

RESEARCH FRONTIERS

Mount Sinai Leads a National MPD Consortium

Mount Sinai School of Medicine is a lead site in an international consortium for the study and treatment of myeloproliferative disease (MPD). Renowned hematologist Ronald Hoffman, MD, Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, and Professor of Gene and Cell Medicine at Mount Sinai, is principal investigator in the 38-member consortium, which is comprised of a biobank, preclinical studies, and clinical trials. In addition to Dr. Hoffman, Dr. John Mascarenhas, Dr. Lewis Silverman and Dr. Shyamala Navada are responsible for the conduct of the clinical trials. The program at Mount Sinai, the only comprehensive one of its kind in the Northeast, is recruiting patients for clinical trials, and offers many treatment options in a therapeutic area that generally offers few. Clinicians interested in referring patients to the program should contact Ronald Hoffman, MD, at ronald.hoffman@mssm.edu, or John Mascarenhas, MD, at john.mascarenhas@mssm.edu, or call 212-241-2297.

Ronald Hoffman, MD, Professor of Medicine, Hematology and Medical Oncology, and Professor of Gene and Cell Medicine
Head and Neck Cancer Clinical Program

At Mount Sinai, some of the best minds in medicine are changing the way cancers of the head and neck are detected, treated, and prevented. Members of our multidisciplinary head and neck cancer team come from 11 specialties, including surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology, endocrinology, speech and swallowing therapy, pathology, and radiology. Our head and neck cancer team has gained national recognition for its expertise and innovation in minimally invasive and endoscopic head and neck surgery, under the direction of Eric M. Genden, MD, Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology, and Chief of the Division of Head and Neck Oncology.

The already outstanding program will continue to expand with the addition of Marshall R. Posner, MD, who recently joined us as the new Medical Director of the Head and Neck Medical Oncology program. Dr. Posner's experience in clinical care and innovation management enhances Mount Sinai's expertise in integrating surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy into patient care. His research interests include the role of human papillomavirus in cancer, and the role of the immune response to head and neck tumors in cancer patients.

"As a leader in head and neck oncology, Dr. Posner has made a lasting impact on his field and his patients," says Dr. Genden. "Dr. Posner's diverse expertise in both clinical research in head and neck cancer and immunology makes him a welcome addition to the internationally renowned otolaryngology program at Mount Sinai."

Randall F. Holcombe, MD, joined The Tisch Cancer Institute as the new Director of Clinical Cancer Affairs and Medical Director of the Gerald H. Ruttenberg Treatment Center. He also serves as Director of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology for the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology. For more than 18 years, Dr. Holcombe has been involved in the development and execution of hypothesis-driven, investigator-initiated trials, mostly related to colon cancer, cancer immunology, and translational studies involving laboratory analysis of these cancers.

Dr. Holcombe comes to Mount Sinai from the University of California-Irvine Medical Center, where he dedicated 13 years to building programs and services. His many positions there included: Professor of Medicine; Associate Vice Chancellor for Research; Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology; Director, Office of Clinical Research and Trials; and Associate Director for Clinical Research, Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Holcombe also spent a decade at Louisiana State University School of Medicine, where he developed a successful clinical practice and research program. He received his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and completed residencies at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston as well as fellowships at Brigham and Women's, Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital, and Beth Israel Hospital in Boston.

Raja M. Flores, MD, a world-renowned surgeon with special expertise in mesothelioma, lung cancer, and esophageal cancer, has been named Chief of Thoracic Surgery and Director of the Thoracic Surgical Oncology program. Dr. Flores has changed the surgical management of pleural mesothelioma with a landmark study for the surgical treatment of mesothelioma, which has been one of the most frequently cited studies from the Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery of the past two years. With the goal of improving treatments for mesothelioma, Dr. Flores has compiled a database of more than 1,000 patients in order to determine the causes of treatment failures. He also helped pioneer the use of intraoperative chemotherapy for this disease, and he has participated in and led a number of major studies in mesothelioma.

He has a medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and completed a general surgery internship and residency at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He also completed a thoracic oncology clinical research fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Dana-Faber Cancer Institute, and a cardiothoracic surgery residency at Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School. He received a master's degree in biostatistics from Columbia University.

Kenneth Rosenzweig, MD, a respected physician-scientist specializing in treating lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma, has been appointed Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Rosenzweig is a pioneer in the development of innovative methods for delivering precise doses of radiation to lung tumors during key points in the respiration cycle. His work enables physicians to safely increase the radiation dose, shorten treatment, and spare healthy tissue.

A groundbreaking researcher in radiation therapy, Dr. Rosenzweig was the principal investigator for a critical-dose escalation study that established the maximum tolerated dose of radiation that can be safely delivered. He has published more than 70 articles in journals such as Journal of Clinical Oncology, and has authored numerous textbook chapters, including one in Principles and Practice of Oncology, the leading textbook of cancer medicine.

In his new position, Dr. Rosenzweig will continue the innovative research in radiation oncology that engaged him at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he worked as a radiation oncologist from 1997 to 2010. He received his medical degree from the Yale University School of Medicine, and continued his training as a medical intern at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. He completed his residency at the Joint Center for Radiation Therapy at Harvard Medical School.