



Mount Sinai

# inside

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## A Celebration of Achievements at Convocation 2016

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai honored eight renowned faculty members who have advanced the fields of cardiology, dermatology, health services, infectious diseases, pediatrics, psychiatry, and rehabilitation medicine during the 31st Annual Convocation Ceremony held Tuesday, September 27. The event marks the beginning of the academic year and features the annual State of the School address.

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, told honorees, their families and friends, faculty, staff, and Mount Sinai benefactors who filled Goldwurm Auditorium: “We celebrate the excellent accomplishments of the Icahn School of Medicine over the past year and honor some of the world’s most innovative physicians and scientists as they reach a remarkable milestone in their careers: a named professorship. We additionally celebrate and thank our visionary donors who understand the importance of our work and who enable the type of disruptive thinking that drives discovery.”

Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System, welcomed the guests and said: “We gather to appreciate all that we have here—generous donors, a brilliant faculty, dedicated physicians, accomplished researchers—all working toward



Dennis S. Charney, MD, delivers the State of the School address.

the common goal of advancing medicine by expanding knowledge and improving care.”

Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and President for Academic

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## Second-Hand Smoke More Pervasive Than People Think

Many people who are exposed to second-hand cigarette smoke on a day-to-day basis do not realize it, according to newly published research by physicians at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Yet exposure to this carcinogen carries an increased risk for heart disease and lung cancer, and mortality by an average of three years, exceeding even that of former smokers who are not exposed.

These were among the findings reported by Raja M. Flores, MD, and Emanuela Taioli, MD, PhD, in a study that appeared in the October issue of *Carcinogenesis*.



“Second-hand smoke is a lot more pervasive and more deadly than people think,” says Dr. Flores, Ames Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and Chairman of the Department of Thoracic Surgery at the Mount Sinai Health System. “But we found that people are being exposed to second-hand smoke who don’t even know it.”

The researchers were surprised by their own findings, says Dr. Taioli, Director of the Institute for Translational Epidemiology, and

Study co-authors Raja M. Flores, MD, and Emanuela Taioli, MD, PhD

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## > A Celebration of Achievements at Convocation 2016 *(continued from page 1)*

Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System, presided over the ceremony and gave the annual State of the School address.

“We have been on an upward trajectory since we inaugurated our highly successful strategic plan in 2006 and raised \$1.5 billion through a capital campaign—and we are going to do it again,” Dr. Charney said, announcing that the Mount Sinai Health System and the School of Medicine will launch a new strategic plan in early 2017. “We are very impressed with the creativity of the ideas we are receiving from our departments, divisions, and institutes, and we expect to have a completed strategic plan for the end of the year to present to the Boards of Trustees so we can move forward with our capital campaign.”

Dr. Charney spotlighted key accomplishments throughout his presentation. “We have more doctors on the *New York* magazine’s ‘Best Doctors 2016’ list than any other health system in New York City,” he said. “Our National Institutes of Health funding increased by 9 percent in 2015 from nearly \$265 million to nearly \$290 million in 2016, and among private U.S. medical schools, we are No. 1 in research dollars per principal investigator in 2016, up from No. 2, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.”

Additionally, Dr. Charney noted that:

- The full-time faculty has grown by 78 percent since the creation of the Mount Sinai Health System in 2013, and continued growth is expected.
- The Department of Medical Education launched “IcahnBeWell,” a program dedicated to improving the well-being of every student by following the six pillars of wellness: spiritual, emotional, physical, professional, social, and financial.



Dennis S. Charney, MD, center, with Convocation honorees, from left: Samin K. Sharma, MD; Mark G. Lebwohl, MD; Joseph E. Herrera, DO; Karen M. Wilson, MD, MPH; Annapoorna S. Kini, MD; René S. Kahn, MD, PhD; Juan P. Wisnivesky, MD, DrPH; and Benjamin K. Chen, MD, PhD.

- Mount Sinai has the largest Graduate Medical Education program in the United States (146 programs and 2,219 residents and fellows).
- A robust Mount Sinai Doctors Faculty Practice grew 6.8 percent in 2015 and is up 12.5 percent in calendar year 2016 through July.
- The Mount Sinai Health System is ranked No. 3 by *DiversityInc* in the 2016 list of top 10 hospitals and health care systems in the nation for excellence in diversity management.

Key among many new goals, Dr. Charney said, is continuing the outstanding work of Mount Sinai Innovation Partners and “re-imagining” Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences programs and collaborations “to commercialize science, to take our scientific findings and move them to a new drug, a new device, a new vaccine,” he said. “We want that ethic to start right at the very beginning of a student’s career.”

Dr. Charney told the audience, “This is a very exciting time for Mount Sinai. I thank all of you—our physicians, Boards of Trustees, faculty, and students—for making us do our very best.”

To view the presentation, visit <http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical/events/convocation>.

### THE CONVOCATION HONOREES

#### **Benjamin K. Chen, MD, PhD**

Irene and Dr. Arthur M. Fishberg  
Professor of Medicine

#### **Joseph E. Herrera, DO**

Lucy G. Moses Professorship in  
Rehabilitation Medicine

#### **René S. Kahn, MD, PhD**

Esther and Joseph Klingenstein  
Professor of Psychiatry

#### **Annapoorna S. Kini, MD**

Zena and Michael A. Wiener  
Professor of Medicine

#### **Mark G. Lebwohl, MD**

Waldman Chair of Dermatology

#### **Samin K. Sharma, MD**

Anandi Lal Sharma  
Professor of Medicine in  
Cardiology

#### **Karen M. Wilson, MD, MPH**

Debra and Leon Black  
Professor in Pediatrics

#### **Juan P. Wisnivesky, MD, DrPH**

Drs. Richard and Mortimer Bader  
Professor of Medicine

# Two Researchers Receive Robin Chemers Neustein Award

Hélène Salmon, PhD, and Lara Manganaro, PhD, are the recipients of the 2016 Robin Chemers Neustein Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, which was created to encourage and support female research scientists at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



Hélène Salmon, PhD



Lara Manganaro, PhD

Dr. Salmon works in the laboratory of Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Professor of Oncological Science and Medicine (Hematology/Oncology) and Director of the Mount Sinai Immunology Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine. Her research is focused on understanding the contribution of the tumor stroma to immune responses against cancer.

Dr. Manganaro works in the laboratory of Viviana Simon, MD, PhD,

Professor of Microbiology, Medicine, and Infectious Diseases. Her research focuses on understanding patterns and mechanisms of HIV drug resistance.

Dr. Salmon and Dr. Manganaro are the seventh and eighth recipients of the award, and they will each receive an award of \$25,000 to continue their research.

The award was established in 2010 through a generous gift from Robin Chemers Neustein, a former member of Mount Sinai's Boards of Trustees. Recipients are senior female postdoctoral scientists who intend to complete their training within two years and have demonstrated high-impact accomplishments in the biomedical sciences, plus the potential for an independent scientific career.

## › Second-Hand Smoke More Pervasive Than People Think *(continued from page 1)*

Professor of Population Health Science and Policy, and Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Taioli says the original plan was to show that government policies have largely been successful in protecting people from second-hand smoke. "We wanted to show that if you don't smoke and you're not exposed to second-hand smoke, you would be risk-free," she says. "But we actually showed something we didn't expect, that we still have a lot of work to do in improving our public health policies."

They also found that currently used questionnaires capture only a fraction of people who are actually exposed to second-hand smoke, thereby underestimating its overall economic toll.

The researchers mined government databases to produce their study. They used data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) that was gathered between 1999 to 2010 and collected from self-reported nonsmokers over the age of 20. Cotinine—a chemical produced by nicotine that lasts for up to 20 hours in a person's urine, saliva, or blood—was measured at the time the subjects were

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*“Where is their exposure coming from? This is a public health issue.”*

– Raja M. Flores, MD

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recruited. Dr. Taioli then linked the NHANES data with the National Death Index over the same time period.

By extrapolating further, Drs. Taioli and Flores connected their findings with data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that showed second-hand smoke exposure is unequally distributed in the population, with children, non-Hispanic blacks, persons living in poverty, and people who rent their housing being disproportionately affected.

“Where is their exposure coming from?” asks Dr. Flores. “This is a public health issue. Our next steps will be to really focus on where people are getting exposed and what we can do to stop it.”

Dr. Taioli points out that the study supports stricter legislation on smoke-free areas in public housing, as well as increased education in minority communities about the deleterious effects of second-hand smoke in cars, homes, and other places where families gather. Dr. Flores says early screenings for heart disease and lung cancer may also help to catch diseases before they have a chance to progress.

“This study shows that nonsmokers who are exposed to second-hand smoke have a significant increase in premature death,” says Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, Dean for Global Health and Professor of Preventive Medicine, and Pediatrics, at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. “There are obvious implications for people who live and work in environments where they are exposed to second-hand smoke and have no power to prevent exposure.”

# Around the Health System

## A Gold Medal Visit

Five members of the medal-winning 2016 USA Women's Track and Field Olympic team made an exciting visit to Kravis Children's Hospital at Mount Sinai on Friday, September 9, where they engaged with pediatric patients and their families in air hockey and video games, and arts and crafts activities, at the Child Life Zone. They also stopped by the KidZone TV studio, where they appeared on a live show that was broadcast throughout the hospital. Proudly displaying their medals around their necks, the athletes answered questions from the pediatric viewing audience and later surprised children and adolescents at their bedside, where they chatted and graciously posed for keepsake photos.



PHOTOS BY ROBERT CAPLIN

Front Row, from left: Trayvon Cornelius, patient and KidZone TV co-host, with USA Track and Field Olympic athletes Jenny Simpson, Allyson Felix, and Kristi Castlin; back row, from left: Emma Coburn and Dalilah Muhammad. Inset: Patient Alondra Marte gets to hold the medal earned by Dalilah Muhammad.



Noga Harizman, MD, (in white shirt) leads a glaucoma surgery course for residents and fellows in the Jorge N. Buxton Microsurgical Education Center at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai.

## Trainees Receive Hands-On Experience in Glaucoma Surgery

The Fifth Annual Comprehensive Glaucoma Surgery Course for Ophthalmology Residents and Fellows, hosted by New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai (NYEE) and held on Saturday, September 17, attracted more than 20 trainees from the tri-state area for a day of lectures and wet-lab experience. Noga Harizman, MD, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Director of the NYEE Glaucoma Clinic, led the course, which covered such topics as trabeculectomy, tube implants, micro-bypass shunts, patch grafts, and minimally invasive glaucoma surgery. "We were proud to have welcomed residents and fellows from around the area for this outstanding course," says James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, President of New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, and the Delafield-Rodgers Professor and Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology.

## PaintFest America Aims to Brighten Walls, and Patients' Days

Patients and staff members were encouraged to channel their inner schoolchildren recently when volunteers from the nonprofit PaintFest America visited the Rutenberg Treatment Center and the Mount Sinai Beth Israel Comprehensive Cancer Center West. About 100 participants at each site filled in large paint-by-numbers canvases of roses, butterflies, and tree frogs that will be assembled into colorful murals for the sites' walls. They painted in waiting rooms, a conference room, and even in a treatment infusion site, says Alison Snow, PhD, LCSW, Social Work Supervisor, Cancer Supportive Services, Mount Sinai Beth Israel Comprehensive Cancer Center West. "It's something that's fun, something that's therapeutic and takes you away from your situation," she says. The event was the last stop in a nationwide campaign by PaintFest America, which had vowed to visit cancer patients in each state for 50 straight days.



Tania Leal, a patient, with John Feight, founder of the Foundation for Hospital Art, which created PaintFest America.

# Woman to Woman Builds a Community of Hope and Support for Cancer Patients

It was something of a family reunion when cancer survivors met on a recent Saturday at the 92nd Street Y—if a family can consist of 100 women from just about every generation and culture. What they had in common was Woman to Woman, a peer-to-peer program founded at Mount Sinai by Valerie Goldfein, an ovarian cancer survivor, that provides emotional support, mentoring, and financial aid to women in treatment for gynecologic cancer.

The twice-yearly reunions bring together women who have received support from the program, plus their family and friends, for a morning of education on how to cope with gynecologic cancer and an opportunity to exchange ideas and information. These women share the bond of a similar diagnosis as well as the common experience of having received support from a Woman to Woman survivor mentor. “What is special is being with a group of women who can understand and relate on a deeper level,” says one mentor, Tricia Clarke.

Woman to Woman, founded in 2003, is a program of the Mount Sinai Division of Gynecologic Oncology and the Mount Sinai Department of Social Work. Women diagnosed with gynecologic cancer are screened by a social worker to determine their interest in meeting with a survivor mentor. The 20 professionally trained volunteers meet women at the time of diagnosis, bringing “comfort kits” with items they found useful during their own treatments, like granola bars, slippers, hand lotion, and hard candy, plus information on Woman to Woman. “We never push,” one volunteer says. But if the patient expresses interest, a mentor will keep in touch throughout treatment, sitting with her during chemotherapy and visiting during hospital stays. The volunteers, who follow up via telephone and email, are prepared to answer questions big and small: How much should you tell your friends and family? What do you do when your eyebrows fall out? How do you handle nausea? Most important, volunteers are trained to listen to women’s stories, fears, and concerns and share their personal experiences, if appropriate.

At the recent 10th reunion, on Saturday, September 24, three “generations” of Woman to Woman volunteer mentors reunited. Robin Findling, a survivor of ovarian cancer, joined the Woman to Woman team in 2005. She mentored Myrtice Wooten, then an



Three “generations” of mentors for Woman to Woman, a group that supports women with gynecologic cancer: from left, Robin Findling, Myrtice Wooten, and Tricia Clarke.



Michael Port, an author, was the keynote speaker for the 10th Woman to Woman Reunion in September at the 92nd Street Y.

employee of The Mount Sinai Hospital, throughout her treatment for endometrial cancer. Ms. Wooten was so inspired by her relationship with Ms. Findling that a year after her treatment ended, she, too, trained to become a survivor volunteer. She then mentored Tricia Clarke, who was also diagnosed with endometrial cancer. Ms. Clarke also wanted to be able to help women the way Ms. Wooten had helped her. “She has such a welcoming way. I am still learning from her,” says Ms. Clarke, who now mentors newly diagnosed women. The bond between these three generations of Woman to Woman mentors is very strong. “If you looked at us, you’d say, ‘They don’t fit,’ but we have become a great group. We all really love each other,”

Ms. Findling says. “We’re like sisters,” says Ms. Wooten.

The September reunion also featured presentations from Michael Port, a well-known author and speaker; a nutritionist; Bob Baker, MD, a gastroenterologist who is a ventriloquist; and music from the band N.E.D., composed of gynecologic oncologists (including Nimesh Nagarsheth, MD, Associate Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Science, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai).

To date, more than 1,100 women have been supported by Woman to Woman, a mission seen as mutually rewarding. “I know that just by entering a current patient’s room and telling her I am a longtime survivor it can provide her with hope and inspiration,” Myrtice Wooten says. “When I can put a smile on a patient’s face and let them look at me—headstrong and not giving up—that is a good feeling.”

## Department of Neurosurgery Cerebrovascular Symposium 2016

The Mount Sinai Health System Department of Neurosurgery presents three lectures on recent advances in stroke and cerebrovascular disease, and comprehensive stroke. Breakfast will be served.

### Cerebrovascular Guest Lecturer

7 am

#### “Unruptured Brain Aneurysms: Molecular Imaging—and Treatment?”

##### Matthew Gounis, PhD

Director, New England Center for Stroke Research;  
Director, Scientific Affairs, Advanced MRI Center;  
and Associate Professor, Radiology, University of  
Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester

### The Sidney A. Hollin, MD Memorial Lecture

7:35 am

#### “Natural History and Management of Unruptured Intracranial Aneurysms”

##### Yuichi Murayama, MD

Professor and Chairman, Department of  
Neurosurgery, Jikei University School of Medicine,  
Minato, Japan

### The Leonard I. Malis, MD Memorial Lecture

8:15 am

#### “Innovation in Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke”

##### L. Nelson (Nick) Hopkins, MD, FACS

SUNY Distinguished Professor, Neurosurgery and  
Radiology; Founder, Gates Vascular Institute and  
Toshiba Stroke & Vascular Research Center; and  
Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Jacobs  
Institute, Buffalo

**Wednesday, October 19**  
The Mount Sinai Hospital  
Annenberg 12-01

## Mount Sinai Transformation **update**

For the most recent updates on Mount Sinai’s  
downtown transformation, please go to:

<http://www.mountsinaihealth.org/locations/downtown>

## Reminder to Register and Attend!

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai presents:

### 5th Annual **SINAInnovations** Leading a New Era of Discovery Theme: **Therapeutic Discovery**

<http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations>

**Tuesday, October 25 – Wednesday, October 26**  
Stern Auditorium

### 1st Annual **SINAImedMaker Challenge** Creating Novel Technology Solutions for Health Care Theme: **Pain & Fatigue**

<http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations/sinaimedmaker>

**Friday, October 21 – Sunday, October 23**  
Annenberg West Lobby

### 4th Annual **Trainee Forum and Networking Reception** (including the 2nd Annual Young Innovators Pitch Competition)

<http://icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations/networking>

**Tuesday, October 25**  
Hess Center for Science and Medicine

**Registration is required for all events.**

**#sinaimedmaker**

**#sinainnovations**



#### INSIDE MOUNT SINAI

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