Arthur Klein, MD, Named President of The Mount Sinai Health Network

Arthur Klein, MD, a leader in health care management, has been named President of The Mount Sinai Health Network. In this new role, Dr. Klein will oversee The Mount Sinai Medical Center’s growing network of more than one hundred clinical relationships, including eighteen affiliated hospitals, five nursing homes, and twelve physician group practices throughout New York City, and Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester counties.

“Dr. Klein is known as an innovator in the evolving health care landscape,” says Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Mount Sinai Medical Center. “His leadership will help invigorate and integrate our growing network of hospitals, clinical practices, and polyclinics.”

Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Klein, a pediatric cardiologist, served as Western Regional Executive Director for the North Shore-LIJ Health System, where he oversaw all health facilities in western Queens, Manhattan, and Staten Island.

Physicians Identify Successful Drug for Myelofibrosis

In a phase I clinical trial, physicians at The Mount Sinai Medical Center have identified the first drug that appears to stop the progression of myelofibrosis, a life-threatening blood cancer. The investigators found that, at low-doses, panobinostat (LBH589) successfully halted and reversed damage to the blood and bone marrow in several of the forty patients enrolled in the trial. Panobinostat, manufactured by Novartis, is a histone deacetylase inhibitor that affects the chromatin structure of malignant cells.

The study, led by Ronald Hoffman, MD, Albert A. and Vera G. List Professor of Medicine, and Director of the Myeloproliferative Disorders Research Program, and John O. Mascarenhas, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine (Hematology and Medical Oncology), was published online in the January 21, 2013, issue of the British Journal of Haematology.
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Myelofibrosis is commonly diagnosed in people between the ages of 60 and 70, and affects approximately one-to-two out of every 100,000 people in the United States annually. The disorder is characterized by anemia, fatigue, bone or joint pain, and an enlarged liver and spleen. Survival usually is between five and seven years, but some patients develop acute leukemia, which can limit survival to three-to-five months.

According to Drs. Hoffman and Mascarenhas, who designed and ran the trial, persistence and ingenuity paved the way for their findings. Signs of significant improvement appeared a year after patients were started on an oral regimen of low-dose panobinostat. “We have patients who are doing well after two-to-three years, and whose survival was predicted to be on the order of months,” says Dr. Mascarenhas.

The key to success was maintaining a low dosage. Interestingly, too high a dosage of panobinostat would have produced toxicity forcing patients to drop out of the trial before positive results could be seen, says Dr. Mascarenhas.

“Persistence led us to finally see signals of activity,” Dr. Mascarenhas recalls. “One of our patients came in for a checkup and her blood smear looked normal. I gave it to Dr. Hoffman to look at and asked him what he thought was wrong with the patient. He said, ‘Nothing. It’s normal.’ Then I told him it was one of our patients in the trial.”

To date, the only potentially curative treatment approved for people with myelofibrosis is a bone marrow transplant. But elderly patients or those with comorbidities are not eligible for transplants, and a suitable bone marrow donor is not always available.

Drs. Hoffman and Mascarenhas have now initiated a new phase I clinical trial that will combine lower doses of panobinostat with ruxolitinib, a drug manufactured by Incyte Pharmaceuticals that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to treat the symptoms of myelofibrosis.

A Cure for One Patient Yields Hope for Others

Two years before seeking help from physicians at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Rosemary McGinn, 53, was diagnosed with hypoglycemia. She went everywhere with an arsenal of snacks and juices that she ingested frequently to keep her blood sugar from dropping.

“When my sugar would suddenly crash, it was like I was drunk,” she says. “I would become very combative, not knowing what I was saying, and sway back and forth.”

Equally unsettling were the results that came back after her check-up with Ronald Tamler, MD, PhD, Clinical Director of the Mount Sinai Diabetes Center, and Associate Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology, Diabetes and Bone Disease), at The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

“A normal blood sugar is around 100 mg/dl, and most people start feeling poorly when their sugar dips below 70,” says Dr. Tamler. “But Rosemary had a sugar of 20. That level usually leads to seizures and coma.”

Dr. Tamler diagnosed Ms. McGinn with insulinoma, a rare tumor of the pancreas that continuously makes insulin even when blood sugar drops too low. Under normal circumstances, the pancreas stops making insulin until the body’s glucose or sugar level stabilizes.

Immediately, he referred her to specialists at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, Christopher DiMaio, MD, Director of Therapeutic Endoscopy, who performed an endoscopic ultrasound to locate the tumor, and William B. Inabnet III, MD, Chief of Metabolic, Endocrine and Minimally Invasive Surgery, and the Eugene W. Friedman, M.D. Professor of Surgery, who performed a laparoscopic operation to safely remove it.

In January, following a 90-minute surgery, and a three-day recovery in The Mount Sinai Hospital, Ms. McGinn returned home, cured of her tumor and its life-threatening complications.

“Dr. DiMaio and Dr. Inabnet are my surgical saviors. I was in the hospital for a few days before surgery and they stopped by at least twice a day and kept me informed the whole time,” says Ms. McGinn. “And now I’m back to living my normal life. Mount Sinai promised me a cure and they delivered.”

The unusual tumor also represented a rare opportunity to study the biological mechanisms that produce insulin, so Drs. Tamler and Inabnet arranged for it to be frozen after it was extracted, and then sent to Andrew Fyle Stewart, MD, Director of Mount Sinai’s Diabetes, Obesity, and Metabolism Institute, and Irene and Dr. Arthur M. Fishberg Professor of Medicine.

In addition, the tumor will become part of Mount Sinai’s Tissue Bank and can be linked with the Medical Center’s BioMe Biobank, a database of blood samples and health information used for research projects. When researchers collect similar tumors, they also will be genetically sequenced at the Icahn Institute for Genomics and Multiscale Biology at Mount Sinai, to gain additional information across disease types.
Roger J. Hajjar, MD, a pioneering Mount Sinai researcher who has published cutting-edge studies on heart failure, has been named the recipient of the 2013 BCVS Distinguished Achievement Award by the American Heart Association and the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. Dr. Hajjar, who is The Arthur and Janet C. Ross Professor of Medicine and Director of The Helmsley Trust Translational Research Center, will be honored at the American Heart Association’s Scientific Sessions Annual Conference later this year.

“Dr. Hajjar will receive the award for his groundbreaking contributions to developing gene therapy treatments for cardiac disease,” says Joshua Hare, MD, who is President-elect of the Council on Basic Cardiovascular Sciences. He will also be recognized for his work on behalf of the Council.

Over the years, Dr. Hajjar’s laboratory has made important basic science discoveries that were translated into clinical trials. Most recently, Dr. Hajjar and his researchers identified a possible new drug target for treating or preventing heart failure. Says Mark A. Sussman, PhD, a former president of the Council, “Dr. Hajjar was among the first, and certainly the most successful, in combining gene therapy and treatment of heart failure. He shows a relentless pursuit of translating basic science into real-world treatment of heart disease.”

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“We are confident that Dr. Klein’s leadership and communication skills will make him a natural in working with our full-time and voluntary physicians, as well as all clinical staff and our business development team,” says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, The Mount Sinai Medical Center.

Mount Sinai’s growing health network includes a recent clinical affiliation with Staten Island’s Richmond University Medical Center, a new 75,000 square-foot multispecialty physician practice in Brooklyn Heights, an Urgent Care Facility on Manhattan’s Upper West Side, and a multispecialty clinic in Chinatown.

In his new position, Dr. Klein will collaborate with Mount Sinai Care, LLC, Mount Sinai’s Accountable Care Organization, to develop a framework for “Best Practices” that improves coordinated patient care.

“Mount Sinai has always been a trailblazer in research, education, and patient care, including the development of even better models of care to benefit patients,” says Dr. Klein. “This is an exciting moment to join Mount Sinai, when the institution is expanding its reach to better serve individuals and families living not only in the five boroughs, but also in Westchester and Long Island. Dr. Klein joined North Shore-LIJ in 2009, as Senior Vice President of Children’s Services.

As Executive Director of the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Children’s Medical Center (CCMC) of New York from 2009-2011, he was responsible for the quality and growth of pediatric medicine across the entire North Shore-LIJ Health System.

Prior to that, Dr. Klein was Senior Vice President and Chief Physician Officer at Lifespan Corporation in Providence, Rhode Island, where he was also Associate Dean for Strategy and Special Projects at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

He also served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at The New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System, and as Executive Vice Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he completed his residency and fellowship.

A fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Cardiology, Dr. Klein has written extensively on pediatric cardiology. He received his medical degree from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, and a bachelor’s degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
Events

American Diabetes Association Expo
Mount Sinai physicians, nurses, and diabetes educators discuss diabetes prevention and management at a free American Diabetes Association Expo that also includes health screenings and cooking demonstrations.

Saturday, March 9
10 am – 4 pm
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center – North
655 West 35th Street
Entrance: 39th Street and 11th Avenue

Grand Rounds Anesthesiology
Debra A. Schwinn, MD, Dean of the University of Iowa, Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver College of Medicine, presents “Genomics and Medicine: Present and Future.”

Wednesday, March 6
6:30 – 8:10 am
Annenberg 13-01

Grand Rounds Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine
Christopher M. Callahan, MD, Director, Indiana University Center for Aging Research, Indiana University School of Medicine, presents “New Models of Care to Improve the Mental Health Care of Older Adults.”

Thursday, March 7
5 – 6 pm
Annenberg 10-30

Grand Rounds Health Evidence and Policy
Eric E. Schadt, PhD, Chairman and Professor, Department of Genetics and Genomic Sciences, presents “Enabling a Precision Medicine Approach to Diagnosing and Treating Common Human Diseases.”

Tuesday, March 12
1 pm
Icahn Medical Institute Classroom L2-82

New Graduate Courses in Public Health
The Graduate Program in Public Health at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai continues to expand its curriculum with new specialty tracks, an advanced certificate program, and a new name—it was formerly The Master of Public Health Program.

The public health program, which enrolls 60 new students each year, is part of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Three new courses of study include Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Health Care Management, which complement the tracks that existed previously: Global Health, Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, Outcomes Research, and Occupational and Environmental Medicine. The courses are designed for students who want a strong foundation in community-based research, and experience in building population-based studies for disease prevention and health promotion.

A new, 15-credit Advanced Certificate in Public Health was designed for individuals who seek career enhancement. It covers the core content of the public health program and can be used toward the full degree.

For additional information, log onto http://www.icahn.mssm.edu/publichealth or call 212-824-7292.

Education

Emergency and Critical Care Ultrasound Course
This course is designed to provide participants with ultrasound instruction for use in the Emergency Department or in any critical care setting. To register, visit www.mssm.edu/cme/courses/2015ultrasound or call the office of CME at 212-731-7950.

Friday, March 15
7:45 am – 5 pm
Hatch Auditorium

2013 International Conference on Viral Hepatitis (ICVH)
This is a conference for gastroenterologists, hepatologists, and HIV-treating clinicians. Complimentary registration is available for Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai faculty, fellows, and affiliated clinicians. To view the conference program, visit www.iapac.org. For more information, email AKnudson@iapac.org or call 202-216-1580.

Monday, March 25
Tuesday, March 26
New York Academy of Medicine

Mount Sinai

INSIDE MOUNT SINAI
2013 Marketing & Communications
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