Mount Sinai Goes Courtside at the US Open

The Mount Sinai Medical Center—recently named the official medical service provider and hospital of the USTA and US Open—will provide on-site clinical care for tennis players competing in the US Open, held August 26 to September 9, in Flushing Meadows, Queens. Mount Sinai also is the official sponsor of Arthur Ashe Kids’ Day, an annual tennis event for children that was held Saturday, August 24.

The five-year partnership with the USTA calls for Mount Sinai to develop recommendations around injury prevention and management and conduct educational outreach on the health benefits of playing tennis. Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, Assistant Professor of Sports Medicine in the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedics at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, serves as Chief Medical Officer of the USTA and US Open, as well as Medical Advisor to the U.S. Fed Cup team.

During the US Open, nearly 80 Mount Sinai staff and volunteers will be stationed at a Mount Sinai booth to provide sunscreen, information on skin cancer, and a UV Sun-Detector wristband.

Supporting Environmental Health in Southeast Asia

Rapid industrialization in Southeast Asia is producing widespread environmental pollution, creating unsafe workplaces, and raising grave concerns for public health.

To address these challenges, and strengthen the capacity of health professionals and policymakers in Southeast Asia, Mount Sinai physicians under the leadership of Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, the Ethel H. Wise Professor of Community Medicine and Dean for Global Health at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, have established a formal collaboration with the Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI) in Bangkok, Thailand. Under the auspices of CRI and the World Health Organization (WHO), the physicians are sharing their knowledge and expertise with health care workers in Southeast Asia. Mount Sinai is world renowned for its work in environmental and occupational medicine.
In July, Dr. Landrigan and Roberto Lucchini, MD, Director of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, led a five-day introductory training course in environmental and occupational medicine for public health professionals at CRI. They were joined by Melissa A. McDiarmid, MD, MPH, Director of the Occupational Environmental Health Program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and Mathuros Ruchirawat, PhD, Vice President for Research and Academic Affairs at CRI.

Participants in the course included nearly 50 physicians, nurses, and government health officials from Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, who came to learn about pesticide poisoning, heavy metal toxicity, air pollution, and other environmental hazards.

“These countries are doing in 10 years what it took 100 years to do in the United States and England during industrialization,” says Dr. Landrigan. “And if they don’t handle the transition properly, there will be many health problems.”

This year’s introductory course will be followed by an advanced program either next year or in 2015, also through a collaboration between Mount Sinai, CRI, and WHO.

“The participants were very enthusiastic,” says Dr. Landrigan. “We felt we were training future leaders in public health who would have an appreciation of how environmental and occupational factors contribute to human health. They all know about the importance of nutrition and immunizations, and have anti-tobacco campaigns. But they did not know about the way air pollution and toxic chemicals effect people. This is fairly new information.”

Separately, Dr. Landrigan says Mount Sinai plans to establish a scholarly exchange in environmental and occupational medicine with the Faculty of Medicine Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok.

In addition, Mount Sinai is forging ties with the medical community in Burma, officially the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, which recently emerged from 50 years of military rule. Joseph P. Yoe, MD, a New York-based oncologist and past president of the Myanmar American Medical Education Society, says he would like to create an educational exchange between Mount Sinai and Myanmar’s medical schools in areas such as emergency and occupational medicine.

“As you know, Myanmar needs know-how and training to catch up with the rest of the world,” says Dr. Yoe. “Hopefully, Mount Sinai will be one of the leading medical institutions to participate in changes in Myanmar.”

To support the initial development of a partnership in public health with Myanmar, Drs. Landrigan and Lucchini met with The Honorable Pe Thet Khin, MD, MB, BS, Dr. Med Ed., FRCP, Union Minister of Health for Myanmar; Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc; Melissa McDiarmid, MD, MPH; and Roberto Lucchini, MD.
Researchers Gain a Better Understanding of T-cells

The recent creation of genetically engineered mice that develop Autoimmune Hepatitis (AIH) is bringing researchers at The Mount Sinai Medical Center closer to understanding the regulatory mechanisms that drive the autoimmune disease in humans. In AIH, the body’s immune system attacks the liver. The only treatments available for people with the disease are short-acting steroids or a liver transplant.

Konstantina Alexandropoulos, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Clinical Immunology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, says she and her team were surprised by how directly mutations in a gene called Traf6 affected the liver.

The findings—published online in the July 15 issue of The Journal of Clinical Investigation—showed that immune cells, or T-cells produced in mice with the Traf6 mutation, homed directly to the liver, attacking it rather than other healthy tissue.

“The liver is very tolerant of insults,” says Dr. Alexandropoulos, “and yet we see this inflammation, and we are trying to understand why it happens, how T-cells become self-reactive. We want to show that the causative mechanism is the same in mice and in humans.”

Once that is established, she adds, “Our findings can be extrapolated to other autoimmune diseases that are mediated by T-cells,” such as rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Alexandropoulos and her team—including PhD candidates Anthony Bonito and Erica Weinstein—hope to begin testing drugs on the mice.

As a leader in the field of liver disease, Mount Sinai has a large pool of patients with AIH who would benefit from clinical trials, says Dr. Alexandropoulos. “There is nothing targeted for this disease, and people with AIH would really like to have an effective alternative treatment,” she says.

Mount Sinai Goes Courtside at the US Open (continued from page 1)

that changes colors to indicate when it may be time to apply sunscreen. Tennis fans will be able to participate in an online/mobile sunscreen-usage survey by accessing the mobile Mount Sinai app at www.mountsinai.org/usopen.

Volunteers also will be giving out a Directory of Services for all Mount Sinai Faculty Practice departments and a brochure on Mount Sinai Access Services, a new program to help patients connect more efficiently with physicians and specialty services.

In her new role with the USTA, Dr. Colvin will assist with player development, community tennis, and diversity and inclusion. “Players will be able to access Mount Sinai’s facilities throughout the year, providing continuity of care and access to Mount Sinai’s core orthopaedic team,” she says.

Dr. Colvin leads a team of orthopaedic physicians who will provide medical support to the US Open players. Team member James Gladstone, MD, Associate Professor of Sports Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Co-Director of Sports Medicine at The Mount Sinai Medical Center, will serve as Medical Advisor to the U.S. Davis Cup team.

Evan L. Flatow, MD, Bernard J. Lasker Professor and Chair, the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedics, and Chief of Shoulder Surgery, and the following orthopaedic leaders from Mount Sinai will serve as consultants:

- Michael Hausman, MD, Dr. Robert K. Lippmann Professor and Vice Chair of Orthopaedics and Chief, Hand and Elbow Surgery
- Andrew C. Hecht, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery and Co-Director of Orthopaedic Spine Surgery
- Steven Weinfeld, MD, Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chief of the Foot and Ankle Service

Educational videos with Mount Sinai doctors will be taped at noon each day from August 26 through August 30 at the US Open, and shown via webcast at www.usopen.org/en_US/interactive/video/index.html.

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Convocation 2013
Convocation marks the beginning of the academic year at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, honoring accomplished faculty and dedicated benefactors, and the school's commitment to excellence. Join Mount Sinai's senior leaders for the annual State of the School address, and additional information and speeches.

Monday, September 30
5 pm
Stern Auditorium

Grand Rounds Anesthesiology
Basem Abdelmalak, MD, Associate Professor, Anesthesiology, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, presents "Perioperative Glycemic Management in Noncardiac Surgery, Beyond the Target Debate."

Wednesday, August 28
6:30 – 8:10 am
Annenberg 13-01

Laboratory Medicine Seminar Weekly Series
Ding Wen Wu, MD, PhD, Associate Director, Transfusion Medicine and Cellular Therapy, presents "Blood Component Therapy (Part III)."

Tuesday, August 27
8 – 9 am
Icahn Medical Institute
8-40 Conference Room

Grand Rounds Surgery
Sherry M. Wren, MD, FACS, Professor, Chief, General Surgery, Palo Alto Veterans Hospital, Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs, Stanford University School of Medicine, presents "The 14th Annual Ben F. Bryer Memorial Lecture: Robotics In General Surgery."

Wednesday, September 18
7 am: M&M Conference
7:45 am: Grand Rounds
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Accessing Health Care at Mount Sinai
The Mount Sinai Medical Center has launched a new app and website that make it easier to expedite an appointment with a Mount Sinai physician, and arrange for the transfer of friends and family members to Mount Sinai from other hospitals.

These services can be utilized by visiting www.mountsinai.org/access. People can also call 800-TO-SINAI, or email access@mountsinai.org.

- **Mount Sinai Access**: A staff of dedicated nurses is available 24/7 to find the most appropriate Mount Sinai doctor for a patient’s needs, from consultations at the Faculty Practice or the Center for Advanced Medicine, to complex inpatient services. Patients are assigned a Mount Sinai Access nurse who helps them navigate the system and solve issues with insurance and other paperwork.

- **Transfer Services**: Coordinators are available 24/7 to arrange ambulance transportation, secure appropriate bed placements, and work with insurance companies and patient financial services to obtain authorization prior to transfer. For additional information on the process, go to: www.tinyurl.com/kj4p8gc.