**SinaInnovations Highlights Era of Discovery in Cancer**

A keynote address by Carl H. June, MD—whose research has led to a therapy that can keep a leukemia patient cancer-free for years after a single infusion—contributed to a sense of excitement and immediacy at the sixth annual SinaInnovations conference. Cancer was the theme of the event held on Tuesday, October 17, and Wednesday, October 18, in Stern Auditorium at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

A few months before the conference, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a groundbreaking therapy for acute lymphoblastic leukemia based on CAR-T research by Dr. June, Professor of Immunotherapy, and Director of the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies at the University of Pennsylvania. And a second CAR-T therapy, for large B-cell lymphoma, was approved on the second day of the conference. In these treatments, a patient’s own T cells are genetically engineered so they produce a protein called a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that allows them to recognize and attack cancer cells. The underlying concepts date to the early 1990s, Dr. June said, but the treatments can now be produced faster and at a larger scale, helping make this a time of revolution in cancer therapeutics.

When CAR-T therapy is combined with other precision medicine, “we are really changing the ability to actually cure metastatic cancer for the first time,” Dr. June said, although the complexity of solid tumors still presents a major challenge.

Dr. June was among many internationally known physicians and researchers featured at SinaInnovations in panels and presentations on immunology, viruses, genetics, genomics, and precision medicine. The conference was opened by Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System, who said, “Cancer kills our patients, and we need to kill cancer. We need a road map to do that. I can assure you that Mount Sinai has made

**Celebrating the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center**

The Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center (MSAHC) saluted the contributions of four individuals who have dedicated themselves to helping New York City’s young people at its 14th Annual Breakfast of Legends benefit at The Plaza on Wednesday, November 1. The Center provides free, comprehensive, confidential health and wellness services to more than 10,000 young people annually and is renowned as a national leader in adolescent health research and training.

Peter W. May, Chairman, Boards of Trustees, Mount Sinai Health System, warmly welcomed the more than 450 guests, saying: “I am proud to say that I have attended every Breakfast for the past 14 years. I haven't missed one because the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center is a shining example of everything that we do right at the Mount Sinai Health System.”

Angela Diaz, MD, PhD, MPH, Jean C. and James W. Crystal Professor in Adolescent

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A large and diverse group of individuals and teams from the Mount Sinai Health System were honored for their contributions to research, technology, medicine, and health care at the third annual Mount Sinai Innovation Awards ceremony, held on Monday, October 16, in conjunction with the SinaInnovations conference.

Yiannis Ioannou, PhD, Associate Professor, Genetics and Genomic Sciences, and Gene and Cell Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, received the Inventor of the Year Award for work in lysosomal storage diseases. Dr. Ioannou’s work led to the first treatment for Fabry disease, in collaboration with Robert Desnick, MD, PhD, Dean for Genetics and Genomic Medicine, and the discovery of small molecules that may serve as the basis for novel therapies for the treatment of numerous lysosomal storage diseases. His work as an inventor-collaborator with Mount Sinai Innovation Partners has culminated in the launch of a new company in partnership with institutional investors.

In closing remarks, the leader of SinaInnovations, Scott L. Friedman, MD, Dean for Therapeutic Discovery and Chief of the Division of Liver Diseases at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, compared the state of cancer research to a glass half-full. “There are enormous opportunities, but equally enormous challenges, in public health, in finding more effective therapies, and in the financial and regulatory domains,” Dr. Friedman said. “Yet, I think this era—even this year—will be viewed in retrospect as a major inflection point toward a new world of unique therapies that will change patients’ lives.”

For videos and more information on the conference, please go to: icahn.mssm.edu/about/sinainnovations.
**Health Hackathon Seeks Cancer Care Solutions**

SinaInnovations hosted the second annual Health Hackathon, a two-day competition on Friday, October 13, and Saturday, October 14, that drew 90 participants, including students from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and other institutions, plus engineering and software professionals. “The focus of this Hackathon is to bring together people from diverse scientific backgrounds, business, and even the humanities to develop incredibly creative and impactful solutions to problems in health,” Janice L. Gabrilove, MD, the James F. Holland, MD Professor of Medicine and Oncological Sciences, and Director, Clinical and Translational Research Education Program, Icahn School of Medicine, told the participants. “Having you here has enriched our experience.” The event, formerly known as the MedMaker Challenge, was sponsored by ConduITS, the Institutes for Translational Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine. In all, 14 teams worked over a 48-hour period on projects related to this year’s theme, cancer. A panel of judges chose three winning teams, which were each awarded a prize of $2,500. The teams, and a fourth wild-card team, will be invited to participate in the Innovation Showcase on February 15, 2018, where they will present their pitches to a panel of entrepreneurs.

**The winning teams, from left:**

- **Streamline** An artificial intelligence tool for streamlining the process of developing clinical trial protocols, to get treatments into the clinic more quickly and inexpensively.
- **OnTrack** An app that helps pediatric cancer patients keep up with social contacts and schoolwork during extended treatment, to facilitate a more seamless re-entry to school.
- **Helping Stand** A portable device to help fatigued or frail patients get in and out of automobiles.

The three winning teams at the Health Hackathon each won $2,500.

Hala Harony-Nicolas, PhD, and Lior Zangi, PhD, received the Faculty Idea Prize for their novel RNA-based approach to efficiently deliver neuropeptides to the brain, using modified mRNA technology. Dr. Harony-Nicolas is Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, and a Seaver Fellow at the Seaver Autism Center at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Dr. Zangi is Assistant Professor, Medicine (Cardiology), and Genetics and Genomic Sciences.

**The Dean’s Healthcare System Team Science Award**, established to acknowledge the importance of interdisciplinary teams in translational research, went to 13 investigators at the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapeutics. The team built a personalized "fruit fly avatar" using transgenic technology to identify and optimize candidate drug combinations for individual patient-derived tumors in an effort to provide an individualized treatment plan that best aligns with the patient’s own disease biology. The winners were Marshall Posner, MD; Celina Su-Ping Ang, MD; Erdem Bangi, PhD; Joshua Brody, MD; Ross Cagan, PhD; Michael Donovan, MD, PhD; Matthew Galsky, MD; Sara Kim, PharmD; Krzysztof Misukiewicz, MD, MSCR; Eric Schadt, PhD; Isaiah Selkridge; Andrew Uzilov, PhD; and Kendra Yum, PharmD.

A group of 18 innovators, including collaborators from other institutions, received the 4D Technology Development Program Award for four projects that use new technology:

- **Next-generation bandages for improved wound healing:** Evren Azeloglu, PhD, and Smiti Bhattacharya, MSc, with collaborators Michael Bradley; Matthew De Santis; Roman Scicchitano; Addison Shableski; and Safakcan Tuncdemir, PhD
- **Diagnostic urine biomarker for detecting diabetic nephropathy progression:** Ilse Daehn, PhD, with collaborator Weeraporn Srisung, MD
- **Advanced technology to improve the treatment and quality of life of atrial fibrillation patients:** Ya-El Mandel-Portnoy, PhD, with collaborator Gregor Schwartz, PhD
- **Internet-based patient activation intervention to improve referrals for cancer screening (PAIRS):** Jamilia Sly, PhD; Britney Henry; Lina Jandorf; Sarah Miller, PsyD; and Jason Rogers.

Eight individuals received Trainee Innovation Idea Awards, which highlight innovative research ideas from the Mount Sinai trainee communities that could potentially be translated into a marketable product. They are:

- MD and MD/PhD students Theodore Pak, Mark Finkelstein, Kathleen Li, and Suhavi Tucker: The CareTeam app for clinical protocols
- PhD student Rayees Rahman: Rapid identification of causative pathogens of infection
- Postdoctoral fellow Gaurav Verma, PhD: Non-invasive detection of metabolic abnormalities in brain tumors
- House staff physician Pavis Laengvejkal, MD, with collaborator Weeraomporn Srisung, MD: Cloud-based health care platform.

Corporate sponsors for SinaInnovations included Accenture PLC; Cisco Systems; Epic; Gilead Sciences, Inc.; Hitachi Consulting; IBM; Jones Day; The Kinetic Group; Pfizer; the Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation Inc.; and Sema4. Hackathon sponsors included Persistent Systems, Inc., and the Pershing Square Sohn Cancer Research Alliance.
Two Scientists Receive Robin Chemers Neustein Award

Early-career scientists Catherine Jensen Peña, PhD, and Zoi Karoulia, PhD, innovative investigators in the fields of neuroscience and cancer, respectively, were named recipients of the 2017 Robin Chemers Neustein Postdoctoral Fellowship Award.

The fellowship, intended to encourage and support female research scientists at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, was established in 2010 through a generous gift from Robin Chemers Neustein, JD, MBA, a former member of Mount Sinai’s Boards of Trustees. Recipients are senior postdoctoral scientists who have demonstrated high-impact accomplishments in the biomedical sciences and exhibit the potential for an independent scientific career. Each recipient is being awarded $25,000.

Dr. Peña works in the laboratory of Eric J. Nestler, MD, PhD, Dean for Academic and Scientific Affairs, Director of The Friedman Brain Institute, and Nash Family Professor of Neuroscience, researching the molecular mechanisms mediating early-life stress and its impact on psychiatric disease vulnerability. Earlier this year, she was the lead investigator, and Dr. Nestler was the senior author, of a novel study published in Science.

Dr. Karoulia, a researcher in the laboratory of Poulikos Poulikakos, PhD, Assistant Professor, Oncological Sciences, is investigating the mechanisms that regulate oncogenic signaling in BRAF mutant tumors. The focus of her research is to characterize mechanisms of drug resistance in various clinical contexts, including resistant BRAFV600E melanomas, and colorectal and thyroid tumors, to develop more effective therapeutic approaches.

Celebrating the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center (continued from page 1)

Health and Director of the MSAHC, thanked everyone who made the event possible, saying, “If our service can be likened to a strong tree, you—all of our volunteers—are the roots.”

Two patients, Matt and Selena, shared how the MSAHC has changed their lives. Matt, who is nonbinary and transmasculine, said, “The clinic provided a safe and affirming environment for me to accept who I am and become my authentic self.” Selena said, “To me, the Center is not just a clinic—it is a community, a safe haven, and a home.”

The honorees were:

Felice F. Axelrod, consultant to Bloomberg and a member of the MSAHC Advisory Board;

Adam Jacobs, MD, Medical Director of Family Planning for the Mount Sinai Health System and Associate Professor in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Medical Education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai;

Christine A. Soghomonian, MA, Director of Information Systems and Operations at the MSAHC, who received the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center staff award;

Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and President for Academic Affairs, the Mount Sinai Health System, who was presented with the Dr. Joan E. Morgenthau Lifetime Advocate for Youth Award.

From left: Christine A. Soghomonian, MA; Felice F. Axelrod; Angela Diaz, MD, PhD, MPH; Dennis S. Charney, MD; and Adam Jacobs, MD.

From left: Selena, youth speaker; Anthony, youth host; Matt, youth speaker; and Lola, youth host.
Attending the ribbon-cutting event were, from left: Shirish Huprikar, MD, Chief Medical Officer, The Mount Sinai Hospital; David L. Reich, MD, President and Chief Operating Officer, The Mount Sinai Hospital; Samin K. Sharma, MD, Director, Clinical and Interventional Cardiology; Matthew Tomey, MD, Assistant Professor, Medicine (Cardiology); Valentin Fuster, MD, PhD, Director, Mount Sinai Heart; Annapoorna Kini, MD, Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory; Roopa Kohli-Seth, MD, Director, Institute for Critical Care Medicine; Umesh Gidwani, MD, Associate Professor, Medicine (Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine); Adel M. Bassily-Marcus, MD, Associate Professor, Surgery; and Kimberley Ennis, DNP, ANP-BC, Chief Nurse Manager, Critical Care Unit.

Packing boxes at Mount Sinai West, from left: Emerson Pemberton; Patrick Germain; Carol St. Pierre, RN, MS; Rubiela Guzman; and Samantha Zenobi.

Employee Group Sponsors Salsa Dancing in Queens

More than 60 employees at Mount Sinai Queens took an hour-long break on Friday, October 6, to learn how to salsa and participate in a fun-filled dance-off competition led by instructors from a dance studio in Astoria named #SalsainQueens. The event was sponsored by the employee resource group Heritage of Latino Alliance (HOLA), which is supported by the Mount Sinai Health System’s Office for Diversity and Inclusion. HOLA fosters a sense of community among Latino employees and sponsors activities such as dance classes and Spanish lessons. When HOLA distributes literature at various Mount Sinai events, “We do not let anyone pass by without stopping,” jokes Denise Colon, MSW, LCSW-R, Director of Social Work Services, and the Mount Sinai Queens HOLA chair. “We want to empower, promote the Latino culture, and show our presence.”

Supplies and Cheer for Troops Overseas

American troops deployed overseas will receive personal-care items and a taste of home, thanks to donations collected by the Mount Sinai Health System’s Military-Veterans Employee Resource Group. Packages are sent year-round, but the upcoming holiday season is a special time, says Carol St. Pierre, RN, MS, leader of the veterans group. “You have a lot of young people serving who really don’t have a support system. So this is the best time to send a package,” says Ms. St. Pierre, a manager of patient care services at Mount Sinai West and a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Suggested donations include energy bars, trail mix, face wipes, and paperback books. For more information, please contact the Office for Diversity and Inclusion at diversity@mountsinai.org.
November Is National Family Caregivers Awareness Month

The Department of Social Work Services will host tables and offer a variety of resource materials that recognize and support family caregivers. Mount Sinai faculty and staff, patients and family members, and the public are welcome to stop by.

Monday, November 27
Thursday, November 30
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Guggenheim Atrium

Grand Rounds / Urology
Jerry Blaivas, MD, Senior Faculty, Urology, presents “Mesh Sling Complications.”

Wednesday, November 22
7 – 8 am
Hess Center, Davis Auditorium

Grand Rounds / Medicine
Edwin A. Salsitz, MD, Assistant Professor, Psychiatry, Unit Chief Physician, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Mount Sinai Beth Israel, presents “Chronic Pain, Chronic Opioids: Is My Patient Addicted?”

Tuesday, November 28
8:30 – 9:30 am
Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Bernstein Pavilion, Podell Auditorium

Grand Rounds / Emergency Medicine
Michael Heller, MD, Professor, Emergency Medicine, hosts presentations on “Respiratory Emergencies for the PA.”

Thursday, November 30
7:30 – 11:30 am
Mount Sinai Beth Israel
Bernstein Pavilion, Podell Auditorium
Targeted Audience: Physician Assistants and Nursing

Friedman Brain Institute Translational Neuroscience Seminar Series
David Morilak, PhD, Quincy and Estine Lee Endowed Chair, Director, Center for Biomedical Neuroscience, Department of Pharmacology, University of Texas Health, presents “Cognitive Function in the Rat Medial Prefrontal Cortex: Models of Pathology and Therapeutic Efficacy.”

Thursday, November 30
1 – 2 pm
Hess Center, Seminar Room A

12th Annual East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership “Fastathon”

The East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership (EHHOP) is the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s student-run, physician-supervised free clinic that provides primary and preventive care to uninsured adults in East Harlem, as well as referrals for specialty care and imaging.

On Tuesday, November 28, medical and graduate students will fast from dawn to dusk to raise money for EHHOP’s work. Over the past 11 years, the event has raised more than $70,000. This year’s goal is to raise $15,000—one-quarter of EHHOP’s annual operating budget.

One hundred percent of the donations will finance patient care at EHHOP. There are two ways to give: as a lump sum or by pledging $1 or $2 for every student who fasts on the day of the Fastathon (the number of fasters is capped at 200 this year). To make a pledge, email chierika.ukogu@icahn.mssm.edu. To make a lump-sum donation, visit https://philanthropy.mountsinai.org/ehhop and select “EHHOP-East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership” as the designation on the donation form.

Mount Sinai Transformation Update

For the most recent updates on Mount Sinai’s downtown transformation, please go to:
http://www.mountsinai.org/locations/downtown