The Mount Sinai Hospital Ranks among the Top in “Best Hospitals” Guidebook

The Mount Sinai Hospital has been ranked No. 16 out of nearly 5,000 hospitals nationwide in the U.S. News & World Report 2014–15 “Best Hospitals” guidebook. Additionally, New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai achieved a No. 10 national ranking for Ophthalmology, while Mount Sinai Beth Israel and Mount Sinai St. Luke’s/Mount Sinai Roosevelt attained “high-performing” designations in a total of 11 specialties.

Further, according to U.S. News & World Report, The Mount Sinai Hospital is one of only 17 hospitals to receive “very high scores” in at least six clinical specialties, earning it Honor Roll status.

“We are proud of our U.S. News & World Report rankings, as we are committed to innovative medicine and a team approach to personalized patient care,” says Kenneth L. Davis, MD, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Mount Sinai Health System. “In this changing health care landscape, Mount Sinai continues to provide coordinated care to ensure the highest quality outcomes for our patients. We are also dedicated to developing groundbreaking therapies and treatments, and we continue to recruit and retain top physicians, researchers, and medical staff.”

According to the rankings, which were made public in July, The Mount Sinai Hospital placed among the nation’s top ten hospitals in

Mount Sinai Chosen as New York State Hub for HIV/Hepatitis C Training and Education

The New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute has awarded the Institute for Advanced Medicine (IAM) at the Mount Sinai Health System, a five-year, $5 million clinical education and training grant to help health care providers in New York State improve the outcomes of patients with HIV, hepatitis C (HCV), and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The grant (Clinical Education Initiative HIV/Hepatitis C Center for Excellence) will offer web-based and distance learning, conferences, in-person training, and preceptorships to help train more than 9,000 primary care providers, emergency department clinicians, internists, family practitioners, obstetricians/gynecologists, and STD and HIV specialists throughout New York. Among those who will receive help are clinicians located in remote parts of the state with little infrastructure to support them or their patients.
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four specialties: Geriatrics (No. 2); Gastroenterology & GI Surgery (No. 9); Cardiology & Heart Surgery (No. 10); and Ear, Nose & Throat (No. 10). Also garnering top rankings were: Rehabilitation Medicine (No. 14); Neurology & Neurosurgery (No. 15); Diabetes & Endocrinology (No. 17); Urology (No. 27); Nephrology (No. 47); and Cancer (No. 48). Additionally, the Hospital was recognized as “high-performing” in Gynecology, Orthopaedics, Psychiatry, and Pulmonology.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated each institution’s reputation, mortality index, discharges, and other care-related factors, including nursing and technology, for 12 of the 16 specialties measured. The remaining four specialties, which include Ophthalmology and Rehabilitation Medicine, were based on reputation alone.

“We congratulate the staff of The Mount Sinai Hospital on their excellence and dedication to quality, safety, and service to patients in our community and beyond,” says David L. Reich, MD, President and Chief Operating Officer of The Mount Sinai Hospital and the Horace W. Goldsmith Professor of Anesthesiology.

Along with the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, hospitals of the Mount Sinai Health System that received recognition in the “Best Hospitals” rankings were:

• Mount Sinai Beth Israel, which achieved a high-performing designation in six specialties, up from five last year: Ear, Nose & Throat; Geriatrics; Gastroenterology & GI Surgery; Gynecology; Nephrology; and Neurology & Neurosurgery; and

• Mount Sinai St. Luke’s/Mount Sinai Roosevelt, ranked together, which achieved a high-performing designation in five specialties: Ear, Nose & Throat; Geriatrics; Nephrology; Neurology & Neurosurgery; and Urology.

“Mount Sinai has a legacy of groundbreaking scientific discoveries that has led to improved methods of diagnosing and treating human disease,” says Dennis S. Charney, MD, Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Dean of Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and President for Academic Affairs, Mount Sinai Health System. “As one of the largest health systems in the nation with a freestanding medical school, we serve a diverse and challenged patient population and remain committed to unprecedented excellence in clinical care and research discoveries that make a difference in the lives of our patients.”

Go to www.usnews.com/besthospitals to view the 2014-2015 edition of the “Best Hospitals” guidebook, which will also be on newsstands on Monday, August 25.

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Clinicians will be able to discuss disease management with a specialist via a toll-free telephone number, and will have emergency access to a 24/7 hotline for post-exposure prophylaxis.

“It was a huge honor to receive this competitive grant that positions Mount Sinai as the expert in education and training of health care providers throughout New York State,” says Antonio Urbina, MD, Associate Medical Director of the Spencer Cox Center for Health, at the Institute for Advanced Medicine, and the grant’s principal investigator. “As a combined health system, we will be able to draw from our expertise in liver diseases, HIV, substance abuse, and ambulatory care.”

In late June, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced an initiative to end the AIDS epidemic in New York State. Revolutionary new treatments now available for HIV and HCV have made this initiative more attainable than ever. According to specialists, HCV is the leading cause of death in HIV patients.

Governor Cuomo’s three-point program calls for:

• Identifying people with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care; and

• Ensuring that people with HIV continue their medical therapy to maximize virus suppression and prevent further transmission; and

• Providing access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV negative.

PrEP, a pill that contains two antiviral medicines, is now available to prevent and treat HIV. The new grant will enable Mount Sinai to provide technical assistance in implementing PrEP services in clinic settings.

Two effective new treatments for HCV, sofosbuvir (Sovaldi) and simprevir (Olysio), which became available late last year, will require a significant level of physician education. Says Douglas Dieterich, MD, Professor of Medicine (Liver Diseases) at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and one of the grant’s two clinical leaders, “We will be doing a lot of lectures, symposia, web conferences, advertising, and individual consultations with centers that don’t have liver specialists. The treatment for hepatitis C has been revolutionized and we will be able to treat acute and chronic infections better than ever.”

Terri L. Wilder, MSW, Director of HIV/AIDS Education and Training at the Spencer Cox Center for Health at the Institute for Advanced Medicine, and the grant’s director, says, “We can truly make a difference in the communities we serve by making sure that medical providers are trained on these very important topics.”
Leading Conversations on the Future of Health Care at the Aspen Ideas Festival

The future of medicine, maintaining an edge in biomedical innovation, and the cost of health care in America were among the topics explored by Mount Sinai Health System leaders during the 2014 Aspen Ideas Festival, a yearly conclave that attracts several thousand policy makers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and executives who participate in thought-provoking discussions on health care and other major issues that impact America.

Faculty from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai also had significant roles in discussions about innovations in medical education, adolescent and geriatric health in America, advances in robotic surgery, and new minimally invasive procedures for joint replacement. The event was presented by the Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C., and The Atlantic magazine, and was held June 24 – July 3, on the Rocky Mountain campus of the Aspen Institute.

Panelists were asked to imagine America’s health care landscape a decade from now and beyond. “This is an unprecedented time in academic medicine as a revolution in biology is upon us, reminiscent of the breakthroughs in physics that occurred in the early 1900s,” said Kenneth L. Davis, MD, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Mount Sinai Health System, during one panel discussion on the “Future of Academic Medicine in the United States.” He added: “However, will we be able to fund research of devastating brain diseases, such as Alzheimer’s, which is nearing epidemic proportions? We need to create an ecosystem of innovation in order to find treatments for the world’s most devastating diseases. What we need are public and fiscal policies that increase the likelihood of development of therapeutics for these chronic and costly conditions.”

Taking a drug from conception to human trials is a costly endeavor estimated at $1 billion, explained 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, during a panel discussion titled “Are We Maintaining our Edge in Biotech Innovation?” Said Dr. Charney: “The challenge—even after advances in the human genome, and other discoveries, in cancer, for example—is to create more of a collaboration among the National Institutes of Health (NIH), basic scientists, and industry.”

Dr. Charney also pointed out that a decrease

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The Institute for Medical Education at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai this year presented awards to faculty, staff, and students who demonstrated outstanding achievement in teaching and made meaningful contributions to educational activities. Reena Karani, MD, MHPE, Director of the Institute for Medical Education, hosted the 12th annual event that awarded the following recipients:

**Excellence in Education Awards**

- **Excellence in Teaching Awards**
  - Sara Bradley, MD
  - Frank Centanni, MD
  - Noam Harpaz, MD
  - Ula Hwang, MD

- **Innovations in Medical Education Award**
  - Karen Zier, PhD

- **Master Clinician Award**
  - David Vorchheimer, MD

- **House Staff Excellence in Teaching Awards**
  - Andrew Coyle, MD
  - Suzanne Friedman, MD
  - Andrew Goldberg, MD

- **Special Award for Excellence in a Nonteaching Role**
  - Michelle Sainte

- **Medical Student Excellence in Teaching Awards**
  - Patrick Maffucci, MD/PhD student

- **Medical Student Special Award**
  - Kimberly Bloom-Feshbach, Dana Casey, and Lucy Schulson

For more information, visit [www.mountsinai.org/aspen](http://www.mountsinai.org/aspen)

**Attendees included former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. During a question-and-answer session, Dr. Davis wondered why the federal government subsidizes corn and so many products with high-fructose corn syrup, despite the administration's concern with obesity. Secretary Sebelius answered, “It makes no sense. We also subsidize tobacco, by the way ... but the likelihood of this Congress tackling the issue, I don’t think is very good. I think, so then you go back to the fallback position, which is educating consumers about what they’re eating and what it does to their bodies.”**

Dr. Davis also had an opportunity to ask former First Lady, United States Senator for New York, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton about the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Rodham Clinton responded, “We should be mending it, not ending it.”

Throughout the festival, Mount Sinai faculty were on site to demonstrate the da Vinci® Surgical System used to perform minimally invasive surgery, as well as a new virtual-reality simulator that helps Mount Sinai neurosurgeons practice a procedure in advance of brain surgery.

For many visitors, a popular, and in some cases potentially life-saving activity of the festival, were the free skin-cancer screenings offered daily by six members of Mount Sinai’s Department of Dermatology.

The Mount Sinai team performed 715 screenings during the duration of the festival. Significantly, the physicians identified nine possible melanomas, 190 precancerous lesions, 80 atypical moles, and 89 potential nonmelanoma skin cancers—potential diagnoses that will need to be confirmed with additional testing.