A Leader in Ophthalmology Joins Mount Sinai

James C. Tsai, MD, MBA, a world-renowned physician-scientist with a research focus on glaucoma, has been named President of New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai (NYEE) and Chair of Ophthalmology of the Mount Sinai Health System. As President, Dr. Tsai says his main goals will be raising the visibility of NYEE to referring physicians, and ensuring that it is known as an international center of excellence in residency and fellowship training in ophthalmology and otolaryngology.

Dr. Tsai previously held the position of Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Science at Yale School of Medicine, and Chief of Ophthalmology at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Last year, when NYEE became part of the Mount Sinai Health System and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, it paved the way for NYEE to grow as a “true center of excellence for advancing science and clinical care in ophthalmology, otolaryngology, and plastic surgery,” says Dr. Tsai.

“At New York Eye and Ear you have unrivaled clinical excellence.

Health Care Delivery Leadership Program Launches

The opportunity to reduce health care costs without compromising quality makes this an exciting time to be a leader in the field of health care delivery, says Peter R. Orszag, PhD, Vice Chairman of Corporate and Investment Banking, Chairman of the Public Sector Group, and Chairman of the Financial Strategy and Solutions Group at Citigroup, Inc.

Dr. Orszag, a member of the Mount Sinai Health System Boards of Trustees, shared this encouraging message during a conference on Tuesday, August 26, to kick off Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s new Master of Science in Health Care Delivery Leadership program. Classes for the first year of the program started during the final week of August.

The unique Master’s program, offered through the Department of Population Health Science and Policy, is designed to provide health care leaders with new knowledge and skills to use in delivering patient care in this era of unprecedented reform. Students

Mount Sinai Trustee Peter R. Orszag, PhD, helped kick off a new Master’s program in Health Care Delivery Leadership.
A Leader in Ophthalmology Joins Mount Sinai (continued from page 1)

And at Icahn School of Medicine, you have an institution that has a long history of excellence in basic science, and research funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), that now has the patient volume to do large clinical trials. That is very exciting.”

Founded in 1820, as the first and longest operating specialty hospital in the United States, NYEE is one of the nation’s busiest eye, ear, nose, and throat surgery hospitals, managing more than 52,000 surgical cases and 285,000 outpatient visits annually. Mount Sinai’s Ophthalmology Department has been treating patients and publishing seminal papers on cutting-edge research since the mid-1880s.

One of Dr. Tsai's most pressing concerns is making sure there is additional space and capacity to satisfy increased patient demand for NYEE's services. He also plans to work closely with the Department of Pathology to reinvigorate pathology and laboratory services at NYEE, as well as with the Departments of Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery to focus on advancing innovations in facial plastic surgery. Dr. Tsai has also had discussions with the Department of Neurology and The Friedman Brain Institute to jointly recruit leading doctors and scientists into the revolutionary fields of neuroscience and neuroregeneration.

Dr. Tsai earned his Medical Degree from Stanford University School of Medicine, and his MBA from Vanderbilt University. He currently serves as Chair of the Glaucoma Subcommittee of the National Eye Health Education Program Planning Committee of the NIH, Chair of the American Academy of Ophthalmology’s Global Ophthalmic News & Education Network Advisory Board, and Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of the Glaucoma Foundation.

Joining Dr. Tsai in new leadership positions at NYEE are Allan Fine, who will serve as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy and Operations Officer; Paul A. Sidoti, MD, Deputy Chair for Clinical Affairs in the Department of Ophthalmology for the Mount Sinai Health System and Icahn School of Medicine; Salvatore Loiacono Jr., MPA, Vice Chair of Finance and Administration; and Michael Strauss, MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer.

U.S. Eye Specialists Provide Training in Myanmar

Ophthalmologists in Myanmar (also known as Burma), recently received their first modern medical eye education in decades from a delegation of nine renowned U.S. eye specialists, including Penny Asbell, MD, MBA, Director of Cornea and Refractive Services and Director of the Cornea Fellowship Program in the Department of Ophthalmology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Dr. Asbell lectured fifty Burmese ophthalmology students and practicing ophthalmologists on ocular allergy, dry eyes, general corneal transplant surgery, and a specialized corneal transplant surgery known as Descemet's Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK). In addition, she treated roughly 56 patients presenting difficult cornea cases during the four-day Myanmar Eye Meeting, conducted by the Hawaiian Eye Foundation in partnership with Yangon Eye Hospital.

The Southeast Asian nation, which recently embraced democracy, has one cornea specialist serving a population of 60 million people. The waiting list to receive a cornea transplant currently stands at 3,000 patients.

There is even a greater need for cataract surgery, with 600,000 people on the waiting list and approximately 175 physicians—out of the country’s total of 550 eye doctors—who are trained to perform eye surgery.

Eye complications are relatively common in Myanmar, a mainly rural nation where most people earn their livelihoods from agricultural work.

Dr. Asbell is helping the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai and the Hawaiian Eye Foundation organize another trip to Myanmar that will likely take place next year.

“There’s a lot of need and a lot of patients who have to get by with a little less intervention,” Dr. Asbell says. Eye doctors in Myanmar possess very good general medical knowledge but do not have specialty training, she adds. Among a range of new techniques, Dr. Asbell taught the doctors how to use discarded amniotic membrane tissue and close the eye to help heal eye injuries and infections.

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“Now that we know each other, we expect even greater interactive teaching this time,” she says. “We all grow from these experiences.”
Mount Sinai Physicians Treat Players at the US Open

Two world-class orthopaedists at the Mount Sinai Health System worked behind the scenes at the 2014 US Open, treating an array of health problems incurred by players at the popular tennis tournament, which ran from Monday, August 25, through Monday, September 8, in Flushing Meadows, Queens. The Mount Sinai Hospital is the official hospital of the US Open and the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Strains and sprains were treated often by Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, and James Gladstone, MD, both Associate Professors in the Leni and Peter W. May Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, where Dr. Gladstone is also Co-Chief of Sports Medicine.

The physicians also managed cases of dehydration and heat exhaustion that occurred during the second week of the tournament, when the sweltering late-summer temperatures rose into the 90s and had a significant impact on players’ health.

Dr. Colvin, who serves as Chief Medical Officer of the USTA and US Open, and as Medical Advisor to the U.S. Fed Cup team, says, “Most of the injuries I treated were tendinitis, strains, and sprains. Besides treating competitors from the United States, we also saw many international players, as well as juniors, and players who participated in the Wheelchair Division.”

“The most common injuries involved the shoulder, wrist, and ankle, which are usually related to overuse,” says Dr. Gladstone, who also is Medical Advisor to the U.S. Davis Cup Team. The Davis Cup took place in Chicago from Friday, September 12, through Sunday, September 14, following the US Open.

“I also saw some unusual injuries that required more extensive workups—such as entrapment of nerve or blood vessels due to over-tight muscles, and chronic shoulder tightness due to repetitive use.”

Mount Sinai orthopaedists Alexis Chiang Colvin, MD, and James Gladstone, MD

During the US Open, Drs. Colvin and Gladstone were among several physicians who discussed health-related topics with Cablevision news reporter Shawna Ryan on Mount Sinai’s Video Health Desk. Tennis is a lifetime sport accessible to all ages, and a great way to combat childhood obesity, Dr. Colvin told Ms. Ryan. Dr. Gladstone said the best way to prevent common injuries was to maintain flexibility, and stay healthy.

To view these interviews, and learn more about preventing ankle sprains and keeping skin safe while exercising outdoors, go to www.mountsinai.org/patient-care/service-areas/orthopaedics/videos.

Health Care Delivery Leadership Program Launches (continued from page 1)

Such cost-cutting initiatives included a shift in the payment system toward Accountable Care Organizations—groups of health care providers who voluntarily help coordinate high quality care to Medicare patients—and bundling, in which health care providers are paid on the basis of expected costs; digitization of records; and empowering consumers by boosting price transparency.

“It’s quite a phenomenal outcome, when you have an increase in expansion of coverage while a decrease in spending,” Dr. Orszag said.

The ACA is expected to help 20 million previously uninsured Americans get health insurance between 2015 and 2015, according to Kathleen Shure, MPA, Senior Vice President of Managed Care and Insurance Expansion for the Greater New York Hospital Association, who also spoke during the day-long conference titled “The Reform Landscape of Health Care Delivery,” held in the Leon and Norma Hess Center for Science and Medicine.

Dr. Orszag estimated the overall potential savings in the American health care industry to be equal to 5 percent of the national Gross Domestic Product. Health care costs can be cut and maintained even as the Baby Boomer generation fully enters retirement, he said.

“Can we constrain costs without straining quality? The resounding answer is yes,” he said. “It would have a truly massive effect if it were to continue.”

In the program are required to possess at least seven years of managerial-level health care experience.

A deceleration in Medicare costs is already under way, Dr. Orszag said, with a 0.4 percent reduction in inflation-adjusted spending per enrollee between 2010 and 2015, compared with a 1.2 percent increase in inflation-adjusted private insurance spending per enrollee for the same period.

The savings were achieved through market innovations that were encouraged by policy shifts, he said. Dr. Orszag served as Director of the Office of Management and Budget at the White House from 2009 to 2010, the year the Affordable Care Act (ACA) went into effect.
Convocation 2014

Convocation marks the beginning of the academic year for Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, renewing its commitment to excellence, and honors the accomplishments of faculty and the dedication of benefactors. The event will be streamed live at icahn.mssm.edu/convocation2014.

Monday, September 29
5 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Goldwurm Auditorium

Grand Rounds
Social Work Services/Behavioral Science
Dennis S. Charney, MD, Dean, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, presents “Resilience: The Science of Mastering Life’s Greatest Challenges.”

Thursday, September 18
Noon – 1 pm
The Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Goldwurm Auditorium

Grand Rounds
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Joseph D. Buxbaum, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Genetics and Genomic Sciences, Presents “Autism and Obstetrics.”

Tuesday, September 23
8 – 9 am
Mount Sinai Roosevelt Conference Room B

Grand Rounds
Institute for Advanced Medicine
Todd T. Brown, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism), Johns Hopkins University, presents “Osteoporosis in the HIV-infected Patient.”

Monday, September 29
Noon – 1 pm
Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Hatch Auditorium

Grand Rounds
Medicine
Elisa Port, MD, Chief, Breast Surgery, Dubin Breast Center of The Tisch Cancer Institute, presents “Screening for Breast Cancer: What’s all the Controversy?”

Tuesday, September 16
8:30 – 9:30 am
Mount Sinai Hospital Campus
Hatch Auditorium

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Announcement

Free Screenings for Cholesterol

To commemorate National Cholesterol Education Month in September, the Mount Sinai Health System will host several “Cholesterol Fairs” to raise awareness about the benefits of maintaining healthy cholesterol levels, a heart healthy diet, and an active lifestyle. Stop by for free cholesterol and body mass index screenings, and learn how to prevent and reduce heart disease risk. Events take place from 10 am – 2 pm on the following days and locations:

Tuesday, September 16
Mount Sinai Beth Israel Brooklyn Main Lobby

Thursday, September 18
The Mount Sinai Hospital Guggenheim Pavilion

Tuesday, September 23
Mount Sinai Roosevelt Main Lobby

Friday, September 26
Mount Sinai Beth Israel Phillips Ambulatory Care Center

Mount Sinai Expert Guides Series

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai has teamed up with Wiley to create a series of expert guides for medical trainees. The Mount Sinai Expert Guides series combine the expertise of our faculty with new online platforms and mobile apps.

The first title in the series, Mount Sinai Expert Guides: Hepatology, is now available in print and digital formats. Additional online material includes video clips, case studies, interactive multiple choice questions, and patient advice. In the coming months, five more Mount Sinai Expert Guides will be published on Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Neurology, and Psychiatry.


Mount Sinai

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