The Jacobi Medallion: Honoring Excellence

The Jacobi Medallion—one of the Mount Sinai Health System's highest honors for distinguished achievement in medicine or extraordinary service to the school, alumni, or The Mount Sinai Hospital—was bestowed upon nine individuals this year, at a special event at The Plaza. More than 300 Mount Sinai Health System alumni, donors, faculty, and staff attended the ceremony on Thursday, March 15, which helped kick off the 50th anniversary of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Burton Cohen, MD, President of The Mount Sinai Alumni Association and Associate Clinical Professor of Radiology, delivered opening remarks. The honorees had “taken different paths,” Dr. Cohen said, but as Mount Sinai alumni, faculty, or trustees, they had all, at one point, “called Mount Sinai home.”

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, welcomed the audience. “Fifty years ago,” he said, “the Mount Sinai School of Medicine opened its doors to its first students and began its journey to become the institution that we know today: one of the country's premier centers of innovation in research, education, and clinical care. Those whom we honor tonight, and many more...”

Front, from left: Thomas P. Naidich, MD; Paul R.G. Cunningham, MD, MSH; Sandra K. Masur, PhD; Wayne A. Gordon, PhD; Yasmin L. Hurd, PhD; Blaine V. Fogg, Esq. Back, from left: Burton Cohen, MD; Dennis S. Charney, MD; Bruce D. Gelb, MD; Joseph R. Masci, MD; Mary Ann McLaughlin, MD, MPH, MSH; Srinivas Ravi V. Iyengar, PhD; and Kenneth L. Davis, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mount Sinai Health System.

Top 20 Ranking for Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai is ranked among the top 20 medical schools for research in the United States, according to the 2018-2019 U.S. News & World Report “Best Medical Schools” rankings released on Tuesday, March 20.

Mount Sinai ranked No. 18 among the 124 medical schools that were measured this year, an improvement of four places over the previous year.

“It is an honor to be recognized as having one of the nation's best schools and an even greater honor to lead a team of talented faculty and researchers who challenge the limits of science and medicine, seek breakthrough treatments for the most serious medical conditions, and train the next generation of great physicians and scientists,” says 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. “Our School of Medicine strives to be an innovative leader in medicine and science where future leaders are formed in a diverse, inclusive, and high-impact academic environment.”
THE HONOUREES ARE:

Paul R.G. Cunningham, MD, FACS, MSH ’79
Immediate Past President, North Carolina Medical Society; Dean Emeritus, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University

Dr. Cunningham has held numerous appointments in surgery, medical education, and hospital administration throughout his career. Currently, he is the outgoing Dean and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Prior to his appointments at East Carolina University, Dr. Cunningham served as Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery at the State University of New York, Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y. He also served as President of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and as a Governor of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Cunningham is interested in the mentoring and career development of minority students in medicine.

Blaine V. Fogg, Esq.
Trustee, Mount Sinai Health System

Mr. Fogg joined the Mount Sinai Boards of Trustees in 1987. He chairs the Legal Committee and serves on the Executive; Compensation, Employee Benefits, and Employee Relations; Finance; and Technology Transfer committees. A corporate and securities lawyer, he has practiced at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP since 1966, and has represented clients in matters that include negotiated mergers, acquisitions, and leveraged buyouts; unsolicited tender offers; proxy contests; and corporate restructurings and reorganizations. Mr. Fogg champions numerous initiatives at Mount Sinai that support underserved populations, including the Mount Sinai Medical Legal Partnership.

Bruce D. Gelb, MD
Gogel Family Professor and Director of The Mindich Child Health and Development Institute, Professor of Pediatrics, and Genetics and Genomic Sciences

A member of the National Academy of Medicine and the American Society for Clinical Investigation, Dr. Gelb is a physician-scientist committed to discovering improved methods for diagnosing and treating childhood diseases. He is the founder and Co-Director of the Cardiovascular Genetics Program, a multidisciplinary program that cares for patients and families with genetic-based cardiovascular disorders. Dr. Gelb also is a site Principal Investigator for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute-funded Pediatric Cardiac Genomics Consortium. In addition to establishing a Pediatric Undiagnosed Disease Program, he is a Multiple Principal Investigator for the National Human Genome Research Institute-funded Clinical Sequencing Exploratory Research project.

Wayne A. Gordon, PhD, FACRM, ABPP
Jack Nash Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine

Since joining the faculty in 1986, Dr. Gordon has helped the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine become one of the specialty’s most successfully funded programs, placing it among the top 10 for research funding in the United States. Dr. Gordon’s current research is focused on cognitive rehabilitation, screening for traumatic brain injury (TBI), developing and testing the utility of behavioral interventions to improve the function of individuals with TBI, and examining the relationship between pediatric TBI and criminality. He has received numerous awards, including the Gold Key Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the William Fields Caveness Award from the Brain Injury Association of America.

Yasmin L. Hurd, PhD
Ward-Coleman Chair in Translational Research, Director, Addiction Institute at Mount Sinai, and Professor of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Pharmacological Sciences

Dr. Hurd is an internationally recognized researcher in the field of addiction disorders who has distinguished herself as an innovative investigator, educator, and role model. Her lab has made major inroads in addiction research and has shown that marijuana use has different effects on developing brains and adult brains. In recognition of the impact of her research and commitment to informing public health and education, she was recently inducted into the National Academy of Medicine. A member of the Mount Sinai faculty since 2006, Dr. Hurd has served as Director of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai’s MD/PhD program, and sits on multiple Mount Sinai committees, including Women in Science and Medicine.

Srinivas Ravi V. Iyengar, PhD
Dorothy H. and Lewis Rosenstiel Professor of Pharmacology and Biological Chemistry,
Director, Mount Sinai Institute for Systems Biomedicine, Professor of Pharmacological Sciences

An expert in systems biology and systems pharmacology, Dr. Iyengar studies signaling networks and regulatory pathways using systems biology approaches. His research is focused on understanding the design principles by which mammalian cells are constructed and drug action at a systems level. Dr. Iyengar has served as the lead Principal Investigator on a Transformative RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health Common Fund for which he and his colleagues have used computer modeling and nanotechnology and human kidney cells in ongoing research to rebuild a filtration device in vitro. A member of the faculty since 1986, Dr. Iyengar has served as Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Systems Therapeutics and Dean of Research.

Joseph R. Masci, MD
Chairman, Global Health Institute, Elmhurst Hospital Center, Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases), and Environmental Medicine and Public Health

During the Ebola epidemic in West Africa from 2014 to 2016, Dr. Masci served as the infectious diseases physician on the planning committee for Ebola of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (NYC H+H), the largest municipal hospital system in the United States. He served as Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Council of NYC H+H and currently acts as infectious diseases consultant on Zika virus for NYC H+H. Dr. Masci has conducted two international projects directed at the care of HIV and other infectious diseases in Russia and Ethiopia. He has served as the medical director of AIDS services for the Queens Health Network and chaired the health workgroup of the New York City Health and Human Services HIV Planning Council.

Mary Ann McLaughlin, MD, MPH, MSH ‘96
Medical Director, Cardiac Health Program, Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiology), and Population Health Science and Policy

A physician-scientist, Dr. McLaughlin has focused on the development of clinical programs and clinical research to improve cardiovascular care in vulnerable populations. Dr. McLaughlin’s interest in gender differences and cardiovascular health led her to obtain research grant funding from the National Institutes of Health, the American College of Cardiology, and the American Heart Association. She has also received grant support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and partnered with colleagues at the World Trade Center-Clinical Centers for Excellence to design and implement research and clinical programs to evaluate cardiovascular risk in thousands of people who sustained extensive exposure to particulate matter.

Thomas P. Naidich, MD, FACR
Irving and Dorothy Regenstrief Research Professor of Neuroscience (Neuroimaging), Professor of Pediatrics, Neurosurgery, and Radiology

Dr. Naidich’s research interests have centered on the imaging display of neuroanatomy and gross pathology. Over the course of his career, Dr. Naidich has published extensively and has held numerous editorial positions with scientific journals. He was recognized by the American Society of Neuroradiology with the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Research in 2011, and the Gold Medal in 2014, and by the American Society of Pediatric Neuroradiology with the Gold Medal in 2005. His additional awards include the Cornelius Dyke Award for outstanding research from the American Society of Neuroradiology.

The new rankings were released online in the 2019 edition of U.S. News & World Report “America’s Best Graduate Schools.” The rankings are based on statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school’s faculty, research, and students. Criteria used in the medical school rankings include peer assessment surveys, research activity, grade point averages, MCAT scores, and National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding.

Dr. Charney adds, “This year marks the 50th anniversary of our School of Medicine. Since our inception, we have set out to break the model of medical education and research through a diverse and inclusive student and faculty body, an entrepreneurial vision that disrupts the status quo, a passionate focus on community medicine, and an eye toward solving medical and scientific problems that greatly impact the lives of many. Through the years, our faculty has made many great contributions to medical science, and our talented students continue to take risks, innovate, and push the boundaries of thought to drive change.”

Separate from the U.S. News rankings, the Icahn School of Medicine in 2017 was named one of the top 10 research institutions in the world based on its contributions to published research that is later cited by other organizations in patent development. Those rankings, created by the journal Nature in its Nature Index 2017 Innovation supplement, used a unique set of metrics to determine the key academic players in the world whose ideas may shape tomorrow’s inventions.

Only a few medical schools—Icahn School of Medicine, Stanford University, and the University of California, San Francisco—have earned distinction by multiple indicators: they are U.S. News & World Report top 20 medical schools aligned with top “Honor Roll” hospitals, among the top 15 in NIH funding, and are among the top 10 most innovative research institutions as ranked by Nature. “This reflects a special level of excellence in education, clinical practice, and research,” says Dr. Charney.
At Match Day 2018, graduating medical students opened their envelopes to learn which residency programs they would be attending during the next phase of their training. Joining them were family members, friends, and Mount Sinai Health System physicians and staff, who offered hugs and congratulations.

But first there was an announcement by Peter Gliatto, MD, Senior Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education and Student Affairs, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai: “I’d like to start with a 45-minute lecture and some PowerPoints,” Dr. Gliatto told the anxious students, to laughter and scattered moans. But he quickly made it clear that he was joking. “Actually, I just want to say how proud we all are of you and the amazing things you’ve done for yourselves, for our school, for our city, and for our world. I’m not exaggerating that.”

During the event on Friday, March 16, in the Annenberg West Lobby, 139 graduating students were matched to residency programs throughout the country, including highly competitive ones at Brigham and Women’s Hospital; Johns Hopkins Medicine; Massachusetts General Hospital; the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center; and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Thirty-four students will remain within the Mount Sinai Health System to continue all or part of their graduate training. They were among 18,818 students around the nation who participated in this year’s Match Day event, the largest so far. Match Day is managed by the National Resident Matching Program, a nonprofit organization that uses an algorithm to align the preferences of applicants with those of residency programs.

Imikomobong “Micky” Ibia was “really excited and really grateful” to learn that he will study emergency medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. He said he chose the field so that he could interact with patients from all walks of life and someday help build “sustainable acute medical care in my birth country of Nigeria.”

Fatemeh Parvin-Nejad will go to Rutgers-New Jersey Medical School for training in general surgery, which she finds “fulfilling on many levels” because it allows her to work with her hands and help some of the sickest and most underserved patients.

Benjamin Laitman was thrilled to be staying at Mount Sinai since it is home in just about every way: He was born at The Mount Sinai Hospital, and over the years at Mount Sinai, his grandfather was a Chair of Neurology; his grandmother attended nursing school; his mother graduated from the School of Medicine; and his father—who attended Match Day with a proud smile—is Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD, Distinguished Professor of Medical Education and Professor of Otolaryngology. Benjamin Laitman earned his PhD in neuroscience in 2016 and will now train in otolaryngology. He called the surgeons, clinicians, and scientists “masters of the head and neck” in an “amazing” field that intersects with many others.

The class members will receive training in 22 specialties, including 27 graduates in internal medicine; 12 in emergency medicine; 11 in obstetrics and gynecology; and 9 each in general surgery, pediatrics, anesthesiology, and psychiatry. The rest will pursue other specialties, including family medicine and neurology. As its graduates were receiving their matches, the Mount Sinai Health System was extending residency offers to students from around the country. The new residents, who will arrive in July, include graduates of the nation’s top schools, among them Harvard Medical School, the Stanford University School of Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medicine, the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and the New York University School of Medicine.

“As the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai celebrates its 50th anniversary, we could not be more proud of our students, who exemplify the School’s culture of innovation, mentoring, clinical excellence, commitment to the community, and biomedical research,” says David Muller, MD, Dean for Medical Education and the Marietta and Charles C. Morchand Chair for Medical Education. “Our students will bring these values and skills to the nation’s best medical programs as they pursue the next phase in their careers.”
“Outstanding Service” Award

More than 200 donors, patients, faculty, and friends attended the 16th Annual Gala for the Corinne Goldsmith Dickinson Center for Multiple Sclerosis at Mount Sinai, held Thursday, March 1, at The Plaza. A special moment was the presentation of the Clifford H. Goldsmith Award for Outstanding Service to Fred D. Lublin, MD, Saunders Family Professor of Neurology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and the Center’s Director. The award was presented by Advisory Board members Audrey Goldsmith Kubie and Alexandra Goldsmith Fallon, daughters of the late Clifford Goldsmith, one of the Center’s co-founders. Dr. Lublin acknowledged the work of the more than 25 professionals who provide comprehensive care to the Center’s 6,000 patients, as well as the Center’s benefactors. “It is through the efforts of generous and committed individuals that we have been able to provide comprehensive and compassionate care and research aimed at ending this disease,” said Dr. Lublin.

March for Our Lives

Medical students, physicians, and staff from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai were among tens of thousands of people who participated in the March for Our Lives in Manhattan, on Saturday, March 24, to support tighter gun control legislation. The March was among more than 800 such marches that took place across the United States. Reuth Nir, MD, Pediatric Resident at Kravis Children’s Hospital at Mount Sinai, who helped organize the physicians who took part in the March along Central Park West, said the medical professionals who participated in their white coats sent a “powerful” message. “Gun violence is a serious public health crisis that needs to be urgently addressed by doctors, who are knowledgeable on the subject and invested in their patients’ safety and well-being,” she said.

Medical students Tyler McChane, Yash Maniar, and Christian Cayon helped lead the effort on the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai campus. They pointed out that the medical profession has worked with legislators to curtail public health threats that include automobile safety and infectious diseases, and the same could be done through research, legislation, and critical conversations about the role of guns in our society.

A Visit From Frozen Princesses

Patients at Kravis Children’s Hospital at Mount Sinai recently received a royal visit when Princesses Anna and Elsa of the Disney film Frozen graced the Child Life Zone. At the event, on Wednesday, February 14, the characters worked on Valentine’s Day crafts with patients and their families, and hosted a game of bingo in the KidZone TV studio, which was broadcast live throughout the hospital for those unable to attend in person. In real life, Princess Elsa was Kylee McGrane, and Princess Anna was Emily Bates—both volunteers with A Moment of Magic Foundation, a nonprofit that provides creative programming to children in need.

Medical and therapeutic programming at Kravis Children’s Hospital is supported in part by the Mount Sinai Children’s Center Foundation (CCF). On Sunday, April 22, CCF will host its annual benefit at Frozen: The Broadway Musical. For more information on the benefit and to support the children and families of Kravis Children’s Hospital, please visit philanthropy.mountsinai.org/ccf_event.
April Is Donate Life Month

Hospitals throughout the Mount Sinai Health System will celebrate the faculty and staff—who help save lives through organ and tissue donation. A number of educational activities are planned during April. All are welcomed to participate and to learn more about the importance of organ and tissue donation and how to save a life by becoming a donor. Be sure to show support on National Blue & Green Day, Friday, April 13, by wearing blue and green clothing to showcase the Donate Life colors. The following events are among those taking place in April, and look for upcoming announcements about additional activities.

The Mount Sinai Hospital

- Donor Registration Table
  Stop by a Resource Table and speak with an expert to learn more about organ and tissue donation; register to become an organ and tissue donor.
  Friday, April 13
  8 am – 5 pm
  Guggenheim Pavilion Atrium

- Banner-Raising Ceremony
  Join Hospital leadership as they raise a National Donate Life banner to heighten awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation.
  Friday, April 13
  10 – 10:15 am
  Guggenheim Pavilion Atrium

- Patient Safety Wednesday
  Topic: Organ and Tissue Donation
  Wednesday, April 18
  11 am
  Goldwurm Auditorium

Those interested in registering to be an organ and tissue donor may go to LiveOnNY.org.

Mount Sinai West

- Donor Registration Table with painting and origami activities
  Wednesday, April 11
  7:30 – 11 am
  Lobby
  11 am – 2 pm
  Cafeteria

Mount Sinai Queens

- Donor Registration Table
  Thursday and Friday
  April 12 and 13
  Noon – 2 pm
  Outside of the Administrative Conference Room

Mount Sinai St. Luke’s

- Donate Life Grand Rounds
  Presented by Leona Kim-Schluger, MD, Associate Director of The Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute
  Friday, April 20
  Noon – 1 pm
  Muhlenberg Auditorium

20th Annual Child Health Research Day

Mount Sinai students, residents, clinical and research postdoctoral fellows, research staff, social workers, nurses, and junior faculty present the year’s most outstanding research to colleagues. The event is sponsored by the Jack and Lucy Clark Department of Pediatrics, The Mindich Child Health and Development Institute, and the Department of Environmental Medicine and Public Health.

Thursday, April 26
11:30 am
Hatch Auditorium Lobby

Do You Have a Minute?

Take the 2018 IT Semiannual Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Department of Information Technology (IT) is seeking feedback on its services. All faculty and staff are encouraged to participate—the results are used to enhance IT service delivery to better serve everyone’s needs. Access it now, through Monday, April 30, on the Desktop Application Launcher. It takes about a minute to complete. For more information, email elizabeth.ide@mountsinai.org.

Mount Sinai Transformation Update

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