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Emerging from the Dark Days of the Pandemic

For the layperson, COVID-19 has eclipsed all other health concerns. The pandemic still dominates the headlines, not only in terms of medical news, but also in the political realm.

However, we know that COVID-19 is not the only serious health issue that people face. Cardiovascular disease, cancer, neurological issues, orthopedic disorders, other infectious pathogens—every day, you continue to diagnose and treat patients presenting with a wide array of medical and surgical problems.

Here at Mount Sinai South Nassau, we never lost sight of the imperative to continue to invest in the multitude of service lines we offer to provide care for the full spectrum of our community’s health care needs. In this issue of Physician’s Forum, you will find highlights of our latest initiatives. Our cover story delves into the expertise we have cultivated in addressing digestive disorders, including interventional endoscopy procedures, transoral incisionless fundoplication (TIF) to correct gastric reflux disease, and other procedures not widely available elsewhere on Long Island. Page six of this publication features an update on our Wound Care Center, which boasts an impressive success rate with treating chronic wounds and is a vital resource to providers across many subspecialties.

At the same time, Mount Sinai South Nassau is maintaining its leadership role in the fight against COVID-19. We are engaged on the front lines with our Vaxmobile, which has been deployed in coordination with the Town of Hempstead. Read more about this project on pages 3 and 11. This publication also contains news about your colleagues. Read about new appointments, Clinical Research Day, upcoming events, and more. We also pay tribute to two recently deceased members of our medical staff.

Together, we have come through a year that has challenged us both professionally and personally. As we emerge from the darkest days of this pandemic, I am proud to note that our hospital is even stronger, our staff more cohesive, and the care we provide more comprehensive than before the pandemic began. Please accept my utmost gratitude offered on behalf of our entire administrative team, Board of Directors, and most of all, the patients we serve, for the vital role you have played in our efforts.
For most of the pandemic, Caitlin Dennis, 13, has been cooped up in her Baldwin home. COVID-19 cancelled family vacations and casual get-togethers with friends, and closed her middle school, shifting classes online. On June 8, she received her first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at Baldwin High School, the site of the Mount Sinai South Nassau “Vaxmobile,” a mobile vaccination program. Now the seventh grader at Baldwin Middle School says once she’s fully vaccinated, she and her family will be headed to Disneyworld in Orlando, to take their first vacation in a year-and-a-half. Thanks to the Vaxmobile, she has joined more than 3,500 other Town of Hempstead residents whose vaccine status has rewritten the rules of pandemic life. “I can’t wait to go,” Caitlin said with a smile.

Town officials, who had previously approved funding to provide drive-through COVID-19 rapid testing at the hospital’s Oceanside campus, cleared a path for a grant to allow Mount Sinai South Nassau to purchase the mobile vaccination unit. The vehicle and staff were funded with $695,042 from the federal CARES Act legislation. The primary mission of the mobile vaccination unit is to reduce transportation, language, and technology barriers to vaccination and bring vaccines directly to residents.

“Supervisor Donald Clavin Jr. and the Town Board recognized last year the importance of having a mobile unit. They had the vision to approve the purchase of this vehicle back when vaccines were still in very short supply,” said Richard J. Murphy, President and CEO of Mount Sinai South Nassau. “As a result of their foresight and action, we are now in a strong position to help the community. The Town has been a solid partner in our fight to stop the spread of the virus. We appreciate its leadership and willingness to fund and join us in this important public health effort.”

A Vaxmobile nurse immunizes Caitlin Dennis, 13, of Baldwin, with a COVID-19 vaccine at Baldwin High School on June 8.

The “Vaxmobile”

Mount Sinai South Nassau and the Town of Hempstead Launch the Region’s First COVID-19 Mobile Vaccination Unit

For most of the pandemic, Caitlin Dennis, 13, has been cooped up in her Baldwin home. COVID-19 cancelled family vacations and casual get-togethers with friends, and closed her middle school, shifting classes online. On June 8, she received her first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at Baldwin High School, the site of the Mount Sinai South Nassau “Vaxmobile,” a mobile vaccination program. Now the seventh grader at Baldwin Middle School says once she’s fully vaccinated, she and her family will be headed to Disneyworld in Orlando, to take their first vacation in a year-and-a-half. Thanks to the Vaxmobile, she has joined more than 3,500 other Town of Hempstead residents whose vaccine status has rewritten the rules of pandemic life. “I can’t wait to go,” Caitlin said with a smile.

Launched by Mount Sinai South Nassau and the Town of Hempstead, the Vaxmobile, the region’s first mobile vaccination unit, has been administering COVID-19 vaccines to hard-hit communities with large populations of seniors, teenagers, and those with mobility or transportation challenges.

One of the Vaxmobile’s first stops on March 31 was the Uniondale-Hempstead Senior Center, where hospital staff vaccinated 100 residents.

continued on page 11
Mount Sinai South Nassau Launches Comprehensive Digestive Health Program

From common digestive health conditions like acid reflux to complex diseases, such as liver disorders and pancreatic cancer, Mount Sinai South Nassau’s board certified specialists use leading-edge diagnostic tools and therapies to provide expert, personalized care.

The digestive health physicians perform a range of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic procedures in a modern endoscopy suite located on the Mount Sinai South Nassau campus. Routinely performed procedures include:

- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Esophageal manometry
- Endoscopic ultrasound
- Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography
- Luminal dilation and stent placement
- Peroral endoscopic myotomy
- Video capsule endoscopy

The multidisciplinary team comprises gastroenterologists; hepatologists; surgeons; certified nurses; nutritionists; and other health care professionals who provide comprehensive outpatient and inpatient services in general gastroenterology and manage digestive and liver diseases that include:

- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Celiac disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Irritable bowel disease
- Diarrhea
- Malabsorptive syndromes
- Constipation
- Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C
- Alcoholic and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
- Hepatic cirrhosis

FOR AN APPOINTMENT
The outpatient practices are located at 2209 Merrick Road, in Merrick, and 2750 Merrick Road, in Bellmore. Patients can call 877-SOUTH-NASSAU (877-768-8462) for an appointment.

Meet the Digestive Health Team

Frank Gress, MD, is Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Chief of Interventional Endoscopy at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

Board certified in gastroenterology, he earned a medical degree from Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center and fellowships in gastroenterology and hepatology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center/The Brooklyn Hospital Center. He was also fellowship trained in advanced therapeutic endoscopy at Indiana University University Medical Center in Indianapolis.

Iman Andalib, MD, Director of Surgical Endoscopy and Assistant Director of Endoscopy at Mount Sinai South Nassau, is board certified in gastroenterology and specializes in diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy. He earned a medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies, and completed residency training in internal medicine at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington. A frequent lecturer at national and international conferences, Dr. Andalib was fellowship trained in gastroenterology at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University at Brooklyn, and advanced endoscopy at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Firas Al-Ani, MD, is board certified in gastroenterology and internal medicine and specializes in gastroenterology and hepatology. He earned a medical degree from UMF Grigore T. Popa University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Romania and completed an internal medicine residency and a gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University.
Seven times a day, before and after meals and before bedtime, Allison Ifferte, 71, would pop a pill or swallow a chalky liquid to relieve her frequent bouts of chronic acid reflux. While the medication cleared up her symptoms, it also interfered with her desire for a carefree lifestyle.

“If we took a day trip, I would have to carry the liquid medicine in a jar, because you have to take it an hour before meals...who wants to live like that?” said the North Babylon grandmother of three, one of 60 million Americans who suffers from acid reflux, according to the American Gastroenterological Association.

“I said, ‘I’m not going to do this for the rest of my life.’”

Soon she learned of a minimally invasive procedure, Transoral Incisionless Fundoplication (TIF), performed by Iman Andalib, MD, Director of Surgical Endoscopy and Assistant Director of Endoscopy at Mount Sinai South Nassau, that would alleviate her symptoms of reflux. TIF uses a high-definition endoscope to repair, without incisions or metal implants, the faulty valve that allows stomach acid back into the esophagus.

“TIF is an effective, long-lasting treatment for patients with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), particularly in those with persistent reflux who experience moderate to severe symptoms, even while on daily medications,” said Dr. Andalib. “This incisionless procedure is very safe, and most patients can return home the same day and resume ordinary activities within a few days.”

Ever since Ms. Ifferte underwent the TIF procedure last August, she has been symptom-free, takes no acid reflux medications, and does not have to fear indulging in dark chocolate, pizza, and topping a sandwich with onions—her favorite foods that used to trigger her reflux symptoms. “To think, before the procedure, all I was doing was taking medications six times a day,” she said. “I wish I could put out a neon sign of thanks for Dr. Andalib.”
Daniel DeLaRosa, 54, of Rockville Centre, was clearing out his garage last November when a 2x4 piece of lumber tipped over and hit his left leg. "The calf was black-and-blue with a little gash," recalled the property manager. "I didn't think much of it." Over the next two weeks, the father of two treated the wound himself with antiseptic and antibiotic cream. But when the area became red and swollen, he turned to Mount Sinai South Nassau's Wound Care staff, who had treated his nonhealing wound years earlier following a motorcycle accident.

Mount Sinai South Nassau surgeon Steven I. Friedman, MD, treats a hard-to-heal wound on patient Daniel DeLaRosa’s leg at the hospital’s Wound Care Center.

The Wound Care Center’s team, under the direction of Charles Sticco, DO, far left, comprises vascular surgeons and general surgeons, podiatrists, physician assistants, certified wound care nurses, nutritionists, diabetes educators, physical therapists, and pharmacists.

Surgeon Steven I. Friedman, MD, of Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Wound Care Center, examined Mr. DeLaRosa and diagnosed a traumatic wound on his left leg. "This wound had the potential, if not properly treated, to enlarge and be a source of disability to the patient," said Dr. Friedman.

Mr. DeLaRosa’s underlying medical conditions delayed wound healing and necessitated multiple wound debridements and the application of an advanced wound care product that “removes substances in the wound that impede healing. It also stimulates formation of granulation tissue, which is the backbone of human wound healing,” Dr. Friedman explained. “Patients with comorbidities require more specialized care from the onset in order to circumvent complications.”

Thanks to Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Wound Care Center, Mr. DeLaRosa’s wound is now healed and he is free to resume his daily activities. He’s hoping he won’t need the center’s care again, but if he suffers another nonhealing wound, he knows where he will turn for care.

“The minute you walk in the door, from the receptionist to the nurses, doctors, and assistants, it’s a pleasant experience,” said Mr. DeLaRosa. “They are very professional, attentive, and caring and they answered all of my questions.”

“The Wound Center’s philosophy is to use surgical or chemical debridement as often as necessary to stimulate the wounds to heal by converting a chronic wound into an acute wound, thereby fooling Mother Nature into thinking that the wound is fresh and new," added Dr. Friedman. "That stimulates the patient’s own immune system to mobilize healing factors from the bloodstream to congregate in the wound and promote healing.”
The number of Americans who are affected by chronic wounds, or wounds that are slow to heal

**Source:** National Institutes of Health

**Mount Sinai South Nassau Wound Care Center’s primary goals are healing difficult wounds faster, preventing wounds from getting worse or infected, and preserving limbs.**

Chronic wounds, or wounds that are slow to heal, affect 6.5 million Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health, and account for 200,000 hospital admissions. Left untreated, chronic wounds can result in life-threatening infections and limb loss.

The mission of the Center is to provide high-quality wound care in a professional and nurturing environment. The Center treats hard-to-heal wounds due to a number of conditions, including diabetes, poor circulation, trauma, surgery, and pressure ulcers on any body part, including the legs, ankles, and feet, abdomen, and sacral region, explained vascular surgeon Charles Sticco, DO, Medical Director of the Wound Care Center.

A multidisciplinary team of experienced vascular surgeons, general surgeons, podiatrists, specially trained and certified wound care registered nurses, physician assistants, physical therapists, nutritionists, diabetes educators, and pharmacists apply proven wound care practices and advanced clinical approaches custom-tailored to achieve excellent healing rates and fast healing times. The Center currently boasts a success rate of 94 percent, which is above the national average, and treatment is typically completed within 45 days.

Wound treatment services include:

- Active topical wound care
- Wound debridement
- Biological and biosynthetic dressings
- Local and systemic antimicrobial therapy
- Compression therapy
- Offloading
- Bio-engineered skin substitutes
- Contact casting

**FOR AN APPOINTMENT**

Patients can call 877-SOUTH-NASSAU (877-768-8462) for an appointment with a wound care specialist.

**Lecture Sheds Light on Liver Cancer**

Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Department of Surgery virtually presented the third annual Mudra Foundation lecture on March 1. Ganesh Gunasekaran, MD, Director of Hepatobiliary Surgery at Mount Sinai South Nassau and Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Icahn School of Medicine’s Hepatobiliary-Pancreatic, Transplant Surgery at the Recanati/Miller Transplantation Institute at the Mount Sinai Health System, discussed management options for patients with liver cancer.

**Radiological Associates of Long Island Has a New Name: Mount Sinai Doctors - Oceanside, Radiology**

Mount Sinai Doctors - Oceanside, Radiology formerly Radiological Associates of Long Island (RALI), PC, specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and injury using X-rays, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), fusion imaging, ultrasound, digital breast imaging, and bone density. Mount Sinai South Nassau - Center for Women’s Imaging is an FDA and ACR Mammography Accredited Breast Imaging Center of Excellence.

Imaging studies performed at Mount Sinai Doctors - Oceanside, Radiology are interpreted by board certified radiologists with subspecialty experience. Mount Sinai Doctors - Oceanside, Radiology is an affiliate of Mount Sinai South Nassau.

**PATIENTS CAN SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**

by calling 516-766-6550.
Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Eighth Annual Clinical Research Day

On April 16, Mount Sinai South Nassau held its eighth annual Clinical Research Day. The virtual continuing medical education event opened with welcoming remarks by Rajiv Datta, MD, Chair of the Department of Surgery and Medical Director of the Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center. The featured speakers included neuro-oncologist Jai Grewal, MD, who discussed “Innovative Updates to Brain Tumors”; maternal-fetal medicine specialist Dina El Kady, MD, who presented “The COVID Vaccine in Pregnancy: What You Need to Know”; and Jason D’Cruz, MD, PGY-2, Surgery, delivered a lecture on “Novel Approaches in Endobronchial Valves with COPD Patients.”

A poster competition followed the seminars, and prizes were awarded in six categories: Obstetrics and Gynecology; Medicine; Surgery; Nursing; Pharmacy; and Community.

**Best overall poster**
The best overall poster, “Socioeconomic and Ethnic Disparities in Hypertension Management,” went to Jason Pyon, MD; Persis Puello, MD; Moulik Gupta, DO; Samuel Sandowski, MD; Leticia Natoli, RN; Jonelle Cruz, MPA.

**Best OB/GYN Poster**
“COVID-19 Vaccine Acceptance in Pregnancy” by Temitope Odedokun, MD; Cheryl Dinglas, DO; and Dina El Kady, MD.

**Best Medicine Poster**
“English Language Proficiency Not Associated with Preventive Management of Post-Stroke Patients” by Florence Dasrat, MD; Michael Villongco, DO; Nashita Molla, MD; Charmaine Brereton, RN, MSN, CCRN; Abigail Fromm, MSN; and Joyce Robert, MD.

**Best Surgery Poster**
“Endovascular Repair of Iatrogenic Popliteal Artery Pseudoaneurysm Following Arthroscopic Meniscus Surgery” by Sanford Edwards, MD; Alexander Edelstein, MD; Alison Messina, MD; Charles Sticco, DO; and Harmandeep Singh, MD.

**Best Nursing Poster**
“Impact of High-Dose Versus Low-Dose Enoxaparin for Thromboembolic Prophylaxis in COVID-19 Patients” by Ravena Rampersaud, PharmD1; Carl Zipperlen, BS Pharm, BCGP1; Jomi Oomen, PharmD, BCIDP1; and Gregory E. Gilbert, EdD, MSPH, Pstat®2.

**Best Community Poster**
“Exploring How Supportive Services May Promote Positive Mental Health Outcomes in Children with an Ill Sibling or Parent and Bereaved Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic” by SIBSPlace staff members Joanna Formont, Susanne E. Bennett, Kerri Wagner, MA, and Lauren Cummings.

Infectious Diseases Society of America Renews Designation of Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) has renewed the designation of Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence. Antimicrobial stewardship promotes the appropriate use of antimicrobials and antibiotics to improve patient outcomes and reduce the emergence of drug-resistant superbugs.

The designation promotes excellence in optimizing antimicrobial use and combating antimicrobial resistance by identifying institutions that effectively demonstrate these activities, according to the Infectious Diseases Society of America. Mount Sinai South Nassau’s program was first named an Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence in 2018. The designation recognizes institutions that achieve high standards established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for antimicrobial stewardship programs led by physicians specializing in infectious diseases and infectious diseases-trained pharmacists.
Mount Sinai South Nassau Names Samuel Sandowski, MD, Vice President of Medical Education and Chair of Family Practice

Samuel Sandowski, MD, Vice President of Medical Education and Chair of Family Practice, joined the staff in 1999 as the Director of the Family Medicine Residency Program and Associate Chair of the Department of Family Medicine. In 2002, he was named Director of Graduate Medical Education and Chair of Continuing Medical Education. He also serves as the Designated Institutional Official for the hospital.

Dr. Sandowski earned a medical degree from Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and completed a residency in family medicine at Mount Sinai South Nassau. Board certified in family medicine, he was fellowship trained in faculty development at SUNY, Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn and has subspecialty certification in adolescent medicine.

Mount Sinai South Nassau Names Rajesh Kakani, MD, Chief of Otolaryngology

Rajesh Kakani, MD, has been appointed Chief of Otolaryngology. He is the former Chief of Head and Neck Surgery at Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Centre.

He earned a medical degree from Mahatma Ghandi Memorial Medical College in Indore, India, and completed a residency in head and neck surgery at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he served as chief resident. He was fellowship trained in otolaryngology at Lenox Hill Hospital Northwell Health. An author of numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals and an avid lecturer, he is board certified in otolaryngology.

Two Orthopedic Trauma Fellowship Trained Surgeons Join Staff

Mount Sinai South Nassau, an American College of Surgeons-verified, New York State-designated Level II Trauma Center, has appointed two orthopedic trauma fellowship trained surgeons to the medical staff:

David A. Forsh, MD, Associate Professor of Orthopedics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, and received a medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Following medical school, he completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at The Mount Sinai Hospital and was fellowship trained in orthopedic trauma at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California.

Dr. Forsh has a special interest in polytrauma, fracture care, nonunions, malunion deformity, pelvic and acetabular surgery, as well as international trauma orthopedics.

Jeremy Podolnick, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopedics at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, received a medical degree from The University of Texas at Houston Medical School. He completed a residency in orthopedic surgery at Mount Sinai St. Luke’s Roosevelt Hospital Center and an orthopedic trauma fellowship at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California.

Mount Sinai South Nassau observed National Doctors Day on March 30. This year’s theme, “Capable Hands. Incredible Courage,” celebrated the contributions of physicians who rose to the challenge of combatting the coronavirus pandemic in communities across the United States. Hospital administration distributed chocolate bars to the medical staff, a small token of appreciation for their dedication to patient care and support of the nursing staff.

Marking National Doctors Day

Broc Durrant, MD, left, Chief Resident, General Surgery, and Rajiv Datta, Chair, Department of Surgery and Medical Director, Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center, celebrate Doctors Day.
In Memoriam

Moshe Weiner, MD, 66
Moshe Weiner, MD, an attending oncologist at Mount Sinai South Nassau for more than 25 years, has died. The cause was cancer. He was 66.

For 25 years he was in private practice at Mount Sinai Doctors Hematology Oncology in Rockville Centre.

He earned a medical degree from Universidad Del Noreste in Tampico, Mexico, and completed a Fifth Pathway program at New York Medical College in Valhalla. Following an internship in internal medicine at Nassau County Medical Center, he was fellowship trained in hematology and oncology at North Shore University Hospital (now Northwell Health). He was board certified in internal medicine, oncology, and hematology.

“I had the pleasure of being a teaching attending when Dr. Weiner was in training,” said Aaron E. Glatt, MD, Chair of the Department of Medicine and Chief of Infectious Diseases. “He was a dedicated and compassionate physician who always put his patients first, even when he was sick. He will be greatly missed by those patients, but even more so by his colleagues in Medicine.”

If you wish to honor Dr. Weiner’s memory, donations can be made to a memorial fund to benefit patients with cancer at Mount Sinai South Nassau. Contributions can be made by check, noting “Dr. Weiner Memorial Fund” in the memo or online at southnassau.org/donate. Choose “other” and indicate “Dr. Weiner Memorial Fund” in the box to specify your preference.

Andrew Ageloff, MD, 85
Andrew Ageloff, MD, an attending pediatrician at Mount Sinai South Nassau for more than half a century, has died after battling COVID-19. He was 85.

He joined the medical staff in June 1965 and practiced medicine in Freeport at Nassau Medical Associates. He retired in April 2018.

After graduating from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia, he completed an internship and pediatric residency at Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, New York. From 1963 to 1965, he served in the United States Air Force in Roswell, New Mexico. He was board certified in pediatrics.

“Dr. Ageloff was an excellent pediatrician who cared greatly about his patients,” said Warren Rosenfeld, MD, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics. “He always had a smile on his face and when he came to meetings, he talked to everyone in the room.”

If you wish to honor Dr. Ageloff’s memory, donations can be made to Mount Sinai South Nassau by check, noting Dr. Ageloff in the memo, or online at southnassau.org/donate. Choose “other” and indicate “Dr. Ageloff” in the box to specify your preference.

News Notes:


Paul Moglia, PhD, Associate Residency Director and Director of Faculty Development, edited the second edition of “Salem Health: Aging,” a two-volume, 800-page reference that consists of more than 300 entries. The textbook includes the work of Mount Sinai South Nassau’s residents and resident faculty across several disciplines and the contributions of 150 specialists, clinicians, and scholars (Grey House Publishing and Salem Press, September 2020).

Mount Sinai South Nassau’s CME Earns Reaccreditation
Mount Sinai South Nassau has received reaccreditation with commendation as a provider of continuing medical education by the Medical Society of the State of New York. The organization accredits programs that provide CME based on guidelines set and enforced by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. Accreditation is valid for six years.

New Medical Staff

- Precious Bamawo, NP
  Medicine/Internal Medicine
- John Costable, MD
  Medicine/Gastroenterology
- Cary Dicken, MD
  Obstetrics and Gynecology
  Reproductive Endocrinology
- David Friedman, MD
  Surgery/Plastic Surgery
- David Godfried, MD
  Surgery/Orthopedic Surgery
- Yusuf Mosley, MD
  Surgery/Neurosurgery
- Charito Patel, NP
  Medicine/Hematology/Oncology
- Ilene Ruhoy, MD
  Medicine/Neurology
- Adam Splaver, MD
  Medicine/Cardiology
- Elizabeth Guzzo, CRNA
  Anesthesia/Anesthesiology
- Stephanie Esperance, NP
  Obstetrics-Gynecology/Urogynecology
- Tadeusz Strzelecki, MD
  Pathology
- Leyon Balgobind, PA-C
  Surgery/Vascular Surgery
- Manuel Fajardo, MD
  Medicine/Hospitalist Services
- Phoebe Hughes, PA-C
  Surgery/Bariatric Surgery
- Robert Mazaroski, PA-C
  Surgery/Plastic Surgery
- Danielle Sacco, PA-C
  Surgery/Plastic Surgery
- Theresa Clarke, NP
  Medicine/Hematology/Oncology
- Benjamin J. Golas, MD
  Surgery/Surgical Oncology
- Diane McDevitt, NP
  Medicine/Cardiology
Mount Sinai South Nassau and Town of Hempstead Launch Region’s First COVID-19 Vaccination Mobile Unit

continued from page 3

The 50-foot unit, a 2013 International Durastar 4400, was purchased by Mount Sinai South Nassau from Mission Mobile Medical, a North Carolina based mobile medical company.

The Vaxmobile had been administering the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine but paused using it on April 13, following guidance from the CDC, FDA, and New York State Department of Health officials over reports of a rare blood clotting disorder.

The Vaxmobile was back on the road a day later using the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which requires two doses. On April 23, the hospital resumed the administration of the J&J vaccine after the CDC and the FDA lifted the nationwide pause.

When vaccination rates slowed in early May, the hospital pivoted, partnering with 11 local school districts to vaccinate more than 500 students, ages 12-plus. On May 13, the Vaxmobile visited St. Mary’s Church in Long Beach and vaccinated the first area students, ages 12-15. Since then, the mobile vaccination program has fanned out to several schools and camps in Nassau, including Camp Anchor, a Town of Hempstead-owned camp for special needs children and adults, and plans to deliver vaccines to schools in Long Beach, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, East Rockaway, Island Park, Elmont, Seaford, Wantagh, Freeport, Hempstead, and Baldwin.

Mount Sinai South Nassau and the Town of Hempstead are communicating directly with community leaders to schedule visits to convenient and trusted locations in the Town, including faith-based organizations, libraries, recreation centers, senior centers, parks, and train stations. The schedule will be dictated by vaccine supply and availability.

Patients interested in receiving a COVID-19 immunization can visit the Mount Sinai South Nassau website at southnassau.org.

I want the vaccine so I can regain a sense of community and reunite with family and friends.

— Patient Kyra Lewis

Left, the Vaxmobile visits St. Mary of the Isle Roman Catholic Church in Long Beach.

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Patients interested in receiving a COVID-19 immunization can visit the Mount Sinai South Nassau website at southnassau.org.
Physicians’ Events Calendar

› 2021 Quarterly Staff Meetings

Meets on the first Tuesday of each quarter

WHEN: October 5 and December 7
WHERE: Conference Center A, B, and C
Refreshments at 5:30 pm; meeting at 6 pm
(Only if meetings are not virtual)

Save the Dates

Hospital Fundraiser
WHEN: Saturday, October 23
WHERE: The Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor
Honoring Richard J. Murphy, Mount Sinai South Nassau President and CEO

For registration or sponsorships, call Lynne Nordone in the Development Office at 516-632-5360 or email lynne.nordone@snch.org.

Providing Language Assistance to Limited-English-Proficient Patients

Office-based Medicaid providers can now be reimbursed for language interpretation services to limited-English-proficient patients in their offices. This includes language services provided over the phone through companies such as CyraCom, which offers interpretation services in more than 170 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or if you use a certified hospital interpreter for the interpretation. Note: Use of an interpreter must be documented in the EMR to bill Medicaid.

For more information, refer to the “New York State Medicaid Update,” October 2012, V. 28, No. 1, or call the Mount Sinai South Nassau Language Coordinator, Lina Hoyos, at 516-632-3484.