



Mount
Sinai
South
Nassau

Physicians' Forum

Medical News for Mount Sinai South Nassau's Physicians



First-Time Mother Shares Appreciation for Medical Team Who Saved Her Life [page 4 ›](#)

Patient Paola Patino-Ildefonso, left, shows off Baby Omar Andres to Cheryl Dinglas, DO, center, Attending Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist, and Dina El Kady, MD, Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine. Both physicians kept a close eye on the Uniondale mother-to-be throughout her pregnancy.

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Mount Sinai South Nassau Welcomes Institute for Critical Care Medicine



A Message from

Adhi Sharma, MD, President

Clinical Expertise, Compassion, and Commitment

I am proud to share that for the third consecutive year, Mount Sinai South Nassau was included in *U.S. News and World Report's* 2023-2024 list of the "Best Regional Hospitals" in the New York Metro Area. We were also ranked as "high performing" in 10 clinical areas, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, heart attack, heart failure, hip fracture, kidney failure, maternity, pneumonia, and stroke as well as for the specialty of urology (see story on page 6).

Being acknowledged in this way by an objective third party is extremely gratifying. It confirms that the strategic decisions we have made, along with investments in our infrastructure, and the clinical team we have assembled are working seamlessly and cohesively to deliver the highest quality of care to the communities we serve.

While these accolades are appreciated, they pale in comparison to the knowledge that our efforts are making a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients. In this publication, you will read about patients whose quality of life was transformed, thanks to the leading-edge care they received.

Our cover story details the experience of a high-risk maternity patient who benefited from the efforts of a multidisciplinary team to successfully carry a pregnancy to term after multiple attempts. On page three, you will learn about a patient who underwent eight rounds of chemotherapy to battle cancer but continued teaching her fourth-grade class and attending graduate school. In May, she earned a master's degree from Fordham University.

In the realm of stroke care, another area in which *U.S. News and World Report* named us a high performer, we have begun using a new drug derived from the standard stroke medication TPA. This drug, called Tenecteplase or TNK, appears to be safer and more effective than TPA in treating ischemic stroke. Learn more about TNK on page nine.

While *U.S. News and World Report* focused on our outstanding performance in 10 clinical areas, those of us who have the privilege of witnessing the extraordinary care provided across all departments and divisions here at Mount Sinai South Nassau know that their list only scratches the surface. The clinical expertise of our medical staff is second-to-none, and it is matched only by your compassion and commitment. With this winning combination, we belong at the top of every list that ranks hospital quality. Thank you for helping us to achieve this honor and for continuing to make clinical excellence your priority. ■



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Department of External Affairs
519 Merrick Road
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Phone: (516) 377-5370

Fax: (516) 377-5385

www.mountsinai.org/southnassau

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President

Adhi Sharma, MD

Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications and Development

Joe Calderone

Vice President of Public Affairs and Development

Dana Sanneman

Managing Editor

Donna Kutt Nahas

Design

James Castle



2023 Distinction in Writing

Aster Awards

Excellence In Medical Marketing

2022 Gold Award Aster Award



2023 Hermes Creative Gold Award

A Determined Patient and Expert Team

Defeat Stage II Breast Cancer

Nothing could stop Angela Santopolo of Howard Beach, Queens, from teaching or earning a master's degree in education – on time. Not even breast cancer.

On July 22, 2022, the fourth-grade teacher, then 32, was diagnosed with stage II cancer in her right breast following a routine visit to her gynecologist and her first mammogram.

"I was devastated," recalled Ms. Santopolo, who has no family history of the disease. "Here I was only 32 at the time."

After her doctor gave her a list of breast cancer physicians she could follow up with who accepted her insurance, she chose Mount Sinai South Nassau's Dhvani Thakker, MD, Director of Women's Oncology Services, and surgeon Christine Hodyl, DO, Director of Breast Health Services.

Dr. Thakker and Ms. Santopolo met a few days later and set up a treatment plan tailored to Ms. Santopolo's ambitious goals to continue working and attending graduate school. The plan included genetic testing to assess the risk for developing another cancer; freezing her eggs to preserve her fertility; eight rounds of chemotherapy; and surgery. Earlier this year, Ms. Santopolo opted for a double mastectomy.



She underwent the procedure and initial breast reconstruction, and a month later, she had breast implant surgery.

Aside from taking time off for chemotherapy sessions and a six-week leave of absence following the mastectomy, Ms. Santopolo did not miss a day of teaching and earned her master's degree from Fordham University in May—as planned.

"I am blessed to have Dr. Thakker as my oncologist," said Ms. Santopolo, who is now cancer-free. "Dr. Thakker wondered how I was able to battle cancer, go to work and grad school. She calls me her 'superstar' and even has a picture of me at my grad school graduation on her desk." ■

TO SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

about Mount Sinai South Nassau Breast Health Services, call 877-SOUTH-NASSAU (877-768-8462) or visit mountsinai.org/southnassau.

About the Doctors



Christine Hodyl, DO, Director of Breast Health Services at Mount Sinai South Nassau, specializes in breast surgical oncology and oncoplastic surgical techniques, combining cancer removal surgery with plastic surgery to produce superior aesthetic results.

Dr. Hodyl earned a medical degree from the New York Institute of Technology College

of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a surgery residency at Maimonides Medical Center and Lutheran Medical Center in Brooklyn. She is board certified in surgery.



Dhvani Thakker, MD, is the Director of Women's Oncology Services at Mount Sinai South Nassau. Dr. Thakker is board certified in Medical Oncology and Internal Medicine and earned a medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Barbados. She completed a residency in internal medicine at Mount Sinai

Beth Israel and a fellowship in hematology and oncology at SUNY Downstate Medical Center/University Hospital in Brooklyn.



“If it weren’t for the Mount Sinai South Nassau team, Omar and I would not be here. I would never go anywhere else if I decide to have a second baby. The doctors were so caring and comforting. I felt listened to. They’re the best.”

—Paola Patino-Ildefonso

First-Time Mother Shares Appreciation for Medical Team Who Saved Her and Her Baby Boy

After two heart-breaking miscarriages in two years, Paola Patino-Ildefonso, 37, and her wife longed to have a child of their own. Doctors told the Uniondale resident she had a condition called cervical insufficiency, which occurs when the cervix opens, weakens, or shortens too early during a pregnancy, leading to premature birth or miscarriage.

Two weeks before conceiving a third time, Ms. Patino-Ildefonso underwent cervical cerclage, a procedure that involves temporarily sewing the cervix closed with stitches to prevent premature delivery. During her pregnancy, her doctors, Dina El Kady, MD, Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine, and Attending Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist Cheryl Dinglas, DO, kept a close eye on their high-risk patient.

But two days before her scheduled cesarean section on January 5, 2023, Ms. Patino-Ildefonso experienced contractions every three minutes—a sign that she was in active labor.

“I was so nervous that my uterus was going to rupture and that the stitches wouldn’t hold,” she recalled. “But everyone at the hospital knew about my case and was aware.”

On January 4, 1:40 am, Baby Omar, weighing in at six pounds, six ounces, was born. But all was not well. Ms. Patino-Ildefonso developed post-partum preeclampsia. Baby Omar was rushed to the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for transient tachypnea.

After several days at Mount Sinai South Nassau, both mother and son left the hospital. Ms. Patino-Ildefonso’s blood pressure that had been dangerously high—at 180/100—was under control and Baby Omar was thriving.

“Omar is a year old now and hitting milestones; he’s so cute,” Ms. Patino-Ildefonso said. “If it weren’t for the Mount Sinai South Nassau team, Omar and I would not be here. I would never go anywhere else if I decide to have a second baby. The doctors were so caring and comforting. I felt listened to. They’re the best.” ■

About the Doctors



Dina El Kady, MD, is Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

Dr. El Kady earned a medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla, New York. She completed an internship and residency in obstetrics and gynecology at The Brooklyn Hospital Center and a fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at the University of California, Davis.

Board certified in maternal fetal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, she is a member of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine; the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine.



Cheryl Dinglas, DO, is an Attending Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

She earned a medical degree from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at NYU Langone Health. She was fellowship trained in maternal fetal medicine at Stony Brook University Hospital and NYU Langone Health.



Jonathan Rosner, MD, is an attending Maternal Fetal Medicine physician at Mount Sinai South Nassau and is board certified in both maternal fetal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology. He also serves as the Associate Program

Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

He earned a medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn and completed a residency at Northwell Health. He was fellowship trained at NYU Langone Health.



Amanda Stewart, MD, is an attending maternal fetal medicine physician at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

Board certified in maternal fetal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, she earned a medical degree from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. Dr. Stewart completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Northwell Health and a fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at Johns Hopkins University.



Mount Sinai South Nassau:

The Only South Shore Hospital Rated High Performing in Maternity Care, Re-Designated Baby-Friendly

Mount Sinai South Nassau is the only South Shore hospital rated “High Performing” for maternity care by U.S. News & World Report® for 2023-2024 and re-designated as a Baby-Friendly Hospital by Baby-Friendly USA.



The “high performing” rating is the highest award a hospital can earn from *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Hospitals for Maternity Care. The Baby-Friendly re-designation demonstrates that Mount Sinai South Nassau continues to adhere to the highest standards of care for breastfeeding mothers and their babies.



U.S. News & World Report evaluated nearly 650 hospitals that provide high-quality labor and delivery services for uncomplicated pregnancies for its 2024 Best Hospitals for Maternity Care. Fewer than half of all hospitals offering maternity care that participated in the survey received a high performing designation. The report's Best Hospitals for Maternity Care methodology is based entirely on objective measures of quality, such as cesarean section rates in lower-risk pregnancies, newborn complication rates, exclusive breastfeeding rates, early elective delivery rates, and vaginal birth after cesarean deliveries, among other measures.

Studies on breastfeeding have shown it can protect babies against some short- and long-term illnesses and diseases.

In 2023, Mount Sinai South Nassau's team of compassionate and experienced labor and delivery nurses, obstetricians, and high-risk pregnancy specialists delivered nearly 2,400 babies. In addition to advanced maternal-fetal medical technologies, the hospital features 26 private rooms on the Mother-Baby Unit with hotel-like accommodations, spacious labor and delivery rooms, and a six-bed Level II Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. ■



Mount Sinai South Nassau Earns National Recognition for Nursing Excellence, Re-Designation as a Magnet® Hospital

For the third time, Mount Sinai South Nassau has earned national recognition for nursing excellence, earning re-designation as an American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Magnet organization. The Magnet designation is the highest and most prestigious international distinction a health care organization can receive for nursing care.

Mount Sinai South Nassau is one of only 48 hospitals in the nation to be so honored. Mount Sinai South Nassau first earned Magnet status in 2014.

The redesignation is valid for four years. The award underscores the hospital’s commitment to patient care and patient safety.

“Re-designation validates that nursing at Mount Sinai South Nassau is consistently excellent in practice care, collaboration, and patient experience,” said Stacey Conklin, MSN, RN-BC, MHCDS, NE-BC, Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

“Our nurses are among the very best in the profession, and their high standards and commitment to provide our patients with intuitive, expert bedside care in a healing and nurturing environment will continue on.”

Magnet recognition has been shown to provide specific benefits to hospitals and their communities, including better patient outcomes and higher satisfaction with nurse communication. ■

Mount Sinai South Nassau Ranks Among Best Hospitals in Metro Area

For the third consecutive year, Mount Sinai South Nassau is ranked among the Best Regional Hospitals in the metro area in the 2023–24 U.S. News & World Report® “Best Hospitals.”

This year’s report also rated Mount Sinai South Nassau “High Performing” in 10 areas, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, heart attack, heart failure, hip fracture, kidney failure, maternity, pneumonia, and stroke, as well as for the specialty of urology.

Mount Sinai South Nassau is the Long Island flagship hospital of the Mount Sinai Health System. Hospitals within the Health System are consistently ranked by *U.S. News & World Report’s* “Best Hospitals” and “Best Children’s Hospitals.” The Mount Sinai Hospital is on the U.S. News & World Report “Best Hospitals” Honor Roll for 2023–2024.





Top Doctors

“I commend each of these tremendous physicians for this outstanding accomplishment. Their commitment to providing expert, patient-centered care does not go unrecognized by their peers as well as our nurses and allied staff.”

– Adhi Sharma, MD
President, Mount Sinai South Nassau

Mount Sinai South Nassau Doctors Named to Castle Connolly’s 30th Anniversary ‘Top Doctors’ Guide

Castle Connolly® has named nine Mount Sinai South Nassau physicians to its 30th anniversary “Top Doctors” guide for 2023. Nationally, only seven percent of more than 850,000 practicing doctors in the United States earned Castle Connolly “Top Doctors” designation in 2023.

“I commend each of these tremendous physicians for this outstanding accomplishment,” said Adhi Sharma, MD, President of Mount Sinai South Nassau. “Their commitment to providing expert, patient-centered care does not go unrecognized by their peers as well as our nurses and allied staff.”

According to Castle Connolly, the doctors are best-in-class health care providers, embodying excellence in clinical care as well as interpersonal skills. The doctors were peer-nominated and selected based on extensive research, careful review, and screening conducted by Castle Connolly’s physician-led research team.

The “Top Doctors” guide is a curated list of 63,000-plus board certified U.S. physicians across all 50 states and major specialties. Selected physicians specialize in more than 65 medical specialties and subspecialties for the care and treatment of more than 2,100 diseases and medical conditions. ■

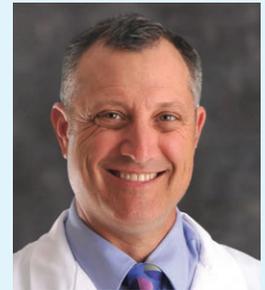
The Mount Sinai South Nassau doctors along with their specialties in this year’s guide are:



Ann Buhl, MD
Gynecologic Oncology



Rajiv Datta, MD
Surgery



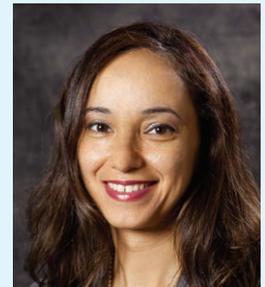
Alan Garely, MD,
Obstetrics and Gynecology



Steven M. Harris, MD
Urology



Jay Itzkowitz, MD
Emergency Medicine



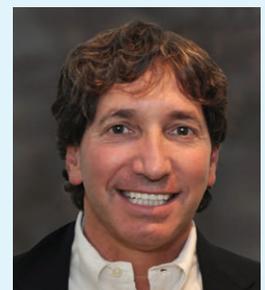
Sherry Megalla, MD
Cardiology



Carlos Montoya-Iraheta, MD
Pediatric Cardiology



Matthew D. Rifkin, MD
Diagnostic Radiology



Neil Soskel, MD
Family Medicine



New Electronic Health Record Debuts at Mount Sinai South Nassau

Mount Sinai South Nassau recently transitioned to Epic, a new electronic health record, for its outpatient medical practices. The hospital plans to join Epic in 2025 for its inpatient documentation.

Current patients in Mount Sinai South Nassau's ambulatory sites received an email to activate their account. The new patient

portal, called **MyMountSinai**, allows patients to easily access their health records, schedule appointments, renew medications, and obtain information about their care in the hospital's physician practices.

For more information, visit southnassau.org/sn/patientportal.

Mount Sinai South Nassau Welcomes Institute for Critical Care Medicine



The Feil Family Pavilion currently under construction. The new Medical and Surgical Intensive Care units will be located in the new Pavilion set to open in the spring of 2024.

Patients in Mount Sinai South Nassau's Critical Care Unit now receive around-the-clock coverage and treatment from physicians affiliated with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai's Institute for Critical Care Medicine (ICCM).

For the first time, the hospital's medical and surgical intensive care units are covered 24/7, 365 days a year, by ICCM board certified, onsite intensivists, who are highly trained physicians specializing in treating critically ill patients with life-threatening conditions. ICCM coverage promotes greater efficiency and results in quicker, more targeted action by the clinical care team.

The additional in-house presence of intensivists optimizes the high quality of critical care at Mount Sinai South Nassau, enabling facilitated consultations and around-the-clock additional response times.

The Sinai System's ICCM is led by its Director, Roopa Kohli-Seth, MD. Pavel Gozenput, MD, serves as Director of Intensive Care at Mount Sinai South Nassau along with Benhour Shamian, MD, Associate Director. Dr. Gozenput and Dr. Shamian oversee and are joined by the hospital's current medical and surgical intensivists who provide this enhanced in-house coverage. ■

Mount Sinai Health System, Mount Sinai South Nassau Switch Medication Used to **Stop a Stroke**



Giving TNK the thumbs up. From left, Vikas Patel, MD, Attending Neurologist; Charmaine Brereton, RN, Stroke Coordinator; Jay Itzkowitz, MD, Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine; and Nydia White, RN, CCU Nurse Manager.

A drug derived from the standard stroke medication TPA called Tenecteplase, or TNK, which has been used to treat acute heart attacks, has been shown in studies to perform well at dissolving blood clots that cause strokes.

Recently, the Mount Sinai Health System has replaced TPA with TNK to treat a stroke caused by a blood clot.

TNK works by activating plasminogen to break down clots that block the flow of oxygenated blood to the brain. Studies have demonstrated that TNK could result in less bleeding in other areas of the brain, compared to TPA.

TNK, given as one injection with no IV required, is safe and more effective at dissolving both small and large clots. As a result, patients can be transferred for additional care much more quickly. ■

New Medical Staff

- **Mark Creighton, MD,**
Orthopedic Surgery
- **Donald Lawrence, MD**
Pediatrics
- **Sean Levine, MD**
Anesthesia
- **Hira Iftikhar, AGNP**
Infectious Diseases
- **Stephanie Guarin, PA**
New York Bariatric Surgery
- **Rachel Keeney, CNM**
Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Sara Pergola, PA**
Bariatric Surgery
- **Rebecca Sklar, PA**
Dermatology
- **Pushpinder Kaur, MD**
Medicine
- **Carolyn Harvey, NP**
Psychiatry
- **Eric Ebanks, CRNA**
Anesthesia
- **Kevin Gurcharran, MD**
Neurology/Pediatrics
- **Gloria Sacco, PA**
Obstetrics
- **Michelle Goldsammler, MD**
Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Michael Morgan, PA**
Emergency Medicine
- **Shervin Golbari, MD**
Medicine
- **Araj Sidki, DO**
Orthopedic Surgery
- **Pegah Afra, MD**
Neurology
- **Amy Uthup, PA**
Orthopedic Surgery
- **Anne-Marie Francis, MD**
Emergency Medicine
- **Sheldon Newman, MD**
Anesthesia
- **Kareen Niazi, MD**
Interventional Cardiology
- **Johanna Fifi, MD**
Neuro-interventional
Radiology
- **Vinay Somashekar, MD**
Anesthesia
- **Erica Valenski, NP**
Medicine/Cardiology
- **Andrew Lim, MD**
Radiology
- **Zar Chi Win, MD**
Medicine/Hospitalist
- **Frederick Lukash, MD**
Plastic Surgery
- **Anoma Zehra Ahmed, PA**
Surgery
- **Sophia LaDouceur, NP**
Psychiatry
- **Somesh Chaudhry, CRNA**
Anesthesia
- **Scott Buzin, DO**
Orthopedic Surgery
- **Leo Penzi, MD**
Anesthesia
- **Brianna Molnar, PA**
Critical Care
- **Wilson Mar, MD**
Anesthesia

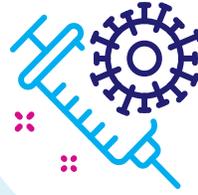
New Patient Discharge Lounge Allows for Enhanced Flow Through the Hospital

In an effort to send patients home more quickly and free up bed space, Mount Sinai South Nassau recently opened a Discharge Lounge located near the main entrance adjacent to the Surgical Waiting Area on the first floor. While patients are waiting for their ride home, they can relax in a quiet, comfortable space and help themselves to amenities, such as reading material, water, warm

beverages, and light snacks. A dedicated staff assists patients with any questions regarding their discharge instructions and paperwork.

The Lounge is open Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 7 pm. Closed on holidays. **For more information, call 516-632-4193 or 4840.**

Mount Sinai South Nassau “Truth in Medicine” Poll: Only 15 Percent of Area Residents Have Received Updated COVID-19 Vaccine



Other notable poll results include:

- **Seventy-five percent of respondents have received one COVID-19 vaccine and 76 percent of that group have received at least one booster.**
- **However, only 39 percent say they are planning to get the updated COVID-19 shot; 25 percent do not plan to get it; and 22 percent are undecided.**
- **Of those not planning to receive the vaccine, 24 percent don't think they need it; 20 percent do not think it is effective; and 13 percent think there are too many vaccines.**
- **By comparison, 63 percent of all respondents typically get a flu vaccine, and 61 percent plan to get one this year.**

Only 15 percent of area residents have received the updated COVID-19 vaccine, according to results of the latest Mount Sinai South Nassau “Truth in Medicine Poll,” sponsored by Bethpage Credit Union.

Although 70 percent of 600 residents surveyed in October 2023 agreed that vaccines are important to their health, a majority of respondents had not acted yet to receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine that was approved last month for people ages six months and older by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The Truth in Medicine Poll results for Long Island and New York City mirror those of national polls that indicate a vaccine fatigue among many, which may be affecting people's willingness to receive another shot.

While 51 percent of respondents said their children have received at least one COVID-19 vaccine since it became available, only 29 percent of the parents polled said they are planning to have their children get the updated vaccine.

Experts caution that this attitude is a recipe for community spread of the virus and a rapid increase in the number of moderate-to-severe cases of COVID-19.

“I encourage all eligible individuals to discuss with their doctor whether they need to get the updated vaccine. In general, though, I recommend that individuals who are especially vulnerable,

including immunocompromised individuals of any age, pregnant women, and adults older than 65 who have not recently had COVID-19 or received a bivalent booster, get the new vaccine as soon as possible to protect against a severe case of the disease,” said Aaron E. Glatt, MD, Chair of the Department of Medicine and Chief of Infectious Diseases at Mount Sinai South Nassau.

The official CDC recommendation is to wait to get the updated booster for a minimum of two months after your last immunization and three months if you had a COVID-19 virus infection recently.

“Unfortunately, the vaccine has become a political issue for some, and that may be having an impact on the willingness of area residents to get the updated vaccine,” said Adhi Sharma, MD, President, Mount Sinai South Nassau. “But this is about science, not politics. And the science is clear. Both the updated COVID-19 and flu vaccines help keep people out of the hospital and save lives. There is no better way to protect your family as the flu and winter seasons are upon us.”

Sponsored by Bethpage Credit Union, the Truth in Medicine poll is a survey of Long Island and New York City adult residents that aims to gather data about attitudes on key public health topics and help spur education to improve public health.

The poll was conducted October 1-6, 2023 via both landlines and cell phones with 600 residents in New York City and on Long Island. Poll findings are subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 3.9 percent. ■

Clinical Trial for Late-Stage Lung Cancer Patients

Mount Sinai South Nassau is actively recruiting eligible patients for an innovative clinical trial that will determine the effectiveness of combining immunotherapy with human monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of patients with advanced nonsmall cell lung cancer.

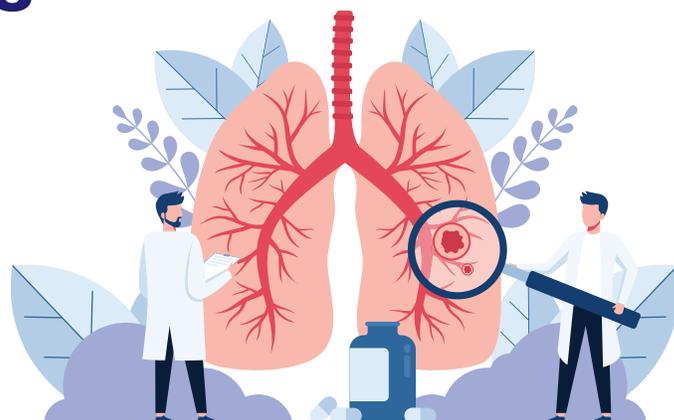
Called the “Pragmatica-Lung Study,” the phase 3 randomized study is one of the first clinical trials endorsed by the National Cancer Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

“This clinical trial has fewer and simpler eligibility criteria than conventional trials, while ensuring the safety of patients,” said Richard Lee, MD, Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Chief of the Division of Hematology /Oncology and Site Principal Investigator of the clinical trial. “By simplifying the enrollment process, it will reduce the burden on investigators to find study participants while increasing the diversity of patients.”

The study has been initiated to confirm the promising results of a randomized phase 2 clinical trial for lung cancer. That trial studied 136 patients with advanced nonsmall cell lung cancer who had been treated with chemotherapy and immunotherapy. It found that the combination of pembrolizumab (Keytruda®) and ramucirumab (Cyramza®) extended survival compared with standard treatment. Immunotherapy kills cancer cells by blocking proteins on the surface of T cells from binding with their partner protein inhibitors.

Immunotherapy with monoclonal antibodies, such as pembrolizumab, may help the body’s immune system attack the cancer and may interfere with the ability of tumor cells to grow and spread.

The study will compare the overall survival in participants who receive the combination therapy of ramucirumab and pembrolizumab versus participants who receive the standard of care chemotherapy for the treatment of stage IV or recurrent nonsmall cell lung cancer after a period of improvement following treatment with platinum-based chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The study is expected to complete enrollment by the end of 2025.



Immunotherapy with monoclonal antibodies, such as pembrolizumab, may help the body's immune system attack the cancer and may interfere with the ability of tumor cells to grow and spread.

“We believe this trial may help doctors determine if giving ramucirumab with pembrolizumab will help combat acquired immunotherapy resistance in patients with stage IV or recurrent nonsmall cell lung cancer who had previously received immunotherapy,” said Kenneth Angelino, MD, a medical oncologist at Mount Sinai South Nassau’s Gertrude & Louis Feil Cancer Center, and a NCI Site Principal Investigator.

People aged 18 or older with stage IV nonsmall cell lung cancer whose cancer has continued growing after treatment with immunotherapy and chemotherapy may be eligible to participate.

For trial enrollment information, call 516-632-3312. For more information on the trial, visit [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/) (<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/>) and scroll down to the “Study ID” box and enter NCT05633602.



Practitioners in the News

Jay Itzkowitz, MD, Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, received the Herald Excellence in Healthcare Award at the Heritage Club in Bethpage on Wednesday, September 27. Hosted by Herald Community Newspapers, the award honors outstanding hospital leaders whose dedication and commitment have made a difference in the health and well-being of others.



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Buy a Brick in the Health Care Heroes Plaza

Support Mount Sinai South Nassau and create a lasting legacy for your family and loved ones in the new Health Care Heroes Plaza, located at the corner of Oswald Court and One Healthy Way.

Purchase an engraved brick, or tree that thousands of patients, visitors, and employees will see every day as they enter and exit the hospital's front entrance.

For more information, visit
southnassau.org/buyabrick.



Read *Physicians' Forum* online. Go to mountsinai.org/southnassau and click on the "Medical Staff" link.



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 or VOYCE, which offer interpretation services in more than 170 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or if you use a qualified 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 Lina Fonesca, Mount Sinai South Nassau's Manager of Language, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, at 516-632-3484.